

*Glory to Jesus Christ!      Glory to Him Forever!*

**Schedule of Divine Services**

Saturday, February 26 **5:00 PM** +Robert Wargo by Anna Marie Wargo & Family

Sunday, February 27 **9:00 AM** +Keith Cosgrove by Debbie & Justin Cosgrove

**4:00 PM      FORGIVENESS VESPERS**

**Pages for Sunday's Divine Liturgy: Tone 7 pages 156 - 157 & pages 218 - 219**

Web Liturgy Intention for Week of February 2, 2022 sponsored by

**Kristie Cosgrove, In Memory of +Shannon Jo McFarland**

*Sanctuary Candle* is lit from February 27 – March 12

**In Memory of +Richard Fialkovich by Helen Fialkovich & Family**

**First Day of the Great Lenten Fast – A day of Strict Fast**

**Monday, February 28      7:00 PM      Liturgy of the Pre-sanctified Gifts**

**Wednesday, March 2      7:00 PM      Liturgy of the Pre-sanctified Gifts**

**Friday, March 4      7:00 PM      Liturgy of the Pre-sanctified Gifts**

**1<sup>st</sup> SUNDAY OF THE GREAT FAST**

Saturday, March 5 **5:00 PM** +Richard Fialkovich by Helen Fialkovich & Family

Sunday, March 6 **9:00 AM** +Margaret Tima by Beverly Tima

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

Regular Offertory	\$2,000.00
Maintenance Fund	716.00
BCW	57.00
Candles	69.60
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$2,842.60</b>

**Special Offering**

**\$1,000 In Memory of +Margaret Tima (one year memorial) by Steve & Janine Tima**

**Parking Lot: \$125**

*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, Betty Martin, Teresa Sekel.

*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

## **FEBRUARY/MARCH BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES THIS WEEK**

27 William & Georgiana Sabo (Anniversary)

2 Gloria Erney

4 Mark & Kimberly Simko (Anniversary)

5 Mary Ellen Totin

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

**In person Attendance:** 1<sup>st</sup> All Souls Remembrance: **17**

Saturday, February 19: **44**; Sunday, February 20: **52**

**Live Stream Viewing:** 1<sup>st</sup> All Souls Remembrance: **19** (WS); **61** (FB)

Saturday, February 19: **38** (WS); **69** (FB)

Sunday, February 20: **84** (WS); **66** (FB)

## **GREAT FAST VESPERS**

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

### **February 27 St. John the Baptist Cathedral**

March 6 St. John the Baptist Church, Lyndora

March 13 Ss. Peter & Paul Church, Duquesne

March 20 Holy Ghost Church, McKees Rocks

March 27 St. John Chrysostom Church, Greenfield

April 3 St. Gregory Church, Upper St. Clair

### **Forgiveness Vespers**

Homilist, Fr. Valerian Michlik

Homilist, Fr. Michael Huszti

Homilist, Fr. Will Rupp

Homilist, Fr. Vasyly Polyak

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.

## UPCOMING CATHEDRAL EVENTS

February – April	Soup Sales
March 12	Too Groovy Toy Show Kitchen
April 23	Spring Craft Show
April 30	Wedding Reception

## GCU LODGE MEETING

GCU Lodge 602 will hold its first quarter meeting on *Sunday, March 6, 2022, Noon* at St. John Cathedral.

## “CATHEDRAL KITCHEN”

We have *stuffed cabbage*, packaged in ½ dozen for \$18 or 1 dozen for \$30 and quarts of *Halushki & Wedding, Chicken & Dumpling, Stuffed Cabbage, Potato/Green Bean, Vegetarian Vegetable, Mushroom and Pasta Fagioli soups and Chili* for \$7. 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.

## SARRIS EASTER CANDY ORDERS

Order forms for Sarris Candy are located in the vestibules of the church. If you would like to order candy for Easter, please return by March 6, 2022.

## 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.**



# Attentive to the Word

*Cheesefare Sunday*

*Romans 13:11 - 14:4*

*Matthew 6: 14-21*

We enter once again into the time of the Great Fast, that great penitential season before the celebration of Pascha, the Feast of Feasts. In our preparations, we are always encouraged to the three pillars of penitence: prayer, fasting and almsgiving. Two are very straightforward in explanation: we are encouraged to pray more deeply, and more often; we are to give alms to all in need. But although we think we know what is needed in fasting, I believe that the depths of fasting have been lost on our society. Fasting has been reduced to "What are you giving up for Lent?" It seems that all Catholics say, "I didn't think we needed to do that anymore." During Lent, Western Catholics are now called to abstain from meat on Fridays, whereas that used to be true for the entire year. Eastern Catholics are called to complete fasting and abstinence on the first day of the Great Fast and on Good Friday, and abstinence from meat on Wednesdays and Fridays, whereas we used to fast and/or abstain from all meat and dairy for the entire Fast - thus the true import of Meatfare Sunday and Cheesefare Sunday.

