

Christ is Born! Glory Him!

Schedule of Divine Services

Saturday, December 30 5:00 PM 40th Day Remembrance +Sr. Joesetta Kriss,
by George Serechin

Sunday, December 31 9:00 AM +Joan Bodnar by Irene Grzyb & Theresa Kisha

CIRCUMCISION OF OUR LORD – BASIL THE GREAT ARCHBISHOP

Sunday, December 31 6:00 PM +Eugene Lucas by Family

Pages for Sunday’s Divine Liturgy: Tone 6 page 152 & pages 303 - 305

Web Liturgy for Week of December 31, 2023

John, Julia, & Laura Skalyo

Sanctuary Candle is lit from December 31 – January 13

Special Intention of Susie Bodziach by Anna Marie Wargo & Paul Bodziach

FEAST OF THEOPHANY OF OUR LORD – HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION

Friday, January 5 9:00 AM Royal Hours
7:00 PM +Fr. Robert Karl by Nancy & Jenö Lecci

SUNDAY AFTER THEOPHANY

Saturday, January 6 5:00 PM +Michael Totin, Jr., by Tom & Fran Barbush

Sunday, January 7 9:00 AM +Deceased Members of the Hornak Family by
Margaret & J. Vincent Madden

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

Regular Offertory	\$5,532.25
Maintenance Fund	495.00
Holy Day	15.00
Flowers	95.00
Christmas	14,325.00
Candles	128.55
Loose Cash	177.00
TOTAL	\$20,767.80

During these challenging times we thank you for your kindness and generosity.

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, 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, Patty Matus

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES THIS WEEK

2 Joseph M. Kundrat

3 Richard Sawczak

ETERNAL MEMORY

+**Mary Pavasko** passed from this life to the next on December 26, 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 Mary in His Kingdom forever!*

In person Attendance: *Saturday, December 23: 44; Sunday, December 24: 55*

Christmas Eve: 104; Christmas Day: 51

Synaxis of the Theotokos: 19, Feast of the Protomartyr Stephen: 11

Live Stream Viewing: *Saturday, December 23: 24 (WS); 11 (FB)*

Sunday, December 24: 52 (WS); 37 (FB)

Christmas Eve: 51 (WS); 32 (FB)

Christmas Day: 43 (WS); 26 (FB)

Synaxis of the Theotokos: 16 (WS); 7 (FB)

Feast of the Protomartyr Stephen: 13 (WS); 5 (FB)

Christmas Donation: \$200 by Fred & Mary Ellen Petro; \$300 by Kathleen Zavada

Cemetery Donations: \$100 by Patricia Madden & Family in memory of +Joseph & +Elizabeth Mihalic, Sr. & +James Madden; \$1,000 by John M. Thompson in memory of the +Stephen & +Veronica Vajda family & the +Joseph & +Anna Saloga Family

Special Donation: \$80 given anonymously

Parking Lot Donation: \$100 by Joe & Peg Barron

Live Stream Donations: \$100 by Oliver & Jean Guthrie; \$25 by Michael & Mary Novak (OH); \$75 by Leonard & Felicia Simko; \$75 by John, Julia, & Laura Skalyo (NY)

THANK YOU

I would like to thank everyone for their generosity to the Parish with your Christmas offering. Thank you for the support so many have given to all of our fund-raising efforts during the year of 2023.

Also, I would like to thank all who remembered me during this Holy Season of Christ's birth with Christmas greetings and the generous gifts.

Your thoughtfulness and generosity were greatly appreciated. May God continue to bless us throughout the New Year as we journey together as a family of faith.

Fr. Andrew

PHILLIP'S FAST ALMSGIVING THANK YOU

Thank you to everyone who participated in our Philip's Fast Almsgiving. A total of \$3,000 was sent to Clelian Heights. May God bless you for your generosity!

2024 CALENDARS

Our Parish family would like to thank the **Savolskis-Wasik-Glenn Funeral Home** for their generosity in providing our calendars again this year. God bless them for their kindness and generosity!

CHICKEN PAPRIKASH DINNER

Our parish will serve a take-out only Chicken Paprikash dinner on **Saturday, January 20 from 3 – 6 PM and on Sunday, January 21 from 10 AM – 1 PM. Price is \$15.00 per dinner.** The dinner includes: Chicken Paprikash served over dumplings, cucumber salad, bread and butter. In addition we will be selling quarts of haluski, quarts of soup, our kolache, and various baked goods.

ALL SOULS SATURDAYS

The first All Souls Divine Liturgy is Saturday, February 3, 2024 at 9:00 AM. We come together to pray for our deceased loved ones. They are by no means forgotten nor a nameless mass of people, for by name we mention them, we perpetuate their memory and we pray that our loving and merciful God will be pleased to bring them into His saving presence.

PLEASE USE THE ALL SOULS ENVELOPE AND ATTEND THE DIVINE LITURGIES FOR YOUR DECEASED LOVED ONES.

"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.



