

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

Saturday, May 20 5:00 PM +Richard Fialkovich by David & Denise Fialkovich

Sunday, May 21 9:00 AM +Paul & +Helen (Macko) Michalco by Rebecca Michalco

Pages for Sunday's Divine Liturgy: Pages 196 - 202

Web Liturgy for Week of May 21 2023 sponsored by
Rebecca Michalco in memory of +Paul & +Helen (Macko) Michalco

Sanctuary Candle is lit from May 21 – June 3
+Richard Fialkovich by Helen Fialkovich

Friday, May 26 7:00 PM 5th All Souls Remembrance**PENETECOST SUNDAY**

Saturday, May 27 5:00 PM +Albert & +Leona Bodnar by Al, Tom & David Bodnar

Sunday, May 28 9:00 AM Special Intention of Michael & Diane Pochron

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

Regular Offertory	\$3,181.00
Maintenance Fund	592.00
Holy Day	165.00
Seminary	110.00
Loose Cash	45.00
Candles	86.58
Cemetery	70.00
TOTAL	\$4,249.58

Special Cemetery Donation**\$100 Bernadette Koval**

*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: *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*, 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

MAY BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES THIS WEEK

- 22 Arthur Snyder
- 27 Corinne Bilock
- 27 Dylan Cannon
- 27 Martin & Patricia Bovee (Anniversary)

In person Attendance: *Saturday, May 13: 62; Sunday, May 14: 66*

Live Stream Viewing: *Saturday, May 13: 24 (WS); 25 (FB)*
Sunday, May 14: 60 (WS); 55 (FB)

Special Donations in Memory of +Donald Bajus

- \$50 Bob & Judy Kacik
- \$20 Rosemary & Rick Stahl
- \$20 M/M Jason Vargo & Family
- \$20 Paulette Winowich

ETERNAL MEMORY

+**Richard Lesko** passed from this life to the next on May 10, 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 Richard in His Kingdom forever!*

RECEPTION OF HOLY COMMUNION

With the World Health Organization declaring an end to the emergency phase of the Covid-19 Pandemic, we have been directed to return to the traditional method of distributing Holy Communion. Effective the weekend of June 4, 2023 we will resume distributing the Eucharist through the use of one spoon. **Just a reminder of the proper way to receive Holy Communion: open your mouth widely, tilt your head slightly back and the Eucharist will be placed into your mouth. Please do not close your mouth upon the spoon.**

BREADED CHICKEN DINNER

Our parish will serve a take-out only Breaded Chicken dinner on **Saturday, May 20 from 3 – 6 PM and on Sunday, May 21 from 10 AM – 1 PM. Price is \$12.00 per dinner.** The dinner includes: Breaded Chicken breast, stuffing, veggie, roll and butter. In addition we will be selling quarts of haluski, quarts of soup, our kolache, and various baked goods.

“KATHEDRAL KITCHEN”

We have Stuffed Cabbage: ½ dozen: \$18; dozen: \$30; quarts of *Halushki, Chili & Beef Vegetable, Beef Noodle, Chicken noodle, Turkey, Stuffed Cabbage, Meatless: Mushroom, Vegetarian Vegetable soups* for \$7. Pirohi \$10/dozen. If you would like to buy any please see Patty Bovee, Diane Pochron or Fr. Andrew. **Bold denotes meatless.**

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.

UPCOMING CATHEDRAL EVENTS

June 2/3	Rummage Sale
August 13	Parish Picnic
August 13	Outdoor concert by East Winds Symphonic Band at the Cathedral

RUMMAGE SALE ITEMS

We will be holding another Rummage Sale on June 2 & 3, 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.

We will continue the process of sorting the donated items on Monday, May 22 and Tuesday, May 23 at 6 PM. If you could give us a helping hand it will greatly be appreciated.



Attentive to the Word

Sunday of the Fathers of the 1st Ecumenical Council

Acts 20: 16-18 & 28-38

John 17: 1-13

Today, on this Sunday between the Feast of the Ascension, which we celebrated last Thursday, and the Feast of Pentecost, which we will celebrate next Sunday, we remember the Fathers of the First Ecumenical Council, those Fathers, that is, who gathered in council in Nicaea in 325, and drew up a creed that, in the form promulgated at the Council of Constantinople in 381, remains the Creed that we use today, at every celebration of the Liturgy and in our own daily prayers. We heard in the reading from Acts today an image of such a council, with Paul exhorting all the elders of the Church in Ephesus to take care of the Church of God which he obtained by the blood of his own Son, to take care of them by the guidance of the Holy Spirit, lest the flock is torn apart by wolves attacking, not from outside, but from the inside. It is from within that divisions come. Attacks certainly come also from the outside: Christ warned that as he was persecuted, so too would be his body. But, as St Athanasius, who was at Nicaea, reminds us: the more he was persecuted, the more he was humiliated, the more his divinity was manifested, culminating in his Passion, his death and exaltation (On the Incarnation 1). Likewise, the same is true for his body, as is shown most dramatically in the martyrs. Divisions of the body, on the other hand, come from within and are a more pernicious and subtle danger.

