

Glory to Jesus Christ! Glory to Him Forever!

Schedule of Divine Services

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

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

Pages for Sunday's Divine Liturgy: Tone 2 page 130 - 132

Web Liturgy Intention for Week of January 23, 2022 sponsored by
Andrew and Linda Deskevich

Sanctuary Candle is lit from January 16 – 29

In Memory of +Maria Heddleston by Donald & Lou Bajus

SUNDAY OF ZACCHEUS – THREE HOLY HIERARCHS

Saturday, January 29 **5:00 PM** +Jack Karadus by Anna Marie Wargo

Sunday, January 30 **9:00 AM** +Clarence & +Irene Hornak by Sandy Hornak

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

Regular Offertory	\$2,579.00
Maintenance Fund	532.00
Holy Day	25.00
Christmas	25.00
Candles	38.72
Live Stream	25.00
Loose Cash	8.00
TOTAL	\$3,232.72

Live Stream

\$25 Leonard & Felicia Simko

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

23 Jane Savko
25 Josephine Zadrowski
25 Andrew Oriss
25 Nicole Pavasko
26 Susan Sherwin
28 Jennifer Beatty
29 Christine Munsie

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

In person Attendance: Saturday, January 15: **35**; Sunday, January 16: **59**

Live Stream Viewing: *Saturday, January 15:* **46** (WS); **89** (FB)
Sunday, January 16: **96** (WS); **86** (FB)

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

The GIFT of TODAY

Gracious God, thank you for the gift of today. May my living today reveal Your Goodness. Refresh me, invite me to discover your presence in each person that I meet and each event encountered. Teach me when to speak and when to listen when to ponder when to share. In moments of challenge and decision attune my heart to the whispering of Your Wisdom. As I undertake ordinary and unnoticed tasks gift me with simply joy. When the day goes well may I rejoice! When it grows difficult surprise me with new possibilities. When life is over-whelming call me to Sabbath Moments to restore Your Peace and Harmony. –Pat Bergen CSJ

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, Stuffed Cabbage, Potato/Green Bean, Chicken Gnocchi soups and Chili* 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 loves 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 DECEASE LOVED ONES.

KOLACHE

We totally sold out of kolache at Christmas. A small batch of kolache was recently baked. Effective January 2022, kolache will be \$14. If you would like to purchase any, please see Fr. Andrew or Patty Bovee. Easter Kolache & Paska orders will be taken soon.

EASTER RAFFLE

It was decided to conduct another raffle ticket. This time the raffle ticket will be \$10. There will be multiple winners determined by the PA Lottery beginning on April 17, 2022. If you would like to purchase and/or sell tickets, they can be obtained from Patty Bovee. Thank you for your continued support of our parish fund-raisers which help make much needed repairs around our parish complex.



Attentive to the Word

Thirty-fifth Sunday after Pentecost

2 Corinthians 6:16 - 7:1

Matthew 15: 21-28

The teaching about the Canaanite woman's faith, sometimes referred to as feeding on crumbs from the master's table, is an unusual one. Some people argue that the Lord was being cold or unkind in his treatment of the Canaanite woman in this teaching. However that is not the case.

This woman was following Jesus and the disciples crying after them to seek healing for her daughter who was demon possessed. She clearly knew the Lord could do this for no doubt she had seen or heard about the healings he had already performed. It also appears that her constant crying to the Lord was annoying the disciples, for they said to Jesus to send her away. But Jesus didn't send her packing, which in itself is a sign that he had compassion for her even before he did anything.

Jesus made the reply to the disciples when they said to send her away that he was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. The Canaanite woman was a Gentile and not of the tribes of Israel. Now some could argue there was inconsistency here. Jesus did not immediately grant her request, but we saw back in Matthew 8:5-12 that he did immediately assist the Gentile centurion, who came to him pleading for the healing of his servant. However in that case we can presume that the centurion's servant may have been of the tribes of Israel and thus one of the lost sheep to whom Jesus referred.

In this case though, the woman was pleading for her daughter who clearly would not have been an Israelite. She was not prepared to accept no for an answer either, which is a lesson we can all learn. For when she made her request Jesus responded, "It is not fair to take the children's bread and throw it to the dogs." (Verse 26) Most people would have given up at that point, but this Canaanite woman was not any ordinary person. She responded back saying, "Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters' table." (Verse 27) Jesus recognised she had great faith and so granted her request. The crumbs from the masters table she referred to are evidence that she had been seeking the Lord and taking in the teachings. The Canaanite woman's faith was strong, as

she had clearly learned the principles of faith from listening to Jesus and taking in the good news of the gospel.

Although the initial ministry of Jesus was to the Israelites, it was prophesied by Isaiah that, "The root of Jesse shall come, he who rises to rule the Gentiles; in him shall the Gentiles hope." (Romans 15:12) So there was no reason that Jesus should withhold healing other than that it was not time yet to reach out to the Gentiles. The ministry had to go to Israel first and spread from there.

There is a warning in here about being legalistic. Legalism is rigid and unbending. It says, "The law is the law and it cannot be changed." But Jesus came to preach freedom from law, and although he was born under law, in his subsequent death he would remove all sin and the law so that we could be freed. The ministry of freedom too is a ministry of compassion, not rigid but open to reason and doing what is good and right and true.

The Canaanite woman's faith was such that she deserved this healing she sought. We know that it is the children of faith who are children of Abraham, and thus children of Israel. For Paul wrote, "For not all who are descended from Israel belong to Israel, and not all are children of Abraham because they are his descendants; but "Through Isaac shall your descendants be named." This means that it is not the children of the flesh who are the children of God, but the children of the promise are reckoned as descendants." (Romans 9:6-8) Through their faith in God the Gentiles are reckoned as descendants of Abraham.

They are children of promise through faith and are children of God through faith in the promises of God. As Paul also wrote, "For we hold that a man is justified by faith apart from works of law. Or is God the God of Jews only? Is he not the God of Gentiles also? Yes, of Gentiles also, since God is one; and he will justify the circumcised on the ground of their faith and the uncircumcised through their faith." (Romans 3:28-30) The uncircumcised are the Gentile nations and these are made righteous or justified through their faith. Thus we see the Canaanite woman receive her request because of her faith and through her faith became a descendant of Israel in a spiritual sense and thus one of the lost sheep of Israel.

So Jesus was not being cold or inconsistent. Since she was a descendant of Abraham through faith in the promises of God, she was entitled to the healing she sought. She proved herself to be a child of Abraham and a child of God through her faith.

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.