

*Christ is Baptized! In The Jordan!*

**Schedule of Divine Services**

Saturday, January 1 **5:00 PM** +Elaine Geraci by Mark & Virginia Repine & Family  
 Sunday, January 2 **9:00 AM** Deceased Members of the Hornak Family by  
 Margaret Hornak & Vincent Madden

**Pages for Sunday's Divine Liturgy: Tone 7 pages 156 – 157 & pages 309 - 312**

Web Liturgy Intention for Week of January 2, 2022 sponsored by  
**John & Beverly Woessner**

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

**FEAST OF THEOPHANY OF OUR LORD**

Wednesday, January 5 – 9:00 AM Royal Hours  
 7:00 PM +Carol Serechin by George & Marilyn Gojkovich  
 Thursday, January 6 – 9:00 AM +Mark Cifrulak by Mark & Peggy Balobek

**SUNDAY AFTER THEOHANY**

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

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

Regular Offertory	\$1,438.00
Maintenance Fund	530.00
Flowers	85.00
Christmas	8,975.00
Candles	138.00
Loose Cash	198.00
Live Stream	7,050.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$18,414.00</b>

*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

## **DECEMBER/JANUARY BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES THIS WEEK**

26 Steven Ostheim

28 Joann Ostheim

2 Joseph Kundrat

3 Richard Sawczak

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

**In person Attendance:** Royal Hours: **5** Christmas Eve: **99** Christmas Day: **44**  
Sunday, December 26: **82**

**Live Stream Viewing:** Royals Hours: **11** (WS); **112** (FB)  
Christmas Eve: **82** (WS); **111** (FB)  
Christmas: **64** (WS); **77** (FB)  
Sunday: **99** (WS); **73** (FB)

## **LIVE STREAM**

\$7,000 Anonymous

\$50 Andrew & Linda Deskevich

## **Special Christmas Donations**

\$230 Anonymous

\$200 Kathleen Zavada

\$500 George & Carole Garber

## **Special Cemetery Donation**

\$50 in memory of +George Matus by George Janocko

## **Special Parking Lot Donation**

\$75 Joseph & Margaret Barron

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

## THANK YOU

I would like to thank everyone for their generosity to the Parish with your Christmas offering. Thank you for the support so many have given to all of our fund-raising efforts during the year of 2021.

Also, I would like to thank all who remembered me during this Holy Season of Christ's birth with Christmas greetings and the generous gifts.

Your thoughtfulness and generosity were greatly appreciated. May God continue to bless us throughout the New Year as we journey together as a family of faith and as we continue to emerge from the difficulties of this pandemic.

*Fr. Andrew*

## PHILLIP'S FAST ALMSGIVING THANK YOU

Thank you to everyone who participated in our Philip's Fast Almsgiving opportunities. Your generosity was certainly evident with the donation of gifts for Mantle House Mission and items for the VA. May God bless you for your generosity.

## GOULASH DINNER

Our parish will serve a take-out only Goulash dinner on **Saturday, January 15 from 4 – 7 PM and on Sunday, January 16 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 Noodle, Beef Vegetable, and Stuffed Cabbage soups* for \$7. If you would like to buy any please see Patty Bovee or Fr. Andrew.

## THANK YOU FROM SS PETER & PAUL MEN'S CLUB, DUQUESNE

Thank you for your support of our Kolbasi project. You again helped make our project a success. **All for the greater Honor and Glory of God!**



# Attentive to the Word

*Sunday before Theophany*

*2 Timothy 4: 5-8*

*Mark 1: 1-8*

As our Church solemnly celebrates the Baptism of our Lord and Holy Theophany this month, a singular figure, other than Jesus Himself, emerges - His cousin, John, son of the aged Zachary and Elizabeth. Although he is perhaps remembered more for his outspoken condemnation of King Herod's adulterous marriage which resulted in his beheading, John's greatest role in the plan of salvation took place on the shores of the Jordan River as he baptized Jesus. For this reason, from the earliest times, our Church has dedicated the day following Theophany to John's memory (January 7th). He is commemorated as well several other times throughout the year, principally his conception (September 23rd), his birth (June 24th) and his death (August 29th).

John, as the last of prophets, proclaims the arrival of the Messiah and so stands at the crossroads of the Old Testament and the New. Within the Church from its earliest times, John has been seen as the "Forerunner" leading to his proclamation, "Behold the Lamb of God Who takes away the sins of the world!" (John 1:29) His baptism of Jesus is the point at which the ministry of Jesus begins.

John attracted vast multitudes from Jerusalem and the surrounding areas. His message was truly solemn and quite stern: "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruit that befits repentance." (Matthew 3:7) John was a strict legalist, somewhat like the Pharisees but whom he excoriated for their hypocrisy. He enjoined his hearers to share clothing and food with those in need. This struck at the heart of Jewish society at the time bent on acquisition. Our Lord Himself addressed that very issue when a rich man asked Him what he should do to have eternal life. When Jesus told him to sell all he had and give to the poor, the man refused and went away sad prompting

Jesus to remark, "With difficulty will a rich man enter the kingdom of heaven." (Matthew 19:16-26)

John's preaching and influence eventually from the point of view of the Jewish authorities grew at an alarming rate for which he was incarcerated in the remote military stronghold of Macherus as a prudent move to stop a menacing messianic movement by removing its instigator as far as possible from the multitudes who flocked to hear him. Even King Herod "liked to hear him" (Mark 6:20).

John's nature was of such moral purity that he is referred to as an angel-in-the-flesh. In some icons; he is depicted as a winged figure. He differs from all the' other prophets in that he was privileged to show to the world the very One Whom he had foretold: "One mightier than I is coming, the strap of whose sandals I am not worthy to loose. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire...." (Luke 3:16)

There is a legend that the evangelist Luke wanted to remove John's headless body to Antioch, his own birthplace. He succeeded, however, in acquiring and taking only one hand which was kept there in Antioch until the tenth century when it was moved to Constantinople from where it disappeared during the Turkish occupation. According to the legend, each year on his feast day, the archbishop would expose it for veneration. Sometimes the hand appeared open; and sometimes, clenched. In the first instance, it indicated that there would be a fertile year, and in the second that it would be a year of famine.

From the Vespers commemorating John the Baptist on January 7th, our Church reverently chants: "O luminary in' the flesh and Forerunner of the Savior, O offspring of the barren one, O friend, by leaping in the womb you adored the One Who is born of the Virgin, and you baptized Him in the waters of the Jordan. O prophet, we' pray to you: Implore Him that we may escape future torments."

*By +Msgr. John Sekellik*

## 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.