And so, we need to rediscover fasting. Fasting has its place in every religion in the world, from ancient times. It doesn't matter if one is Muslim, Jew, Hindu, Buddhist, Native American or Wiccan or pagan - fasting is found in all of them. In the Eastern Orthodox Churches, there is still a strong fasting tradition. But Catholics seem generally to have let it go by the wayside, much to our shame.

We need to rediscover the terms. What is fasting, and what is abstinence? Do either necessarily entail just eating, or are there other aspects of life where it can be applied? Abstinence traditionally refers to certain types of food, regardless of quantity, while fasting traditionally refers to limiting the number of meals and/or amounts of food consumed, regardless of types of food. There can be abstinence from meat and meat products for an entire period of time, or fasting from every form of food for a period. Most Lenten fasts, when kept traditionally, consist of only vegetables. In our modern society, we can also abstain from certain activities, but the desirable concentration of either abstinence or fasting from food. Why this particular point? Other than the fact that fasting from food is the common fast throughout religions, it is in response to basic needs and desires. No other part of our lives is so fundamental than the need to eat. If there is one addiction that gets short-shrift in our lives it is the addiction to eating, especially in Western civilization. No denial of any aspect of our lives upset us more than when we miss our meal.

I think the main thing that fasting from foods does is remind us of how much we are slaves to our bodies. Hunger can be overpowering, to the point where dieters "cheat" or tell themselves they "deserve a reward for doing so well the past week." And we can extend this to our treatment of sin. Sinful habits and mindsets overpower our desire to be more like Christ, and we find ourselves crying out as did the holy Apostle Paul: "Indeed, I do not know what I am doing! I do not practice what I desire to do; but what I hate, this is what I do!" (Rom. 7:15). Fasting reminds us that in and of

ourselves we can do nothing, and we are in constant need of God in our lives to overcome our sinful nature.

Metropolitan Kallistos (Ware) says, "Fasting is not a mere matter of diet. It is moral as well as physical. True fasting is to be converted in heart and will; it is to return to God, to come home like the Prodigal to our Father's house. In the words of Saint John Chrysostom, it means 'abstinence not only from food but from sins: ... It is use- less to fast from food, protests Saint Basil, and yet to indulge in cruel criticism and slander: 'You do not eat meat, but you devour your brother.'"

Many years ago, I read something from Father Anthony Coniaris that has stuck with me. His analogy is: When you squeeze an orange, what comes out? Our usual response is, "orange juice" - But Father Anthony says, "No; it is whatever is inside the orange that comes out." In times of stress or anger, we find out what is truly inside of us. When we get angry, do we yell at a person, or go into road rage, or say things that should not be said out loud? If we do, we betray that what is in our heart is not peace or love but turmoil and anger. When we are stressed at any situation, do we panic, make abrupt, and probably incorrect, assumptions and decisions, or do we take a deep breath and really examine the situation and act prudently? Yes, it is kind of disturbing to find what is really inside us, rather than what we think is inside. Fasting shows us who we are. It shows our weak- ness and our need for diligence over our hearts, minds and words, and how we can- not do otherwise without the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. It is only then that we can call upon Him to heal us in the very depths of who we are.

Again, Bishop Kallistos: "Fasting, then, is valueless or even harmful when not combined with prayer:' When Jesus' disciples were unable to cast out a demon, Saint Matthew writes, "Then the disciples came to Jesus in private and asked, 'Why were we not able to cast it out?' Jesus replied, 'Because of your unbelief! Amen, I tell you that if you have faith even like a grain of mustard, you will tell this mountain, "Move from here to there," and it will move; and nothing will be impossible for you! But this kind [of spirit] does not go out except by prayer and fasting:" (Matthew 17:19- 21). So, too, it is with us: we cannot expect to make any spiritual progress during Lent without fasting accompanied by prayer.

Of course, we are in need also of the Holy Mysteries. Saint Thomas Aquinas calls the Holy Eucharist "spiritual food and spiritual medicine." After all communicants have received the Eucharist, the priest proclaims, "Behold! This has touched your lips, and will take away your iniquities and will cleanse your sins:' Holy Confession is also necessary for us to call to mind where we fall short in our efforts to become more like Christ. We relieve the burdens on our hearts, receive counsel from our spiritual father, and received absolution and remission of our sins. This Mystery is the most neglected today, and yet we ask why it seems God does not hear our prayers: "You lust, and do not have! You kill, covet, and [still] cannot obtain! You fight and make war. You do not have because you do not ask! You ask and do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, in order to spend it for your pleasures:' (James 4:2,3).

We need to fast. We need to pray. We need to reach out to others through our giving of ourselves and our substance to others. Without all this, our fasting is doomed to failure; our prayer will be weak and ineffective; and we will not attain the Kingdom we seek.

*By Fr. Ron Hatton*

## 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.