

*Christ is Born! Glorify Him!***Schedule of Divine Services****Vigil, Feast of the Nativity of Our Lord**Saturday, December 24 **7:30 PM Compline with Carols****8:00 PM Divine Liturgy****Feast of the Nativity of Our Lord**Sunday, December 25 **9:00AM Divine Liturgy****Pages for Sunday's Divine Liturgy: Pages 289 - 294**

Web Liturgy for Week of December 25, 2022 sponsored

**By Lori Urban Lyons, in Memory of +John J. Urban***Sanctuary Candle* is lit from December 18 – December 31**In Memory of +Alice Egidi by Anna Marie & Greg Chekan****Synaxis of the Theotokos**Monday, December 26 **7:00 PM +Eugene Lucas by Karen Repasi****Feast of the Protomartyr Stephen**Tuesday, December 27 **9:00 AM +John Srsic by Dr. & Mrs. Severyn****SUNDAY BEFORE THEOPHANY – CIRCUMCISION OF OUR LORD**Saturday, December 31 **5:00 PM Health of Joanne Smoley by Anna Marie Wargo**Sunday, January 1 **9:00 AM +Joseph Bich by Pat Kabo****OUR RETURN TO THE LORD FOR ALL HE HAS GIVEN ME:**

Regular Offertory	\$7,798.00
Maintenance Fund	1,800.00
Holy Day	411.00
Flowers	425.00
Christmas	1,670.00
Candles	69.81
Loose Cash	65.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$12,238.81</b>

*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, Rich Scott

*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**

26 Robert Hildenbrand  
26 Steven Ostheim  
27 Mary Ann Urban  
28 Joann Ostheim  
29 Joseph Bilock  
29 Yavor Lazarov  
29 Joseph & Corinne Bilock (Anniversary)

### **Special Christmas Donation**

**\$100 in Memory of +Richard Vatral by Beverly Vatral**

### **Special Cemetery Donation**

**\$1,000 by John M. Thompson**

### **Live Stream Donations**

**\$50 by Paul J. Cullen**

**\$50 by Bill & Carrie Hudak**

### **Special Donation**

**\$1,000 in Memory of +Marjory Kinney (from the estate)**

**Parking Lot: \$80**

**In person Attendance:** *Saturday, December 17: 47; Sunday, December 18: 75*

**Live Stream Viewing:** *Saturday, December 17: 25 (WS); 58 (FB)*  
*Sunday, December 18: 76 (WS); 68 (FB)*

I would like to wish you and your loved ones a very blessed Christmas season. May the reality of Christ's birth be ever present throughout the New Year. Be assured that you and your intentions will be remembered at each Divine Liturgy I celebrate during this season. With prayers that you will know the love of Jesus this Christmas season, I remain your fellow servant in the Lord,

*Fr. Andrew*

### **PRAYER BEFORE THE IMAGE OF THE NATIVITY**

Lord, I pray to You and rejoice at the feast of the birth of Your Holy Son. Call forth the child from within me; cause me to wonder and to rejoice again in this ancient feast. With the shepherds, I come to the birth of Christ seeking a simple celebration, where the greatest gift will be myself given to You, O God and to others. May the star of Bethlehem, which shines brightly over our Savior's birth stand guard over us, filling us and all the earth with light and peace. Amen.

### **PEACE ON EARTH**

When people attend church services weekly as they do other activities; when people do more praying than shopping; when there are longer lines at confessionals than at stadiums; when folks gather with family and friends than at night clubs; then we shall have "Christ in Christmas and Peace on earth."

### **COMMUNITY CHORUSES CHRISTMAS CONCERT**

Mark your 2023 calendar **Sunday, January 8, 2023 at 3:00 pm**, for an uplifting inaugural event! Join your neighbors as they present a Community Choruses Christmas Concert on Sunday, January 8 at St. Gregory Byzantine Catholic Church in Upper St. Clair. St. Gregory's Chant Group will be joined by the Schola Cantorum of St. Michael the Archangel Roman Catholic Parish (St. Bernard Church in Mount Lebanon) and the Holy Trinity Carolers (Koliadnyky) of Holy Trinity Ukrainian Catholic Church in Carnegie for a program of seasonal choral and chant music in celebration of the Nativity of our Lord. Each group will sing selections and stage festive scenes from their respective traditions in Latin, Ukrainian, Ruthenian and English. This first-time affair will be presented at 3:00 pm at St Gregory Church, located at 2005 Mohawk Road in Upper St. Clair 15241. All are welcome to attend this gathering of joyous voices, which will be followed by a hospitality reception in the church hall. For more information/directions, visit [www.stgregoryusc.org](http://www.stgregoryusc.org), or call 412-835-7800.

### **THANK YOU FROM SS PETER & PAUL MEN'S CLUB, DUQUESNE**

Thank you for your support of our Kolbasi project. You again helped make our project a success.



