

Glory to Jesus Christ! Glory Forever!

Schedule of Divine Services

Saturday, December 2 **5:00 PM** +Ronald Smoley by Anna Marie Wargo

Sunday, December 3 **9:00 AM** +Michael Matus by Kathlene Hall

Pages for Sunday’s Divine Liturgy: Tone 2 pages 130 - 132

Web Liturgy for Week of December 3, 2023 sponsored by
Theresa Casey

Sanctuary Candle is lit from December 3 – 16
+Rose Izzo by Agnes Borsh

FEAST OF OUR HOLY FATHER NICHOLAS

Wednesday, December 6 **9:00 AM** +Dorothy Ducar by Barb Slaterback

Wednesday, December 6 **7:00 PM** +Richard Lesko by Ed & Joanne Fink

FEAST OF THE MATERNITY OF SAINT ANNA

Friday, December 8 **9:00 AM** +Thomas Perhach by Andrea Dachille

Friday, December 8 **7:00 PM** +Joseph Bich by Michael Bish

28th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Saturday, December 9 **5:00 PM** +Stephen & +Helen Havrilla & +Stephanie Havrilla
by MM Nicholas S. Havrilla Sr.

Sunday, December 10 **9:00 AM** +George Matus by MM Jim Hess

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

Regular Offertory	\$2,162.00
Maintenance Fund	527.00
Holy Day	112.00
Flowers	50.00
Christmas	50.00
Candles	184.94
Loose Cash	90.00
Cemetery	10.00
TOTAL	\$3,185.94

*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*, Paul Cherep

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

NURSING HOMES/REHABILITATION CENTERS/ASSISTED LIVING

Elsie Urban, Eleanor Chekan, Sue Goda

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES THIS WEEK

7 Lilia Neri

8 Peter Minydzak

In person Attendance: *Saturday, November 25: 48; Sunday, November 26: 70*

Live Stream Viewing: *Saturday, November 25: 24 (WS); 12 (FB)*
Sunday, November 26: 54 (WS); 39 (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.*



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.

Let each day be a day of beginning again, of loving God a little more, of hungering for Him a little more, of turning your face to Him anew. There is only one way to love God, and that is by loving your neighbor – the person next to you at any given moment.

-Dearly Beloved, Volume I

Jesus gives meaning to my life here on earth and hope for the life to come.

-Pope Francis

CHRISTMAS KOLACHE AND BOBALKI ORDERS PICKUP

Christmas Kolache and Bobalki orders may be picked up on **Friday, December 15, 2023 from 3 PM to 5 PM or on the weekend following the Divine Liturgies.**

“CATHEDRAL KITCHEN”

The “Cathedral 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.

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. The 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 Archieparchial 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.

OUR PREPARATION FOR THE BIRTH OF CHRIST

The purpose of our preparation is to create an atmosphere of expectation, hope, and anxious eagerness in the hearts of the people, for the coming of Christ in the flesh. The Church designates a time for preparation of prayer, penance, fasting, almsgiving, forgiving, and accepting forgiveness. Families are called in a special way to make ready for Christ by keeping fast days in the home, praying together, reading Scripture, and preparing for forgiveness and the Mystery of Reconciliation (Confession). If we have not yet begun to prepare spiritually, or have become lax in our preparation – it is not too late to start in earnest to prepare for the coming of Christ!



Attentive to the Word

Twenty-seventh after Pentecost

Ephesians 6: 10-17

Luke 18: 18-27

Some of us are satisfied to buy our religion on the installment plan paying for it a little at a time as we grow older. We are interested in the Christian way, but we want to wait a while before we invest too much of our living in it. We cling to our comfortable worldliness, letting it go reluctantly as the desperation of age forces us to let go. And we become satisfied with that kind of living.

THE RICH YOUNG RULER (Luke 18:25) has come in for more than his share of censure, perhaps, but he is such a typical and glittering example that we can hardly disregard him. He had a bargain religion. He kept all the Commandments — but how much did his faith cost him?

He honored his parents; they had always given him everything he asked for.

He kept the Sabbath; he didn't have to work on any day of the week.

He didn't covet. Why should he? He had everything.

He didn't kill or steal; he was socially and financially secure.

But when Jesus asked him to forget his social security and think of social service, the rich young ruler didn't want any. Jesus wouldn't cut the price even for him, so he went away sorrowing.

SOONER OR LATER, every one of us will come up against the price tag on his faith. When that happens, we are going to discover that the cost of our religion is high — higher, perhaps, than we ever dreamed. If we reap the fruits of Christ's ministry, we will have to pay the price, just as He had to pay a price! There isn't anything easy about being a Christian! There never will be!

We cannot water down our faith for weaklings. All we can do is assure them that they will receive full value for everything they put into it, the value of security and promise that is needed so much in these hectic days of dismal shopping for a faith that will hold us steady, a faith to keep us free, a peace that Jesus called the peace that passes understanding.

What shall you give for the Church of Christ?

Jesus bought it with His life.

It cost Him everything in the world.

That was the price — no bargain!

It hasn't been marked down any since that night in Gethsemane!

“Christian Herald.”

OUR HOLY FATHER NICHOLAS

St. Nicholas, Archbishop of Myra, was noted for his deeply religious life, his generosity and love of the poor, his battles against heresies, against persecutors of Christians and human injustice. He was a true shepherd of his people and a model of faith. The Liturgy calls him the teacher of moderation, a model of faith and an example of virtue who attained greatness through humility and wealth through poverty.

This beloved saint of the Eastern Churches is loved throughout the world. He has been given the title of "Wonder-Worker" because of the many miracles performed during his lifetime and after his death through his intercession.

He is a popular figure in Byzantine iconography. Many icons portray him in the center of the icon attired in episcopal robes and surrounded by miniature scenes from his life. One of these scenes depict him full length with a sword in his right hand and holding a church in his left. The sword represents his spiritual ornament according to the words of St. Paul: "You must wear the armor which God provides, so that you may be able to stand firm against the devices of the devil . . . Take up God's armor, then you will be able to stand your ground when things are at their worst ..." (Ephesians 6:11-17). The church on the other hand symbolizes his great love and zeal for the purity of faith and his defense against heresies and the enemies of his flock.

May the spirit of St. Nicholas always remain in our hearts and lives.

THE CONCEPTION OF SAINT ANN

Celebrated for many centuries under a variety of titles, the feast widely known as the Immaculate Conception is celebrated in the Eastern Church as the Feast of the Conception of Saint Ann. This feast commemorates Saint Ann's conception of Mary, the Mother of God.

The writings of the early Church tell us that Mary's parents, Joachim and Ann, prayed earnestly for a child. Joachim was of the tribe of Judah and a descendant of King David. Ann was the daughter of the priest Matthan. Ann's sister, Zoia, was the mother of Elizabeth (who became the mother of John the Baptist). Ann, however, was childless.

Ann and Joachim had lived devoutly in marriage for fifty years. They gave a third of their income to the poor and a third to the Temple. Still, they were scorned for being without offspring. With heavy hearts, they prayed that God would bless them with a child to comfort them in their old age. The Lord God answered their prayers by allowing Ann to conceive a child who would be the mother of God's own Son, Jesus Christ.

Thus, we see in this feast how marvelously God prepared for the birth of His own Son. Our Lord Jesus Christ was mystically born from the virginal womb of a woman who herself was immaculately conceived from a barren womb! Let us, therefore, cry out to the Mother of God, "Hail, O Womb of Divine Incarnation! Hail, O you through whom creation is renewed! Hail, O you through whom the Creator becomes a babe! Hail, O bride and Maiden ever-pure!" (From the *Akathist*)

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.