

Glory to Jesus Christ! Glory Forever!

Schedule of Divine Services

Saturday, December 16 **5:00 PM** +Andy Porvaznik by Drew Provaznik
Sunday, December 17 **9:00 AM** +Joan Bodnar by Sandy Hornak

Pages for Sunday’s Divine Liturgy: Tone 4 page 141 & pages 281- 283

Web Liturgy for Week of December 17, 2023
**In Honor & Memory of the Hardworking Volunteers
of St. John Cathedral. Past & Present**

Sanctuary Candle is lit from December 17 - 30
+Andrew &Anna Borsh by Agnes Borsh

SUNDAY BEFORE CHRISTMAS – OF THE ANCESTORS

Saturday, December 23 **5:00 PM** Deceased of the Cosgrove (Robert, Maryhelen,
**Keith & Keily); Mihalchik (Michael & Helen); Suchta (Dolores) Families by Kim &
Kristie Cosgrove**
Sunday, December 24 **9:00 AM** +Joseph Raschak by Marilyn Raschak

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

Regular Offertory	\$11,157.00
Maintenance Fund	746.00
Holy Day	597.00
Flowers	51.00
Christmas	70.00
Candles	125.00
Loose Cash	85.00
TOTAL	\$12,831.00

*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.*

Live Stream: \$25 by Leonard & Felicia Simko
Special Donation: \$50 in Memory of +Sue Goda by George M. Janocsko

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 Havrilscek*, 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

17 Elsie Urban
20 Claire Hildenbrand
21 Arletta Lutka
21 Dennis & Pamela O'Hare (Anniversary)

In person Attendance: *Feast of St. Nicholas: Morning: 17; Evening: 21*
Feast of Maternity of Holy Anna: Morning: 16; Evening: 19
Saturday, December 9: 41; Sunday, December 10: 70

Live Stream Viewing:

Feast of St. Nicholas: Morning: 12 (WS); 5 (FB); Evening: 19 (WS); 8 (FB)
Feast of Maternity of Holy Anna: Morning: 6 (WS); 2 (FB) Evening: 14 (WS); 8 (FB)
Saturday, December 9: 19 (WS); 9 (FB)
Sunday, December 10: 52 (WS); 38 (FB)

ETERNAL MEMORY

+**Msgr. Peter Tay**, a retired priest of the Archeparchy passed from this life to the next on December 10, 2023 at the age of 98 and in his 69th year of the priesthood. 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!*

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 following the weekend 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.

“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.

When we reach for God, we call it religion. When God reaches for us, we call it Christmas.

I wish you Christmas, I wish for you long-reaching gladness which stretches far down the year before you, into new days, whether bleak or bright. Through all the year’s seasons, may you be surrounded by the good of the Christmas news.



Attentive to the Word

Sunday of the Forefathers

Colossians 3: 4-11

Luke 14: 16-24

Who or what is at the center of our lives? When the Lord God speaks to us, do we listen to his calling? Do we understand just how important it is to make time for the Lord, to accept His invitation for us to share a meal with Him.

The parable begins with the Master giving a banquet, great dinner to which He invited many. However, those first invited did not come, making an excuse of one sort or another: I purchased a field... I purchased five yoke of oxen...I have just married.

The individuals that the Lord was addressing in this parable of the Banquet were the Chosen People of the Old Testament. Israel was the recipient of this gracious invitation to become partakers of the Banquet prepared for us in the Kingdom of God. In the person of Jesus, the Son of God, God appeared to men in human form. Jesus shared our humanity, raising us up from the murkiness of sin and into the light of His Gospel message of Love and Truth.

And even when rejected by His own, Jesus remained and remains Lord, the King of Kings. His Kingdom is one of Love, Peace and Harmony. It is the lowly of this world, the poor, crippled, blind and lame, who anxiously accept the Lord's invitation. For they know and recognize their dependence upon God to sustain them in this life. They also recognize their need for healing of body and soul and ultimately eternal salvation.

In our Christmas carol, we sing: "Heaven and earth are united." Celebrating the Nativity of Our Lord is a time of great rejoicing. The Christ-child entered into this world in all humility, born not in a royal palace, but a humble abode, a manger. And this attitude of extreme humility was present throughout the life of Christ, up to His self-sacrificial act

of Love on the cross. Sinful mankind was redeemed by the Blood of Christ. The Cross and Resurrection is therefore at the center of our faith.

On the night before He (the Lord) was handed over or rather gave Himself up for the life of the world, He took Bread, He took wine and changed them into His Body and Blood. The Eucharist is the spiritual food and drink that sustains us. Jesus is truly present in the Sacred Mystery of the Eucharist. The Divine Liturgy is a foretaste of the Heavenly Banquet.

We get a glimpse of Heaven already here on earth. God-is-with-us. The Sacred Mystery (Sacrament) of the Eucharist brings us unity, union and communion. We, the members of the Mystical Body of Christ, the Church are united in mind and spirit. We share a common faith, understanding and spiritual perspective of the meaning and purpose of this earthly life.

In the reception of the Eucharist and prayerful meditation and adoration before the Most Blessed Sacrament, we receive “strength, consolation and support.” (Pope John Paul II) We, as an Eastern Catholic Church, have an understanding that from the time of our Baptism, we have a share in the life of the Most Blessed Trinity. We have the pledge, the promise, of eternal life, if we but walk in the footsteps of Christ, Who is the Light of the world.

Soon we shall sing: “God Eternal is born today! He came down from above. To save us with His Love. Christ, the Son of God.” May we find room in our hearts to welcome the Christ-Child, new-born King. May the spirit of Christ ever remain in our hearts as we prepare for the second and glorious coming of Our Lord, when we shall be face-to-face with Our Lord and Master in the eternal Kingdom of Heaven.

By Rev. D. George Worschak

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.