

Glory to Jesus Christ! Glory to Him Forever!

Schedule of Divine Services

Saturday, February 5 **5:00 PM** +Leona Bodnar by Mary Janicko

Sunday, February 6 **9:00 AM** +George Matus by Ernest & Mary Ann Varhola

Pages for Sunday's Divine Liturgy: Tone 4 page 141 & page 215

Web Liturgy Intention for Week of February 6, 2022 sponsored
**Anonymously in honor of the hardworking volunteers
 of St. John Cathedral**

Sanctuary Candle is lit from January 30 – February 11
In Memory of +William Edward Hilla by Family

SUNDAY OF THE PRODIGAL SON

Saturday, February 12 **5:00 PM** In Honor of Rita Hilla's 90th Birthday by Children,
 Grandchildren and Great Grandchildren

Sunday, February 13 **9:00 AM** +Deborah Pamgratz by Vickie Pamgratz

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

Regular Offertory	\$2,121.00
Maintenance Fund	706.00
Holy Day	389.00
BCW	14.00
Candles	67.45
Live Stream	600.00
Loose Cash	30.00
TOTAL	\$3,927.45

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

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES THIS WEEK

8 David & Betty Banyas (Anniversary)

11 Rita Hilla

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

In person Attendance: Saturday, January 29: **34**; Sunday, January 30: **63**
Feast of the Encounter: **16**

Live Stream Viewing: *Saturday, January 29:* **53** (WS); **68** (FB)
Sunday, January 30: **116** (WS); **69** (FB)

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

Live Stream

\$500 Anonymous

\$25 Leonard & Felicia Simko

\$25 Joana Dizak

\$50 John & Barb Havrilla

ETERNAL MEMORY

On February 1, 2022 **+Carole A. (Bovee) Collins**, sister of Martin Bovee and Janine Perhacs, passed from this life to the next. 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 +Carole in His Kingdom forever.*

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.

UPCOMING CATHEDRAL EVENTS

February 12	Wedding Reception rescheduled from 2020
February – April	Soup Sales
March 12	Too Groovy Toy Show Kitchen

“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, 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.

Keep holy Your young children. Make of them followers of You so they may grow in faith, life, and spiritual understanding of Your love for them.



Attentive to the Word

Sunday of the Publican and the Pharisee

2 Timothy 3: 10-15

Luke 18: 10-14

Take a moment and think of how many times we watch the late-night news, and seeing a criminal being arrested say to ourselves, "Wow, I would never do anything as bad as that person did." Or, perhaps more appropriately, how often do we glare at someone eating meat on a Friday and say, "What a sin, eating meat on Friday! Is this person not aware of what they are doing?" Yet, in our ignorance we hastily judge others, often forgetting about the extremely large plank that resides in our own eye. Not only that, in condemning others for their trespasses we blatantly disregard the words of Christ from His sermon on the mount, "Judge not, that you be not judged." Therefore, it is imperative for us not to condemn one another but instead to act with humility, forgiveness, and love. Why not hasten to shed tears of contrition for our own sins, rather than quickly pointing out the faults of our neighbor? How can we to accomplish this? By guarding ourselves from the sinful pride of the Pharisee, by emulating the meekness of the Publican, and by learning what it truly means to walk according to the Lord's precepts.

First, let us recognize that Pharisees were at the opposite end of the public spectrum of publicans. Pharisees were generally well-respected, held in high regard for their knowledge of the sacred texts, for their "righteousness" before God and men, and for their meticulous observance of the Jewish Law. Put simply, the Pharisees were supposedly the ones setting the good example of proper adherence to God's commandments. However, in His parable Christ says, "the Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself 'God, I thank thee that I am not like other men, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. '" The Church Fathers teach us that prayer is one of the many times Satan seeks to lead us from the right path. He lurks about, eager to ambush us when we step in the direction toward God, tempting us with intoxicating sins, the passions of the flesh. This Pharisee was no exception, as he fell prey to the wiles of the evil one. He was inebriated with hubris, high with the sound of his own voice and self-righteous testimony. We must not be like the Pharisee, who permitted temptation to prevent him from receiving the healing he needed. We have to examine ourselves, and trust in God, so that when we go to Him, the true Physician, we report our own symptoms and get the treatment we need. Saint Isaac the Syrian, a monastic who lived during the 7th century, tells us that "the power to see one's own sins is greater than the power to raise the dead." Thus, as the season of the Great Fast draws near, keep this in mind, and each and every day reflect upon the transgression that separate us from the Lord.

