

Glory to Jesus Christ! Glory Forever!**Schedule of Divine Services****Saturday, February 11 5:00 PM +Robert Wargo by Anna Marie Wargo****Sunday, February 12 9:00 AM +Anna Bovee & +Carole Collins by Family****Pages for Sunday's Divine Liturgy: Tone 3 pages 135 – 137 & Pages 217 - 218**

Web Liturgy for Week of February 12, 2023 sponsored by
Paul & Doris Pangratz in memory of Deborah Pangratz

Sanctuary Candle is lit from February 12 - 25
In Memory of +John & +Kathryn Chernotowich by Michele May

SUNDAY OF CHEESE- FARE**Saturday, February 18 5:00 PM +Patricia M. Kumpf by Sandy Hornak****Sunday, February 19 9:00 AM +Fr. Robert Karl by Andrew Regalla****OUR RETURN TO THE LORD FOR ALL HE HAS GIVEN ME:**

Regular Offertory	\$2,599.00
Maintenance Fund	831.00
Holy Day	206.00
Candles	318.79
Loose Cash	21.00
TOTAL	\$3,975.79

Please call the parish office if you would like your 2022 contribution statement.
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*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 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 Havrilsca*k, 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 BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES THIS WEEK

16 Lou Bajus

16 Madelyn Hilzendeger

In person Attendance: *Saturday, February 4: 45; Sunday, February 5: 68*

Live Stream Viewing: *Saturday, February 4: N/A (WS); N/A (FB)*
Sunday, February 5: 70 (WS); 78 (FB)

GREAT FAST VESPERS

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

February 19 St. John the Baptist Cathedral

February 26 St. Pius X Church, Carrick

March 5 St. John the Baptist Cathedral

March 12 St. Andrew Church, Gibsonia

March 19 Ss. Peter & Paul Church, Duquesne

March 26 Ss. Peter & Paul Church, Tarentum

Forgiveness Vespers

Homilist, Fr. Andrew Deskevich

Homilist, Fr. Valerian Michlik

Homilist, Fr. Miron Kerul-Kmec

Homilist, Fr. Michael Kunitz

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.

BREADED PORK CHOP DINNER

Our parish will serve a take-out only Breaded Pork Chop dinner on **Saturday, February 11 from 3 – 6 PM and on Sunday, February 12 from 10 AM – 1 PM. Price is \$12.00 per dinner.** The dinner includes: Breaded Pork chop, potatoes, vegetable, bread and butter. In addition we will be selling quarts of haluski, quarts of soup, our kolache, and various baked goods.

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 Stuffed Cabbage: ½ dozen for \$18 and 1 dozen for \$30; quarts of *Halushki, Chili & Wedding, Mushroom, Beef Vegetable, Beef Noodle, Chicken Gnocchi, Chicken noodle, Pasta Fagioli (Ham & Bean), Turkey, Creamy Potato and Stuffed Cabbage soups* for \$7. If you would like to buy any please see Patty Bovee or Fr. Andrew.

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.**

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.**

“Hatred and violence are never acceptable, never justifiable, never tolerable, all the more so for Christians. Hate merely breeds further hate and violence further violence.”

Tweet of Pope Francis, February 1, 2023

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

Meatfare Sunday

1 Corinthians 8:8 - 9:2

Matthew 25: 31-46

She wore her characteristic Indian sari with the blue border that represented the Missionaries of Charity, the order she founded in 1949. Her years on earth had bent her already small frame, but there was nothing small about Mother Teresa's presence.

Who would have ever thought that this small Albanian woman would be an agent for change? She was shy and introverted as a child, and she was in fragile health. She was one of three children of a generous but unremarkable businessman. Yet somewhere along her life's journey, she became convinced that Jesus walked in the "distressing disguise of the poor," and she set out to love him by loving them. In 1989, she told a reporter that her Missionaries had picked up around 54,000 people from the streets of Calcutta, India and that 24,000 or so had died in her care.

None of us can help everyone, but all of us can help someone, and when we help them, we serve Jesus. When we do, we will hear the words of Matthew 25:40, "Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me".

On this Meatfare Sunday, we are reminded that Christ will come again at the end of the age to set up his kingdom here on earth. No one knows when it will happen, and Jesus warned us not to try to predict when it will happen, but we must always be ready because it can happen at any time.

When he comes to earth to judge the people, he will judge them by what they have done for others and by what they have shared with others and not by what they know or who they know or by their church membership. We see Jesus through the eyes of compassion, and we can see that compassion in the work done by health care workers or emergency personnel such as police officers, paramedics or fire fighters.

The story of the last judgment in Matthew 25:31-46 is the minimum standard of behavior that applies to all of us. Christ sees what we do because he is the recipient of our acts of kindness and mercy, no matter how big or small they are. It is about the acts of compassion, justice and gentleness which we do without having to think about them. What we do for others, we do for Jesus. Then we will receive God's mercy and love.

The acts of compassion we do for others are within the reach of all of us. When we do these things, we tell others about Christ through our actions. The judgment identifies Christ with the underprivileged, so that anything we do for them is a deed of

love for Christ. We must live like we take Jesus' statement in Matthew 25:31-46 seriously. What we do with the Good News of Jesus has enormous consequences because the punishment of those who reject Jesus is just as eternal as the reward of those who serve him. Failing to show compassion for others condemns us to eternal damnation. Every person who receives Jesus Christ as their Saviour and shows compassion will receive rewards individually. Our service to others reflects the condition of our hearts. When we respond to God's call to serve, we know that we are ministering to Jesus himself.

Do we sometimes look at those who are in need and refuse to help them because we think they deserved what happened to them? While it is true that some are in their particular situation because of their own actions, we are not to judge them or condemn them. Only God can do that, because his standards are perfect and higher than ours. Our job is to show Christ's love by showing compassion for them, because when we do, we become Christ-like.

The story does simplify the basis on which God's judgment is made. It has to do with how each person responds to everyday opportunities to help others in need. Jesus judges injustice instead of perpetuating it. Life in God's kingdom is not about what we have or who we are, it's about what we do. Random acts of kindness and serving the less fortunate in the community are powerful ways of authenticating the gospel. Jesus calls us to witness through our generosity. In the words of the Golden Rule, we are to "do unto others as you would have them do unto you"

We must be prepared to minister to the poor wherever God calls us to minister to them, whether it is in a nursing home or the local food bank, around the corner or around the world. Parceling out this kind of compassion will not result in loud whistles or applause. In fact, the best acts of compassion will never be known to most people, nor will large sums of money be dumped into our laps because we are committed to being helpful. Normally, acts of mercy are done in obscurity on behalf of unknown people. Those who would be greatest in God's Kingdom are those who make themselves the least.

The good deeds commended in verses 25 and 26 are the result of our salvation. They are the criteria that God will use for judgment, because they are the evidence of our saving faith. We are to use our uniqueness and our unique gifts to do God's work in the world. The good news is that Christians throughout the centuries, in response to the challenge of this passage from Matthew's Gospel, have tried to help people in need, and in the process have made a better world. We, and they, will reap the reward of our earthly actions on the Day of Judgment, when Christ will look at us and say, "Well done, my good and faithful servants".

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.