

*Christ is Born! Glorify Him!***Schedule of Divine Services**

**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**

**Pages for Sunday's Divine Liturgy: Tone 5 page 146 & pages 302 - 309**

Web Liturgy for Week of January 1, 2023 sponsored  
**Timothy and Anna Marie Byers in memory of Wiley Byers**

*Sanctuary Candle* is lit from January 1 – January 14  
**In Memory of +Alice & Anthony Lutka by Ronald & Arletta Lutka**

**FEAST OF THEOPHANY OF OUR LORD**

**Thursday, January 5 9:00 AM Royal Hours**  
**7:00 PM +Michael & +Olga Chromulak by Cathy Ann Chromulak**  
**Friday, January 6 9:00 AM +Dorothy Ducar by M/M Wayne Gray**

**SUNDAY AFTER THEOPHANY**

**Saturday, January 7 5:00 PM +Clarence & +Irene Hornak by Sandy Hornak**  
**Sunday, January 8 9:00 AM +Dolores Suchta by M/M Ronald Banderinko**

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

Regular Offertory	\$741.00
Maintenance Fund	462.00
Holy Day	60.00
Flowers	130.00
Christmas	9,550.00
Candles	109.62
Loose Cash	160.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$11,212.62</b>

*During these challenging times we thank you for your kindness and generosity.*

**Please call the parish office if you would like your 2022 contribution statement.**

## **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

## **JANUARY BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES THIS WEEK**

2 Joseph M. Kundrat

3 Richard Sawczak

## **Live Stream Donations**

**\$25 Michael & Mary Novak (OH)**

**\$200 Joseph & Susan Korinchak**

## **Special Donation**

**\$7,000 by Anonymous**

**In person Attendance:** *Saturday, December 24: 75; Sunday, December 25: 43*

Synaxis of the Theotokos: **14**

Feast of Protomartyr Stephen: **14**

**Live Stream Viewing:** *Royal Hours: 15 (WS); 40 (FB)*

*Saturday, December 24: 66 (WS); 79 (FB)*

*Sunday, December 25: 89 (WS); 114 (FB)*

Synaxis of the Theotokos: **31 (WS); 52 (FB)**

Feast of Protomartyr Stephen: **20 (WS); 35 (FB)**

## **2023 CALENDARS**

Our Parish family would like to thank the **Savolskis-Wasik-Glenn Funeral Home** for their generosity in providing our calendars again this year. God bless them for their kindness and generosity!

## THANK YOU

I would like to thank everyone for their generosity to the Parish with your Christmas offering. Thank you for the support so many have given to all of our fund-raising efforts during the year of 2022.

Also, I would like to thank all who remembered me during this Holy Season of Christ's birth with Christmas greetings and the generous gifts.

Your thoughtfulness and generosity were greatly appreciated. May God continue to bless us throughout the New Year as we journey together as a family of faith.

*Fr. Andrew*

## PHILLIP'S FAST ALMSGIVING THANK YOU

Thank you to everyone who participated in our Philip's Fast Almsgiving opportunities. Your generosity was certainly evident with over 100 gift cards donated for the Boys and Girls Club of McKeesport. May God bless you for your generosity!

## CHICKEN PAPRIKASH DINNER

Our parish will serve a take-out only Chicken Paprikash dinner on **Saturday, January 21 from 3 – 6 PM and on Sunday, January 22 from 10 AM – 1 PM. Price is \$12.00 per dinner.** The dinner includes: Chicken Paprikash served over dumplings, cucumber salad, bread and butter. In addition we will be selling quarts of haluski, quarts of soup, our kolache, and various baked goods.

## 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.



# Attentive to the Word

*Sunday before Theophany and  
Feast of the Naming of our Lord  
2 Timothy 4: 5-8 & Colossians 2: 8-12  
Mark 1: 1-8 & Luke 2:20-21 & 40-52*

The first of January is the beginning of the New Year, and in the same time the end of the old one. The Romans named this month January based on Janus, one of their pagan deities, the god of all beginning and all ends. He was represented with two heads, one old, one young, looking in opposite directions. Of course, this is a false god, he does not exist, yet his symbolism persists in our calendar and, every year, when we celebrate the New Year, we look in these two directions: the past and the future.

For us Christians, the only acceptable beginning and the end, the only alpha and omega, is the One True God, One in essence and in the same time Three Persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. In God is our beginning and also in Him is our end. "I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the ending, saith the Lord, Which is, and Which was, and Which is to come, the Almighty." (Rev 1:8)

Our lives are lived at the crossroad of past, present and future: what we were, what we are and what we will be. There is a permanent dynamic that keeps us moving, without the possibility to stop, or to go back to change something, nor to peek in the future. So at this landmark people always reflect on that which has happened while trying to plan for what is about to come, a sort of an annual rite of renewal that keeps one going.

In Christianity, time however achieves a different dimension; the linearity of time does not really apply when our lives are linked with God Who exists outside of time. Time is only for us, created beings, but for Him past, present and future do not apply, He just is (Exo 3:14). When we join ourselves with Christ however, things start to change, because the more we acquire His likeness, the more we start looking at the world, including at time, from His eternal perspective.

Christ has become Man so He could affect this change in us. Saint Athanasius of Alexandria observed in one of his writings: "For the Son of God became man so that we might become God." In Christ, the purpose of our lives is not anymore to live a mere 70-80 years (Ps 90/91:10) and then die, our purpose in Christ is to push aside the tombstone and live everlasting in the Kingdom.

The good news that Christ brings are not of a distant future, but has the outmost immediacy. He starts preaching: “Repent for the Kingdom of heavens is at hand”(Matthew 4:17). United with the Incarnate God the past, the present and the future become one. The eternity is now for the one who prepares for it with responsibility: “But I tell you of a truth, there be some standing here, which shall not taste of death, till they see the kingdom of God.” (Luke 9:27)

All these things are accomplished by the Incarnation and our personal transformation, by joining ourselves with the grace that Christ imparts to us through the Sacraments. Through Baptism we become citizens of a Kingdom that we cannot yet see, during Divine Liturgy we remember the second Coming of Christ that is yet to happen and His All Holy Body and Blood is given to us for the remission of sins and life everlasting. In Christ therefore, we live in time as outside of time and in the world like outside of the world.

Time is not relevant anymore for Christians: “For a thousand years in your sight are but as yesterday when it is past, and as a watch in the night” (Ps. 90/91/4); its relevancy has only to do with our preparation for what is “at hand”. This is the only proper use for time. But even that is relative: how much time do I actually need for preparation? Abba Sisoe, at the end of a long and fruitful life in Christ, asked God, with tears, to give him more hours to even start something good. But another father when asked how much time does one need to be saved he answered: ‘If a man wants, one day from sunrise to sunset is enough’.

Exiting time and entering eternity is not a matter of counting seconds, minutes, days or years; it is a matter of commitment. “Commit thy works unto the LORD, and thy thoughts shall be established” (Proverbs 16:3). Staying fast with the Lord, the promise of the Kingdom is accomplished and time does not matter anymore. With Him we can forget the idolatry of time that plagues the secular world and boldly enter in the Kingdom even now.

We don’t have to wait for January 1st to renew our commitment to God and our salvation, we can, and we should, do this every minute. We should continually look in the past to learn from our mistakes, live in the present with great responsibility so our future will start to boldly emerge from the empty tomb of our old selves, molded “unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ” (Ephesians 4:1)

## 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.