

*Glory to Jesus Christ! Glory Forever!***Schedule of Divine Services****Saturday, March 11 5:00 PM +Richard Fialkovich by Bailey & Bethany Fialkovich****Sunday, March 12 9:00 AM +Margaret Tima by Agnes Borsh****Pages for Sunday's Divine Liturgy: Tone 7 page 156-157 & Pages 223 - 225**

Web Liturgy for Week of February March 12, 2023 sponsored by
Stephen Wasiesky

Sanctuary Candle is lit from March 12 - 25**In Memory of +Richard Fialkovich by Helen Fialkovich****Wednesday, March 15 7:00 PM Liturgy of the Pre-sanctified Gifts****Friday, March 17 7:00 PM Liturgy of the Pre-sanctified Gifts followed by
4th All Souls Remembrance****4th SUNDAY OF THE GREAT FAST – ST. JOHN CLIMACUS****Saturday, March 18 5:00 PM +Elizabeth Bich by Steve Taylor****Sunday, March 19 9:00 AM +Margie Reynolds by Ronald & Trudy Metz****OUR RETURN TO THE LORD FOR ALL HE HAS GIVEN ME:**

Regular Offertory	\$4,338.00
Maintenance Fund	656.00
Holy Day	55.00
Candles	139.16
Loose Cash	62.00
TOTAL	\$5,250.16

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*

Italicized names indicate Parish Shut-ins. Other names are submitted prayer requests.

NURSING HOMES/REHABILITATION CENTERS/ASSISTED LIVING

Elsie Urban, Eleanor Chekan, Sue Goda

MARCH BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES THIS WEEK

13 Amy Myers
15 Carol Lawson
18 Michelle Glaid
18 Joseph Onoffrey

In person Attendance: *Saturday, March 4: 48; Sunday, March 5: 71*
Friday Presanctified Liturgy: 45
Wednesday March 8 Presanctified Liturgy: 35

Live Stream Viewing: *Saturday, March 4: 31 (WS); 48 (FB)*
Sunday, February 26: 64 (WS); 71(FB)
Great Fast Sunday Vespers: 15 (WS); 29 (FB)
Friday Presanctified Liturgy: 47 (WS); 52 (FB)
Wednesday Presanctified Liturgy: 37 (WS); 41 (FB)

Special Donations in Memory of +Leonard Stagon

\$50 by Mary Frances Joseph

\$20 by Drew Porvaznik

\$100 by Helen Romzy

\$100 by Michael & Patricia Romzy

\$50 by Bridget Virostek

Live Stream

\$100 given anonymously

ALMSGIVING THANK YOU

Thank you to everyone who participated in Lenten Almsgiving. Your generosity was certainly evident with the donation of 2 SUV loads of items for the Rainbow Kitchen. May God bless you for your generosity.

KOLACHE AND PASKA ORDERS PICK UP

Your orders for kolache and paskas may be picked up on **Friday, March 31 from 2 – 5 PM** or following the Divine Liturgies on **Saturday, April 1 & Sunday April 2.**

“KATHEDRAL KITCHEN”

We have quarts of *Halushki, Chili & Wedding, Beef Vegetable, Beef Noodle, Chicken Gnocchi, Chicken noodle, Pasta Fagioli (Ham & Bean), Turkey, Stuffed Cabbage, Meatless: Mushroom, Creamy Potato, Tomato, Potato/Green Bean, Vegetarian Vegetable soups* for \$7. *Chicken Paprikash* for \$12. *Seafood Creole* for \$13. If you would like to buy any please see Patty Bovee, Diane Pochron 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, 2023 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.

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.

CATHEDRAL COOKBOOK

It has been suggested, and people have volunteered to organize, another Cathedral Cookbook. We are looking for submission of recipes to publish in our cookbook. Please consider sharing some of your favorite recipes. We would prefer electronic submissions, but paper copies will also be accepted and formatted. If you would like to be a part of this project, please inform Fr. Andrew.

Attentive to the Word



Third Sunday of the Great Fast

Veneration of the Holy Cross

Hebrews 4:14 - 5:6

Mark 8:34 - 9:1

Jesus was not one to mince words. “So you want to be a follower of mine?” he asks. All you have to do is “deny yourself, take up your cross, and follow me”. He doesn’t say, “Take care of yourself, guard your self-esteem, and go with the flow”. Those are signs that you really want to take the easy way out, to “save your life” as Jesus puts it, and it’s a good way to lose it. If you want to get a life worth saving, then deny yourself and take up your cross, lose your life for Christ’s sake and for the sake of the gospel. That’s the prime directive for anyone who wants to be a follower of Jesus, who came for the very purpose that we might have life, and have it to the full.

Notice what Jesus does not say. He doesn’t say, Think up a cross, some good thing you’d rather not do, and then do it as your cross. That would be a self-inflicted cross, and could be a sign that you’d rather put up with any other suffering than whatever God assigns. You wouldn’t be able to say with the prophet in the first reading, I have not rebelled, have not turned back, because you would be choosing your own cross.

Jesus speaks instead of some cross allotted to you and known to you, but not yet accepted, some humble form of suffering which goes against the grain. This is the cross that Jesus invites us to take up, and in order to do that, we have to deny the self, because the self will refuse a burden like that.

Our evasion of our cross can take as many forms as there are human beings. People can resort to violence, or become addicted to drugs or sex, or spend all their time on their email or the internet. But every human being has a spiritual life to be lived, and deep down, we all know it, because we all have a conscience. Jesus appeals to that conscience when he says that the only way to a full, spiritual life is to renounce all these pseudo-lives.

To the average person, this fully human life can look a lot like death, the death of all we care to live for, and it is indeed the death of selfishness. But from Day One in the garden of Eden, when God set a limit to human appetites, he announced that the pseudo-life of self-indulgence and disobedience was really death. On the day that Adam and Eve ate the forbidden fruit, they found out what God meant.

And so Jesus declares that whoever wishes to save that pseudo-life – the life of isolation and selfishness, where the whole idea is to say, “I did it my way” – that person is going to lose all the reality and the humanity and the spiritual fullness of life. And

whoever is willing to part with lesser things for the sake of the great cause, the cause of Jesus and his gospel, that person will save his life. And it will be a life worth saving.

It's striking that in this morning's Gospel, Jesus directs his warning not just to those who live a sinful life, giving in to every sensual desire, but to all who live for self. No matter how refined and artistic our personal ambitions may be, to devote ourselves to them is to lose the reality of life; it's to become jealous or vain, or forgetful of the claims of other people, or scornful of the crowd. Not self-fulfillment but self-sacrifice is the vocation of the follower of Jesus.

Until we learn that by experience, we will go from one desire to another, each one being unsatisfying, and the process will keep repeating itself. But the day will come when the last self-deception will come to an end. The cross of the Son of Man, that type of all noble sacrifice, will then be replaced by the glory of his Father with the holy angels. That glory is love, and those who have borne their cross will discover (as Julian of Norwich put it) that there is some "property of blessed love that we shall know in God, which we might never have known without woe going before".

By Fr. Justin Sheehan, OCSO

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 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.

ARCHEPARCHIAL ASSEMBLY 2023

The Office of Religious Education will be sponsoring the Archeparchial Assembly on "Synodal Synthesis" **Saturday, April 29, 2023** at our Cathedral Center from 9 AM – 3 PM. Registration forms are available in the church vestibules.

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.