

*Glory to Jesus Christ! Glory Forever!*

**Schedule of Divine Services**

**Saturday, March 18 5:00 PM +Elizabeth Bich by Steve Taylor**

**Sunday, March 19 9:00 AM +Margie Reynolds by Ronald & Trudy Metz**

**Pages for Sunday’s Divine Liturgy: Tone 8 page 161 & Pages 226 - 227**

Web Liturgy for Week of February March 19, 2023 sponsored by  
**Ronald and Trudy Metz**

*Sanctuary Candle* is lit from March 12 - 25

**In Memory of +Richard Fialkovich by Helen Fialkovich**

**Wednesday, March 22 7:00 PM Liturgy of the Pre-sanctified Gifts**

**Friday, March 24 7:00 PM Liturgy of the Pre-sanctified Gifts**

**ANNUNCIATION OF THE MOTHER OF GOD**

**Saturday, March 25 9:00 AM +Mike, Sophie, & Ed Zavada by Kathleen Zavada**

**5<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY OF THE GREAT FAST – ST. MARY OF EGYPT**

**Saturday, March 25 5:00 PM +Richard Fialkovich by Richard Trankocy**

**Sunday, March 26 9:00 AM +Thomas Perhach by Mary Copo & Dan Zaremko**

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

Regular Offertory	\$2,106.00
Maintenance Fund	631.00
Holy Day	25.00
Flowers	35.00
Candles	158.42
Loose Cash	10.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$2,965.42</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 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**

19 Judy Snyder  
19 Melissa Neri  
20 Teresa Sekel Shrum  
21 Linda Gilgovan  
23 Barbara Sowko  
24 Judah Bovee

**In person Attendance:** *Saturday, March 11* **56**; *Sunday, March 12:* **64**  
*Friday Presanctified Liturgy:* **31**  
*Wednesday Presanctified Liturgy:* **36**

**Live Stream Viewing:** *Saturday, March 11:* **31** (WS); **20** (FB)  
*Sunday, March 12:* **72** (WS); **64** (FB)  
*Friday Presanctified Liturgy:* **41** (WS); **43** (FB)  
*Wednesday Presanctified Liturgy:* **37** (WS); **29** (FB)

## **Special Donations in Memory of +Leonard Stagon**

**\$20 by Raymond & Patricia Buck**

**\$100 by Eugene & Madeline Fecik**

## **Live Stream**

**\$50 Bernard E. & Janet Ducar**

**\$25 Leonard & Felicia Simko**

## **ETERNAL MEMORY**

On March 11, 2023, **Rev. Joseph Borodach**, a retired priest of the Archeparchy of Pittsburgh, passed from this life to the next. 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 priest servant +Joseph in His Kingdom forever.*

## **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

*Fourth Sunday of the Great Fast*

*Hebrews 6: 13-20*

*Mark 9: 17-31*

When our Lord and His three friends returned to the other nine disciples, they found them involved in a dual problem: they were unable to deliver a boy from demonic control, and the scribes were debating with them and perhaps even taunting them because of their failure. As always, it was Jesus who stepped in to solve the problem.

The boy was both deaf and dumb (Mark 9:17, 25), and the demon was doing his best to destroy him. Imagine what it would be like for that father to try to care for the boy and protect him! Jesus had given His disciples authority to cast out demons (Mark 6:7, 13), and yet their ministry to the boy was ineffective. No wonder the Lord was grieved with them! How often He must be grieved with us when we fail to use the spiritual resources He has graciously given to His people!

Since the disciples had failed, the desperate father was not even sure that Jesus could succeed; hence his statement, "If you can do anything" (Mark 9:22, NASB). However, the father was honest enough to admit his own unbelief and to ask the Lord to help him and his son. Jesus did cast out the demon and restore the boy to his father.

The main lesson of this miracle is the power of faith to overcome the enemy (Mark 9:19, 23-24; and see Matt. 17:20). Why had the nine disciples failed? Because they had been careless in their personal spiritual walk and had neglected prayer and fasting (Mark 9:29). The authority that Jesus had given them was effective only if exercised by faith, but faith must be cultivated through spiritual discipline and devotion. It may be that the absence of their Lord, or His taking the three disciples with Him and leaving them behind, had dampened their spiritual fervor and diminished their faith. Not only did their failure embarrass them, but it also robbed the Lord of glory and gave the enemy opportunity to criticize. It is our faith in Him that glorifies God (Rom. 4:20).

