

*Glory to Jesus Christ! Glory Forever!*Schedule of Divine Services

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

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

Pages for Sunday's Divine Liturgy: Tone 1 page 125, page 265, page 329 & pages 230 - 232

Web Liturgy for Week of March 26, 2023 sponsored by
Raymond Perhach*Sanctuary Candle* is lit from March 26 – April 8
In Memory of +Michele Kacik by Patricia Madden**Wednesday, March 29 7:00 PM Liturgy of the Pre-sanctified Gifts****Friday, March 31 7:00 PM Liturgy of the Pre-sanctified Gifts****PALM SUNDAY****Saturday, April 1 5:00 PM +Michael Totin, Jr. by Christine Petro Cuniak****Sunday, April 2 9:00 AM +Michael Stofko by Linda Stofko & Kovatch Family****OUR RETURN TO THE LORD FOR ALL HE HAS GIVEN ME:**

Regular Offertory	\$2,635.00
Maintenance Fund	620.00
Holy Day	90.00
Flowers	125.00
Candles	102.16
Loose Cash	55.00
TOTAL	\$3,627.16

Special Cemetery Donation**\$30 by Ruth Carroll in Memory of +Evelyn Rudick & +Andrew & +Mary Rudick***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.*

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/APRIL BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES THIS WEEK

26 Michael Moyta
26 Elaine Savko
26 Anna Marie Wargo
29 Aidan Munsie
30 Jeannie Pasternak
31 Paige Giglione
31 Andrea Harhai
1 Leonard Simko

In person Attendance: *Saturday, March 18: 45; Sunday, March 19: 59*
Friday Presanctified Liturgy: 27
Wednesday Presanctified Liturgy: 40

Live Stream Viewing: *Saturday, March 18: 26 (WS); 38 (FB)*
Sunday, March 19: 70 (WS); 72 (FB)
Friday Presanctified Liturgy: 32 (WS); 41 (FB)
Wednesday Presanctified Liturgy: 29 (WS); 23 (FB)

SHARING IN THE JOY OF PASCHA

As we did last year, once again we will plan for this year, that following the blessing of the baskets on Holy Saturday evening you are invited and encouraged to stay and partake of the blessed food from your basket at the Cathedral Center. Tables will be set with plates and utensils for you. In addition, the Cathedral will provide wine and beverages. Sign-up sheets are located in the vestibules to indicate how many people plan on staying so that we can have enough tables set. We encourage you to stay after for some fellowship and share in the joy of Pascha.

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.

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.**

EASTER KOLBASI SALE

DELIVERY IS PALM SUNDAY WEEKEND April 1 & 2, 2023. Thank you.

“KATHEDRAL KITCHEN”

We have Stuffed Cabbage: ½ dozen for \$18 and 1 dozen for \$30; quarts of *Halushki, Chili & Wedding, Beef Vegetable, Beef Noodle, Chicken noodle, Pasta Fagioli (Ham & Bean), Turkey, Stuffed Cabbage, **Meatless: Mushroom, Creamy Potato, 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.

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.

FATHER DANSAK’S 50TH ANNIVERSARY

Fr. Tom Dansak will celebrate the 50th Anniversary of his ordination this year. I have invited him to celebrate the Divine Liturgy on Sunday, May 7, 2023 at 9 AM for his anniversary Liturgy. Following the Liturgy we will host him at a brunch at our Cathedral Center. If you plan on attending the brunch, please sign the sign-up sheet in the vestibule.

UPCOMING CATHEDRAL EVENTS

April 15	Toy Show Kitchen
April 22	Spring Craft Show
April 29	Archeparchial Assembly
May 20/21	Breaded Chicken Dinner



Attentive to the Word

Fifth Sunday of the Great Fast - Saint Mary of Egypt

Hebrews 9: 11-14

Mark 10: 32-45

The old woman was gravely ill. The family had gathered round the bedside where, ashen and comatose, she breathed shallowly and irregularly. Off to the side, a mother explained gently to her four-year-old daughter that grandma would probably die very soon. After a brief pause, the little girl raised a sober-looking face and asked, "Mom?" Taking a deep breath, the mother steeled herself to answer the difficult question that was sure to follow. "May I have the last popsicle?"

