Icon of the Protection of the Theotokos -- October 1st

A Gift From God

It was mother's birthday and the whole family gathered while mother opened her gifts. As she unwrapped the paper and ribbons from her gifts, her four-year-old daughter picked up a discarded bow and placed it on her mother's head. She giggled and said, "Look! Mommy is a gift!" Everyone laughed until the truth of what the little girl said had been indeed realized: that mother is a gift, a gift from God!

Our Lord gives us many gifts during the course of our life. One precious gift that He has given to all mankind from one generation to the next is the gift of His own mother, the Holy Virgin Mary. Just as our own mothers love us, comfort us, and protect us from things that could harm us, so, too, does the Mother of God love us, protect us, and intercede for us before her Son and our God.

On October 1st we celebrate the Feast of the Protection of the Mother of God. On this day, the Church remembers and celebrates the occasion when the Mother of God appeared in a vision to Saint Andrew in the church at Blanchernae in Constantinople. In this vision she appeared over the Holy City with her omophorion (mantle) outstretched in a protective manner, promising shelter from harm.

This image of the Holy Virgin has been emblazoned upon the hearts of all Christians since then. We can all turn to the Mother of God in time of distress and know that our prayers will always be heard. She is, indeed, one of our greatest gifts from God!

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St. Joseph Byzantine Catholic Church

8111 Brecksville Road ✠ Brecksville, Ohio 44141

" The Byzz Line "

"Living the Word of Christ Together"

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Deacons: Bill Fredrick
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One of the favorite Holy Days in the Byzantine Church is to be found on the church calendar on October 1. It commemorates the appearance of the Mother of God in Constantinople in the 10th century. It is recorded in the life of St. Andrew, known as the Fool for Christ. St. Andrew and St. Epiphanius were in church for services when they saw the Mother of God approach the altar, supported by St. John the Baptist and St. John the Evangelist. She knelt and prayed with tears in her eyes. Then she took the veil she was wearing and extended it over her arms as a sign of protection. There are many icons depicting this event, but she is always depicted with the veil over her arms as a sign that she will always protect us. She is never alone but always with Christ. Today, with her veil *(omophor)* she stands in our church along with the hosts of saints and she is always ready to hear our prayers of need and to take them to the Throne of God. We pray: "Remember us in your prayers, O Lady, Virgin Theotokos, that we not perish for the increase of our sins; protect us from all evil and cruel misfortune. For we place our hope in you, and honoring the Feast of Your Protection, we magnify you."

Friday is a Solemn Holyday. The liturgy will be celebrated at **7:00 p.m.** Next weekend's mirovanije money will go to **Christ the Bridegroom Nuns** in Burton. The church will be adorned in blue the entire month in honor of this Feast. (In 1974 **Archbishop Kocisko** consecrated our entire Metropolia under her protective mantle.)

September 26, 2021

Glory to Jesus Christ!

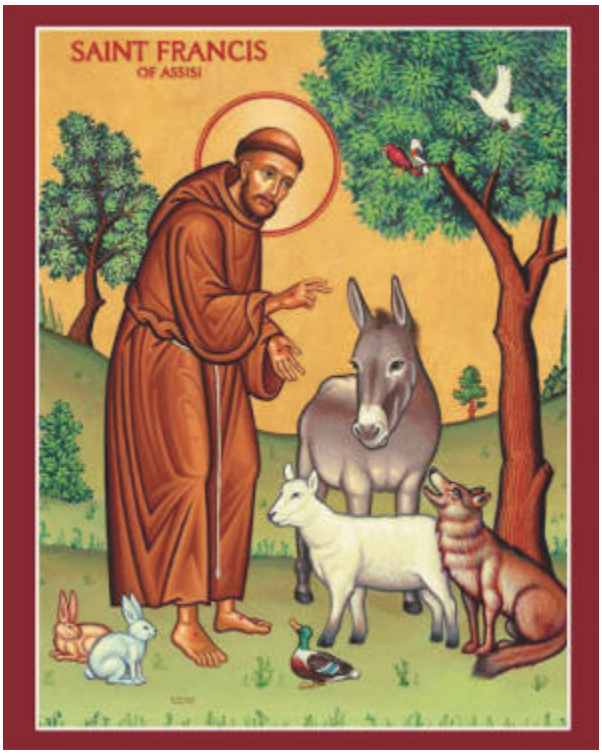
Liturgy Schedule

Monday	September 27	8:00 a.m.	**†Joseph Klinkovsky** by Joseph Klinkovsky
Tuesday	September 28	8:00 a.m.	Health of **Maria Ritchie** by Jean Henderson
Wednesday	September 29	8:00 a.m.	**†Jim/Helen Alpine** by Chuck/Judy Churavy
Thursday	September 30	**No Liturgy**	
Friday	October 1	**Solemn Holyday: Protection of the Mother of God**	
		7:00 p.m.	Intention of **Mother Natalia** by Nick/Marie Ihnat
Saturday	October 2	4:00 p.m.	Intention of the Parishioners
Sunday	October 3	10:30 a.m.	**†Andrew Bobco** by Judy Weitzel

