

Glory to Jesus Christ! Glory Forever!

Schedule of Divine Services

Saturday, September 10 **5:00 PM +Robert Wargo by Anna Marie Wargo & Family**

Sunday, September 11 **9:00 AM +George Matus by Ernest & Mary Ann Varhola**

Pages for Sunday’s Divine Liturgy: Tone 5 page 146 & pages 247 - 249

Web Liturgy Intention for Week of September 11, 2022

In Memory of +Thomas & +Patricia Hilla by Children & Grandchildren

Sanctuary Candle is lit from September 11 - 24

In Memory of +Father Dennis Bogda by Elaine Bogda

EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS – A DAY OF STRICT FAST

Tuesday, September 13 **7:00 PM +Raymond & +Jane Bodnar by Danscak Family**

Wednesday, September 14 **9:00 AM +Eugene Lucas by Family**

SUNDAY AFTER THE EXHALTATION OF THE CROSS

Saturday, September 17 **5:00 PM +Richard Fialkovich by Richard Daley**

Sunday, September 18 **9:00AM Special 90th Birthday Intention of Joan Bodnar by Family**

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

Regular Offertory	\$2,531.00
Maintenance Fund	590.00
Holy Day	182.00
Candles	2.00
Loose Cash	20.00
TOTAL	\$3,325.00

Special Donations

\$100 in Memory of +George Durkota by Lois Durkota

\$100 in Memory of +Thomas & +Patricia Hilla by Grandsons, Dylan & Jacob Cannon

Live Stream

\$50 by Helen Dragos

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, 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

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES THIS WEEK

13 Robert Bodnar
15 Carole Srsic
17 Nathan Heddleston

In person Attendance: *Saturday, September 3: 33; Sunday, September 4: 61*
Birth of the Theotokos: Evening: **23**
Morning: **14**

Live Stream Viewing: *Saturday, September 3: 28 (WS); 66 (FB)*
Sunday, September 4: 53 (WS); 75 (FB)
Birth of the Theotokos: Evening: **12 (WS); 33 (FB)**
Morning: **16 (WS); 42 (FB)**

GCU LODGE MEETING

The quarterly Lodge meeting will be held September 18, Noon at Ascension Church, Clairton.

GCU LODGE CLOTHING DRIVE

The GCU Lodge 602 is holding its annual clothing drive during the *last three weekends of September*. We are in need of hats, sweaters, jackets, pants and socks (socks must be new). Past closing drives have been very successful. Let's continue giving to the needy.

COFFEE & DONUTS-SEPTEMBER 18TH

The Bodnar Family invites their parish family to a Coffee & Donut Social after the 9:00 AM Sunday Divine Liturgy on September 18, 2022 in honor of Joan Bodnar.

STUFFED CABBAGE DINNER

We will be having a take-out only Stuffed Cabbage Dinner on Saturday, September 10 and Sunday September 11. The dinner includes: Stuffed Cabbage, mashed potatoes, vegetables, roll & butter. **Price is \$12.00 per dinner. Dinners can be picked up on Saturday, September 10 from 3 – 6 PM and on Sunday, September 11 from 10 AM – 1 PM.** In addition we will be selling quarts of haluski and soup, our kolache and other baked goods as well as raffle tickets.

UPCOMING CATHEDRAL EVENTS

October 22	Fall Craft Show
November 13	Basket Extravaganza

“CATHEDRAL KITCHEN”

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

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.

SPAGHETTI DINNER

SS. Peter & Paul Parish Club, Duquesne is sponsoring their annual Spaghetti Dinner on Sunday, September 25, 2022 from 1-5 PM. Adults: \$11; Children 6-10; \$6 Children 5 & Under; free. Raffles & baskets ... and as always all proceeds benefit the Church.



Attentive to the Word

Sunday before the Elevation of the Cross

Galatians 6: 11-18

John 3: 13-17

The Gospel before the Feast of the Holy Cross is from St. John's Gospel (3:13-17). Again we hear that we are a people loved unconditionally by God. God sent Jesus into the world not to condemn it but to save it.

