

Glory to Jesus Christ! Glory Forever!

Schedule of Divine Services

Saturday, October 8 **5:00 PM +Karen Bilock Stehle by Elaine & Jane Savko**

Sunday, October 9 **9:00 AM +Mark Cifrulak by Nancy Cifrulak**

Pages for Sunday’s Divine Liturgy: Tone 1 pages 125 - 127

Web Liturgy Intention for Week of October 9, 2022

Sponsored by John and Beverly Woessner

Sanctuary Candle is lit from October 9 – October 22

Special Intention of Nicholas S. & Lorraine Havrilla by Havrilla Family

SUNDAY OF THE FATHERS OF THE 7TH ECUMENICAL COUNCIL

Saturday, October 15 **5:00 PM +Richard Fialkovich by MM John Michlovic**

Sunday, October 16 **9:00AM +Nancy Matijak**

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

Regular Offertory	\$2,368.00
Maintenance Fund	864.00
Holy Day	244.00
Candles	95.77
Loose Cash	50.00
Cemetery	25.00
TOTAL	\$3,646.77

Parking Lot: \$250

Special Donations

\$500 in Memory of +Elaine Geraci by Jean Repine & Family

\$75 in Memory of +Richard Vatral by Beverly Vatral

Live Stream

\$25 Leonard & Felicia Simko

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

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES THIS WEEK

9 Michael A. Suray
9 Dennis Vrabel
10 John Munsie
10 William Sabo
14 Samuel & Elaine Cannon (Anniversary)
14 Rita Slava
15 John Heddleston

In person Attendance: Protection of the Mother of God: **20**
Saturday, October 1: 44; Sunday, October 2: 59

Live Stream Viewing: Protection of the Mother of God: **17** (WS); **61** (FB)
Saturday, October 1: 24 (WS); **45** (FB)
Sunday, October 2: 55 (WS); **43** (FB)

MINOR ORDERS

Metropolitan William will ordain 1 seminarian a Subdeacon and 2 seminarians and 6 Deacon candidates as readers on Saturday, October 15, 2022 at 10 AM at the Cathedral.

DEANERY PASTA DINNER

The Pittsburgh Protokesbyterate (Deanery) invites ALL our faithful to a Deanery Pasta Dinner which will take place at St. Elias Church on Sunday, October 23rd, from 2:00 p.m. until 5:00 p.m. This pasta dinner will be prepared and served by the priests and deacons in our Pittsburgh deanery. This is a free/free will offering event. ***If you are planning to attend, please use the sign-up sheet in the church narthex by Sunday October 16.***

CRAFT SHOW

Our Parish will conduct our Fall Craft Show on **Saturday, October 22, 2022** from 10 AM – 3 PM. There will be **60** crafters/vendors. We will be selling Stuffed Cabbage, haluski, pirohi and lasagna, eat-in or take-out, as well as our kolache and other baked goods.

UPCOMING CATHEDRAL EVENTS

October 22	Fall Craft Show
November 5	Too Groovy Toy Show Kitchen
November 13	Basket Extravaganza

KOLACHE ORDERS

We are now accepting Kolache orders for Thanksgiving and Christmas. Deadline to order Kolache for Thanksgiving is November 6, 2022. Deadline to order Kolache for Christmas is November 27, 2022. Order sheets are located in the vestibules of the church. ***Due to the increase in ingredients, all kolache are \$15.00 each.***

“CATHEDRAL KITCHEN”

The “Kathedral Kitchen” has been restocked. We have quarts of *Halushki, Chili & Wedding, Stuffed Pepper, Chicken & Dumpling, Potato/Green Bean, Chicken Gnocchi, Mushroom, Creamy Potato, Vegetarian Vegetable, Beef Vegetable and Stuffed Cabbage soups* 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

Sunday, November 13, 2022, 1-4 PM, Cathedral Center. There will be 30+ baskets, a variety of vendors, eat in or take out Beef Tips over noodles dinner, 50/50 raffle and more. Tickets must be purchased in advance. For tickets, please call Diane at 412-303-6534. Your place for Christmas gift ideas.

BOBALKI ORDERS

People have been inquiring about bobalki for Christmas Eve Dinner. We will be taking orders for bobalki in 1 pound bags. Each 1# bag will cost \$6. Order sheets are located in the vestibules of the church.

YOUNG ADULT RETREAT

The Sisters of St. Basil the Great will be sponsoring a Young Adult Retreat for ages 18-40. Friday, October 21, 7 PM through Sunday, October 23, Noon, Mt. St. Macrina House of Prayer, 510 W. Main Street, Uniontown, PA 15401. *Theme: The Courage to Pray: Answering God’s Invitation.* Offering: \$110 Donation. Registration due October 14, 2022. Space Limited. Register Early. Masks will be required indoors. hpmsm@verizon.net. www.sistersofstbasil.org.

Attentive to the Word

Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

2 Corinthians 9: 6-11

Luke 7: 11-16



This morning, our Gospel lesson confronts us with a picture of life that most of us would rather not think about. Yet each of us, if we haven't already, will join the people in this scene, as we bury a loved one. Even though our modern day practices of burying the dead have changed quite a bit, especially over the past fifty years or so, death is a part of life. Our life here on earth is finite.

