

*Glory to Jesus Christ! Glory Forever!***Schedule of Divine Services**

Saturday, December 3 5:00 PM +Ronald Smoley by Anna Marie Wargo

Sunday, December 4 9:00 AM +Dianne Tima by Beverly Tima

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

Web Liturgy for Week of December 4, 2022 sponsored by  
**Ronald and Trudy Metz**

*Sanctuary Candle* is lit from December 4 – December 17  
**In Memory of +Mark Cifrulak by Nancy Cifrulak**

**FEAST OF OUR HOLY FATHER NICHOLAS**

Monday, December 5 7:00 PM +Agnes Onofrey by Maria &amp; Jim Festa &amp; Fam.

Tuesday, December 6 9:00 AM +James Lawson by Kim Cosgrove

**FEAST OF THE MATERNITY OF SAINT ANNA**Wednesday, December 7 7:00 PM 40<sup>th</sup> Day Remembrance of +Michael Namachar

Thursday, December 8 9:00 AM +Leona Bodnar by MM Nicholas S. Havrilla, Sr.

**SUNDAY OF THE FOREFATHERS**Saturday, December 10 5:00 PM +Stephen, Sr., +Helen & +Stephanie Havrilla by  
MM Nicholas S. Havrilla & Family

Sunday, December 11 9:00 AM +Michael Totin, Sr. by Mary Ellen Totin &amp; +Michael Totin, Jr.

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

Regular Offertory	\$3,159.00
Maintenance Fund	593.00
Holy Day	104.00
Archdiocesan Charities	30.00
Candles	76.64
Loose Cash	20.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$3,982.64</b>

**Parking Lot: \$35***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, Eleanor Chekan, Sue Goda

## **DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES THIS WEEK**

7 Lilia Neri  
8 Peter Minydzak

**In person Attendance:** Thanksgiving: **26**  
*Saturday, November 26: 43; Sunday, November 27: 48*

**Live Stream Viewing:** Thanksgiving: **24** (WS); **50** (FB)  
*Saturday, November 26: 32* (WS); **67** (FB)  
*Sunday, November 27: 53* (WS); **90** (FB)

## **EMMANUEL MOLEBEN**

The Pittsburgh Deanery will celebrate the Emmanuel Moleben for the Philip's Fast on **Sunday, December 18, 2022 @ 3:00 p.m. at St. John the Baptist Church, Lyndora.** There will be opportunity for the celebration of the Mystery of Reconciliation. All are invited and encouraged to attend as we prepare for the Feast of the Nativity.

## **PARISH CHRISTMAS BRUNCH**

Our Parish will have its Christmas Brunch on **Sunday, 18 December 2022 following the 9 AM Divine Liturgy.** There are sign-up sheets in the vestibules of the church.

## **Special Donations**

\$8,000 Anonymous  
\$100 Savolskis-Wasik-Glenn Funeral Home

## **Live Stream**

\$25 Leonard & Felicia Simko  
\$50 Rebecca Mihalco (MD)

## **MYSTERY OF DIVINE FORGIVENESS AND RECONCILIATION**



We cannot appreciate the gift of “God with us” unless we are receptive. Let us make every effort to prepare ourselves for the coming of Christ by coming before Him and asking forgiveness of our sins. *Confessions will be heard on Saturday, December 10 following the 5 PM Divine Liturgy and on Sunday, December 11 following the 9 AM Divine Liturgy.*

## **CHRISTMAS KOLACHE AND BOBALKI ORDERS PICKUP**

Christmas Kolache and Bobalki orders may be picked up on **Friday, December 16, 2022 from 2 PM to 5 PM** or on the weekend following the Divine Liturgies.

## **HOLIDAY KOLBASSI SALE**

Ss. Peter & Paul Men’s Club, Duquesne is once again selling kolbassi. Cost is \$7/lb. Sign-up sheets are at the church entrances. *Please order by December 11, 2022 and delivery is Saturday, December 17 and Sunday, December 18 2022 following the Divine Liturgies.* Thank you for your support.

## **CHRISTMAS CONCERT**

Enjoy a free concert on **Sunday, December 11, 2022 at 3:30 PM – 5:30 PM** at our Cathedral Center as presented by *The East Winds Symphonic Band*. Following the County Covid guidelines, masks are optional. Seating will be on a first-come basis. The concert will be live-streamed on YouTube. Light refreshments will be provided. A forthcoming link to that will be published soon. A free will offering will be welcomed.

## **A BYZANTINE CHRISTMAS**

The Archieparchial Choir invites all to share the spirit and joy of the Holy Nativity of our Lord on **Sunday, December 11, 2022 at 2:00 PM** at Holy Spirit Church, Fifth Ave, Oakland. A hospitality reception will follow. Sponsored by the Archeparchy’s Campus Ministry. All are welcome.

## **CHURCH CLEANING**

**Saturday, 10 December 2022** has been set aside to give our church a good cleaning before the Feast of the Nativity. The day will begin at **9 AM**. We could use as many hands as possible to clean all area in preparation for the Nativity. No matter what time or for how long your help will be greatly appreciated.

