

*Glory to Jesus Christ! Glory Forever!*

**Schedule of Divine Services**

**Saturday, February 4 5:00 PM +Joseph Raschak by Marilyn Beck Raschak**

**Sunday, February 5 9:00 AM +George & +Anna Stanley by Family**

**Pages for Sunday's Divine Liturgy: Tone 2 pages 130 – 132 & Page 216**

Web Liturgy for Week of February 5, 2023 sponsored by  
**Andrew and Linda Deskevich in honor of 57<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary**

**Saturday, February 11 9:00 AM 1<sup>st</sup> All Souls Remembrance**

**SUNDAY OF MEAT FARE**

**Saturday, February 11 5:00 PM +Robert Wargo by Anna Marie Wargo**

**Sunday, February 12 9:00 AM +Anna Bovee & +Carole Collins by Family**

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

Regular Offertory	\$6,487.00
Maintenance Fund	484.00
Holy Day	250.00
Candles	38.60
Loose Cash	40.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$7,299.60</b>

**Parking Lot: \$80**

**Special Donation**

**\$500 by Anonymous**

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

*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 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 BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES THIS WEEK**

8 David & Betty Banyas

11 Rita Hilla

**In person Attendance:** *Saturday, January 28: 41; Sunday, January 29: 61*  
*Feast of Three Hierarchs: 14*  
*Feast of the Encounter: evening: 13; morning: 10*

**Live Stream Viewing:** *Saturday, January 28: 24 (WS); 37 (FB)*  
*Sunday, January 29: 67 (WS); 79 (FB)*  
*Three Holy Hierarchs: 12 (WS); 38 (FB)*  
*Feast of the Encounter: evening: 15 (WS); 33 (FB)*  
*morning: 12 (WS); 31 (FB)*

## **ALL SOULS SATURDAYS**

**The first All Souls Divine Liturgy is Saturday, February 11, 2023 at 9:00 AM.** We come together to pray for our deceased loved ones. They are by no means forgotten nor a nameless mass of people, for by name we mention them, we perpetuate their memory and we pray that our loving and merciful God will be pleased to bring them into His saving presence.

**PLEASE USE THE ALL SOULS ENVELOPE AND ATTEND THE DIVINE LITURGIES FOR YOUR DECEASED LOVED ONES.**

## **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.

## **BAKED GOODS**

We are looking for baked goods to sell during our Pork Chop dinner. Donations can be dropped off on Friday from 9 AM – 12 Noon or Saturday.

## **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, Stuffed Pepper, 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.**

*Blessed is the man who is too busy to worry in the daytime  
and too sleepy to worry at night. -Anonymous*

## **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

*Sunday of the Prodigal Son*

*1 Corinthians 6: 12-20*

*Luke 15: 11-32*

The Sunday of the Prodigal Son is the second Sunday of a three-week period prior to the commencement of Great Lent. On the previous Sunday, the services of the Church began to include hymns from the Triodion, a liturgical book that contains the services from the Sunday of the Publican and the Pharisee, the tenth before Pascha (Easter), through Great and Holy Saturday. As with the Sunday of the Publican and the Pharisee, the theme of this Sunday is repentance, and the focus on the parable of the Prodigal Son leads Orthodox Christians to contemplate the necessity of repentance in our relationship with our Heavenly Father.

The name for this Sunday is taken from the parable of our Lord Jesus Christ found in Luke 15:11-32. The parable is the story of a man and his two sons. The younger of the sons asks his father to give him his inheritance. The father does this, and soon after the son leaves and journeys to a distant country (vv. 11-13).

After the younger son arrives, he squanders all of his possessions with “prodigal” living. Within a short period of time, he wastes everything. A severe famine comes, but he has nothing and falls into great need (vv. 13-14).

He is able to find work feeding swine, but this does not improve his situation. The Scriptures say, “He would gladly have filled his stomach with the pods that the swine ate, but no one gave him anything” (vv. 15-16).

The parable says that in the midst of his dire conditions, he came to himself. He realized that his father’s hired servants have enough to eat and food to spare, while he perishes with hunger. He says, “I will arise and go to my father and will say to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you, and I am no longer worthy to be called your son. Make me like one of your hired servants’” (vv. 17-19).

He arose and returned to his father. But as he approached, his father saw him at a great distance. The father had compassion on his son, ran to meet him, embraced him, and kissed him. The son admitted his sinfulness and his unworthiness to be called a son, but in his joy at the return of his son, the father called his servants to bring the best robe, a ring for his son’s finger, and sandals for his feet. He also called for the fatted calf to be killed for a feast. He exclaimed, “For this my son was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found” (vv. 20-24).

While they were feasting and celebrating the return of the prodigal son, the older son comes and inquires about what is happening. He is told that his brother had returned and that his father has received him with a feast. The older brother becomes angry and will not go in to

the feast. The father comes out and pleads with him, but the older son answers by saying he has been faithful to his father for many years and yet the father never gave him the opportunity for such feasting. He expresses his anger and jealousy over his brother who was received in such a manner after he squandered his inheritance (vv. 25-30).

The father responds by telling his oldest son, "You are always with me, and all that I have is yours. It was right that we should make merry and be glad, for your brother was dead and is alive again, and was lost and is found" (vv. 31-32).

The parable of the Prodigal Son forms an exact icon of repentance at its different stages. Sin is exile, enslavement to strangers, hunger. Repentance is the return from exile to our true home; it is to receive back our inheritance and freedom in the Father's house. But repentance implies action: "I will rise up and go..." (v. 18). To repent is not just to feel dissatisfied, but to make a decision and to act upon it.

In the words of our Lord, we also learn of three things through this parable: the condition of the sinner, the rule of repentance, and the greatness of God's compassion. The reading of this parable follows the Sunday of the Publican and the Pharisee so that, seeing in the person of the Prodigal Son our own sinful condition, we might come to our senses and return to God through repentance. For those who have fallen into great despair over their sins thinking that there is no forgiveness, this parable offers hope. The Heavenly Father is patiently and lovingly waiting for our return. There is no sin that can overcome His love for us.

Finally, this parable offers us insight into the world in which we live. It is a world where the activities of people are disconnected and not ordered toward the fulfillment of God's divine purpose for life. It is a world of incoherent pursuits, of illusory strivings, of craving for foods and drinks that do not satisfy, a world where nothing ultimately makes sense, and a world engulfed in untruth, deceit and sin. It is the exact opposite of the world as created by God and potentially recreated by his Son and Spirit. There is no cure for the evils of our age unless we return to God. The world in which we live is not a normal world, but a wasteland. This is why in the Slavic tradition of the Orthodox Church the reading of Psalm 137 is added to the Matins service for this and the the following two Sundays. This nostalgic lament of the Hebrew exiles states: "By the streams of Babylon we sat and wept as we remembered Zion. On the willows we hung our harps, for how could we sing the Lord's song in a strange land" (Psalm 137).

Here we can see the challenge of life in this world and the alienation from God that can happen when sin reigns in our lives. As a result of sin in our lives, we lose the joy of communion with God, we defile and lose our spiritual beauty, and we find ourselves far away from our real home, our real life. In true repentance, we realize this, and we express a deep desire to return, to recover what has been lost. On this day the Church reminds us of what we have abandoned and lost, and beckons us to find the desire and power to return. Our Heavenly Father is waiting and ready to receive us with His loving forgiveness and His saving embrace.

## 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.