Today, our funeral practices tend to isolate us more from the reality of death. A mortician picks up the body, prepares it for viewing, and the family and friends go to the funeral home to console one another. Thus, we avoid those lasting images of picturing our loved one in a casket, next to her rocking chair, where she once sat and held you. And in many cases, the family chooses not to process to the cemetery, avoiding that final vision of the body being interred.

But in Jesus' day, the burial customs were more primitive and personal. As Christopher Milarch states in his commentary, most likely, this young man had died that day, or the night before. There was no embalming, so burials took place within twenty-four hours of death. A few women, usually relatives of the deceased, would wash the body, anoint it with spices and ointments, and wrap it in strips of linen. Then the body was placed on a wooden stretcher, or bier, and loosely covered with a shroud.

The funeral procession was important. It would begin at the home of the deceased, proceed through the village, and end at the cemetery, which was always outside the city. If the family could afford it, they hired professional mourners who played dirges, shouted great laments, and wept loudly. They believed that a big commotion honored the dead, and was an appropriate expression of grief. Along the way, the procession would pick up steam. The weeping and wailing would get louder, as other villagers joined in the procession as it passed by.

Isn't this a contrast to our funerals today in North America? Rather than weeping and wailing, we try to hold in our grief. How often we have heard persons say at funerals, "I think I'm handling this well," by which they mean, "I'm not crying too much." [1]

Luke tells us, that as Jesus and his disciples were entering the village of Nain, just a short distance from Nazareth, they encounter this funeral procession. Somehow, Jesus realizes that the dead man on the bier was his mother's only son, and that she was a widow.

Even today, we can realize the extent of this woman's grief. Not only had she also buried her husband, now she was burying her only son. I can't think of a more painful grief, than to bury a child. But in that day, she was also burying her future security. For women had little rights, and it was a son's responsibility to care for and support his mother, when his father was no longer able. Widows without sons to care for them, were often forced to beg for alms, in order to survive.

What happens next, according to Luke, is an incredible scene. First, we are told that when Jesus saw this widow, and realized her plight, he had compassion on her. Of course, that should not surprise us. Throughout his ministry, Jesus expressed compassion for those in need. But what he does next, if we had been among that crowd, would totally leave us in awe.

Jesus turns to the widow, whose only son had just died, and says, “Do not weep.” Personally, I have always found this to be an inappropriate comment to make to someone who has just lost a loved one, even if it is said to a man or woman who is burying an elderly parent. But to hear someone say this comment to a parent who is in the midst of burying a child, would, even today, grab our attention.

Then, Luke tells us, Jesus went up and touched the bier on which the young man’s body was being carried, and the bearers of the bier stood still. They stopped the procession, because of custom, anyone other than the bearers of a funeral bier who touched it, was considered to be made unclean, and defiled. And so they stopped, wondering what might have caused Jesus to do such a thing.

And then Jesus spoke, not to those carrying the body, not to the crowd, not to the mother, but to the dead man, as if he expected him to hear. He said, “Young man, I say to you, rise! Well, if we were to have been in that crowd, that also would have gotten our attention.

But the dead widow’s son heard Jesus! He actually sat up and began to speak. It’s a miracle that the bearers of the bier didn’t drop the young man to the street. Then Jesus took the young man, perhaps unwrapped him from his burial clothes, and gave him back to his mother. And we are told that fear seized all of them, as it certainly would have seized me, had I witnessed that event. And the people praised God for the presence of Christ among them.

This is certainly not the typical thing that we expect to experience during the burial of a one who has died. Whether the funeral occurred in the time of Jesus, or back when they were held in the homes of the deceased, or today in the professional parlors of a mortician, the dead don’t hear our voice, get up and speak. So what are we to make of this strange story about our least favorite topic. First, I believe that it truly reveals to us the grace of God. Jesus had compassion upon this widow, in the midst of her grief, which was compounded by the fact that with the death of her son, she had no means of support. Jesus seized the opportunity to bring God’s grace and new life, not only to her dead son, but also to the life of his mother.

Now, let me be clear about this fact. There were only a few persons, in all of the Gospel stories, which report of Jesus restoring to physical life someone who had died. And clearly, he did not heal everyone who was suffering from disease and illness. But in and through these miracles that are recorded in Scripture, we are given an opportunity to witness the compassion and grace of God, which was Christ’s mission to reveal.

No, as we live our lives in this world, each of us will bear our share of sorrows and tribulations, of anguish and toil, and yes, our share of grief, as we bury those whom we have come to know and love. And I know there is a special pain and grief for those in our congregation who have buried their children, and I hope we learn from our Lord through this story, to be sensitive to this fact.

But I am also sensitive to the fact that although Jesus may have healed and saved from the grave the lives of others, he did not do so for himself. In his acceptance of the cross, Jesus revealed the ultimate compassion and grace of God, by giving his own life in death, for our ultimate healing. In taking our sins upon himself, Jesus entered into death, was buried, and on the third day, rose in victory over sin and death. As a result, through our faith and baptism into our Lord’s death and resurrection, Jesus has already taken hold of our funeral bier, taken our uncleanness upon himself, and will not let go. It is if he says to us, even though they may bury your body, I say to you, rise and live with me. And the same is true for all the trials and tribulations we encounter in life. Jesus compassionately cares for us. I believe that no matter what ills may come our way, God in Christ, through the power of his Spirit, wants us to know his eternal presence is with us, and that through his grace, offers us the hope of new life.

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.