

*Glory to Jesus Christ! Glory Forever!*

Schedule of Divine Services

Saturday, July 29 5:00 PM +Christine Colorito by Mary Ellen Totin

Sunday, July 30 9:00 AM +Richard Lesko by Ernest & Mary Ann Varhola

Pages for Sunday’s Divine Liturgy: Tone Eight pages 161 - 163

Web Liturgy for Week of July 30, 2023 sponsored by  
**Joseph and Susan Korinchak**

*Sanctuary Candle* is lit from July 30 – August 12  
**Anniversary Intentions of Marcus & Beth Neffield**  
by Paulette Winowich & Tyler Neffield

**TRANSFIGURATION OF OUR LORD**

Saturday, August 5 5:00 PM +George & +Anna Bodnar by Danscak Family

Sunday, August 6 9:00 AM +Diane (Braszo) Brannen by Family

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

Regular Offertory	\$6,114.00
Maintenance Fund	517.00
Holy Day	100.00
Easter	\$1,500.00
Peter’s Pence	10.00
Loose Cash	5.00
Candles	117.96
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$8,363.96</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:** *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

## **JULY/AUGUST BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES THIS WEEK**

- 30 Michele May
- 31 Andrew G. Hornyak
- 31 Jennifer Kovatch
- 1 Robert & Joan Bodnar
- 2 Helen Fialkovich
- 5 Margaret Condon

**In person Attendance:** *Saturday, July 22: 47; Sunday, July 23: 56*  
Feast of the Holy Prophet Elias: **6**

**Live Stream Viewing:** *Saturday, July 22: 23 (WS); 17 (FB)*  
*Sunday, July 23: 59 (WS); 50 (FB)*  
Feast of the Holy Prophet Elias: **14 (WS); 8 (FB)**

## **MANY YEARS**

Our Parish Family extends its prayerful best wishes to **Knox Griffith Miller** who received the Mysteries of Initiation on Sunday, July 23, 2023. Knox Griffith is the son of Brady and Taylor Miller. *May God grant to Knox Griffith peace, health and happiness for many years!*

## **BLESSING OF FRUIT**

Next Sunday we celebrate the Feast of the Transfiguration. As is customary in the Eastern Church on this Feast, **GRAPES AND FRUITS** will be blessed following the Divine Liturgies next weekend. Grapes are indicative of wine which is “transfigured” into the Precious Blood of Christ during the Consecration of each Liturgy. The first fruits of summer are blessed to acknowledge our gratitude to Almighty God for the blessings of a new and abundant harvest received. Don’t forget to bring a basket of grapes and fruits to be blessed. Just as you share your blessings with others – so will God share His blessings with you.



## **OFFICE HOURS CHANGE**

Judy will be in the office Monday through Friday from 8:30 AM – 1:30 PM.

## **PARISH PICNIC**

**Sunday, August 13, 2023** has been set aside for a *Parish Picnic*. The picnic will be held on our Cathedral property. The Parish will provide all the food. We ask those attending, to bring cookies for us to share with those attending the concert. Keep the date open and plan to have a fun afternoon with your fellow parishioners. We hope to see all of you there! A sign-up sheet is located in the vestibules of the church.

## **SUMMER CONCERT**

The *East Wind Symphonic Band* will hold a concert on **August 13, 2023**. All are invited to this free LIVE outdoor concert of band music in celebration of summer. The concert will be performed on our Cathedral property from **3:00 pm – 4:30 pm**. Please bring a lawn chair. Again, the concert will take place weather permitting.

## **METROPOLITAN ASSEMBLY**

Metropolitan Archbishop William C. Skurla and the Council of Hierarchs of the Byzantine Catholic Metropolitan Church of Pittsburgh will be hosting the 3<sup>rd</sup> assembly of our Church on Thursday, November 2 to Sunday, November 5, 2023, at St. Mary's Byzantine Catholic Church, Hillsborough, NJ. The Assembly's theme is Living Our Faith: Moving Forward, Appreciating Our Past.

The Assembly will consist of two tracks. A clergy track will be presented on Thursday and Friday, November 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>. A laity tract will occur from Friday to Sunday, November 3<sup>rd</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup>.

Registrations may be made through the Assembly website or by mail beginning June 15. The fee includes meals, breaks, presentations, materials, and the gala on Saturday evening. The Assembly cost is \$250 for individuals and \$400 for couples. The Maria Theresa Foundation will underwrite the registration fees of individuals and couples between the ages of 18 and 35.

For more information, contact the Assembly coordinators, Fr. Ed Cimbala, at 212-677-0516 or Fr. Yuriy Oros at 609-394-5004. The assembly website is [byzantineassembly2023.org](http://byzantineassembly2023.org), and the email is [byzantineassembly2023@gmail.com](mailto:byzantineassembly2023@gmail.com).

