

*Glory to Jesus Christ! Glory Forever!*

**S c h e d u l e   o f   D i v i n e   S e r v i c e s**

Saturday, August 6 **5:00 PM +Richard Fialkovich by Anna Fialkovich**

Sunday, August 7 **9:00 AM Special 85<sup>th</sup> Birthday Intention of Ernest Varhola by Mary Ann & Family**

**Pages for Sunday's Divine Liturgy: Tone 8 pages 161 – 163 & pages 346 - 350**

Web Liturgy Intention for Week of August 7, 2022 sponsored by  
**John Varhola**

*Sanctuary Candle* is lit from July 31 – August 13  
**+Mark Cifrulak by Nancy Cifrulak**

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

Saturday, August 13 **5:00 PM +Stephen & Margaret Kish by Kish Family**

Sunday, August 14 **9:00AM Special Intention of Bob Shrum & Teresa Sekel by Kathy Zavada & Jacki Basalla**

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

Regular Offertory	\$1,342.00
Maintenance Fund	367.00
Holy Day	10.00
Candles	60.53
Loose Cash	55.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$1,834.53</b>

**Live Stream**

**\$25 Leonard & Felicia Simko**

**\$50 Joseph Onoffrey**

*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, Patty Schneider, Jeannie Pasternak, Janet Myers, Ethel Wahal, Joanne Smoley

*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

## **AUGUST BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES THIS WEEK**

- 8 Linda Stofko
- 9 Paulette Winowich
- 9 Steve & Janine Tima (Anniversary)
- 9 Nicholas Oriss
- 10 David & Lauren Pavasko (Anniversary)

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

**In person Attendance:** *Saturday, July 30: 45; Sunday, July 31: 55*

## **WEB SITE UPDATED**

As with all technology, our web site needed to be updated. We are up and running again with our parish website. Current bulletins and photos can now again be posted and viewed. Take some time to look at the new website. It will continue to be fine tuned. Thank you for your patience and understanding.

## **LIVE-STREAM**

For the past few weeks our Live-stream was experiencing some extreme technical difficulties. Part of the problem was with the “fiber board” which needed to be replaced by Verizon. In addition we had to upgrade our internet. These difficulties affected many people who rely on this modem for worship because of their present life situation. I thank everybody for their patience and understanding during these transition times.

## **DORMITION FAST ALMSGIVING**

I am sure we have seen the news broadcasts of flood ravaged Kentucky. As part of our almsgiving during this Dormition Fast, **we are collecting clothes, NEW packs of undergarments, and toiletry items** that will be sent to the hard hit area. If you will be donating any of these items please bring them by next weekend. A truck with the donated items will be leaving on Monday, August 15, 2022. Thank you for your consideration in helping those desperately in need.

## **PARISH FINANCIAL PRESENTATION (CHANGE OF DATE)**

I will give a presentation on the first half of 2022 on **Sunday, August 21, 2022**. The presentation will be held in the Cathedral Center. A luncheon will follow the presentation. If you plan on attending, please sign your name to one of the sheets so that the Center can be set up properly.

## **“CATHEDRAL KITCHEN”**

The “Kathedral Kitchen” has been restocked. We have *stuffed cabbage*, packaged in ½ dozen for \$18 or 1 dozen for \$30 and quarts of *Halushki & Wedding, Chicken Noodle, Potato/Green Bean, Chicken Gnocchi, Vegetarian Vegetable, Mushroom and Beef Vegetable soups and Chili* for \$7. If you would like to buy any please see Patty Bovee or Fr. Andrew.

## **CENTER CLEANING AND REORGANIZING**

**Saturday, August 20, 2022** beginning at 9 AM has been set aside to give the Cathedral Center kitchen a good cleaning as well as reorganizing certain areas of the Center. No matter what time or for how long your help will greatly be appreciated.

## **GIFT CARDS AND LOTTERY TICKETS**

If anyone is able to donate gift cards or lottery tickets for our raffle trees at the Craft Show & Basket Extravaganza, please put them in an envelope in the collection basket and mark it “Lottery Tree.” Thank you in advance for any help you may be able to give.

## **BASKET EXTRAVAGANZA BASKETS**

We will hold our Basket Extravaganza on Sunday, November 13, 2022. We are in need of completed baskets or items to complete a basket. You can contact Diane Pochron at 412-303-6534 for any information or ideas for basket items. Thank you in advance for any help you may be able to give.