The Gospel reading we heard also spoke of the unity of the body, in the prayer of Christ, asking his Father to keep all those given to him in the unity of the name of God, to be one even as the Father and Son are one. That the body of Christ should be united is clearly essential: it is not a body otherwise!

It is this essential unity of the body that we commemorate in remembering the First Ecumenical Council today, the first council, that is, that drew together Christians from all across the inhabited world, to come to a common mind on an issue that was dividing the body. The gathered Fathers expressed their common mind in the Creed.

To be a Christian is not only, as we would say today, a "life-style" it is a confession of faith - a confession of faith that demands a certain life-style, a life-style based on our confession.

If we stop for a moment, as we should every time we say the Creed, to think just what it is that we are saying, we will find it a great challenge. The error that the Creed was drawn up to exclude, that of Arius, held that Christ was not really God; that he is described in all too human terms in the Gospels as being tired, hungry, ignorant, and so on. For Arius, Christ was a being somewhere between God and human beings, an intermediary linked to both worlds, but keeping both apart. Today, we are more likely to think of Christ only in divine terms: we know that he is God; what we have difficulty with is explaining how he is human as we are. Again, God and human beings are held apart; communion and fellowship have not been restored.

But our confession, following the Fathers of Nicaea, is that through what he has done as a human being, we see the transcendent power of God at work. Most importantly, as we have been singing for many weeks now, it is by his death - an all-too-human act - that he destroys death, for he

died willingly as a spotless self-offering for our sakes. It is not that because he is God he conquered death automatically, but that in the way he died a human death he shows himself to be God. He does this by freely giving himself to death, so showing that he is stronger than death, that death could not hold him, with the result that the tomb is empty; and so, by his elevation on the Cross, he has ascended into heaven, from where we await the descent of the Holy Spirit and the coming again of our Lord.

As we now look back at his life of service, we see that he has revealed his true divinity in and through what he has done as human: by his voice he calls Lazarus from the dead; by his spittle he gave sight to the blind; by his service, washing the feet of his disciples, he shows what true lordship is; by his fear he gives us confidence; by his ignorance he grants us knowledge.

All this is what we confess when we say the Creed drawn up by the Fathers of Nicaea: Jesus Christ, as we encounter him in the Gospel, reveals what it is to be God. He is, as Paul says, the image of the invisible God, the one in whom the fullness of divinity dwells bodily (Col. 1:15, 2:9).

But this means that we cannot look for divinity elsewhere, to be discovered by some other means or as something other than what we see in Christ as preached by the apostles. We don't start with our ideas of what God is; if we were to do that we would end up with no more than our own projections, however noble we might think them to be. We don't come to understand what a divine life might be like in any other way than contemplating the Christ presented to us by the apostles.

Besides the difficult discipline of focusing our contemplation in this manner, we are presented with the greatest challenge of all: to recognize that the same is expected of us. "Be ye perfect as your heavenly Father is perfect" (Matt. 5:48).

Being brought into communion with God, "deification," is not a matter of removing ourselves from the fabric of our humanity, transcending ourselves in the vain hope of becoming whatever we might think of as divine. It is rather a matter of modeling ourselves upon Christ: being servants of all, just as he was the servant of all; loving others above our own selves; laying down our lives for others—just as did Christ—so to be crucified with him.

All of this goes against the grain; it is not the pattern of life that the world teaches us to emulate. We are called to embody a way of life that all our worldly being - our flesh - reacts against. Of ourselves, as flesh, we cannot do this. But the marvelous thing is that the strength of God is made manifest in the weakness of the flesh (cf 2 Cor. 12:9). All that human flesh can ultimately do is to die; our whole life should now be directed to making sure that we die in Christ rather than outside of him, to live a life of service for others, to laying down our lives, as he did for us.

If we can learn to do this—and make no mistake about how difficult it is—then we too will come to live by the Spirit of God, whom Christ sends upon his disciples at the Feast of Pentecost, the one who conforms us to Christ, makes us part of his one body, and enables us, in him, to call upon God as Abba.

If we can do this, we will also be playing our part in overcoming all those internal divisions which now wreak havoc on the one body of Christ, here in America, in different jurisdictions and between them, and throughout the world. Let us pray that we have our strength to play our part in all the healing and bringing about of peace and reconciliation that needs to be done, by not being distracted, but holding our minds on the one thing needful, as we live out our confession of faith in a life of witness, of *martyria*.

By Fr. John Behr

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.