

Glory to Jesus Christ! Glory Forever!

Schedule of Divine Services

Saturday, September 2 5:00 PM +Rudy Arnoldi by Srsic & Lutte Family

Sunday, September 3 9:00 AM In Thanksgiving of the 60th Anniversary of
Nicholas & Barbara Sowko

Pages for Sunday’s Divine Liturgy: Tone 5 pages 146 – 148

Web Liturgy for Week of September 3, 2023 sponsored by
Mary Ann Urban in Memory of Edward Urban

Sanctuary Candle is lit from August 27 – September 9
sponsored by Nicholas & Barbara Sowko

BIRTH OF THE THEOTOKOS

Thursday, September 7, 7:00 PM +Bishop John Bilock

Friday, September 8, 9:00 AM +Dan Perhach by Richard & Boys

SUNDAY BEFORE THE EXALTATION OF THE CROSS

Saturday, September 9 5:00 PM +Robert Wargo by Anna Marie Wargo

Sunday, September 10 9:00 AM +Leonard Stagon by Family

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

Regular Offertory	\$2,442.00
Maintenance Fund	646.00
Holy Day	145.00
Loose Cash	20.00
Candles	99.16
Cemetery	215.00
TOTAL	\$3,567.16

*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, Patty Matus

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

NURSING HOMES/REHABILITATION CENTERS/ASSISTED LIVING

Elsie Urban, Eleanor Chekan, Sue Goda

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES THIS WEEK

3 George M. & Mary Katherine Janocsko (Anniversary)

4 Janine Tima

5 Timothy & Carol Oriss (Anniversary)

6 Clement Berovik

7 Diane Pochron

7 Nicholas & Barbara Sowko (Anniversary)

9 Mary Katherine Janocsko

In person Attendance: *Saturday, August 26: 48; Sunday, August 27: 59*
Beheading of St. John the Baptist: 14

Live Stream Viewing: *Saturday, August 26: 31 (WS); 22 (FB)*
Sunday, August 27: 58 (WS); 43 (FB)
Beheading of St. John the Baptist: 14 (WS); 8 (FB)

Live Stream Donation

\$25 Leonard & Felicia Simko

Special Donation

\$100 in memory of +George Durkota by Lois Durkota

MANY YEARS

Our Parish Family extends its prayerful best wishes to **Very Reverend Robert Pipta**, who has been appointed the sixth bishop of the Eparchy of Parma. *May God grant to His servant, Bishop-elect Robert peace, health and happiness for many years!*

MANY YEARS

Our Parish Family extends our prayerful best wishes to **Nathaniel Tapsak, John Welch and Timothy Fariss** who were recently ordained deacons for service in our Archeparchy. *May God grant to Deacons Nathaniel, John and Timothy peace, health and happiness for many years!*

ANNUAL PILGRIMAGE TO MOUNT SAINT MACRINA

The Sisters of St. Basil the Great are pleased to announce that the Annual Pilgrimage in honor of Our Lady of Perpetual Help will be held at Mount St. Macrina on Friday, September 1 through Monday September 4, 2023.

METROPOLITAN ASSEMBLY

Metropolitan Archbishop William C. Skurla and the Council of Hierarchs of the Byzantine Catholic Metropolitan Church of Pittsburgh will be hosting the 3rd 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 2nd and 3rd. A laity tract will occur from Friday to Sunday, November 3rd to 5th.

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 and the email is byzantineassembly2023@gmail.com.

STUFFED CABBAGE DINNER

We will be having a take-out only Stuffed Cabbage Dinner on Saturday, September 9 and Sunday September 10. The dinner includes: Stuffed Cabbage, mashed potatoes, vegetables, roll & butter. **Price is \$12.00 per dinner. Dinners can be picked up on Saturday, September 9 from 3 – 6 PM and on Sunday, September 10 from 10 AM – 1 PM.** In addition we will be selling quarts of haluski and soup, our kolache and other baked goods as well as raffle tickets.

UPCOMING CATHEDRAL EVENTS

October 21	Fall Craft Show
November 12	Basket Extravaganza

GIFT CARDS AND LOTTERY TICKETS

If anyone is able to donate gift cards or lottery tickets for our raffle trees at the Craft Show & Basket Extravaganza, 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.



