

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

Saturday, December 10 5:00 PM +Stephen, Sr., +Helen & +Stephanie Havrilla
by M/M Nicholas S. Havrilla & Family

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

Pages for Sunday's Divine Liturgy: Tone 2 page 130 & pages 281 - 183

Web Liturgy for Week of December 11, 2022 sponsored by
Mary Ellen Totin in memory of +Michael Totin, Jr.

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

SUNDAY OF THE FOREFATHERS

Saturday, December 17 5:00 PM +George Matus by Ray Graeca

Sunday, December 18 9:00 AM +Fr. Robert Karl by Jerry & Judy Rihn

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

Regular Offertory	\$1,835.00
Maintenance Fund	569.00
Holy Day	385.00
Candles	87.62
Loose Cash	20.00
TOTAL	\$2,896.62

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

In person Attendance: *Saturday, December 3: 53; Sunday, December 4: 63*
Feast of St. Nicholas: Evening: 27; Morning: 14
Feast of the Conception: Evening: 26; Morning: 12

Live Stream Viewing: *Saturday, December 3: 25 (WS); 60 (FB)*
Sunday, December 4: 68 (WS); 79 (FB)
Feast of St. Nicholas: Evening: 20 (WS); 59 (FB); Morning: 18 (WS); 37 (FB)
Feast of the Conception: Evening: 22 (WS); 31 (FB); Morning: 19 (WS); 24 (FB)

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

12 Richard Perhach
12 Richard Schwab
13 Carol Beavers
14 Samuel Cannon
15 Patricia Evans
15 Joanne Smoley
16 Nicholas Sowko

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.

ETERNAL MEMORY

On November 23, 2022 +**Sr. Leocadia Sevachko**, of the Sisters of St. Basil the Great, Uniontown, passed from this life to the next during her 77th year of religious life. May she rest in the bosom of Abraham, in the abode of the saints, where there is no pain, sorrow, nor mourning. *May the Lord God remember his departed servant +Sr. Leocadia in His Kingdom forever!*

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.

CHRISTMAS RAFFLE TICKETS

There are still a number of our Christmas Raffle tickets that have not been returned. The first drawing will be determined on December 24, 2022. Please return your ticket(s) by Sunday, December 18, 2022. Thank you for your continued support of your parish.

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.

“CATHEDRAL KITCHEN”

The “Kathedral Kitchen” has been restocked. We have Stuffed Cabbage: ½ dozen for \$18 and 1 dozen for \$30; quarts of *Halushki, Chili & Wedding, Potato/Green Bean, Mushroom, Chicken Gnocchi, 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.

PIROHI AVAILABLE

We have a very limited amount of potato/cheese pirohi available for purchase. Each dozen is \$10. Please see Fr. Andrew or Patty Bovee if you would like to purchase any. First come, first served basis.



Attentive to the Word

Sunday of the Forefathers

Colossians 3: 4-11

Luke 14: 16-24

Many of us have been blinded by unnecessary things that life itself offers. Prestigious car, jewelry, and a feast of delicious food are just some of what we believe are the best things to receive and attain in our lives. And because of these unnecessary things that we tend to value, we have ignored our Lord's greatest offer. He's calling us to be in His home, to be under His protection and salvation. He offers more than what our money can buy. God offers us a great banquet that sometimes we doubted for being too good to be true, but we can prove to ourselves that our Lord's offer is far more than what we thought if we only surrender to him and accept His calling.

In Luke 14:15-24, it said that the Lord invited people to come to his home and join him for a banquet. But those who are invited refused to come for their selfish reasons. But the Lord is eager to fill his home that he ordered his servant to call upon those who are poor and crippled and said to his servant that not one of those who refused his offer will get a taste of his banquet. While in Isaiah 55:1-2, the lord call upon those who are thirsty and has no money to buy and eat without cost. The Lord said listen to Him and we will delight in richest fare.

