

Christ is Risen! Indeed He is Risen!

Schedule of Divine Services

Saturday, April 30 **5:00 PM +Ronald Smoley by Anna Marie Wargo**
Sunday, May 1 **9:00 AM Special Intention**

Pages for Sunday’s Divine Liturgy: Pages 177 - 180

Web Liturgy Intention for Week of May 1, 2022 sponsored by
Lori (Urban) Lyons in Memory of +Betty Lyons

Sanctuary Candle is lit from April 24 – May 7
In Memory of +Anna Contenta, +Sarah Galzerano, + Nick Galzerano
by Anna Marie & Greg Chekan

Wednesday, May 4 **9:00 AM Special Intention of Father Andrew**

SUNDAY OF THE PARALYTIC – MOTHER’S DAY

Saturday, May 7 **5:00 PM Living & Deceased Mothers**
Sunday, May 8 **9:00 AM Living & Deceased Mothers**

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

Regular Offertory	\$2,179.00
Maintenance Fund	695.00
Holy Day	117.00
Easter	900.00
Candles	58.70
Loose Cash	40.00
TOTAL	\$3,989.70

Special Donation: \$500 by MaryAnn & Ernie Varhola

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, Lynne Black, Patty Schneider, Regina Kraus, Elaine Nassif, Jeannie Pasternak, Janet Myers

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

MAY BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES THIS WEEK

1 Patricia Goda
4 Michael Stout
4 Eddi Lazarov
7 Ellen Krysinski

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

In person Attendance: *Saturday, April 23: 53; Sunday, April 24: 56*

Live Stream Viewing: *Saturday, April 23: 31 (WS); 53 (FB)*
Sunday, April 24: 82 (WS); 71 (FB)
Choir Concert: 46 (WS); 71 (FB)

EASTER BASKET RAFFLE THANK YOU

Thank you to all who bought and/or sold tickets for our Easter Raffle. Every ticket was sold and it was a success. Congratulations to our winners: *Mary Ann Varhola* was the grand prize winner. The other winners included *Susan Bodziach, Guerra, Walt Giffin, Dorothy Stefan, and Joe Perhach.*

WELCOME NEW PARISHIONERS!

As a parish family we are truly blessed to welcome *Jeanine Perhacs* to St. John Cathedral parish family. May God bless her with many happy and blessed years as we together continue this journey of faith!

PARISH FAMILY PHOTO DIRECTORY

Once again this weekend, following the Divine Liturgies, pictures will be taken for our Parish Family Photo directory. If you haven't had your picture taken, you can do so in the lower level of the Cathedral.

UPCOMING EVENTS

May 5	Steel Valley Honor's Banquet
May 7	Women's Day of Reflection
May 11	Bowling Banquet
May 12	Seminary Lecture
May 14/15	Breaded Pork Chop Dinner

SAINTS CYRIL AND METHODIUS LECTURE

The 22nd Annual Saints Cyril & Methodius Lecture will be presented in person at the Cathedral Center and online, via the Seminary website at www.bcs.edu on **Thursday, May 12 at 7:00 PM**. *Rev. Dr. Radu Bordeianu*, Associate Professor of Theology at Duquesne University, is this year's esteemed lecturer and has selected as his topic: "The Church as Family." The event is free, but registration is required. You can register online at www.bcs.edu or by calling 412-321-8383.

CANDLE OFFERING

Our candle supplier informed us that the cost of wax has increased 37% this past year. Due to this increase, we have to increase our suggested offering for candles. ***Effective May 1, 2022 the suggested offering for candles will be \$3.00.*** Thank you for your understanding with this increase.

FLEA MARKET

We will be holding another Flea Market on June 3 & 4, 2022, 8 AM – 1 PM. Please put aside any items you no longer want or need for our flea market.

As in the past, we cannot accept TV's, computers, shoes and clothes. Small boxes may be left in the church vestibules after April 30, but before May 30. Arrangements can be made to pick up larger items. Please consider also helping to mark and sell the items in May. Thanks for your donations.

ELECTION DAY HOAGIE SALE

Ss. Peter & Paul Parish Club, Duquesne will be holding a hoagie sale. Order forms are located in the vestibules. Pick up will be at Cathedral Office May 17, 9 AM – 1:30 PM.



Attentive to the Word

Sunday of Myrrh-bearing Women

Acts 6: 1-7

Mark 15:43 - 16:8

You're in your car, driving along the highway, when all of a sudden, you see something astonishingly beautiful up ahead in the distance. What do you do? You stare at it, you focus on it for a long time as you approach; you pass by it in an instant; and then you watch it for as long as you can -- a precious few more seconds -- in the rear view mirror. It completely captivates your attention. And then it is gone.

This is what we've been doing with Pascha, the astonishingly beautiful Feast of the Lord's Resurrection. For a long time, we watched it from afar, approaching it slowly over the course of something like 12 weeks. It passed in an instant.