# Attentive to the Word

*Ninth Sunday after Pentecost*

*1 Corinthians 3: 9-17*

*Matthew 14: 22-34*

This story from Matthew's gospel is a part of a much larger story which includes the temptation of grasping for power and making a play for control. Jesus has just left His hometown where He was powerless to do anything because they could not see Him as anything but that "strange little kid from down the block." They knew Him as Jesus, the son of Mary and Joseph, but they could not see beyond that to recognize the nearness and presence of God. Surely there was the temptation to do something dramatic to show them - to display His power in some magnificent way.

Then comes the story of the death of John the Baptist and John's disciples turning their eyes upon Jesus. They wonder what He is to do. And Jesus is tempted. He withdraws to the mountain but the crowd will not leave. They follow after Him. He is filled with compassion and feeds them with the loaves and fishes. And yet all they see is that He has powers they can use. They urge him to pick up the mantle of leadership. They start chanting "Jesus is King." They want Him to grab political and military power. The crowd urges Jesus to exploit the emotional situation of anger and hatred provoked by the death of John the Baptist.

Jesus may have faced this same temptation in the wilderness at the beginning of His ministry, but it has now returned. His own village did not see Him as the servant of God; now He could grasp this power of leadership and show them and help those who were in need of a leader. The sheep needed a shepherd.

Temptations for most of us are never finished. They simply depart to return another day. So Jesus is face-to-face with the temptation to grab for the power on the basis of meeting physical needs and wishes. He withdraws to the mountain for prayer and devotion. He sends His disciples off and they get into the boat obediently and faithfully. They sail off, only to discover the waves and the storm and the darkness.

Both stories - Jesus' own troubles and the troubles of His disciples - are evidence that pain, temptation, suffering, worry, fear, anxiety, storms, and crises of life do not always come because of lack of faith or as the result of doing evil. We need to be reminded of that time after time. It is so easy for us to assume that where storms and suffering and pain arise, there has been some violation or abuse of God's will or purpose.

The temptations to grab power, the pains of obedience, the discouragements of the heart, the frustrations of accomplishment, the pains, and the storms are not always the

result of our folly, our failures, or our lack of faith. Much that comes simply demands of us the ability to hold on as best we can.

We are not left without help in how to hang on. In the face of His own temptations, Jesus withdrew to the mountain to pray. It is fascinating to notice that in the Scriptures "mountain" is not so much a geographical location as it is a theological location. The mountain is a place where God and man may talk; the mountain is the place where each of us can encounter the peace and power and hope of God; the mountain is our place of communion with God's love.

There comes a time when each of us in our struggles - to hold on, to hang in there, to remain faithful- need to go to the mountain in prayer and commune with God. Bob Dylan has Frankie Lee say to Judas Priest, "Would you please not stare at me like that, it is just my foolish pride, but sometimes a man must be alone and this is no place to hide." Sometimes a person has to be alone in prayer and communion.

For those of us in the boat there is this witness, that as we struggle to hang on we will be met by a miracle of God's grace and power. When we are in the struggle to hold on, when we are without hope, then we are met by the power and presence of God. When that power and peace and purpose comes we may even be terrified by it, for the disciples saw Jesus as a ghost who comes only to make matters worse. Yet the power of God comes and does for us what we cannot do for ourselves and brings us through the troubled waters. Simon and Garfunkel may talk about love being the bridge over troubled waters, but the promise of God in the cross of Christ is that God will take us through the storm-tossed seas.

Down through the years the miracle has been the same. The dullness, the despair, the discouragement, and the fear has been lifted from our eyes by some event and, in the moment when our eyes are clear and our ears are open, we are made aware and convinced of the power and presence of God in our lives. And that power and presence of God has made us able to be better, stronger, braver, kinder, and more loving than we could ever have been if left to our own devices. The good news of the gospel story is that, like the disciples in the boat, Jesus knows we are fearful, frightened, and troubled people who cannot or will not find our way out of our struggles. So the Christ comes to us, not with the assertion that we are violent, fearful, frightened people, but with the invitation to come out of our boat and follow Christ. There is no judgment; only the invitation to be transformed into a people more significant, more powerful, more able to rise above the storms than we ever could have done on our own.

Storms come to all even to those who are faithful and obedient, and our task is often to escape as best we can. We find strength for the struggle by withdrawing to the mountain, and we are sustained by the faith that where our boats are so little and the waves so great, we will encounter the presence and power of God and He will see us through the storm.

## 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.