# Attentive to the Word

*Feast of the Nativity of our Lord*

*Galatians 4: 4-7*

*Matthew 2: 1-12*

Recently once again, I heard that medieval English Christmas Carol, “All I Want for Christmas is My Two Front Teeth.” It reminded me that one of the great elements of Christmas is the element of hope for what we want. Kids want stuff. They hope to get what they want. There are toys, games, clothing, devices—things that children hope they will get as Christmas gifts. That can apply to adults as well because there are a few older people who have desires to get certain presents for Christmas. Who am I to judge? But adults more often have other types of desires they are hoping for things that they want; not material goods but other types of good. Someone wants a peaceful gathering of relatives around Christmas table. Another wants their children to arrive home safely. One person wants to be happy while another wants Uncle Walter to stay relatively sober this Christmas.

One part of this celebration always involves the “wants”, the desires of people both young and old. Sometimes these wants are rather improbable. But sometimes our desires are filled with hope and expectation for things that actually might happen. But either way our lives are deeply touched by, and to some degree, depending on the person, we are all moved by what we want. We hope for what we want.

Our wants can be all over the place, from “I want ice cream” to “I want to give all that I have to serving and loving you, my dear wife.” And then there are the things we don’t want and there’s a wide range of importance there as well from “I don’t want broccoli” to “I don’t want to end up alone and unhappy.” Actually the “don’t wants” are just a different kind of want, as in “I want NOT to have Snowmageddon come to Springfield this weekend.”

Many of our wants are good or neutral, as in “I want peace in the world.” Some of our wants are bad for us and can also be bad for others: “I want his money and I can’t wait until I get my hands on it.” Some wants are very general, as in “I want to be warm, comfortable, watered and fed.” Some wants are very specific: “I want a set of 6 English King sterling silver fish forks available only from Tiffany’s in New York City.”

The wants of young children are usually for things they want immediately, not far off in time or space. When children want ice cream they generally want it right here and right now, not next week.

One of the goals of every good parent is to try to teach their children to want what is good, moral, healthy and beneficial, and reject those desires which are not good. It’s also their goal to help their children see that sometimes they may need to put less important desires temporarily aside so that some better goal can be achieved, or to deny even some good desires altogether because they stand in the way of an even greater good for themselves or for others.

And what parent's heart has not been moved by their child's heartfelt cry, "But I don't want to"?

People steal, use illegal drugs, beat their wives, cheat on their taxes, run red lights and despise their neighbor because they want to. People give alms for the poor, visit the sick, treat others with respect, earn their own living and pray for their neighbors because they want to. We are certainly very much aware sometimes that we are making choices about the things we desire—to go for it, or not go for it, should we, shouldn't we? But it's kind of amazing I think that maybe, more often than not, we really don't pay a whole lot of attention to thinking about our wants in a careful way, or even thinking much about why we want some of the things that we want.

So, on this Christmas feastday, I ask you "What do you want?" Just take a couple of seconds to think about it. What do you want? What do you want this Christmas?

Okay, I know that some of you who don't work well under pressure just drew a blank. But even so I think it's a very important question. This Christmas I want to point out that almost every want you have, whether it comes about or it does not happen, almost every want you have will only lead to another desire, another want. Almost every want, both good and bad, that we partake of will never satisfy for long. These desires come, they go, and we're still found wanting, unfulfilled, incomplete, needy, hungry, unsatisfied. Then another desire raises its head and off we go, desire after desire, big, small, material, emotional, psychological, spiritual, for ourselves or for others, our desires never vanish until we take our last breath, and even then, we may be wishing we could still have another breath after that one.

There really are only two desires that cannot fade or dissolve away at the end of our life. There are only two desires that do not lead to other desires because they do not have to bow to something of greater importance. There are only two desires that are important which we can carry from childhood to beyond the grave and that is to want Jesus, or to not want Him. All other desires in this life are impermanent and they vary in their worthiness. There is only one desire that is totally worthy of us, worthy of all that we are and all that we have.

When the Creator of all things placed Himself in the very hands of His creatures He did it because He wanted us to be with Him, He wanted to share His own life with us. But do we want Him? Do we want Jesus?

I pray we will answer that question here today as clearly as we possibly can. I pray we ask the Lord to help us want to want Him more, even as we struggle with our other desires for things that are good and not good. I want Him for all of us. He put Himself in human hands for our sake. May we desire to put ourselves into His hands again today.

*By Fr. Richard Janowicz*

## **THE CHRISTMAS GREETING**

It is certainly commendable to wish someone a "Merry Christmas." But how powerful a message is given by the traditional Byzantine Christmas greeting: "*Christ is Born!*" and the response: "*Glorify Him!*" Church Slavonic: *Christos Razdajetsja! Slavite Jehol*

## 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.