## **“CATHEDRAL KITCHEN”**

The “Kathedral Kitchen” has been restocked. We have Stuffed Cabbage: ½ dozen for \$18 and 1 dozen for \$30; quarts of *Hahushki, Chili & Wedding, Potato/Green Bean, Mushroom, Chicken Gnocci, Beef Vegetable, Creamy Potato, Pasta Fagioli (Ham & Bean) and Stuffed Cabbage soups* for \$7. If you would like to buy any please see Patty Bovee or Fr. Andrew.



# Attentive to the Word

*Twenty-sixth Sunday after Pentecost*

*Ephesians 5: 9-19*

*Luke 17: 12-19*

The story of the ten lepers is a common parable shared amongst many. Jesus heals 10 lepers as He is on His way to Jerusalem. To understand this parable better one must first conceptualize what leprosy is. It is basically an incurable disease which affects the whole body and is contagious. It is easy to spread and very often in the biblical times the lepers would stay together in isolation or in hiding for fear of the reactions from the public, literally they were not allowed into the City.

This disease was feared and was to say the least, disgusting. It is easy to see that it is a fairly embarrassing disease to have, yet at the time it had no cure. The ten lepers stopped him from a far off distance asking for healing. Perhaps at that point one can imagine the intense desperation they had. Nobody else could cure them. But Jesus looked at them and told them to go the priests saying that they would be healed. The lepers left on, one can already imagine losing the only hope which had remained, yet they didn't quite understand Jesus. As they went on, they went on, they were healed. Surprisingly, only one came back to thank Jesus for healing them.

How often are we so desperate to resolve an issue in our lives that we are almost begging for help, yet when we receive it we forget completely to thank those without whom we could not have managed to resolve the issue? The parable is one that reminds us that without God we are in desperation, and with Him we are healed in all problems that we may be facing. So only one leper came back to thank Jesus, where could the rest have gone?

Excitedly they must have gone in search of their families and friends who had shunned them earlier when they had leprosy or gone to celebrate. But Jesus asked the leper who came back where the other nine were because he had healed all ten of them. The other nine were expected to come back and give praise to God who had healed them yet they did not return. Having faith in order to receive healing is what this one individual who returned had. He had faith that he could be healed and he was. When Jesus heals 10 lepers it reminds us that next time we need to not make an excuse when it comes to thanking God for the favor upon our lives.

*By Chris Cornell*

## **FEAST OF OUR HOLY FATHER NICHOLAS**

We soon venerate our Holy Father Nicholas, the Archbishop of Myra. He is one of the most beloved saints in all of Christian history and the prototype of our modern Santa Claus. We love him because of his humanity, the way he loved and served the poor, giving gifts and defending the falsely accused. Following the Internet today, however, it seems that many want to give more devotion to his actions at the Council of Nicea, when he slapped the heretic Arius in the face (a story, by the way, that only appears in the 13th century, a thousand years later). Can it be

that some of my fellow Christians are more angry than loving? Do we want a strong character who will punish heretics rather than “love our enemies and do good to those who hate us?” Is this what our faith is more about today?

Here is what I want to say: yes, there is objective truth! Yes, there is right and wrong! Yes, we must be zealous for the truth and hate lies. At the same time, we seem to want to see heresy everywhere. The heretic becomes someone who says something different than what we think. We are angry and want to slap and rebuke them (both secular deniers of faith and Christians in error.) However, there is 1) heresy, which is a deliberate attempt to divide the Church, and 2) theological error, which is the inability to grasp the mystery. There is really not as much “heresy” as people believe. And too often, we fall into the error of “self-righteousness.” We need to focus more on our common humanity and the unity to which God has called us. “Your life has shown you to your flock as a rule of faith, an image of gentleness, and a teacher of moderation. You acquired greatness through humility and wealth through poverty. O Father and Archbishop Nicholas, intercede with Christ our God to save our souls.”

*By Archpriest David Petras*

## **FEAST OF THE MATERNITY OF SAINT ANNA**

Sacred scripture is the account of God's special relationship with humanity in the course of salvation history. One way the sacred writers would call attention to this unique relationship between God and humanity was by emphasizing the special births of important religious persons to women recognized as long past the years of child bearing. In this way, what was humanly impossible was seen as possible only through the presence, activity and providence of God.

Two examples immediately come to mind. One is the birth of Isaac by Sarah when she and Abraham were in their old age - long after she was capable of bearing children. The other example is the birth of the Forerunner, St. John the Baptist, to Zechariah and Elizabeth after she, too, had been ridiculed by her peers for being unable to bear children.

Today the Church in her Sacred Tradition gives witness to God's special involvement with us and the importance of the Mother of God in salvation history by first emphasizing the barrenness of St. Anne and therefore celebrating her conception of Mary.

For the Church, Mary has always held a unique and venerated role. She is seen as the New Eve, the mother of a restored and revived humanity. Her stature as both the Mother of God (Theotokos) and Mother of the Church gives us witness that God is not removed from humanity. On the contrary, God is with us in Christ.

At the vespers for this feast celebrating the conception of Mary in the barren womb of St. Anne, we read about Jacob's dream of the ladder bridging earth and heaven (Genesis 28:10-17). This dream becomes a reality in the conception and person of the Mother of God. God descends to interact with a human couple (Joachim and Anne) in their sterility. Humanity in turn conceives and gives birth to a sinless woman who, in giving birth to Jesus the Son of God, will help it ascend and encounter God the Father. In Christ we stand assured that God is not isolated from us. Rather God is always with us, and we are as in Him.

## 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.