

Glory to Jesus Christ! Glory Forever!

Schedule of Divine Services

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

Pages for Sunday's Divine Liturgy: Tone 3 pages 135 - 137

Web Liturgy for Week of December 10, 2023 sponsored by
Rich & Patty Goda, in memory of +Sue Goda

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

SUNDAY OF THE FOREFATHERS

Saturday, December 16 **5:00 PM** +Andy Porvaznik by Drew Provaznik

Sunday, December 17 **9:00 AM** +Joan Bodnar by Sandy Hornak

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

Regular Offertory	\$2,374.00
Maintenance Fund	994.00
Holy Day	222.00
Flowers	170.00
Christmas	205.00
Candles	41.06
Loose Cash	6.00
TOTAL	\$4,012.06

*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.*

In person Attendance: *Saturday, December 2: 59; Sunday, December 3: 57*

Live Stream Viewing: *Saturday, December 2: 20 (WS); 8 (FB)
Sunday, December 3: 67 (WS); 44 (FB)*

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, Paul Cherep

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

NURSING HOMES/REHABILITATION CENTERS/ASSISTED LIVING

Elsie Urban, Eleanor Chekan, Patty Matus

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES THIS WEEK

12 Richard Perhach
13 Carol Beavers
14 Samuel Cannon
15 Patricia Evans
16 Nicholas Sowko
16 Sr. Elaine

98th Birthday

Elsie Urban will celebrate her 98th birthday on Sunday, December 17. Greetings may be sent to her at the following address:

c/o 105 Fawn Meadow Ct
Pittsburgh, PA 15238

ETERNAL MEMORY

+**Msgr. Frank Korba**, a retired priest of the Eparchy of Parma and a former assistant pastor of our Cathedral, passed from this life to the next on December 1, 2023. May he 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 priestly servant Frank in His Kingdom forever!*

+**Susan Goda** passed from this life to the next on December 5, 2023. 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 Susan in His Kingdom forever!*

PHILIP'S FAST ALMSGIVING

For our almsgiving during this Philip's Fast, we will support the Clelian School for Exceptional People, Greensburg. This is the school we sent donations to in honor of Fr. Tom Dansak's 50th anniversary. Make any checks out to St. John Cathedral and we will send them one check.

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!

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 “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.

HOLIDAY KOLBASSI

Kolbassi orders from Ss. Peter & Paul Men’s Club, Duquesne will be delivered **SATURDAY, DECEMBER 17 AND SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18 2023.**

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.



Attentive to the Word

Twenty-eighth Sunday after Pentecost

Colossians 1: 12-18

Luke 17: 12-19

Today, I would like to focus on the prayer of thanksgiving. And I take my cue from an episode recounted by the Evangelist Luke. While Jesus was on the way, ten lepers approached Him who begged him: “Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!” (17:13). We know that those who had leprosy suffered not only physically, but also from social marginalization and religious marginalization. They were marginalized. Jesus did not back off from meeting them. Sometimes, He surpassed the limitations imposed by the law and touched, embraced and healed the sick person – which was not supposed to be done. In this case, there was no contact. From a distance, Jesus invited them to present themselves to the priests (v. 14), who were designated by law to certify healings that had occurred. Jesus said nothing else. He heard their prayer, He heard their cry for mercy, and He sent them immediately to the priests.

Those ten lepers trusted, they did not remain there until they were cured, no: they trusted and they went immediately, and while they were on their way, they were cured, all ten were cured. The priests would have therefore been able to verify their healing and readmit them to normal life. But this is where the important point enters in: only one in the group, before going to the priests, returned to thank Jesus and to praise God for the grace received. Only one, the other nine continued on their way. And Jesus points out that that man was a Samaritan, a sort of “heretic” for the Jews of that time. Jesus comments: “Was no one found to return and give praise to God except this foreigner?” (17:18). This narrative is touching.

