

*Glory to Jesus Christ! Glory Forever!***Schedule of Divine Services****Saturday, February 25 5:00 PM +Keith Cosgrove by Debbie & Justin Cosgrove****Sunday, February 26 9:00 AM +Margaret Kostovny by Dolores Zoretich****Pages for Sunday's Divine Liturgy: Tone 5 page 146 & Pages 220 - 222**

Web Liturgy for Week of February 26, 2023 sponsored by  
**Fred and Mary Ellen Petro**

*Sanctuary Candle* is lit from February 26 – March 11**In Memory of +Norman Beavers by Carol Beavers****Wednesday, March 1 7:00 PM Liturgy of the Pre-sanctified Gifts****Friday, March 3 7:00 PM Liturgy of the Pre-sanctified Gifts followed by  
2<sup>nd</sup> All Souls Remembrance****2<sup>nd</sup> SUNDAY OF THE GREAT FAST****Saturday, March 4 5:00 PM +Stephen & Mary Sawczak by Mary Anne Rozanc****Sunday, March 5 9:00 AM +Norman Beavers by Carol Beavers****OUR RETURN TO THE LORD FOR ALL HE HAS GIVEN ME:**

Regular Offertory	\$1,568.00
Maintenance Fund	618.00
Holy Day	15.00
Candles	108.08
Loose Cash	51.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$2,360.08</b>

*During these challenging times we thank you for your kindness and generosity.  
 Please consider remembering St. John Cathedral in your will  
 as a lasting legacy for future generations!*

**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

## **FEBRUARY/MARCH BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES THIS WEEK**

26 Gregory Chekan  
26 Stephen Kovatch  
26 David Wincko  
27 William & Georgiana Sabo (Anniversary)  
2 Gloria Erney  
4 Mark & Kimberly Simko (Anniversary)

**In person Attendance:** *Saturday, February 18: 41; Sunday, February 19: 66*  
*Forgiveness Vespers: 35*  
*Monday Presanctified Liturgy: 33*  
*Wednesday Presanctified Liturgy: 33*

**Live Stream Viewing:** *Saturday, February 18: 30 (WS); 44 (FB)*  
*Sunday, February 19: 64 (WS); 72 (FB)*  
*Forgiveness Vespers: 17 (WS); 23 (FB)*  
*Monday Presanctified Liturgy: 36 (WS); 48 (FB)*  
*Wednesday Presanctified Liturgy: 32 (WS); 41 (FB)*

## **CHURCH CLEANING**

**Saturday, March 25, 2019** has been set aside to give our church a good cleaning before the Feast of the Resurrection. The day will begin at **10 AM following the morning Annunciation Liturgy**. 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.

## **EASTER KOLBASI SALE**

Saints Peter & Paul, Duquesne parish Men's Club is once again selling kolbasi. Cost is **\$7/lb.** Sign-up sheets are at the entrances. **Please order by March 19, 2023.** DELIVERY IS PALM SUNDAY WEEKEND April 1 & 2, 2023. Thank you.

## **KOLACHE AND PASKA ORDERS**

We are now taking orders for Easter kolache and paskas. Order sheets are located in the vestibules. **DEADLINE FOR EASTER ORDERS IS MARCH 5, 2023.**

## **“KATHEDRAL KITCHEN”**

We have quarts of *Halushki, Chili & Wedding, Mushroom, Beef Vegetable, Beef Noodle, Chicken Gnocchi, Chicken noodle, Pasta Fagioli (Ham & Bean), Turkey, Creamy Potato, Tomato and Stuffed Cabbage soups* for \$7. *Chicken Paprikash* for \$12. If you would like to buy any please see Patty Bovee or Fr. Andrew. **Bold denotes meatless.**

## **PIROHI SALE**

We have homemade pirohi available for \$10/dozen. We have potato/cheese, potato/sauerkraut and lekvar. Limited quantities are available, first come first serve.

## **RUMMAGE SALE ITEMS**

We will be holding another Rummage Sale on June 3 & 4, 2023. Please put aside any items you no longer want or need for our flea market.

As in the past, we cannot accept TV's, computers, shoes and clothes. Small boxes may be left in the church vestibules. Arrangements can be made to pick up larger items. Please consider also helping to mark and sell the items in May/June. Thanks for your donations.

## **SARRIS CANDY ORDER FORMS**

Order forms for Sarris Candy are located in the vestibules of the church. If you would like to order candy for Easter, please return by **March 5, 2023.**

## **CHOCOLATE BYZANTINE CROSSES**

Our Parish is selling Sarris' chocolate Byzantine Cross for Pascha. They will be available on Palm Sunday weekend. Orders need to be prepaid and envelopes are available in the vestibules of the church. **Deadline to order is March 19, 2023.**

## **PUSSYWILLOWS NEEDED**

If anyone has access to pussywillow trees, keep your eyes open for the budding of the pussywillows. With the way our weather has been, budding can happen earlier than expected. Please cut them when they bud (before they turn yellow), and bring them to church. We will store them here until Palm Sunday. **Do not put them in water.**

## **GIFT CARDS AND LOTTERY TICKETS**

If anyone is able to donate gift cards or lottery tickets for our raffle tree at the Spring Craft Show, 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.

## **LENTEN ALMSGIVING**

This year, for our Parish Lenten Almsgiving, we will be supporting the Rainbow Kitchen Community Services, here in the Steel Valley. We are accepting the following items to donate to the Rainbow Kitchen. **DEADLINE FOR THIS COLLECTION IS MARCH 5** so that we can deliver the items for distribution.

