

Glory to Jesus Christ! Glory Forever!

Schedule of Divine Services

Saturday, September 16 **5:00 PM +Fr. Dennis Bogda by Elaine Bogda**

Sunday, September 17 **9:00 AM +Joseph Bich by Kathy Pollock & Lois Ferchak**

Pages for Sunday's Divine Liturgy: Tone 7 page 156 - 157 & pages 253 - 258

Web Liturgy for Week of September 17, 2023 sponsored by
John and Barbara Havrilla

Sanctuary Candle is lit from September 10 - 23
sponsored by **Elaine Bogda in Memory of Fr. Dennis Bogda**

17th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Saturday, September 23 **5:00 PM +Donald Lebedda by Sandy Hornak**

Sunday, September 24 **9:00 AM +Luther Bovee by Family**

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

Regular Offertory	\$2,951.00
Maintenance Fund	779.00
Holy Day	374.00
Candles	64.97
Cemetery	210.00
TOTAL	<u>\$4,378.97</u>

Live Stream Donation

\$50 John & Barbara Havrilla

*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

- 17 Nathan Heddleston
- 19 Joan Bodnar
- 19 Mark Simko
- 20 Jeanine Perhacs
- 21 Margaret Seman
- 21 William & Nancy Hosni (Anniversary)

In person Attendance: *Saturday, September 9: 46; Sunday, September 10: 57*
Birth of the Theotokos, evening: 20; morning: 12

Live Stream Viewing: *Saturday, September 9: 23 (WS); 16 (FB)*
Sunday, September 10: 58 (WS); 44 (FB)
Birth of the Theotokos: evening: 14 (WS); 7 (FB)
morning: 12 (WS); 5 (FB)

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. This year some of the clothes will be given to families from Ukraine who will be settling in the Greensburg area.

SPAGHETTI DINNER

SS. Peter & Paul Parish Club, Duquesne is sponsoring their annual Spaghetti Dinner on Sunday, September 17, 2023 from 1-5 PM. Adults: \$12; Children 6-10; \$6 Children 5 & Under; free. Raffles & baskets ... and as always all proceeds benefit the Church.

COFFEE & DONUT SOCIAL – SEPTEMBER 17

Please join your parish family for a Coffee & Donut Social after the 9:00 AM Sunday Divine Liturgy on September 17, 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.

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.

"CATHEDRAL KITCHEN"

The "Cathedral Kitchen" has been restocked. We have quarts of *Halushki & Chili*, *Wedding*, *Tomato Basil*, and *Beef Vegetable soups* for \$7. If you would like to buy any please see Patty Bovee or Fr. Andrew.

BASKET EXTRAVAGANZA BASKETS

We will hold our Basket Extravaganza on Sunday, November 12, 2023. We are in need of completed baskets or items to complete a basket. You can contact Diane Pochron at 412-303-6534 for any information or ideas for basket items. Thank you in advance for any help you may be able to give.



Attentive to the Word

Sunday after the Elevation of the Cross

Galatians 2: 16-20

Mark 8: 34 - 9: 1

Jesus declares the invariable law of Christian life to the crowds that constantly dogged His travel: “If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me” (Mark 8:34, NIV).

The death of Christ means nothing except to those who are willing to die to sin and self, and to follow Him as His servants. The bearing of the cross does not mean to absorb some little or great initiation, burden, or distress; rather, it is to go to the place of crucifixion and die. Following Christ involves denial and the death of self – that desire or bent to sin. Our true desire is to follow Jesus.

I. Following Jesus means denial of self

The oldest Christian church in the world is the Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem. Built in the fourth century, it was partially reconstructed in the sixth century and has been standing ever since. In a crypt below is the traditional manger where Jesus was said to have been born.

The main entrance to this massive stone church is a small doorway, perhaps four feet high by two or three feet wide. It once was high and wide, but during the middle ages the Moslem Turks used to ride in on horseback and massacre the Christian worshipers. Today, one must get down on his or her knees and crawl in.

They call this the Door of Humiliation. It is a parable of the entrance to the Christian life. Most of us entered on our knees, asking God’s forgiveness for all our past. We have to deny ourselves if we would be Christ’s disciples. We must reject our way, to accept His way.

II. Following Jesus means death to self (v. 34)

Ralph Earle points out that the Greek says: “If anyone wishes to come after me, he must also take up his cross.” This means far more than bearing the cross of sickness or affliction. It expresses a voluntary act of taking up the cross.

The cross is the symbol of death, of crucifixion. Self-crucifixion with Christ is the price of spiritual power and freedom (Gal. 2:20; Rom. 6:6). There can be no resurrection into the life of full victory in Christ until there has been first a crucifixion with Him. This is what it means to take up one’s cross. It is more than sympathizing with the crucifixion idea; it is being there.

III. To follow Jesus means determination

The verbs “deny” and “take up” are both in the tense of momentary action. These two words suggest the crisis of a crucial conversion and complete consecration resulting in holiness of life as describe in 1 Thessalonians 5:23.

The word “follow” is in the present tense of continuous action. After the crisis there must be a long life of following Jesus step by step, involving a constant determination to do His will regardless of what comes.

IV. To follow Jesus is to obey

In his book, *The Cost of Discipleship*, Dietrich Bonhoeffer tells us that God’s call needs a response from us, and that response is “single-minded obedience.” Nothing or no one should stand in our way.

Christian discipleship does not always demand exactly the same kind of sacrifice from each person, but it does demand sacrifice. The sacrifice comes in all forms, human and material. Peter and Andrew left their nets and fishing business in the hands of their partners. James and John left their fishing nets too, but with an added dimension – they also left their father. They became detached from him. Some of us are called to teach, some are called to preach, others to other tasks, but all to obedience.

Someone said that Christianity is more than obstetrics; it is pediatrics, public health, internal medicine, diagnostic care, surgery, and geriatrics. Years after Jesus left to go to heaven to be with the Father, His followers were still known as disciples. One never outgrows the need to listen, learn, follow and lead. Have you counted the cost of discipleship?

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.