



Welcome to St. Athanasius the Great  
Byzantine Catholic Church

**“Glory to Jesus Christ! Glory to Him forever!”  
Slava Isusu Christu! Slava naviky Bohu!**

### **THE HOLY AND GREAT FAST**

**From February 16<sup>th</sup> to March 27<sup>th</sup> if you have no physical obstacles, then Fast.  
Nursing mothers and faithful with illnesses are exempt from Fasting.**

My Creator and Lord has formed me from the clay of the earth; he has given me a soul by his life giving breath. He has made me ruler of all things visible on the earth, and has made me a companion of the angels. But Satan has used the serpent as a trap, and has deceived me with this bait; he has separated me from the glory of God and delivered me over to the earth and to death. But you, O merciful Lord, call me back to you.

**(Stichera of Cheesefare Sunday)**

### **1 WOMEN’S RETREAT**

**Place on FEBRUARY 20<sup>TH</sup> – FEBRUARY 22<sup>ND</sup>**

Retreat Master: Fr. Joseph Loya. Maria Stein Retreat Center, Maria Stein, OH

Contact Joan Washburn for further information.

[stmarybhdwomensretreat@gmail.com](mailto:stmarybhdwomensretreat@gmail.com) or 865-696-7809

### **2 ALTAR SERVERS MEETING**

The next meeting for altar servers will be on February 22<sup>nd</sup> after Divine Liturgy in the Church. Please mark your calendar and plan to bring your child to this meeting.

### **3 KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS**

There will be Knights of Columbus meeting on Sunday February 22<sup>nd</sup> after luncheon.

**Everyone who would like to become a member of Knights of Columbus asked to speak to Glan Grabov or Henry Parecie**

### **4 LENTEN CANTOR RETREAT**

**MARCH 7, 2026 | Sessions 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.**

St. Nicholas Byzantine Catholic Church | 8103 Columbia Ave., Munster, Indiana.

Cost is \$30 and includes lunch. Limited lodging is available.

Retreat Leader: Dr. Brian Butcher, PhD

*Questions: email Fr. Andrew Summerson at [frasummerson@parma.org](mailto:frasummerson@parma.org)*

### **6 WINTER CARMEL MARKET**

**THE WINTER CARMEL MARKET starts on October 18, at 7:15am we load the church van, then drive to 611 Third Av SW, Carmel, IN.**

**46032 Ends at noon**

**Services for the Week of February 15 – February 22 , 2026**

<u>Day</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Service</u>	<u>Readings</u>
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>February 15 Cheese fare Sunday</b>	8:15 AM 10:00 AM 11:30 AM 12:30 PM	Matins Divine Liturgy Luncheon Forgiveness Vesper
<b>Monday</b>	<b>February 16 Fast begins</b>	<b>6:00 PM</b>	<b>Great Compline</b>
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>February 17 Great Martyr Theodore the Recruit</b>	<b>6:00 PM</b>	<b>Great Compline</b>
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>February 18 Holy Father Leo</b>	<b>6:00 PM</b>	<b>Vesper and Presanctified Liturgy</b>
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>February 19 Holy Apostle Archippus</b>	<b>6:00 PM</b>	<b>Great Compline</b>
<b>Friday</b>	<b>February 20 Venerable Father Leo</b>	<b>6:00 PM</b>	<b>Vesper and Presanctified Liturgy</b>
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>February 21 Miracle of St. Theodore</b>	7:15-12:00	<b>Winter Market</b>
		5:00 AM	Vespers Confession
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>February 22 Sunday of Orthodoxy</b>	8:15 AM 10:00 AM 11:30 AM 12:30 PM	Matins Divine Liturgy Luncheon Forgiveness Vesper
<b>Financial update: 2/8/2026</b>			
<b>Bakery</b>	<b>Holy Day</b>	<b>Candles</b>	<b>Other (T-shirts)</b>
<b>\$973.57</b>	<b>\$50</b>	<b>\$190</b>	<b>\$254.70</b>
<b>Totals \$3,290.27</b>			