Today's Gospel reading describes a similarly off-topic response to a grave situation. Jesus had just outlined what awaited him in Jerusalem: arrest, beating, humiliation, torture, and an excruciating death followed by a resurrection three days later. Alarming, unnerving, and puzzling as his words should have seemed, James and John were focused on one thing: sitting beside Jesus one day in heaven. Everything else Jesus had said was just background noise to them. Or perhaps they simply could not comprehend Jesus' words just yet.

Sometimes we just don't get it. Or we are so focused on what we are thinking about that we fail to grasp what Jesus is saying to us. But see how Jesus responds to these two disciples. He shifts his attention to what they are focused on and begins teaching, encouraging, and moving forward from there. He gives no criticism, no condemnation, no sharp words. Because he loves them so much, he is patient as he seeks to propel them toward the truth and life that he has for them.

This is how he deals with you as well. Don't worry about whether you understand everything. Don't worry if there are days when you aren't thinking along the same lines as the Lord. Trust that he will meet you wherever you are. He will lead, guide, and steer you in the direction he wants you to go. He loves you always and wants only that you embrace more of the life he has for you. "Jesus, forgive me for the times you've offered me life, and all I want is a popsicle. Open my ears today to hear you and my heart to extend your grace to the people around me."

SAINT MARY OF EGYPT

On the fifth Sunday in Lent we remember Saint Mary of Egypt, and she can teach us a great deal of what we need to know. She was a sinner, publicly known, a temptation and a scandal to men. How she became a sinner - we do not know; whether there was evil in her, whether she was seduced or raped, how she became a harlot, we shall never know. What we know for sure is that one day she came to a church of the Mother of God - the image of perfect wholeness - and she suddenly felt that she could not enter it. We need not imagine a miraculous force preventing her from crossing the threshold; the force was probably - certainly - within herself. She felt that the realm was too sacred, and the person of the Mother of God too holy for her to dare walk into Her presence and stand in the precincts of the church.

This was enough for her to realize that all the past was darkness, and that there was but one way out of it: to shake off all evil and to start a new life. She did not go for advice, she did not go for confession; she walked out of the city into the desert, into the scorching desert where there was nothing but sand and heat and hunger, and desperate loneliness.

She can teach us something very great. As Saint Seraphim of Sarov repeated more than once to those who came to see him, the difference between a sinner who is lost and a sinner who finds his way to salvation lies in nothing but determination. The grace of God is always there; but our response is not. But Mary responded; through the horror of her new perception of herself she responded to the holiness, the grace, the wholeness and sanctity of the Mother of God, and nothing, nothing was too much for her to change her life.

Year after year, in fasting and prayer, in the scorching heat, in the desperate aloneness of the desert she fought all the evil that had accumulated in her soul; because it is not enough, to become aware of the evil, it is not enough even to reject it in an act of will, it is there, in our memories, in our desires, in our frailty, in the rottenness which evil brings. She had to fight for her whole life, but at the end of that life she had conquered; indeed, she had fought the good fight, she had become pure of stain, she could enter the realm of God: not a temple, not a place but eternity.

She can teach us a great deal. She can teach us that only if one day we become aware that in the realm into which we walk so freely: the church, or simply the world created by God and which has remained pure of evil although subjected, enslaved to evil, because of us - is so holy that we alone have no place there, we might in response to this sense repent, that is turn away from ourselves in horror, and turn against ourselves with stern determination. Then we could follow her example.

This example of hers is presented to us as a crowning moment of this spring of life, which is Lent. A week before we heard the teaching and call of Saint John of the Ladder, the one who has established a whole ladder of perfection for us to overcome evil and come to right. And today we see one who from the very depth of evil was brought to the heights of saintliness, and as the Canon of Saint Andrew of Crete says: 'Be sure that God Who could heal the leprosy could heal the leprosy which is yours'.

Let us therefore see in her a new encouragement, a new hope, indeed, a new joy, but also a challenge, a call, because it is in vain that we sing the praise of saints if we do not learn from them and emulate them.

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 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.



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

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.