

Glory to Jesus Christ! Glory Forever!

Schedule of Divine Services

Saturday, November 25 5:00 PM +Agnes Onofrey by Maryanne (Pavucsko) Sciomacco
 Sunday, November 26 9:00 AM +Ronald Lutka by Nicholas & Barbara Sowko

Pages for Sunday's Divine Liturgy: Tone 1 pages 125 - 127

Web Liturgy for Week of November 26, 2023 sponsored by
+Ronald and Arletta Lutka

Sanctuary Candle is lit from November 19 – December 2
+Joseph & +Ann M. Evans by Evans & Hosni Families

27th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Saturday, December 2 5:00 PM +Ronald Smoley by Anna Marie Wargo
 Sunday, December 3 9:00 AM +Michael Matus by Kathlene Hall

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

Regular Offertory	\$2,471.00
Maintenance Fund	496.00
Holy Day	194.00
Flowers	10.00
Christmas	25.00
Archdiocesan Charities	60.00
Candles	64.25
Loose Cash	15.00
TOTAL	\$3,335.25

Live Stream Donation: \$100 by John & Beverly Woessner

*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: *Arletta Lutka, Margie Seman, Teri Phares, Raymond Petro, Jr., Luke Pasternak, Marissa Stout, Tara Seman, Patrick Singer, 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

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES THIS WEEK

- 27 Mary Ann Fenner
- 29 Richard Goda
- 29 David Sawczak
- 30 George M. Janocko

In person Attendance: *Saturday, November 18: 39; Sunday, November 19: 97*
Entrance of the Theotokos: 16
Thanksgiving: 52

Live Stream Viewing: *Saturday, November 18: 26 (WS); 14 (FB)*
Sunday, November 19: 57 (WS); 40 (FB)
Entrance of the Theotokos: 17 (WS); 7 (FB)
Thanksgiving: 25 (WS); 10 (FB)

MYSTERY OF DIVINE FORGIVENESS AND RECONCILIATION

We cannot appreciate the gift of “God with us” unless we are receptive. Let us make every effort to prepare ourselves for the coming of Christ by coming before Him and asking forgiveness of our sins. *Confessions will be heard on Sunday, December 10 following the 9 AM Divine Liturgy and on Saturday, December 16 following the 5 PM Divine Liturgy.*



ETERNAL MEMORY

On November 18, 2023 +**Sr. Joretta Kriss**, of the Sisters of St. Basil the Great, Uniontown, passed from this life to the next during her 67th year of religious life. Sr. Joretta taught at the Cathedral school and was the principal. May she 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 +Sr. Joretta in His Kingdom forever!*

“CATHEDRAL KITCHEN”

The “Kathedral Kitchen” has been restocked. We have quarts of *Halushki & Chili, Beef Vegetable, Chicken Noodle, Chicken Gnocchi, Mushroom, Pasta Fagioli, Potato/Green Bean, Stuffed Cabbage, Stuffed Pepper, Tomato Basil, Vegetarian Vegetable and Wedding soups* for \$7. If you would like to buy any please see Patty Bovee or Fr. Andrew.

KOLACHE ORDERS

Deadline to order Kolache for Christmas is **November 26, 2023**. Order sheets are located in the vestibules of the church. ***Kolache price will remain \$15.00 each.***

BOBALKI ORDERS

Once again, we will be taking orders for bobalki in 1 pound bags. Each 1# bag will cost \$7. Order sheets are located in the vestibules of the church.

HOLIDAY KOLBASSI SALE

Ss. Peter & Paul Men’s Club, Duquesne is once again selling kolbassi. Cost is \$7/lb. Sign-up sheets are at the church entrances. ***Please order by December 5, 2023*** and DELIVERY IS SATURDAY, DECEMBER 17 AND SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18 2023. Thank you for your support.

CHRISTMAS CONCERT

Enjoy a free concert on **Sunday, December 10, 2023 at 3:30 PM – 5:30 PM** at our Cathedral Center as presented by *The East Winds Symphonic Band*. Seating will be on a first-come basis. Light refreshments will be provided. A free will offering will be welcomed.

PARISH CHRISTMAS BRUNCH

Our Parish will have its Christmas Brunch on **Sunday, 17 December 2023 following the 9 AM Divine Liturgy**. There are sign-up sheets in the vestibules of the church. ***Please sign up by December 10.***

“NEATH THE STAR OF BETHLEHEM”

The Archieparhial Choir invites all to share the spirit and joy of the Holy Nativity of our Lord on **Sunday, December 17, 2022 at 2:00 PM** at St. Elias Church, Munhall. A hospitality reception will follow. All are welcome.

CHURCH CLEANING

Saturday, 9 December 2023 has been set aside to give our church a good cleaning before the Feast of the Nativity. The day will begin at **9 AM**. We could use as many hands as possible to clean all area in preparation for the Nativity. No matter what time or for how long your help will be greatly appreciated.



Attentive to the Word

Twenty-sixth Sunday after Pentecost

Ephesians 5: 9-19

Luke 13: 10-17

A story is told of how the wife of an American engineer brought a blessing to people in an Asian country. She noticed that the old people in a certain village all had bent backs. Upon inquiring she discovered that it was due to sweeping. The old people did all the sweeping. Since wood was too scarce for broom handles, they had to sweep stooped over, and all of them, as they grew older, had crooked spines.