Attentive to the Word

Sunday after the Nativity

Galatians 1: 11-19

Matthew 2: 13-23

"The Work of Christmas" Christmas has become such a big celebration in the Western world. We spend weeks preparing, the day comes, and the rest of life stands still (ideally, at least), as we immerse ourselves in the feast. Our desire to prolong the festivity is echoed in an elaboration of the carol, "We Wish You a Merry Christmas:" Once in a year it is not thought amiss, To visit our neighbors and sing out like this; Of friendship and love, good neighbors abound; Why can't we have Christmas the whole year around?" But then it all comes to an end, normal life resumes, and we leave Bethlehem behind. Today's Gospel reading illustrated that. After the magi left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream, telling him to "take the child and his mother and escape to Egypt." Herod felt threatened by the newborn King of the Jews, so his solution was to have all the Jewish boys in Bethlehem under age two killed. So Joseph took Mary and Jesus to Egypt, and after Herod died, an angel of the Lord appeared again to Joseph in a dream, telling him to return to Israel, and he did so, this time settling in the town of Nazareth. All these events, incidentally, had been foretold hundreds of years earlier by the prophets. So from Bethlehem, to Egypt, to Nazareth, Jesus' life was off to a busy and mobile start. Figuring in these orchestrations was St. Joseph, the foster-father of Jesus. A tradition of the Church says he was a widower with children (the "brothers" of the Lord); the Gospels tell us he was a just man, obedient to the angelic messages, and careful to protect Jesus and Mary. A "Monk of the Eastern Church" writes, "We could, with advantage, grant him a greater place in our devotion. He is the most eminent representative of what one might call the holiness of the layman, which is neither the holiness of an apostle, nor that of a bishop or priest, nor that of a monk--all of whom are so abundantly commemorated in the ecclesiastical calendar--but is [the holiness] as that of the head of a family, of the man who plies a trade and earns his daily bread. St. Joseph is the natural protector of Christian families, of workmen, of those whose food is not assured. For he fed Jesus and Mary, as formerly the patriarch Joseph, in Egypt, fed his brothers and father at the time of famine." So Joseph took Jesus and Mary to Egypt to flee the bloodthirsty tyranny of Herod. God gave the word, and Joseph acted, without hesitation. "A Monk of the Eastern Church" continues in his commentary, "The angel commands us, as he did Joseph: 'Arise, and take the young child and his mother, and flee into Egypt.' That is to say: renounce your sin and your slackness; take into your soul the Jesus you saw at Bethlehem...flee the evil and the temptations which surround you; set yourself a hidden, retired, silent life, a life of intimacy with the small child and his mother--and also with Joseph. May the life of the Holy Family...become an inspiration and model for us." There is work in the Christian life; the work of sustenance, of

commitment, of love. Howard Thurman once wrote, When the song of the angels is stilled, When the star in the sky is gone, When the kings and the princes are home, When the shepherds are back with their flock, The work of Christmas begins: To find the lost, To heal the broken, To feed the hungry, To release the prisoner, To rebuild the nations, To bring peace among brothers, To make music in the heart. Amen.

THE CIRCUMCISION OF OUR LORD AND GOD AND SAVIOUR JESUS CHRIST.

On the eighth day after His birth, the divine Child was taken to the Temple and duly circumcised according to the Jewish Law that had been observed from the time of Abraham. At this time He was given the name Jesus, the name announced to the most holy Virgin by the Archangel Gabriel (Luke 1:31).

The Baptism of the New Covenant was prefigured in the Circumcision of the Old Covenant. The Lord's Circumcision shows that He took true human flesh upon Himself, not its semblance as heretics later taught of Him. The Lord was truly circumcised, desiring thus to fulfill all the Law, which He Himself had given through our forefathers and the prophets. Fulfilling all the ordinances of the Law, He superseded them by Baptism in His Church, for, as the Apostle declares: "In Christ Jesus neither circumcision availeth any thing, nor uncircumcision, but a new creature" (Gal. 6:15). (In the Church Calendar, this Feast of the Lord has neither Forefeast nor After-feast.)

SAINT BASIL THE GREAT, ARCHBISHOP OF CAESAREA.

St Basil was born in the reign of the Emperor Constantine, in about 330. While still unbaptised, he spent fifteen years in Athens studying philosophy, rhetoric, astronomy and other contemporary secular disciplines. Among his fellow-students were Gregory the Theologian and Julian, later the apostate emperor. When already of mature years, he was in the Jordan together with his former tutor Evulios. He was Bishop of Caesarea in Cappadocia for nearly ten years, and died at the age of fifty.

A great champion of Orthodoxy, a great torch of moral purity and zeal for the Faith, a great theological mind, a great builder and pillar of the Church of God, Basil fully deserved his title "the Great". In the Office for his Feast, he is referred to as a bee of the Church of Christ, bringing honey to the faithful but stinging those in heresy. Many of the writings of this Father of the Church have survived - theological, apologetic, on asceticism and on the Canons. There is also the Liturgy that bears his name. This Liturgy is celebrated ten times in the year: on January 1st, on the Eves of Christmas and the Theophany, on every Sunday in the Great Fast with the exception of Palm Sunday, and on the Thursday and Saturday in Great Week.

St Basil departed this life peacefully on January 1st, 379, and entered into the Kingdom of Christ.

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.