These are the three lessons we have learned about our Lord's call to us:

1. The Lord wants his home to be filled with his people. Luke 14:23-24 "Then the master told his servant, 'Go out to the roads and country lanes and compel them to come in so that my house will be full. I tell you, not one of those who were invited will get a taste of my banquet.'" As the Lord calls upon us to join him in his home, He wants everyone to come. He wants His home to be filled with people He invited and called upon. So if you feel like the Lord is calling you, come and you will experience the great banquet He promised to those who don't ignore him.
2. Everyone's invited. Luke 14:21 "The servant came back and reported this to his master. Then the owner of the house became angry and ordered his servant, 'Go out quickly into the streets and alleys of the town and bring in the poor, the crippled, the blind and the lame.'" As we have said everyone's invited to the party, and that is why God wants everyone to come to his humble abode and join him for a feast. He doesn't want anyone to be left out, because, in His home, anyone can come, anyone can be saved if they only answered Lord's call.
3. Each one of us has an important role. Luke 14:22 "And the servant said, 'Sir, what you commanded has been done, and still there is room.' If you notice, the servant is the one who was inviting people but not only that, he was also the one who noticed that there were still empty chairs and brought to Lord's attention. Like the Lord's servant, each of us holds an important role in order to attain Lord's will for us. We have an important duty for our neighbors, and like the lord's servant, we can be the one to invite them to our Lord's home.

Because if we truly love our Creator, we will do everything just to fill his home with his people.

In one similar story told by Jesus in Matthew 8:12 and Matthew 13:42 the story is quite similar but both ends in different way. In Matthew, those who are not dressed appropriately will be thrown into darkness where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. One may ask, why the Lord is so eager to invite the people and then kick them out to hell just because they were not dressed appropriately. What the Lord means in being dressed appropriately is you have clothed yourself with his presence and you have accepted him inside you.

When we visit our Lord, are we really visiting him because of him or we visit his home because of other matter? Like in Colossians 3:12, it said: "Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience." Are we dressed with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience like what the bible said? Or are we dressed with other motives?

When we go to church to meet our creator, there are 4 points we need to consider in order to be really dressed for his party.

1. Right Motives

Every time we go to church, we all say that we pray and talk to God. But are we really talking to him because we want to? Or we talk to him because we have unnecessary wants in life to pray for? It is not wrong to pray for something, but we must always remember that we go to church for one motive only and that is to talk to Him and ask for his salvation and guidance every day.

2. Right Thinking

When we go to church, ask yourself, "am I going to this church because of God or because this is the most comfortable church in our town?" Sometimes, we say that we love our Lord but every time we are about to meet with Him, we have wrong thoughts inside of us that tends to make us underdressed for his party. So the next time you go to church, put in your mind and heart that you are there because of Him only

3. Right Love

In order for us to be fully dressed for the Lord's party, we need to fully accept His presence inside us. If we truly love our Lord, we will surrender everything to him and let him reign in our lives. Because if we truly accepted the love of God, we tend to love everyone around us.

4. Right Spirit

We all have been through rough roads. Those were the times we have doubted if God truly loves us. But, despite all this uncertainty in our lives, we must retain the Holy Spirit in us and not let the spirit of anger, fear, and grief take over. Because in God's party, you are fully dressed if you clothe yourself with the Holy Spirit.

Ezekiel 36:26 "I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh."

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.

Schedule of Divine Services
for the
Feast of the Nativity

Friday, December 23

9:00 AM Royal Hours

Saturday, December 24 – Vigil, Feast of the Nativity of Our Lord

7:30 PM Compline with Carols

8:00 PM Divine Liturgy

Sunday, December 25 – Feast of the Nativity of Our Lord

9:00 AM Divine Liturgy

Monday, December 26 – Synaxis of the Theotokos

7:00 PM Divine Liturgy

Tuesday, December 27 – Feast of the Protomartyr Stephen

9:00 AM Divine Liturgy