		Altar Servers	Lectors	Greeters
October 1	7:00 p.m.	M. & A. Masters		
October 2	4:00 p.m.	D. Kattler & J. Mosgo	N. Fredrick	C. Kattler & J. Weitzel
October 3	10:30 a.m.	D. Tytko & J. Lesnick	T. Martinek	K. Lambourne & J. Klinkovsky

Swallow your pride occasionally and console yourself with the knowledge that it is 100% calorie free.

All Creatures Bless the Lord



On October 4 each year the Catholic Church celebrates the life and teachings of St. Francis of Assisi. As a young man, Francis freely turned away from wealth available to him and chose to lead a simple life of poverty, devoting himself fully to God and preaching the Gospel always and everywhere. So thorough was his belief in living a life of communion with all in praise of God, that Francis' sense of brotherhood included all of creation (remember "brother sun and sister moon"). He is probably most famous for his love and affection for animals and he cherished the opportunity for a relationship with them as clearly as he did with people.

Our Holy Father, Pope Francis, so embraces the love for creation modeled by St. Francis that his encyclical letter, *Laudato Si',* is named after the famous song of praise written by the great saint, entitled *Canticle of the Creatures.* In the encyclical, Pope Francis reflects on the interconnectedness of all of creation, "woven together by the love God has for each," and the resulting responsibility we have to care and nurture the world. The papal document cautions us to remember that creation has "an intrinsic value" which is "independent of [its] usefulness. Each organism, as a creature of God, is good and admirable in itself."

In honor of St. Francis, in solidarity with Pope Francis, and as collaborators with God in caring for all of creation, we will hold a Prayer Service or the Blessing of Animals on October 2. *(See article on next page.)*

A **pet blessing** will be held on **October 2** at **10:30** in conjunction with the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi. Please gather at the front entrance of the church. A freewill offering will be taken to benefit "Grateful Paws Rescue" and the Parma Animal Shelter. Pet treats will be available! (Contact **Deacon Bill** if you have any questions at **216-469-1425**.)

Building Commission Meeting

The **Building Commission** will meet on **Thursday** at **6:00.**

Catering Sub-Committee Meeting

The sub-committee working on the selection of the new caterer will meet on **Monday** with representatives of **"Catering by Verba's"** to smooth over some details on the pavilion and Activity Center (prior to the formal contractual agreement).

ByzanTEEN Gathering

All high school students are invited to attend the first gathering of Cleveland area **ByzanTEENS tonight, 5:00,** at our pavilion. **Father Lukas Mitro** will be the moderator (at times assisted by **Fr. Cyril Pinchak SJ**).

Women's Enrichment Opportunity

Two enrichment sessions for women in conjunction with "The Year of St. Joseph" will be held **October 11 and 18** in the Activity Center. Videos will be shown followed by a discussion facilitated by **Darlene Hritz.**

October 11…***"Why All Women Need Josephs in their Lives"*** as presented by **Amanda Zurface.**

October 18…*"Living as a Daughter of St. Joseph"* as presented by **Jennifer Settle.**

Starting time is **7:00** both nights. All women of the parish are encouraged to attend!

Memorial Benches Available

Six memorial benches have been spoken for to date. If you are interested, contact **Rich Baszynski** of the **Men's Club (440-409-1562).** He has location information (you'll get to pick on a first come first served basis). He also has a form you can fill out to indicate what you want on your plaque. (The donation is $1,000. Families can join together for a purchase. A sample is located in the church vestibule.)

Your Weekly Offering

September 19, 2021

Sunday:	$3,700.00
e-giving:	200.00
4 Student Envelopes:	8.00
Cash:	88.00
Candles:	90.00
Holy Days:	108.00
Building Fund:	25.00
Total:	**$4,219.00**

Have you remembered St. Joseph Church in your Will and/or Trust?

Mirovanije $$

Last weekend's mirovanije collection of $169.00 was sent to the chancery in conjunction with the nationwide appeal by the Catholic bishop's to assist the people Haiti (following the earthquake and subsequent tropical storm).

