

Glory to Jesus Christ! Glory to Him Forever!

Schedule of Divine Services

Saturday, March 19 5:00 PM +Helen Smykla by Marjorie Zakrzewski

Sunday, March 20 9:00 AM +George Kenhart by Beverly Tima

Pages for Sunday's Divine Liturgy: Tone 2 pages 130 - 131 & pages 223 - 225

Web Liturgy Intention for Week of March 20, 2022 sponsored by
Michael and Nancy Dancisin

Sanctuary Candle is lit from March 13 – March 26

In Memory of +Clifford Martin by Elizabeth Martin & Family

Wednesday, March 23 7:00 PM Liturgy of the Pre-sanctified Gifts

FEAST OF THE ANNUNCIATION

Friday, March 25 7:00 PM +Dorothy Ducar by Nicholas & Barbara Sowko

4th SUNDAY OF THE GREAT FAST – ST. JOHN CLIMACUS

Saturday, March 26 5:00 PM +Clifford Martin by Elizabeth Martin & Family

Sunday, March 27 9:00 AM +George Matus by MM Joseph Vehec

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

Regular Offertory \$2,587.00

Maintenance Fund 542.00

Candles 42.61

Loose Cash 5.00

TOTAL \$3,176.61

Parish Lenten Almsgiving: \$1,310.00

Aid to Ukraine: \$2,687.00

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

Special Offerings

\$1,500 by Anonymous

\$100 in Memory of +Agnes Onofrey by Regis Onofrey

\$100 in Honor of Rita Hilla by Rhonda & Randall Brand

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, Betty Martin, Teresa Sekel, Lynne Black, Patty Schneider, Regina Kraus

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

MARCH BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES THIS WEEK

20 Teresa Sekel Shrum
23 Barbara Sowko
24 Judah Bovee
26 Anna Marie Wargo
26 Elaine Savko
26 Michael Moyta

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

GREAT FAST VESPERS

The parishes of the Pittsburgh Prototypesbyteral District will celebrate the Great Fast Vespers on the Sundays of the Great Fast this year at the following Churches:

March 20	Holy Ghost Church, McKees Rocks	Homilist, Fr. Will Rupp
March 27	St. John Chrysostom Church, Greenfield	Homilist, Fr. Vasyl Polyak
April 3	St. Gregory Church, Upper St. Clair	Homilist, Fr. Andrew Deskevich

You will have the opportunity to celebrate the Mystery of Reconciliation (Confessions) from 3:30 to 4:00 p.m. and the Vespers at 4:00 p.m. After the Vespers we will gather in the Social Hall of the church for a Lenten Soup, Bread and Beverage.

PARISH PHOTO DIRECTORY

This year 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 weekend of **March 27** and **April 3** following the Divine Liturgies on Saturday and Sunday.

UPCOMING CATHEDRAL EVENTS

February – April	Soup Sales
April 23	Spring Craft Show
April 30	Wedding Reception

“CATHEDRAL KITCHEN”

We have *stuffed cabbage*, packaged in ½ dozen for \$18 or 1 dozen for \$30 and quarts of *Halushki & Wedding, Stuffed Cabbage, Potato/Green Bean, Vegetarian Vegetable, Mushroom and Pasta Fagioli soups and Chili* for \$7; *Seafood Creole and Goulash* for \$10. If you would like to buy any please see Patty Bovee or Fr. Andrew.

KOLACHE AND PASKA ORDERS

We are now taking orders for Easter kolache and paskas. Order sheets are located in the vestibules. Effective January 2022, kolache will be \$14. If you would like to purchase any, please see Fr. Andrew or Patty Bovee. **DEADLINE FOR EASTER ORDERS IS MARCH 20, 2022.**

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.

CHOCOLATE BYZANTINE CROSSES

Our Parish is selling Sarris' chocolate Byzantine Cross for Pascha. They will be available on Palm Sunday weekend. Orders need to be prepaid and envelopes are available in the vestibules of the church. **Deadline to order is March 27, 2022.**

GIFT CARDS AND LOTTERY TICKETS

If anyone is able to donate gift cards or lottery tickets for our raffle tree at the Craft Show, please put them in an envelope in the collection basket and mark it “Craft Show.” Thank you in advance for any help you may be able to give.

