

Glory to Jesus Christ! Glory Forever!

Schedule of Divine Services

Saturday, March 4 5:00 PM +Stephen & +Mary Sawczak by Mary Anne Rozanc

Sunday, March 5 9:00 AM +Norman Beavers by Carol Beavers

Pages for Sunday’s Divine Liturgy: Tone 6 page 152 & Pages 222 - 223

Web Liturgy for Week of February March 5, 2023 sponsored by
Mary Ellen Totin

Sanctuary Candle is lit from February 26 – March 11
In Memory of +Norman Beavers by Carol Beavers

Wednesday, March 8 7:00 PM Liturgy of the Pre-sanctified Gifts

**Friday, March 10 7:00 PM Liturgy of the Pre-sanctified Gifts followed by
3rd All Souls Remembrance**

3rd SUNDAY OF THE GREAT FAST – VENERATION OF THE CROSS

Saturday, March 11 5:00 PM +Richard Fialkovich by Bailey & Bethany Fialkovich

Sunday, March 12 9:00 AM +Margaret Tima by Agnes Borsh

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

Regular Offertory	\$2,258.00
Maintenance Fund	382.00
Holy Day	25.00
Candles	98.95
Loose Cash	40.00
TOTAL	\$2,803.95

Parking Lot: \$35

*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

MARCH BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES THIS WEEK

5 Mary Ellen Totin
6 Darrin Ducar
6 Peter Giglione
7 Addison Giglione
8 Elaine Cannon
10 Magdalene Semego

In person Attendance: *Saturday, February 25: 37 ; Sunday, February 26: 77*
Friday, February 24 Presanctified Liturgy: 36
Wednesday, March 1 Presanctified Liturgy: 33

Live Stream Viewing: *Saturday, February 25: 35 (WS); 46 (FB)*
Sunday, February 26: 68 (WS); 78 (FB)
Friday Presanctified Liturgy: 40 (WS); 48 (FB)
Wednesday Presanctified Liturgy: 32 (WS); 41 (FB)

Special Donations

\$500 in Memory of +Norman Beavers by Carol Beavers & Family

\$50 in Memory of +Richard Vatrál by Beverly Vatrál

Live Stream

\$50 Barb & John Havrilla

\$25 Leonard & Felicia Simko

\$20 George Walter (“Pilgrim George”)

ETERNAL MEMORY

+**Leonard Stagon** passed from this life to the next on March 2, 2023. May he 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 Leonard in His Kingdom forever!* **Visitation: Savolskis-Wasik-Glenn Funeral Home, Monday; Funeral, 10 AM Tuesday, Cathedral.**

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 TODAY.**

“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, Potato Green Bean 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.

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 areas in preparation for Pascha. No matter what time or for how long your help will be greatly appreciated.

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 **TODAY.**

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.**

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.

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.

**MARCH 12TH - DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME BEGINS!
TURN YOUR CLOCKS AHEAD ONE HOUR!**





Attentive to the Word

Second Sunday of the Great Fast

Hebrews 1:10 - 2:3

Mark 2: 1-12

Writing about today's Gospel, St. Augustine says to us, "You have become a paralytic inwardly. You did not take charge of your bed. Your bed took charge of you." He's speaking, of course, about Jesus' command to the paralyzed man when He tells him to pick up his mat and go home. Before this, the man could only go where his bed could go, and even then, someone else had to carry him and his bed. It's good to stop and think about that because we are not used to thinking about paralyzed people having to be carried around. They are in wheelchairs today, and most of the time they can move themselves around. But not in Jesus' time. In fact, the man in the Gospel would need at least two other people to take him anywhere he wanted to go. But after he is cured, he is the one who is in charge of his bed, and in charge of where and when he wants to go. He is truly a free man, both spiritually, since his sins are forgiven, and physically, since he can walk on his own. His bed is no longer his master. And I believe that part of what St. Augustine is referring to when he talks about our beds being in charge of us is sloth, or spiritual laziness, drowsiness, indifference, depression.

Sloth is one of the deadly sins, and when most people think of it, they think of regular laziness. It can refer to that, but the real sin of sloth is that of spiritual laziness. We do not pray, we do not worship, we do not desire to grow in grace and virtue—or else we may pray and we may come to church, but it is minimal, irregular, spotty, half-hearted, indifferent. It's when our interior bed takes charge of us, and we allow it to make our spirits sleepy.

There are lots of ways to fall into this sin of spiritual sloth, where we make only minimal efforts to grow in Christ. Sometimes, we give in to it because it doesn't seem that our prayer or spiritual efforts produce anything. If you work at a job, you get a paycheck; if you take the time and effort to plant and maintain a garden, you end up with vegetables. But, it is not so easy to see or touch the outcome of our prayer, so it's a temptation to let it slide, since it doesn't seem to satisfy our need for some kind of benefit or reward or payoff, some kind of result that I can measure and get my hands on. So, in that case, prayer is not about me and the Lord, it's just about me. Because the main concern is: "What do I get from it?" when it should be about me and the Lord.

Another problem that can lead to sloth in spirit is our reliance on our emotions. It also follows on the idea I just mentioned that prayer should produce something we can recognize. But in this case, it is looking for feelings. We would like to feel something when we pray, some warmth of heart, or joy, or consolation, or satisfaction, and if we could experience some ecstatic vision, thank you, I'll have one of those too. Most, if not all of us, have had times when we felt especially moved when we were praying, and it is easy to believe that prayer should produce some kind of feeling within us, some kind of feedback or stimulus when we are addressing the Lord.

But do you notice that here, once again, our spiritual labor ends up becoming a labor that should bring me some payback here and now, and not a labor of love in my relationship with the Lord.

In fact, it's possible that we can allow ourselves to become so discouraged in our attempts to pray and fall into a certain kind of sloth or laziness that we don't even desire to pray more, or pray better or even to seek any type of growth in our Christian life. We can allow the here and now to block out He who is everywhere and forever. We can allow our desire for reward in the present to overshadow our eternal reward, which is Christ Himself. We can permit distractions of a hundred different kinds to keep us from growing closer to our Savior. And when we feel dry and tired, we can look for waters that never satisfy for more than a moment, and refreshment that is over so quickly we already are planning for the next thing to make us feel more satisfied, more lively, more comforted.

Spiritual laziness is all about what we have, or what we think we have or don't have. It is self-centered, self-focused, and self-confident in a way we would never allow in other areas of our life. (example: Child's most useless question?... Do I have to?) This is one reason why Lent can be difficult: it can reveal to us that we are not as concerned with our life in Christ as we think we are.

The only cure is perseverance in prayer and good works because of, and based on faith, rather than what I consider to be results. It is perseverance not based on what I feel, or what I get from it. It is perseverance that must be based on my belief in Jesus Christ, my faith in His loving-kindness, my hope in His promises, and my desire to love Him more.

We persevere in other areas of our lives where we see the need and the goodness of sticking to the task. We go to work, we wash our clothes, we raise our kids not based on feelings but because these things need to be done for the good. All the more so, we should not grow tired or lazy in seeking a greater share of divine life—as people ready to labor for Christ—people who are in charge of their own beds, rather than letting their beds be the boss of their souls.

By Fr. Richard Janowicz

GREAT FAST VESPERS

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

March 5	St. John the Baptist Cathedral	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.