Reverse Raffle

Any "church winners" from Friday's "Reverse Raffle" will be listed in next week's Byzz Line. The **Men's Club** thanks everyone who purchased a number for this event.

Please remember all the sick/suffering in your prayers, especially **Millie Karaffa** (Altenheim; rehab); **Harry Dudick** (The Oakes); **Christine Cifranic** (home); and **Diane Balasz** (home).

Communion Visits

Communion will be taken to the sick/shut-in on **Friday between the hours of 9-2.**

Sanctuary Lamp

The sanctuary lamp will burn during the month of October in memory of **Barbara Carrig.**

St. Joseph "Worker" of the Week

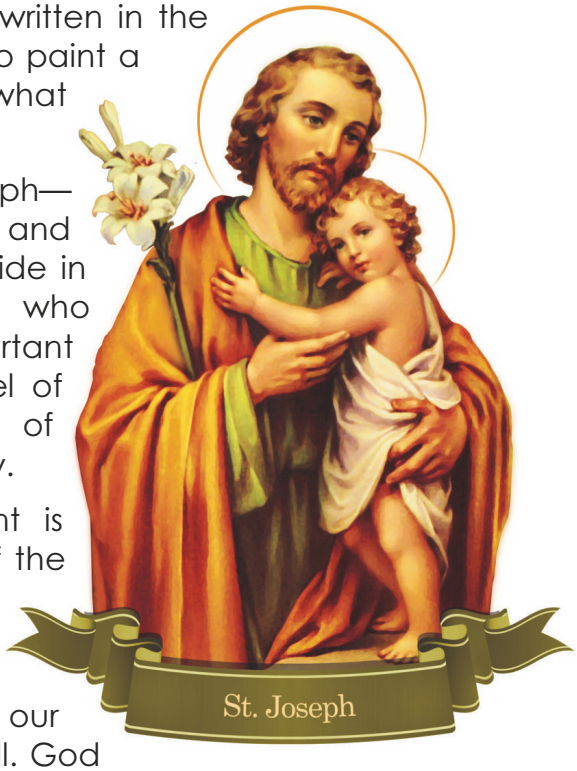
"Our neighbor's husband passed away and we made lunch for her and her family."

(Words from Cleveland Bishop Edward Malesic on "The Year of St. Joseph")

St. Joseph: An Exemplary Life and an Example of Faith for All

Late last year, Pope Francis released an apostolic letter titled, in Latin, "Patris Corde," which means "With a Father's Heart." In it, he recalls the 150th anniversary of the declaration of St. Joseph as patron of the Universal Church. This anniversary is the reason why Pope Francis proclaimed December 8, 2020 to December 8, 2021 as a "Year of St. Joseph."

Being a "man in the shadows," there isn't much written in the Gospels about St. Joseph, but there is enough for us to paint a picture of him in our mind's eye and to appreciate what sort of father he was.



Pope Francis says each of us can discover in Joseph—the man who goes unnoticed—a daily, discreet and hidden presence, an intercessor, a support and a guide in times of trouble. St. Joseph reminds us that those who appear hidden or in the shadows can play an important role in the history of salvation. His life is for us a model of holiness. Most of us will work for the kingdom of God in the shadows and without much, if any, notoriety.

It is also very telling that, after Mary, no saint is mentioned more frequently in the papal teachings of the Church than Joseph, her spouse. Joseph knew the story was not about him. His life was not about him. His life—and our life—is always about God. Finding out the part we play in God's plan for the world is key to our own happiness. We are happy when we do God's will. God was always at the center of Joseph's life and the life of the Holy Family.

In St. Joseph, Jesus sees the God who helps us accept our weaknesses—our humanity—because it is through and despite our fears, our frailties and our weakness that most divine designs are realized. God wants to use us, as flawed as we are, for his good purposes.

Parish Information

ACTIVITY CENTER & HALL RESERVATIONS: 440-526-0016
CONFESSIONS: 45 minutes before liturgies for half an hour and by request
LADIES' AUXILIARY: 2nd Sunday of the month after liturgy
MEN'S CLUB: 2nd Tuesday of the month at 7:00 p.m.
A-OK CLUB: 2nd Monday of the month at 7:00 p.m.
COFFEE SOCIAL: Every Sunday after liturgy
EASTERN CATHOLIC FORMATION (ECF) CLASSES: Sundays 9:00 a.m.–10:20 a.m.
BULLETIN INFORMATION DEADLINE: Tuesday noon

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