Having seen the Pharisee, filled with great pride and ignorance toward forgiveness, let us now turn to the behavior of the Publican. Publicans, as we remember from the gospel reading about Zacchaeus, were tax collectors working for the Romans. They were despised for their greed, as they demanded additional money from the people to make extra profit for themselves. In spite of this, the publican in Luke's gospel was behaving quite differently from the Pharisee. Recall the words, "But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even lift up his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying,

"God be merciful to me a sinner." "Where else do we hear the words "God be merciful to me a sinner"? During the Divine Liturgy, of course. As we make that entreaty, we too beat our breast as a sign of our whole-hearted repentance, asking for God to be merciful and hear our prayer. Concerning the depth of the mercy of God Saint Isaac the Syrian declares that "God's greatest attribute is mercy. For if God were truly just then each and every one of us would be in eternal torment." You see, God shows mercy to the publican, as much as to anyone who approaches Him with a sorrowful and penitent heart. While the Pharisee basked and trusted in his self-righteousness, the publican stood barely visible, head bowed, in a state of complete dependence upon God's compassion. He approached God with fear and trembling, not boasting but begging the Almighty to pardon his sinfulness. God heard his prayer, and the Lord tells us that "... this man went down to his house justified." "The publican received God's forgiveness. The same cannot be said of the Pharisee in this case. We ought to imitate the publican and come to confession during this Lenten season, so that we too may go home justified, spiritually renewed and prepared to receive the risen Lord; Having witnessed the vanity of the Pharisee and the meekness of the Publican, let us contemplate how to walk in the path of the Lord's precepts. Reflect on Saint Paul's Letter to the Romans where he writes, "Who are you to pass judgment on the servant of another? It is before his own master that he stands or falls. And he will be upheld, for the Master is able to make him stand." And from the Epistle of Saint James, "God resists the proud but gives grace to the humble." Instead of passing judgment, we should pray to God for the forgiveness of our own shortcomings. And in place of contemplating the speck in our neighbor's eye, we ought to worry more about that enormous log in our own. Jesus Christ, the Son of the Most High, humbled Himself taking the form of a slave, and suffered excruciating death for us all, forgiving even those who nailed Him to the cross. Who are we to be full of pride?

To illustrate further Christ's teaching on passing judgment, listen to this account from *The Sayings of the Desert Fathers* concerning a lesson by Abba Moses, a great sinner who turned his life around and become a priest and one of the most renowned fathers and monastics of the Church. "A brother committed a fault. A council was called to which Abba Moses was invited, but he refused to go to it. Then the priest sent someone to say to him, 'Come, for everyone is waiting for you. 'So he got up and went. He took a leaking jug, filled it with water and carried it with him. The others came out to meet him and said to him, 'What is this, Father?' Abba Moses said to them, 'My sins run out behind me, and I do not see them, and today I am coming to judge the errors of another.'"

Abba Moses in his rebuke of the council truly exemplifies our Lord's instruction. While our sins abound, we seek to condemn others for the smallest of offenses. Did Jesus Christ not tell us, "For with the judgment you pronounce you will be judged"? Are we greater than the Son of the Most High? So ultimately, let us heed the message of the Publican and the Pharisee. The Fathers declare that "the heights of humility are great, and so are the depths of boasting." We must not pass judgment on our brothers and sisters, descending to prideful depths of the devil, but rather strive to climb the spiritual heights of humility, forgiving and pouring out our love for one another. For by being merciful we shall indeed obtain mercy. So maybe we say a prayer for the person we see being arrested. And it is better if we keep our fasting practices within the silence of our own heart, allowing God to grant us a heavenly reward. As it written, "What no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the heart of man conceived, what God has prepared for those who love Him."

By Father Daniel Vaskalis

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.