## **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



*Ninth Sunday after Pentecost*

*1 Corinthians 3: 9-17*

*Matthew 14: 22-34*

The Master wrote this instruction in his Rule: "If we desire to dwell in [the Heavenly] kingdom, we must run to it by our good deeds; otherwise we shall never arrive there...Such persons, fearing the Lord, do not pride themselves upon their good observance; rather, aware that what is good in themselves cannot be their own doing but the Lord's, they magnify the Lord working in them" (R.M. Theme, 18, 25-26). The story of Peter walking on the water with Jesus is likewise well known. Some people are quick to ridicule Peter for his lack of faith. Strangely, they tend to overlook the fact that the other eleven disciples never got out of the boat. Peter was the only one to get out of the boat and walk toward Jesus on the water.

Borrowing from other sections of the Bible, one could recreate the dialogue between Peter and Jesus, something like this. Still clinging to the gunwales, Peter says to Jesus, "Okay, Master, I'm getting out of this boat because you told me to come to you. Now, what are you going to do for me?" (Cf. Mk. 10: 28) Perhaps, Jesus smiled and said, "Peter, you have got to let go of the boat and remember that you are not setting out on any ordinary journey. (PAUSE) That's right! Now that you have left the comfort and security of your boat, keep walking towards me. You remember what happened to Lot's wife. Don't look back" (cf. Lk. 9: 62).

Have you ever wondered what is wrong with the human psyche? As soon as someone tells us not to do something, we go ahead and do it? Let me give you a few examples: Adam and Eve in paradise (Gen. 3); Lot's wife at the gates of Zoar (Gen. 19: 26); the Hebrew slaves at Massah in the desert (Ex. 17:3). As soon as Jesus said, "Don't turn around," Peter looked back.

With that glance he noticed how far and he was from the boat. Only then did he become aware of the force of the wind that had been blowing all the while (cf. Mat. 14: 30). He had lost sight of his goal and began to sink beneath the waves. Certainly, the words of David could easily be quoted here, "The waves of death encircled me ... In my distress I called to the Lord" (2 Sam. 22: 5, 7). Just as the waters were rising to his neck (cf. Ps. 69: 1), Jesus stretched out his hand and took hold of his disciple (cf. Mat. 14: 31). Recall the words of the prophet Isaiah, "The hand of the Lord is not too short to save, nor is his ear too dull to hear" (Is. 59: 1).

The image of Jesus stretching out his hand to Peter reminds me of another story. A friend of mine wrote about a swimming lesson he had received. “Will would gently pull me farther out in the water, put his strong hand under my belly and float me around the pond as he swam, assuring me, ‘Relax, boy. One day you’ll trust enough to know that you were created to float. Since trust can’t be rushed, will play’” (A Boy, A Man and a Meteorite, Roger Robbennolt).

God carried His people close to His heart throughout their sojourn in the desert (cf. Deut. 1: 31). God Incarnate stretched out His mighty right arm to His disciples in their times of distress. Do we trust God enough to cry out for help? Are we humble and honest enough to admit that we cannot survive without His help?

Let us call to the Lord when we are in trouble, and then listen for His loving response (cf. Ps. 86: 6). Like the disciples of old, we will hear Him say, “Courage! It is I! Do not be afraid” (Mat. 14: 27). “Know that I am with you always; yes, to the end of time” (Mat. 28: 20).

*By Fr. Jerome Machar OCSO*

## **THE FAST OF THE DORMITION OF THE HOLY THEOTOKOS**

During the first fourteen days of August during each year, our Church enters into a period of fast in honor of the Mother of God, the Virgin Mary. We, as Byzantine Catholics have a high regard for the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Mother of God, for her special role in the salvation of mankind. St. John of Damascus, one of the Church fathers, pointed out that when the Blessed Virgin Mary became the Mother of God and gave birth to Christ, the Redeemer of Mankind, she became the mother of mankind. We call the Virgin Mary “Theotokos”, from the Greek, which means “The Birth-Giver or the Bearer of God.” This is the highest title that can be bestowed upon any member of the human race.

Every year the Byzantine Church sets aside the first fourteen days of August in honor of the Virgin Mary. This fast period is climaxed on August 15th, when the Church gathers to celebrate the Great Feast of the Dormition (Falling-Asleep) of the Theotokos.

Let the peace and holiness that only the Mother of God can give you enter into your life. “Let us lay aside all earthly cares,” and let us truly, during these fifteen days, participate in the fasting and prayer life of the Church so that we can “taste and see that the Lord is good” and so that we may fully experience the spiritual blessings that the Church offers to us at this holy time.

## 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 8:30 AM – 1:30 PM. Father Andrew is available on other days and times by appointment.