

Glory to Jesus Christ! Glory to Him Forever!

Schedule of Divine Services

Saturday, January 15 **5:00 PM** +Leona Bodnar by +Pat Ivan

Sunday, January 16 **9:00 AM** +George Matus by Carol Beavers & Michael A. Suray

Pages for Sunday's Divine Liturgy: Tone 1 pages 125 - 127

Web Liturgy Intention for Week of January 16, 2022 sponsored by
Greg & Anna Marie Chekan in memory of Paul Chekan

Sanctuary Candle is lit from January 16 – 29
In Memory of +Maria Heddleston by Donald & Lou Bajus

35th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Saturday, January 22 **5:00 PM** +Maria Heddleston by Bajus Family

Sunday, January 23 **9:00 AM** +Raymond Perhacs by George Serechin

OUR RETURN TO THE LORD FOR ALL HE HAS GIVEN ME:

| | |
|-------------------|-------------------|
| Regular Offertory | \$5,300.00 |
| Maintenance Fund | 470.00 |
| Holy Day | 599.00 |
| Christmas | 220.00 |
| Candles | 78.25 |
| Live Stream | 50.00 |
| Loose Cash | 57.00 |
| TOTAL | \$6,774.25 |

Parking Lot: \$75

During these challenging times we thank you for your kindness and generosity.

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK AND SHUT-INS

AT HOME: Richard Lesko, *Ronald & Arletta Lutka*, Margie Seman, *Elizabeth Pristas*, Teri Phares, Raymond Petro, Jr., Luke Pasternak, Marissa Stout, Tara Seman, Michael Matus, Patrick Singer, Joan Bodnar, Mary Ann Urban, Carole Srsic, Pauline Johnson, *Ann Havrilscak*, Aaron Spang, Janet Ducar, Mary Pavasko, Suzie (Wargo) Bodziach
Italicized names indicate Parish Shut-ins. Other names are submitted prayer requests.

NURSING HOMES/REHABILITATION CENTERS/ASSISTED LIVING

Elsie Urban, Len Stagon, Dorothy Hritz, Eleanor Chekan, Sue Goda, Steve Kish

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES THIS WEEK

17 Paul Remack, Jr.
17 Kristine Janocsko
18 Kristy Giglione
19 Suzanne Fedoris
21 John Miskovitch
21 Jacob Wincko
22 Betty Banyas
22 Debbie Cosgrove

May God grant to His servant peace, health and happiness for many years!

In person Attendance: Saturday, January 8: **40**; Sunday, January 9: **58**

Live Stream Viewing: *Saturday, January 8:* **49** (WS); **85** (FB)
Sunday, January 9: **109** (WS); **75** (FB)

Please call the parish office if you would like your 2021 contribution statement.

Special Donation: \$5,000 by Dave & Betty Banyas in Honor of their 58th Wedding Anniversary

Special Donation: \$50 by Anna Marie Wargo in Thanksgiving

Live Stream

\$50 Jackie Lesko Davis

GOULASH DINNER

Our parish will serve a take-out only Goulash dinner on **Saturday, January 15 from 4 – 7 PM and on Sunday, January 17 from 10 AM – 1 PM. Price is \$10.00 per dinner.** The dinner includes: Goulash served over dumplings, cucumber salad, bread and butter. In addition we will be selling quarts of haluski, quarts of soup, our kolache, and various baked goods.

NEW PARISH PHOTO DIRECTORY

In 2022 our parish will celebrate the 125th anniversary of its founding. In observance of this anniversary a new parish photo directory will be published. Family pictures will be taken on **Saturday, January 22, 2022** and **Sunday, January 23, 2022** following the Divine Liturgy. More information will be following.

“CATHEDRAL KITCHEN”

We have *stuffed cabbage*, packaged in ½ dozen for \$18 or 1 dozen for \$30 and quarts of *Halushki & Wedding, Chicken & Dumpling, Beef Vegetable, and Stuffed Cabbage soups* for \$7. If you would like to buy any please see Patty Bovee or Fr. Andrew.

2021 PARISH FINANCIAL PRESENTATION

On **Sunday, January 30, 2022**, following the 9 AM Divine Liturgy, I will give a presentation on the 2021 Parish Finances. The presentation will be held in the Cathedral Center.