Attentive to the Word

Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

2 Corinthians 1:21 - 2:4

Matthew 22: 1-14

Jesus was very fond of speaking to his disciples in parables. While his parables might be somewhat easier to understand today, I am sure that as He spoke to His disciples at that time, they were mystified by what He was trying to get across to them. In the Gospel of St. Matthew (22:2-14), He compares the Kingdom of Heaven to an earthly kingdom whose king was going to give a great wedding feast for his son. Who would not rejoice at such a time and invite all his friends? But a king, of course, has no real friends. A king has to deal with diplomats and politicians and other rulers and other members of the royal family. This king, according to Jesus, sent his invitation to the elite people who were specifically entitled, by status, to attend the marriage feast of his son. While some might interpret this as referring to the children of Israel (which is probably accurate), it could also mean us today, because you and I are chosen as well.

This king sent out invitations to all the “entitled” people, but they were evidently just “too busy.” Some ignored the king while others insulted his servants, and some even killed the servants to show their utter contempt for the king, and to pay the ultimate insult to him. Naturally, the king became angry and sent his armies to destroy those chosen people.

Then he reminded his servants that the wedding was still on. The food, all the preparations, the decorations, the musicians, everything was ready, but he had no guests! “Go out and bring me anyone you can” was his command. Do you think that a king could really become so desperate? Perhaps. Do you think that God would get so desperate? I think not! But I think the lesson is this, that God can make up the difference for all of us who fall short of being worthy, if we will but approach and come into His Kingdom. Jesus makes that point when he refers to a custom of the day. Anyone going to a wedding feast wore special garments. Those not owning any were provided them by the groom. As a part of a rite of purification, when guests came into the place of the feast they washed themselves and shed their own clothing, filled with the dust of the road, and adorned themselves with clean wedding garments.

In Jesus’ parable, then, all those beggars and tramps, the crippled, the blind, the outcast that his servants brought, all of them, good and bad, were adorned with the new wedding garments which had been set aside for those previously invited. Now, they had the status, and somehow that king made up for what they were lacking. The lesson in this is that even though we fall far short of the grace of God and of the perfection that we know is necessary, if we are sincerely a part of His Kingdom, God makes up the difference. He provides us with the wedding garments that we do not possess in ourselves, in order that we

might enter into His Son's feast. Now, this wedding garment is the garment of repentance, of new life, of new commitments, of dedication, and of total surrender to the will of God.

Among those hundreds of guests one person was found who didn't have on a wedding garment, who tried to get into the feast with his dirty street clothes, and he was summarily cast out into the "outer darkness." He was not ready to make the required change. You and I are invited to be members of a wedding in the Kingdom of Heaven. We are invited to rejoice with the Maker of all joy. Don't worry, then, that you are not "perfect." Don't be concerned if you have not attained to a complete holiness yet. All that the King requires of you is that you really want to be a part of this feast, and that you are going to try to change; that every time you fail, you will pick yourself up and try again. He will give you the wedding garment. He will make up the difference, and we will rejoice with Him forever. "Remember that it is God Himself who assures us all, and you, of our standing in Christ and has anointed us, marking us with His seal and giving us the pledge, the Spirit, that we carry in our hearts" (II Corinthians 2:1). What a phenomenal promise, and what a beautiful description of our relationship with God! How can we fail so long as we know that God is with us? How can we allow ourselves to be weighed down by the depressions of life so long as we understand that we are members of the wedding, guests at His feast, sharing in the joyous sumptuousness of that table which has been set for all those who have been called?

By Fr. James Meena

BEGINNING OF THE LITURGICAL YEAR

The Eastern Christian Churches start the new Church Year on September 1. At the Ecumenical Council of Nicaea held in 325, the Church Fathers accepted this date, as the official beginning of the church year. Already from the 8th century, we find record of this practice being kept. The Eastern Catholic Churches continue to follow this liturgical tradition. The Latin rite has designated the first Sunday of Advent as the start of their liturgical year.

The liturgical year is a year-long celebration of the Church recalling and reliving the mysteries of salvation history. Our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, continues to live among us and instruct us of His Gospel message of salvation and prepare us and lead us to our eternal destination in Heaven. The role of the Mother of God in salvation history is integral and two of Her feasts are given a predominate place: one at the beginning, Feast of the Nativity of the Mother of God and another at the end of the church year, Feast of the Dormition. The Liturgical year helps us to maintain a close relationship with Our Lord Jesus Christ. We unite our fervent prayers to Our Lord and Maker. We are one in spirit and mind. We are one in voice and heart as we sing praise to the Blessed Trinity, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

CLOTHING DRIVE

Our parish will hold our annual clothing drive during the *last three weekends of September*. Our past closing drives have been very successful. Let's continue giving to those in need, especially with the disasters in Hawaii and Florida.

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.