EASTER KOLBASI SALE

Saints Peter & Paul, Duquesne parish Men's Club is once again selling kolbasi. **Cost is \$7/lb.** Sign-up sheets are at the entrances. **Please order by April 3, 2022.** DELIVERY IS PALM SUNDAY WEEKEND April 9 & 10, 2022. Thank you.



Attentive to the Word

Third Sunday of the Great Fast

Cross Veneration

Hebrews 1:10 - 2:3

Mark 2: 1-12

Jesus was not one to mince words. “So you want to be a follower of mine?” he asks. All you have to do is “deny yourself, take up your cross, and follow me”. He doesn’t say, “Take care of yourself, guard your self-esteem, and go with the flow”. Those are signs that you really want to take the easy way out, to “save your life” as Jesus puts it, and it’s a good way to lose it. If you want to get a life worth saving, then deny yourself and take up your cross, lose your life for Christ’s sake and for the sake of the gospel. That’s the prime directive for anyone who wants to be a follower of Jesus, who came for the very purpose that we might have life, and have it to the full.

Notice what Jesus does not say. He doesn’t say, Think up a cross, some good thing you’d rather not do, and then do it as your cross. That would be a self-inflicted cross, and could be a sign that you’d rather put up with any other suffering than whatever God assigns. You wouldn’t be able to say with the prophet in the first reading, I have not rebelled, have not turned back, because you would be choosing your own cross.

Jesus speaks instead of some cross allotted to you and known to you, but not yet accepted, some humble form of suffering which goes against the grain. This is the cross that Jesus invites us to take up, and in order to do that, we have to deny the self, because the self will refuse a burden like that.

Our evasion of our cross can take as many forms as there are human beings. People can resort to violence, or become addicted to drugs or sex, or spend all their time on their email or the internet. But every human being has a spiritual life to be lived, and deep down, we all know it, because we all have a conscience. Jesus appeals to that conscience when he says that the only way to a full, spiritual life is to renounce all these pseudo-lives.

To the average person, this fully human life can look a lot like death, the death of all we care to live for, and it is indeed the death of selfishness. But from Day One in the garden of Eden, when God set a limit to human appetites, he announced that the pseudo-life of self-indulgence and disobedience was really death. On the day that Adam and Eve ate the forbidden fruit, they found out what God meant.

And so Jesus declares that whoever wishes to save that pseudo-life – the life of isolation and selfishness, where the whole idea is to say, “I did it my way” – that person is going to lose all the reality and the humanity and the spiritual fullness of life. And whoever is

willing to part with lesser things for the sake of the great cause, the cause of Jesus and his gospel, that person will save his life. And it will be a life worth saving.

It's striking that in this morning's Gospel, Jesus directs his warning not just to those who live a sinful life, giving in to every sensual desire, but to all who live for self, whether inside the monastery or outside of it. No matter how refined and artistic our personal ambitions may be, to devote ourselves to them is to lose the reality of life; it's to become jealous or vain, or forgetful of the claims of other people, or scornful of the crowd. Not self-fulfillment but self-sacrifice is the vocation of the follower of Jesus.

Until we learn that by experience, we will go from one desire to another, each one being unsatisfying, and the process will keep repeating itself. But the day will come when the last self-deception will come to an end. The cross of the Son of Man, that type of all noble sacrifice, will then be replaced by the glory of his Father with the holy angels. That glory is love, and those who have borne their cross will discover (as Julian of Norwich put it) that there is some "property of blessed love that we shall know in God, which we might never have known without woe going before."

By Fr. Justin Sheehan, OCSO

PYSANKY CLASS

Our parish will sponsor a pysanky class on Saturday, April 2, 2022 from Noon – 4 PM. The day will begin with a Lenten lunch followed by the pysanky class. Each participant will take home a finished egg. All supplies will be provided. A donation of \$10 is asked from each participant. Class size will be limited. Sign-up sheets are located in the vestibules.

ADVANCED PYSANKY CLASS

March 27, 2022 from noon – 3PM. Maximum 12 people. Experience necessary. Will choose from 3 designs. Please call Bernadette Thorwart 412-478-6806

FLEA MARKET

We will hold a Flea Market in early June. Details to follow.

In person Attendance: Saturday, March 12: **44**; Sunday, March 13: **43**

Pre-sanctified March 9: 32

Pre-sanctified March 11: 34

Live Stream Viewing: Saturday, March 12: **58** (WS); **80** (FB)

Sunday, March 13: **112** (WS); **90** (FB)

Pre-sanctified March 11: 36 (WS); **92** (FB)

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.