# SUNDAY OF CHEESEFARE

## 3 John 1-15

The elder to the beloved Gaius, whom I love in the truth. Be-loved, I pray that all may go well with you and that you may be in health; I know that it is well with your soul. For I greatly rejoiced when some of the brethren arrived and testified to the truth of your life, as indeed you do follow the truth. No greater joy can I have than this, to hear that my children follow the truth. Beloved, it is a loyal thing you do when you render any service to the brethren, especially to strangers, who have testified to your love before the Church. You will do well to send them on their journey as befits God's service. For they have set out for his sake and have accepted nothing from the heathen. So we ought to support such men, that we may be fellow workers in the truth. I have written something to the Church; but Diotrophes, who likes to put himself first, does not acknowledge my authority. So if I come, I will bring up what he is doing, accusing me falsely with evil words. And not content with that, he refuses himself to welcome the brethren, and also stops those who want to welcome them and puts them out of the Church. Beloved, do not imitate evil but imitate good. He who does good is of God; he who does evil has not seen God. Demetrius has testimony from every one, and from the truth itself; I testify to him too, and you know my testimony is true. I had much to write to you, but I would rather not write with pen and ink; I hope to see you soon, and we will talk together face to face. Peace be to you. The friends greet you. Greet the friends, every one of them.

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY TO OUR PARISH**

## **Matthew 6: 14-21**

The Lord said, "If you forgive the faults of others, your heavenly Father will forgive you yours. If you do not forgive others, neither will your Father forgive you. When you fast, you are not to look glum as the hypocrites do. They change the appearance of their faces so that others may see they are fasting. Assure you, they are already repaid. When you fast, see to it that you groom your hair and wash your face. In that way no one can see you are fasting but your Father who is hidden; and your Father who sees what is hidden will repay you. "Do not lay up for yourselves an earthly treasure. Moths and rust corrode; thieves break in and steal. Make it your practice instead to store up heavenly treasure, which neither moths nor rust corrode nor thieves break in and steal. Remember, where your treasure is, there your heart is also."

## **Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ**

### **Glory to Jesus Christ!**

#### **Readiness to forgive. John Chrysostom:**

Nothing more resembles us to God than forgiving evil people who offend us. The Lord showed this even earlier, saying that the heavenly Father commands his sun to rise on the evil and on the good (Matthew 5:45). Therefore, in every expression, He commands us to pray together, saying: Our Father, who art in heaven! let your will be done, as in heaven, so on earth, give us bread, forgive us our debts, lead us not into temptation, deliver us. Thus He commands us to use the plural, so that we may not have even a trace of anger against our neighbor. So, what punishment will those deserve who, despite all this, not only do not forgive themselves, but also ask God for vengeance on their enemies, completely violating this law, while God does everything and takes care that we do not become enemies among ourselves? And since the root of all good is love, the Lord destroys everything that can harm it, and in every way tries to unite us with

each other. After all, absolutely no one - neither father, nor mother, nor friend, nor anyone else - has loved us as much as God, Who created us (John Chrysostom, "Homily on the Gospel of Matthew").

**Note.** Why is the plural form "our" preferred, rather than the singular "mine"? In the act of forgiveness, we become most like God: to forgive means to be like God. His act of forgiveness is directed to the entire human race. Therefore, we are called to forgive all debtors, as all our debts are forgiven.

### **Do not be sad (Matthew 6:16)**

#### **Double hypocrisy. John Chrysostom:**

Here we must groan bitterly and weep bitterly. For we not only imitate the hypocrites, but have also surpassed them. I know many who not only show this when they fast, but even when they do not fast at all, they take on the appearance of one who fasts, and as an excuse they cite something worse than the sin itself. "I do this," they say, "so as not to tempt others." What do you say? The law of God commands you to fast, and you refer to temptation. And do you really think that by observing this law you tempt, and by breaking it you do not tempt? What could be worse than such contempt? Do you really want to be worse than hypocrites, by being doubly hypocritical? And are you really not ashamed of the power of Christ's statement, inventing such extreme dishonor? (John Chrysostom, "Homilies on the Gospel of Matthew").

#### **A Word on Selflessness. John Chrysostom:**

After the Lord eradicated the disease of pride, He very timely offers a word on selflessness. After all, nothing makes one love wealth so much as pride. Crowds of servants, multitudes of eunuchs, horses dressed in gold, silver tables, and similar very ridiculous things are invented by people not to satisfy a need or to get pleasure, but to show themselves off to others (John Chrysostom, "Homilies on the Gospel of Matthew").

**CHRIST IS AMONG US! HE IS AND SHALL BE**



**Weekend Divine Services**

**Saturday:** 5 PM Vespers

**Sunday:** 8

**Administrator:** Rev. Mykhaylo  
Shkyndya

**Cantors:** Brian Goshorn, John  
Danovich, Suzanne Goshorn

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