She decided to do something about it. She discovered some tall reeds growing in the mountains. Transplanting some of them to the yard of her house in the village, she made a broom and swept where the villagers could see her. Slowly the idea caught on and they began to use the tall reeds to make brooms which they could use while standing.

Four years after she had returned to Pittsburgh, she received a letter from the village chief in which he said in part, "Wife of the engineer: "...You showed us a new way to sweep. It is a small thing, but it has changed the lives of our old people ... You will be happy to know that today there are few bent backs in the village ... We have constructed a small shrine in your memory. It is a simple affair; at the foot of the Altar are these words: 'In memory of the woman who unbent the backs of our people.'"

The Gospel lesson today tells of a woman who had "a spirit of infirmity for eighteen years." She was bent over, and could in no way lift herself. When Jesus saw her, He "called her, laid His hands on her and immediately she was made straight."

The first message of this incident is the power of Christ to straighten out that which is crooked — not only crooked bodies, but also crooked lives. Of all the creatures in this world, man is the only one who was made to look up. But sin bends him to the ground. The more a man serves God, the more he will be upright, simple, and straight. The more he sins, the more bent and crooked his inner life — his mind and his heart.

There are those who say, "You cannot change human nature." This statement is an outright denial of God — the God who came into this world for the express purpose of changing human nature, of straightening crooked personalities. "Such were some of you," writes the Apostle Paul, "drunkards, idolaters, thieves, sorcerers. But now you are changed, now you are made over, now you are new persons in Christ."

Many times we have seen crooked rivers. In Minneapolis there is a very crooked stream called Minnehaha Creek. The reason it is so crooked is that it constantly follows the line of least resistance. So it is in life. When, instead of following Christ, we follow the line of least resistance, the end result is a crooked life.

A boy came home one day from a fishing trip. His line had become badly tangled and he was doing his best to get it straightened out again. He tried for a long time but with no success. Finally, he went to his father and said, "Daddy, my line is all tangled up. Will you please straighten it out for me?"

In the skillful hands of his father the line began to straighten out like magic, and in two or three minutes it was as good as ever.

This is a parable of our lives. Little by little we get tangled up in the temptations and sins that beset us. Finally the day comes when we discover we can no longer help ourselves. Someone from the outside must come into our lives, if we are to be freed from all the entanglements. God is willing to help, if we will but come to Him with faith.

Consider the lives of so many persons bent by alcoholism and drugs who have been straightened out by the power of the living Christ.

Consider the life of Peter bent by his triple denial of the Master, yet so straightened out by Jesus as to enable him to become the great apostle of faith who said, "Lord, you know how much I love you."

Consider the woman of the streets who was bent under the great burden of guilt. She washed the Master's feet with her tears and wiped them with her hair. She arose to face life as a new person because the Great Physician had forgiven her and made straight her crooked life.

Consider the thief crucified next to Christ — his life totally bent by sin. Before he died, he breathed a prayer, "Lord, remember me." Suddenly the great love of God flowed into his heart, and he heard the promise, "Today you will be with me in paradise."

The first message of this story is that the God who straightened out the back of this woman continues to make straight today the lives of those who are bent and warped by sin. The second message is found in the words with which Jesus described the illness of this woman: "...this woman, a daughter of Abraham whom Satan bound for eighteen years..." We see here that Jesus attributes this woman's illness not to God but to Satan. We remember also St. Paul calling his chronic illness "a messenger of Satan." So often we associate the will of God with what is evil, with sickness and death. For example, when a man's wife died, he said, "Well, I must accept it. It is the will of God." But the man was himself a doctor and for weeks he had been fighting for her life. Was he all the time fighting against the will of God? Of course not. Christ spent His life healing the sick. Never do we see Him inflicting illness on anyone. Death did not come into existence because God wanted it. Jesus Himself wept before the tomb of Lazarus. Dr. Leslie Weatherhead said once, "If you want to say, 'Thy will be done,' say it on the morning cancer can be prevented or cured; say it when your baby is safely born and 'both are doing well;' say it on a bright sunny morning when you are throbbing with life; say it on Christmas Day; say it when your heart is pulsating with that joy, the source of which is the heart of God" (Key Next Door, by Leslie Weatherhead, Abingdon Press. Used by permission). For this is the will of God for man; not graveyards, disease, and calamity, but health, happiness, and abounding vitality.

Consider how many lives were bent by that terrible disease called polio. Dr. Jonas Salk discovered a vaccine that has all but eradicated polio. See how one man through his scientific research has made straight the lives of so many people. Dr. Salk was not opposing God's will, but acting in conformity with it in making a better life possible for all people. There are so many areas in life where we can cooperate with God to help make straight lives that have been bent by sin and suffering.

Lord, help us to come to You with our bent lives that You may make them straight again as You did the woman's back in today's Gospel lesson. For we know that neither a bent back nor a bent soul is Your will for man, but health and wholeness. And help us, dear Lord, as we go through life to help untangle and make straight the crooked things we meet:

By Anthony M. Coniaris

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.