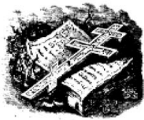
ALL SOULS SATURDAYS

The first All Souls Divine Liturgy is Saturday, February 19, 2022 at 9:00 AM. We come together to pray for our deceased loved ones. They are by no means forgotten nor a nameless mass of people, for by name we mention them, we perpetuate their memory and we pray that our loving and merciful God will be pleased to bring them into His saving presence.

PLEASE USE THE ALL SOULS ENVELOPE AND ATTEND THE DIVINE LITURGIES FOR YOUR DECEASED LOVED ONES.

“We are living in a difficult time; many people are facing difficulties and suffering. In a time like this, we need someone who can encourage us, help us, inspire us. Saint Joseph is a bright witness in dark times. Let us turn to him to find our way again.”

Tweet of Pope Francis, January 13, 2022



Attentive to the Word

Thirty-fourth Sunday after Pentecost

1 Timothy 15: 17

Luke 18: 35-43

The most difficult disabilities of this world involve our primary senses. When a person is blind or deaf, he faces some of the greatest barriers to functioning in the world, for much of what goes on around us is keyed either to sight or sound. We use our eyes to perceive so many things around us and what our eyes don't see, our ears hear. It is only when these things fail us that the other senses such as touch and smell become sufficiently sensitive that they give us such important primary information.

The purpose of our bodily senses is to give us information about the physical world around us. In the same way, our spiritual senses function to give us information regarding the spiritual world. Each of our physical senses has an analogous spiritual sense - there are our eyes, which see; and with our spiritual eyes, we see the nature of spiritual things. With our ears we hear, and with our spiritual ears we hear the music of the soul. We were created with this symphony of senses for a purpose and that purpose is that our physical senses might perceive the things in this world that will aid in our salvation. But too often we misuse our senses. Instead of seeking out the things of spiritual beauty we satisfy ourselves with worldly pleasures. Instead of looking for those things in the world which tell us about our Creator and which instruct us in the ways of salvation, we allow our eyes to be sated on images of material wealth or of sensual pleasure. Instead of training our ear to hear the sounds that will lift the soul above this world, we confine our hearing only to those things which please the body. We hear only the words which are flattering and pleasing to our vanity, we fill ourselves with the music of the world that inflames the passions and stirs the emotions rather than that which elevates the soul. We could go on and talk about what we touch and smell and taste - but the meaning, I believe, is already clear.

Rather than enhance our spiritual senses, our physical senses now tend to hinder them, to block them of true perception. We clutter the soul with so many images of this world, so many stimuli of our transitory and short-lived material world, that the spiritual senses become dull and ineffective. In short we create our own spiritual blindness,

The purpose of physical beauty is to elevate the soul that it might transcend this world and see the true beauty of eternity. The beauty that we experience in this world is a shadow of the beauty of God. And yet by looking at the shadow, we can perceive the reality. If you see the shadow of a tree before you, it is natural to follow that shadow to see the tree itself. Such is the nature of our being, the shadow simply points to the original of which it is an image. But we can become spiritually blind when we become so entranced with the shadow that we don't look beyond it for the source. If you looked only at the shadow of the tree and became entranced with its form and shape but never looked at the tree - while there is indeed beauty in the shadow, you have missed the greater beauty of the tree, which has not only the same form and shape, but color and movement and light and depth as well. When we focus on worldly beauty as an end in and of itself, it blinds us to the beauty of the spiritual world. Worldly beauty should only point us to

spiritual beauty. But if the worldly beauty blocks our perception of the spiritual beauty, then we are deprived, we no longer are able to perceive that which is saving to the soul, but rather are stuck on perceiving that which is simply pleasing to the body.

In the gospel today, we heard an account of a blind man who, though he was unable to see the things of this world, had a clear view of the spiritual world. Although he could not see the form and figure of our Lord Jesus Christ, he did perceive that here was a person of great spiritual stature, a person who was greater than the world, a person who could overcome the world. Even though he was unable to see in this world, he was not blind, for his spiritual perception was keen enough to recognize Jesus Christ as someone greater than a simple man. But there were others who were fully able to see in this world, but whose spiritual sight was so dulled that they were blind. When they saw Jesus Christ, they saw only a barrier to their worldly ambition, or they saw only someone who was stirring up trouble in their worldly domain.