## **SAINT JOHN CLIMACUS**

We know little about the life of John, the Hegumen of the Monastery of Mt. Sinai, but he has left us one of the greatest spiritual testimonies of the Christian faith, his work called the "Ladder of Virtues." It was written, certainly, in a monastic environment, which has always been the home for the seeking of perfection as commanded by Christ: "So be perfect, just as your heavenly Father is perfect. (Matthew 5:48)" His book, then, was read in Eastern monasteries during the Great Fast. Though his work was for monks, each of us has a vocation common with monks to seek perfection in Christ, and so we can all profit from his work. He reminds us that sanctification is not instant, but it is a lifetime project, "All of us, gazing with unveiled face on the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, as from the Lord who is the Spirit. (2 Corinthians 3:18)" This is what our Father John teaches us: "The Christian is one who imitates Christ in thought, word and deed, as far as is possible for human

beings, believing rightly and blamelessly in the Holy Trinity.” (Step 1, Section 4) “Having heard the Gospel of the Lord, O venerable Father John, you left this world, counting as nothing the riches and glory that it offered. Then you cried out to everyone: Love the Lord and you shall find eternal favor, for nothing is preferable to his love. And when he shall come in glory, you will find repose with all the saints. Through their prayers, O Christ, grant mercy to our souls.” (Doxasticheron at Psalm 140, Vespers of the Fourth Sunday of the Great Fast)

*By Fr. David M. Petras*

## **FEAST OF THE ANNUNCIATION**

Years ago, when underground coal-mining was at its peak, coal miners would spend long days in dark, damp mines carved deep within the earth. To light their path in the dark they wore kerosene lanterns attached to their helmets. The small lantern did not illuminate the entire underground mine, it only provided enough light for the miners to see just a few feet ahead. With each step the miner took, the light moved with him, providing only enough light for a few steps at a time.

The same is true with God. He does not provide all the answers nor does He remove all the mystery of life at once. Rather, God gives us enough light for one step, which we take with faith and trust in Him. As we take that step, God then provides us with enough light to take another step. This is the essence of trusting God.

The Mother of God provides us with a profound example of trust in God. When the Angel Gabriel announced to Mary that she was selected to be the Mother of God, he did not outline each of the steps that she would have to face along the way. Nor did he inform her how she was to give birth as a virgin. All she could do was say "yes," and trust God each step of the way.

When facing the unknowns in our life, may we turn to God with the same faith and trust as Mary, and say as she did, "Let it be done to me according to Your word." (Luke 1:38)

## **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:

<b>March 19</b>	<b>Ss. Peter &amp; Paul Church, Duquesne</b>	<b>Homilist, Fr. Michael Kunitz</b>
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.



March 10, 2023

Glory to Jesus Christ! Glory Forever!

Dear Clergy, Religious and Faithful of the Metropolitan Church of Pittsburgh:

With this letter I emphasize my call to each of you to attend the Assembly of our Byzantine (Ruthenian) Metropolitan Church 2023. You are encouraged to come and participate with representatives from each of our eparchies and our exarchate in Toronto, Canada at Saint Mary Byzantine Catholic Church in Hillsborough, New Jersey this coming autumn.

The clergy will meet on Thursday, November 2 through Friday evening of November 3. Friday evening and Saturday and Sunday, November 4 and 5 will be especially for the laity.

The chosen themes have emerged from Archieparchial and Eparchial synod reports, and thus as a Church, we will remember our historical past, consider the reality of our present, and explore the vision and dreams of our going forward into the future. In addition, we will celebrate our cultural heritage of art and music as expressed through the lived experience of "Our People."

Whenever we gather like this our sharing of insights becomes not only an enriching personal experience, but it also gives and receives new approaches in how to spread the good news of the Gospel.

Your presence and participation are vital and welcome. Please consider attending and supporting this historic Assembly 2023. Watch for more information as it is disseminated.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

*+ William C Skurla*

Most Reverend William C Skurla, DD  
*Metropolitan Archbishop of Pittsburgh*