We are a community that believes God's love is revealed in suffering and death as well as resurrection. Trying to create and sustain a community life has its own moments of suffering, death and resurrection. It is very easy to settle into our own private fantasy land of individual devotionism. The presence of a community tests our faith and ties us to the real world. Just as the passion and death of Christ made His love for us concrete, so our efforts to live with a community of faith stretches and deepens the reality of our faith. Are we willing to make the effort? Many programs are beginning now in the Fall in our parishes. Are we willing to help and build up the community? Are we willing to take up the cross of unselfish love to serve the members of our local parish community?

Our reflections on the cross close with the Gospel for the Sunday after the Feast from St. Mark (8:34-38; 9:1). We will hear Jesus speak about commitment - as He asks us to dedicate ourselves completely to His Father's Kingdom. We will not only hear about the suffering Messiah but also the suffering His disciples must expect in their own lives.

In a society distorted by sin, greed, pride, it is tough to follow Jesus. The Jesus we meet in St. Mark's Gospel presents a message that is serene and powerful. If we are to follow Him in His suffering, we are assured that His glory will be ours as well. Discipleship is a composite of pain and the promise of transcendent glory. We end our annual reflection on the Exaltation of the Cross by realizing that we too can be exalted by carrying our cross!

Finally, may I suggest that we seriously ask ourselves: what does the cross mean to me? How do we experience it in our lives? Do we see our crosses as transforming? On the heavy wooden door of an old Scandinavian Church, there is a strange, very large handle, shaped in a circle and made of wrought iron. Inside the circle is a large cross. The Cross is cradled in a wrought iron hand. To open and close the door, you grab hold of the Cross and when you do that the hand points directly at you. And you get the impression that the artist who designed the handle is saying to you as you take hold of the Cross, "What does that Cross mean to you and what are you going to do about it?"

Thomas a Kempis, a Dutch priest who wrote "The Imitation of Christ" who lived from 1380 to 1471, once wrote "Jesus now has many lovers of His heavenly kingdom, but few bearers of His cross."

By Fr. Gary Powell, O.F.M. Cap.

FEAST OF EXALTATION OF HOLY CROSS

“Any who wish to come after Me must deny their very self take up their cross, and follow in My steps. Whoever loses life for my sake and the gospel's will save it.”

The feast of the elevation of the Venerable Cross is a very ancient feast. However, like the history of the finding of the holy Cross of the Lord, the history of the institution of the feast has been obscured by various legends and it is not easy to separate fact from pious legend.

One must remember that in celebrating this feast, we are not concerned with the ordinary veneration of the holy Cross, which takes place on the third Sunday of the Great Fast, but with that aspect of the feast which is expressed in the name of the feast itself, Exaltation of the Cross, that is, a special solemn rite connected with the veneration and glorification of the holy Cross.

Historians of the Eastern Church generally agree that two particular events gave rise to the institution of this feast: the finding of the holy Cross of the Lord in the fourth century and its' recovery or return from Persian captivity in the seventh century.

The institution of the Feast of the Exaltation was first preceded by the discovery or the finding of the sacred wood of the Cross upon which Christ died. Christian tradition has transmitted to us several different legends about the finding of the holy Cross, three of which are attributed to St. Helena, the mother of Emperor Constantine the Great. The finding of the holy Cross is believed to have taken place in the year 326.

Historians who mention the finding of the holy Cross say nothing about its first exaltation immediately after its discovery, nor does pious tradition give any account of it.

The feast of the Exaltation, by placing the holy Cross before our eyes, reminds us of our obligation to venerate, love and confess the holy Cross. "Do not be ashamed of the Cross of Christ," admonishes St. Cyril of Jerusalem in his fourth catechesis, "even if some hide it, nevertheless, you trace it clearly upon your forehead so that the demons, seeing the royal sign, may tremble and flee far away. Make this sign when you eat and drink, when you sit, lie down, rise or walk, in a word, at every occasion."

St. John Chrysostom, in a sermon on the Cemetery and the Cross, speaks of the significance of the Cross for us: "The Cross is a trophy against the demons, a weapon against sin, a sword with which Christ pierced the serpent. The cross is the will of the Father, the glory of the Only-begotten One, joy of the Spirit, ornament of the angels, fortress of the Church" the glory of Paul, stronghold, of the Saints, the light of the whole world."

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.