

*Christ is Baptized! In The Jordan!*

**Schedule of Divine Services**

- Saturday, January 8    **5:00 PM** +Mary & +Michael Miskovitch by Robert, John, Millie & Anne  
 Sunday, January 9    **9:00 AM** +Joseph Bich by Mary & Paul

**Pages for Sunday's Divine Liturgy: Tone 8 page 161 & pages 316 - 318**

Web Liturgy Intention for Week of January 9, 2022 sponsored by  
**Darnell Hodge in memory of Walter & Ann Leskoski**

*Sanctuary Candle* is lit from January 2 – 15  
**Special Intention of Susan Wargo Bodziach by Anna Marie Wargo**

**34<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

- 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

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

Regular Offertory	\$1,784.00
Maintenance Fund	879.00
Holy Day	626.00
Christmas	1,140.00
Candles	71.47
Live Stream	25.00
Loose Cash	20.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b><u>\$4,545.47</u></b>

**Parking Lot: \$35**

**Special Audio System Donation**

\$100 in memory of +Marguerite Seigler by Staci, Ron & Jack

**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**

- 11 Kathleen Wincko
- 11 Riley Munsie
- 11 Ian Munsie
- 13 Evelyn Allan
- 13 Bernard E. & Janet Ducar (Anniversary)
- 13 Samuel Tima
- 14 Joyce Lesko

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

**In person Attendance:** Feast of the Naming of our Lord/Feast of St. Basil the Great: **35**  
Saturday, January 1: **33**; Sunday, January 2: **65**  
Feast of Theophany: Royal Hours: **2**  
Vigil Liturgy: **40**; morning Liturgy: **29**

### **Live Stream Viewing:**

*Feast of the Naming of our Lord/Feast of St. Basil the Great:* **21** (WS); **84** (FB)  
*Saturday, January 1:* **33** (WS); **67** (FB); *Sunday, January 2:* **101** (WS); **89** (FB)  
*Feast of Theophany:* Royal Hours: **62** (WS); **7** (FB); Vigil Liturgy: **98** (WS); **35** (FB);  
morning Liturgy: **51** (WS); **31** (FB)

## **STOCKING STUFFER RAFFLE THANK YOU**

Thank you to all who bought and/or sold tickets for our Christmas Raffle. Every ticket was sold and it was a success. Congratulations to our winners: Meg Condon was the grand prize winner. The other winners included Ethel Wahal, Anna Marie Millier, Anna Marie Wargo, Teresa Sekel, Paul Bodziach and George Brosky.

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

## ETERNAL MEMORY

On January 5, 2022, **+Sr. Mary Ann Vasilchek**, of the Sisters of St. Basil the Great, Uniontown, passed from this life to the next at the age of 98 during her 78<sup>th</sup> year of religious life. May she rest in the bosom of Abraham, in the abode of the saints, where there is no pain, sorrow, nor mourning. *May the Lord God remember His departed servant, +Sr. Mary Ann in His Kingdom forever!*

## 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 125<sup>th</sup> 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** 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.**



# Attentive to the Word

*Sunday after Theophany*

*Ephesians 4: 7-13*

*Matthew 4: 12-17*

With all the focus on fashion and style in our culture, we may overlook the most obvious function of clothing: to protect our bodies. When the weather gets very cold, we wear the warmest clothing that we possess. Unlike the animals with their fur, we have to protect ourselves from the elements in order to survive. God gave Adam and Eve garments of skin when they left paradise after turning away from Him. Through their disobedience, they had become aware that they were naked and were cast into the world as we know it. The spiritual meaning of their nakedness was that they had repudiated their calling to be in the image and likeness of God. Having stripped themselves of their original glory, they were reduced to mortal flesh and destined for slavery to their passions and the grave.

As we prepared for Theophany last Sunday, we heard this hymn: “Make ready, O Zebulon, and prepare, O Nephtali, and you, River Jordan, cease your flow and receive with joy the Master coming to be baptized. And you, Adam, rejoice with the first mother, and hide not yourselves as you did of old in paradise; for having seen you naked, He appeared to clothe you with the first robe. Yea, Christ has appeared desiring to renew the whole creation.” If it seems strange to think of Christ being baptized in order to clothe Adam and Eve—and the rest of us—remember St. Paul’s teaching that “as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ.” In our baptismal service, the priest puts a white garment on the newly baptized person immediately after he or she comes out of the water with the words “the servant of God is clothed with righteousness...” Then the chanter sings “Grant to me the robe of light, O Most Merciful Christ our God, Who clothes Yourself with light as with a garment.”