They could see only the shadow and not the reality. These are those whom our Lord called "blind". The blind man of the Gospel was not called blind, but rather his worldly sight was restored so that it might complement and enhance his spiritual sight.

Like this blind man who was insistent in calling upon the Lord that his desire might be granted, so too we should insistently look to our Lord for such a gift. Our spiritual eyes are blind, our spiritual ears are deaf. How many times in the Gospel did our Lord say, "Those who have eyes to see, let him see." or "Those who have ears to hear, let him hear."? Our eyes and ears are cluttered with the sensations of the world and our spiritual senses become dulled. Let us call out to our Lord Jesus Christ, asking Him to heal the blindness and deafness of our soul that we might truly see and hear Him, and not be distracted and entranced by the shadows of truth that this world projects.

Look around yourself here in the Church. In our own small way, we try to create beauty here - not because we desire an earthly beauty, but rather so that we might create an environment where the shadows of heavenly beauty are rich and lead our soul quickly to the perception of that real beauty. The icons that we see have a beauty, but the purpose of that beauty is to direct our gaze to the spiritual person or event depicted. If we stop at the beauty of the icon, we will not see the true beauty of the saint. The music that we hear has its own beauty, but if that beauty becomes an end in itself and does not direct our soul to hear the beauty of the heavenly Word, then it becomes a barrier rather than an aid to spiritual life and growth. The incense has a beautiful smell - but if we get distracted by the odor of the incense itself and forget the beautiful odor of our prayers which rise to the throne of God, then it too has become a barrier to the spiritual life. All this beauty we have around us is not here as an end in itself- a Church is not an "art museum" or "concert hall" - rather it is a doorway, a gateway into the Kingdom of Heaven. We collect this beauty here, not for its own sake, but because it points us to the Kingdom of God. Do not get stuck on the worldly beauty around you, but let it lift your soul to heaven. Let this worldly beauty be only a vehicle to transport your soul to the experience of heavenly beauty. Do not be blind and deaf, but see and hear the transfiguring beauty of the Word of God.

O Lord, we are blind and deaf and dumb - have mercy upon us and heal our souls. Give us eyes to see, ears to hear and tongues to confess the glory of Thee our God.

By Fr. David Moser

Mission Statement

Saint John the Baptist Byzantine Catholic Cathedral is a member of the Byzantine Catholic Metropolitan Church of Pittsburgh who through the Holy Spirit is called to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ. As a community and family, we grow in faith and in the image and likeness of God by dedicating ourselves to welcoming, celebrating and caring for all of God's people.

Mysteries of Initiation (Baptism, Chrismation & Eucharist): Must be a registered, active, supporting member of the parish family. Pre-baptism instructions are required. Contact Fr. Andrew to schedule.

Mystery of Crowning: Must be a registered, active, supporting member of the parish family. Must meet with Fr. Andrew before setting date and reserving your banquet hall. Pre-Cana program is required and three sessions with Fr. Andrew. The ceremony will be celebrated according to the prescription of the liturgical book of the Byzantine rite.

Mystery of Reconciliation: Celebrated Saturdays, 4:00 PM - 4:30 PM and upon request.

Mystery of Anointing: Celebrated upon request. Ideally celebrated in Church the Sunday before undergoing any surgical or other medical procedure.

Visitation of the Sick: The parishioners confined to their homes or nursing homes due to health reasons are visited monthly. Also, persons who are hospitalized are visited when Fr. Andrew is notified. It especially is important that a family member contact Fr. Andrew whenever a loved-one is hospitalized.

Funerals: Families of the deceased or the funeral director must contact Fr. Andrew before setting and publishing the day and time of the funeral.

Parish Membership: We welcome anyone to become a parishioner of St. John the Baptist Cathedral Parish. Only those who are registered are considered members of the Parish. When one registers to become a parish member they assume the responsibility of rendering stewardship of time, talent and treasure to this parish family. Worship at this parish is always expected. Registration is done only through the pastor by appointment. The Parish Office should be notified as soon as possible of any change of address within the Parish as well as one's leaving.

Godparent/Sponsor Letters: Must be a registered, active, supporting member of the parish.

Rectory Office Hours: Judy is in the parish office Monday – Friday from 9:00 AM – 2 PM. Father Andrew is available on other days and times by appointment.