### **Non-perishable food items:**

Soups, preferably “hearty” or “chunky”

Stew & chili

Spaghetti sauce

Fruits & juices

Vegetables

Meat & fish

Peanut butter

Cereal, pasta, rice, noodles

Stuffing mix, instant potatoes

Meal-starters or side dishes

### **Special dietary needs:**

low-salt

low-sugar

sugar free

infant formula

### **Non-food items are also needed:**

Just about any kind of toiletry, paper product, or household product is appreciated. These items are not covered by food stamps, making it hard for low-income people to get basic necessities.

Household paper products, toilet paper

Dish & laundry detergent

Household cleaning products

Personal care items – soap, shampoo, deodorant, toothpaste, toothbrushes

Feminine hygiene products

Diapers – infant, toddler, adult

Children’s school supplies



# Attentive to the Word

*First Sunday of the Great Fast*

*Hebrews 11: 24-26, 32 - 12:2*

*John 1: 43-51*

Can you hear the excitement in Philip's voice as he went to find Nathanael? "We found him! We found him!" And yet Nathanael, also known as Bartholomew, is not altogether ready to share his enthusiasm. "Really? You expect me to believe that the Messiah is from a backwoods town like Nazareth?"

As Nathanael approached, Jesus looked into his heart. He didn't rebuke him for being a skeptic or taking so long to come. He looked past all of that and spoke about the future that God had in store for him. When Nathanael saw this, he was intrigued, which led to more questions and deeper revelation as Nathanael saw that this really was the Messiah.

What a change in Nathanael's demeanor! Gone is the cynic. Gone is the dreamer sitting under a tree. Now there is a man willing to follow Jesus, a new disciple who will come to see heaven opening up for him! Nathanael was so touched by Jesus that after Pentecost he went on to be a great evangelist. He traveled as far as Armenia, where he is said to have converted the king, Polymius - an act that led to his martyrdom.

And to think that it all started with his friend Philip going out and finding him!

Many people will tell you that there was someone in their life whose witness changed their heart. There was one person who reached out to them just where they were and walked beside them, leading them to Jesus. In fact, many saints and famous Christian thinkers, from St. Augustine to C.S. Lewis, tell us that they owe their faith to someone who, like Philip, invited them to "come and see."

You can be like Philip, too. It's not hard to tell your friends or family members, "come and see." It may take just a bit of courage, but the Spirit can provide what you may lack. Remember, all you have to do is tell them that God loves them and that Jesus wants to touch their hearts. You don't have to give any long theological discourse or defend every point of Catholic doctrine. Just bring them to Jesus, and he'll take care of the rest.

"Jesus, help me to talk about you with all the excitement in my heart."

## **SUNDAY OF THE RESTORATION OF THE HOLY ICONS**

Icon comes from the Greek word that means "image." It is the same word the Book of Genesis uses to express the idea that humanity is made in the image of God, the same word used by St. Paul when he says that Jesus Christ is the image of the invisible

God. Icons, then, are images of a greater reality than we now experience. St. Gregory of Nyssa writes of the “silent painting that speaks on the walls.” Through icons, heaven reaches down to the worshiper. The language of icons, moreover, is the language of the heart, the language of intuition, the language of one soul speaking to another. There are no shadows in icons, as there are none in the Kingdom of God. The background is gold—the gold of another world, the gold of Eternal Light. There is no attempt to make the person in the icon look “real” as in much Western religious art. Intentionally, the figure is distorted so it cannot be confused with a real person. Thus, the eyes are large and luminous, for they have seen the glory of God. The nose is narrow, the mouth is small, because the presence of God has lessened the need for sensual satisfaction. Halos surround the figures, not as the “flat pancakes” of other religious art, but as essential parts of the person. The icon is an image. The worshiper focuses not on what is seen in the icon, but rather on what is seen through it: the love of God, expressed through God’s creatures. Icons are painted to express Truth. The iconographer does not paint according to personal whims, but follows techniques and designs that have survived the centuries. An artist, moreover, enters a period of prayer and fasting before beginning work on an icon; divine inspiration, after all, is necessary to produce the inspirational. Icons are doorways into stillness, into closeness with God. If we sit with them long enough, we too can enter into that stillness, into the communion. And if we listen to them closely enough—with our hearts—we just may discern the voice of God.

## **GREAT FAST VESPERS**

The parishes of the Pittsburgh Protoperesbyteral District will celebrate the Great Fast Vespers on the Sundays of the Great Fast this year at the following Churches:

February 26	St. Pius X Church, Carrick	Homilist, Fr. Andrew Deskevich
<b>March 5</b>	<b>St. John the Baptist Cathedral</b>	Homilist, Fr. Valerian Michlik
March 12	St. Andrew Church, Gibsonia	Homilist, Fr. Miron Kerul-Kmec
March 19	Ss. Peter & Paul Church, Duquesne	Homilist, Fr. Michael Kunitz
March 26	Ss. Peter & Paul Church, Tarentum	Homilist, Fr. Frank Firko

You will have the opportunity to celebrate the Mystery of Reconciliation (Confessions) from 3:30 to 4:00 p.m. and the Vespers at 4:00 p.m. After the Vespers we will gather in the Social Hall of the church for a Lenten Soup, Bread and Beverage.

## 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.