

Glory to Jesus Christ! Glory Forever!

Schedule of Divine Services

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

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

Pages for Sunday’s Divine Liturgy: Tone 6 page 152 & pages 243 – 246 & 248 - 249

Web Liturgy for Week of September 10, 2023 sponsored by
Joana M. Dizak

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

EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS – A DAY OF STRICT FAST

Wednesday, September 13 **7:00 PM +Fr. Robert Karl by Christine Tripoli**

Thursday, September 14 **9:00 AM +Carole Collins by Susan Crowe &
Norm Koehler**

SUNDAY AFTER THE EXALTATION OF THE CROSS

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**

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

Regular Offertory	\$1,664.00
Maintenance Fund	465.00
Holy Day	208.00
Peter’s Pence	10.00
Loose Cash	28.00
Candles	114.00
Cemetery	125.00
TOTAL	\$2,614.00

*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

10 Joseph M. & Kristen Varhola (Anniversary)

13 Robert Bodnar

15 Carole Srsic

In person Attendance: *Saturday, September 2: 37; Sunday, September 3: 66*

Live Stream Viewing: *Saturday, September 2: 26 (WS); 18 (FB)*
Sunday, September 3: 49 (WS); 34 (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.

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.

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.

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.

"CATHEDRAL KITCHEN"

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



Attentive to the Word

Sunday before the Elevation of the Cross

Galatians 6: 11-18

John 3: 13-17

On the Sunday which precedes the great and important feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross (September 14), our Church prescribes a portion of Saint Paul's letter to the Galatians (6:11-18) and a few short verses from Saint John's Gospel (3:13-17) for our reflection and spiritual consideration.

Saint Paul tells his readers that the cross of Christ is what gives his life focus and perspective. At the time Saint Paul wrote to the Galatians there were individuals in the community forcing pagan converts to follow the old Jewish practices which they then bragged about having the converts observe. Saint Paul corrects these individuals and tells them that what really matters is having been made new all over again in Christ through His cross. The Cross opened again the gates of Paradise closed by Adam's sin when he ate the forbidden fruit. The tree of the cross stands forever as the sign of God's great love for fallen mankind.

The text taken from Saint John's Gospel emphasizes that great love. Saint John writes, "God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him may not perish but may have everlasting life." This short verse (3: 16) is often quoted. Sometimes you may see it on T-shirts, in sports arenas and other public places. It is a stirring reminder that our Creator did not abandon us to perdition but kept His promise to send a Redeemer Who came in the Person of His own Son, Jesus - our Lord.

Verse 16, however, must be linked with the dramatic and challenging words of our Lord recorded further on in Saint John's Gospel (15:13): "There is no greater love than this - to lay down one's life for one's friends." Here Jesus talks about what He would do for us when He was nailed to His cross - there to give His life that we might have life.

The feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross marks the occasion of its discovery by Saint Helen, mother of Emperor Constantine in the early fourth century. In our churches, a cross is prominently displayed after solemn ceremony on the tetrapod decorated with arrangements of beautiful flowers to remind us, as Saint Paul did the Galatians, of the proper focus we must keep as we walk behind our Lord

bearing the burdens, the hurts, the disappointments, the suffering and sad-ness which can be and is sometimes part of our human condition.

Our Church also reminds us that behind the darkness of the cross shines a bright promise and hope of the new life gained by it because Jesus gave His life for us: Come, O people, let us con-temple the marvelous wonder; let us bow before the power of the Cross. For the tree of Paradise gave rise to the reign of death, and now a Tree has made our life blossom forth when the sinless Savior was nailed upon it. And now, all the nations that are nourished by this incorruptible food sing praises: You destroyed death by Your cross and set us free. O Lord, glory to You. (Veneration hymn at Matins)

The cross is venerated for eight days during which the troparion, "We bow to Your Cross, O Lord, and we glorify Your holy resurrection" is sung at all Services. Cross and Resurrection are never separated. Although the cross meant death, by His death Jesus brought and bought us unending life. May we live our lives to merit and gain life eternal.

By +Msgr. John Sekellick

THE VENERATION HYMN

“We bow to Your Cross, O Lord, and we glorify Your Holy Resurrection.”

This central hymn of the Elevation of the Cross which lasts for eight days in the Church is sung many times. It replaces the Thrice-Holy of the Divine Liturgy. The normal antiphons are also replaced by special verses from the psalms which have direct reference to Christ's crucifixion on the Cross. (Psalms 22, 74, 99) At the Matins, in the gospel reading from St. John, Christ says that when he is elevated on the Cross he will draw all men to himself. (John 12:28-36) The long gospel reading at the Divine Liturgy is the passion account from this same gospel.

Thus, at the Elevation of the Cross the Christians make their official rededication to the crucified Lord and pledge their undivided allegiance to him by the adoration of his holy feet nailed to the life-creating Cross. This is the meaning of this holy day of fasting and repentance in the Church today.

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.