This narrative, so to speak, divides the world in two: those who do not give thanks and those who do; those who take everything as if it is owed them, and those who welcome everything as a gift, as grace. The Catechism says: “every event and need can become an offering of thanksgiving” (n. 2638). The prayer of thanksgiving always begins here: to recognize that grace precedes us. We were thought of before we learned how to think; we were loved before we learned how to love; we were desired before our hearts conceived a desire. If we view life like this, then “thank you” becomes the driving force of our day. And how often we even forget to say “thank you”.

For us Christians, thanksgiving was the name given to the most essential Sacrament there is: the Eucharist. In fact, the Greek word, means precisely this: thanksgiving, eucharist: thanksgiving. Christians, as all believers, bless God for the gift of life. To live is above all to have received. To live is above all to have received: to have received life! All of us are born because someone wanted us to have life. And this is only the first of a long series of debts that we incur by living. Debts of gratitude. During our lives, more than one person has gazed on us with pure eyes, gratuitously. Often, these people are educators, catechists, persons who

carried out their roles above and beyond what was required of them. And they provoked us to be grateful. Even friendship is a gift for which we should always be grateful.

This “thank you” that we must say continually, this thanks that Christians share with everyone, grows in meeting Jesus. The Gospels attest that when Jesus passed by, He often provoked joy and praise to God in those whom He met. The Gospel accounts are filled with prayerful people who are greatly touched by the coming of the Saviour. And we too are called to participate in this immense jubilation. The episode of the ten lepers who are healed also suggests this. Naturally, all of them were happy for having recovered their health, allowing them to end that unending forced quarantine that excluded them from the community. But among them, there was one who experienced an additional joy: in addition to being healed, he rejoices at meeting Jesus. He is not only freed from evil, but he now possesses the certainty of being loved. This is the crux: when you thank someone, give thanks, you express the certainty that you are loved. And this is a huge step: to have the certainty that you are loved. It is the discovery of love as the force that governs the world – as Dante said: the Love that “moves the sun and other stars” (Paradise, XXXIII, 145). We are no longer vagabonds wandering aimlessly here and there, no: we have a home, we dwell in Christ, and from that “dwelling” we contemplate the rest of the world which appears infinitely more beautiful to us. We are children of love, we are brothers and sisters of love. We are men and woman who thank.

Therefore, brothers and sisters, let us seek to remain always in the joy of encountering Jesus. Let us cultivate joyfulness. The devil, instead, after having deluded us – with whatever temptation – always leaves us sad and alone. If we are in Christ, there is no sin and no threat that can ever prevent us from continuing joyfully on our way, together with many other companions on the road.

Above all, let us not forget to thank: if we are bearers of gratitude, the world itself will become better, even if only a little bit, but that is enough to transmit a bit of hope. The world needs hope. And with gratitude, with this habit of saying thank you, we transmit a bit of hope. Everything is united and everything is connected, and everyone needs to do his or her part wherever we are. The path to happiness is the one Saint Paul described at the end of one of his letters: “Pray constantly, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. Do not quench the Spirit” (1 Thes 5:17-19). Do not quench the Spirit, what a beautiful project of life! Do not quench the Spirit that we have within leads us to gratitude. Thank you.

By Pope Francis

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.***



Schedule of Divine Services
for the
Feast of the Nativity

Friday, December 22

9:00 AM Royal Hours

Saturday, December 23

5:00 PM Sunday Vigil Liturgy

Sunday, December 24 – Vigil, Feast of the Nativity of Our Lord

9:00 AM Sunday Divine Liturgy

7:30 PM Compline with Carols

8:00 PM Divine Liturgy

Monday, December 25 – Feast of the Nativity of Our Lord

9:00 AM Divine Liturgy

Tuesday, December 26 – Synaxis of the Theotokos

7:00 PM Divine Liturgy

Wednesday, December 27 – Feast of the Protomartyr Stephen

9:00 AM Divine Liturgy

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.