And last week and this, we take our last look at it in the rear view mirror: last week, focusing on the Lord's appearances to His Apostles and "Doubting Thomas"; and this week, focusing on the Holy Myrrh bearing Women, "Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome [, who] bought spices, that they might come and anoint Him very early in the morning, on the first day of the week" (Mark 16:1-2), and also on St. Joseph of Arimathea and St. Nicodemus, who took Jesus' Body "down from the Tree, wrapped It in fine linen, annointed It with spices, and laid it in a new tomb."

Starting next week, our focus will shift to the coming Feast of Pentecost, and the Gospel readings will be on the theme of water, preparing us to receive the Living Water Jesus will give us to quench our every thirst.

So today, we take our last longing look back at Pascha in the persons of the Holy Myrrh bearing Women, St. Joseph of Arimathea and St. Nicodemus. Why are these people important to us? Why should we care about them? What do they have to teach us?

They are important to us, and we should care about them, because they are--perhaps of all the saints in heaven--our most likely and accessible role models. Think about the different ranks of saints: "Patriarchs, Prophets, Apostles, Preachers, Evangelists, Martyrs, Confessors, Ascetics, and every righteous spirit made perfect in faith" While these categories are not totally inaccessible to us, you wouldn't call most of us likely candidates for most of them:

Patriarchs, Prophets, Apostles, Evangelists? Their ranks are, for the most part, full. Preachers? More than most others, this calling is in God's hands, and not something we can strive for. Martyrs and Confessors? We should thank God every day that our faith does not come at the cost of our lives. Ascetics? We are all called to deny ourselves, to take up our crosses and follow Christ--but few to the extent of the sainted monks and nuns of the Church. But this last category -- "Every righteous spirit made perfect in faith" -- this perhaps has possibilities. And it is in this light that we should look at the Holy Myrrh bearing Women, St. Joseph of Arimathea and St. Nicodemus.

Who were they? According to the Gospels, St. Joseph and St. Nicodemus were members of the Sanhedrin, the ruling council of the Jews. And the myrrh bearers were the "women who followed [Jesus] from Galilee" (Matthew 27:55), most of whom, it seems, were named "Mary". But think about it: Who were they? What sorts of people were they? St. Joseph and St. Nicodemus were men with careers, wives and children; men with responsibilities both professional, to their communities, and to their families. And the myrrh bearers were, literally, the mothers: "of James and Joses, and of Zebedee's sons." (Matthew 27:56)

It is these ordinary people -- people very much like you and me -- whom we remember today, these "righteous spirits made perfect in faith" whom the whole Church holds up as examples and role models -- holds up as heroes, as notable in the company of heaven as the most determined apostles, the most inspired prophets, the most courageous martyrs and confessors, the most fervent ascetics. That's why they should be very important to us. That's why we should care about them.

So what do they have to teach us? They teach us:

That no matter who you are, or where you fit into to human society, you have a calling, a personal vocation to serve and to care for and to build up the Body of Christ: if no longer His physical Body, then His spiritual Body, the Church. It's not just the job of the priests and deacons, the monks and nuns. It's the calling of every Christian.

That you must take courage and be bold in loving and serving Christ. Think about St. Joseph and St. Nicodemus: can you imagine the risks they were taking in going to Pontius Pilate and asking for the body of Jesus? Not only to their reputations and their careers, but to their very lives? But it did not stop them from coming. It did not paralyze them, as so often we are paralyzed by fear and insecurity, by the thought of losing control of our lives and our well-being.

That you must never lose hope, even in the face of apparently insurmountable obstacles. What chance did a handful of middle-aged women have of rolling away the huge stone which blocked the door of the tomb? They knew they could not do it themselves: "They said among themselves, 'Who will roll away the stone from the door of the tomb for us?'" (Mark 16:3) But it did not stop them from coming. It did not paralyze them, as so often we are paralyzed when we don't see clearly how and what or even why we are to accomplish what has been set before us.

You and I have work to do. Christ calls us--every one of us--to serve and to care for and to build up His Body, the Church. To beautify it. To extend it. To defend and protect it. There will be risks: to our reputations, our careers, our livelihoods, perhaps even our lives. And it will not be clear how we are to accomplish what we are called to do. There will be obstacles and barriers. There will be problems, and many, many questions. And there are no easy answers; there are no simple solutions.

But there are friends and comrades, ordinary people like you and me who have put their faith and their hope and all their love in the Lord. Who strengthen us with their faith. Who inspire us with their hope. And who share with us their love, today, right now, as we celebrate their memories in one last look back at Pascha: the Holy Myrrh bearing Women, St. Joseph of Arimathea, and St. Nicodemus. Through their prayers, O Lord, make us worthy of their company and save us.

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.