In baptism to this day, Jesus Christ clothes us with a garment of light, restoring us to our original vocation to be in the image and likeness of God. He saves us from the nakedness of being reduced to mortality and the vulnerability of being enslaved to our own passions and those of others. He is baptized in order to save Adam and Eve, all of their descendants, and the entire creation, fulfilling the glorious purposes for which He breathed life into us in the first place. Through His and our baptism, He makes us participants in His divinized humanity.

It would be very nice, of course, if that meant that the rest of our lives after baptism would be perfect in every way without pain, disease, sin, or death. Obviously, that is not the case. Remember that, in the aftermath of Christ’s birth, the wicked Herod had all the young boys in the region of Bethlehem murdered out of his desire to kill the Savior. Today’s gospel text begins with a reference to the arrest of St. John the Baptist for his bold prophetic denunciation of the sins of the royal family. St. Matthew tells us that the Lord’s going to “Galilee of the Gentiles” to begin His public ministry fulfilled Isaiah’s prophecy that “the people who sat in darkness have seen a great light, and for those who sat in the region and shadow of death light has dawned.”

Those who suffered under the oppression of Herod and the Roman Empire knew all too well about darkness and death. The countless victims of war, terrorism, and persecution certainly

do also. We do as well, not only when we understandably worry about the problems of our world and nation or recall the loss of loved ones, but also when we acknowledge the truth about our own dark thoughts and desires, how our actions and failures to act have harmed others, and the many other ways in which we would often rather remain in the darkness than live as those who wear a robe of light. When we do so, we prefer the ways of the old Adam to those of the New Adam. We choose nakedness and weakness over divine glory and strength.

St. John the Forerunner called people to repent in preparation for the coming of the Messiah. Interestingly, Christ's preaching after His baptism focused on repentance also: "Repent for the kingdom of heaven is at hand." We usually get a bit nervous about repentance and may associate it with punishment. Of course, it is really a very different undertaking, fundamentally positive in nature, of reorienting ourselves in light of the truth, of walking out of the darkness into the light, of leaving behind the sorrow and anxiety of naked vulnerability for the joy of being fully clothed as the sons and daughters of God.

Even as being fully clothed on a cold winter's day warms the whole body, repentance concerns offering every dimension of our life to Christ for healing and transformation. By being baptized in the Jordan, Christ made water holy by fulfilling its original intended purposes to give life, cleanse, and satisfy our deepest thirst. Holy water manifests Christ's blessing of the entire creation extending even to the small details of our daily lives. In light of our Lord's baptism, we are always on holy ground; now nothing is intrinsically profane, evil, or cut off from God. All reality is called to shine forth with holiness.

Our challenge, then, is to play our role in showing forth the holiness of our bodies, our words, our relationships, our actions, and every aspect of the creation for which we are responsible. Christ calls each and every one of us uniquely to offer ourselves to Him and to play our distinctive roles in fulfilling His purposes in the world. In other words, we already participate by baptism in the divinized humanity of Jesus Christ. We wear the garment of light that He has given us, but at the end of the day each of us must actually do the work of wearing it; each of us must actually turn away from sneaking around naked in the garden like Adam and embrace the glory of our salvation personally and intentionally. That is what repentance is all about, and no one else can do that for us.

Epiphany is a great feast of our salvation in Jesus Christ. The eternal Son of God has made a way for us to participate in His divine glory by humbling Himself to be baptized in the waters of the Jordan. He does so to save Adam and Eve, all their descendants, and the entire creation. He clothes us in a garment of light to cover our nakedness, which had reduced us to slavery to our mortal flesh in a world of death and decay. Let us joyfully celebrate our Lord's baptism by remembering that He has already clothed and restored us to our ancient dignity in His image and likeness. Let us drink and sprinkle holy water as a sign that we must play our unique roles in making every dimension of our lives an icon of God's holiness. In other words, let us behave each day as those who have put on Christ. Let us shine with the great glory that He has given us both through His birth and His baptism. There is no better way to bear witness that the prophecy really has been fulfilled: "The people who sat in darkness have seen a great light, and for those who sat in the region and shadow of death light has dawned."

## 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.