

*Christ is Baptized! In the Jordan!*Schedule of Divine Services

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

Pages for Sunday's Divine Liturgy: Tone 7 page 156 & pages 316 – 318

Web Liturgy for Week of January 7, 2024

In Memory of +Paul & Helen (Macko) Mihalco by Rebecca Mihalco

*Sanctuary Candle* is lit from December 31 – January 13

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

**SUNDAY OF ZACCHEUS**

Saturday, January 13 5:00 PM +Michael & Mary Miskovitch by Robert, John,  
 Millie & Anne  
 40<sup>th</sup> Remembrance of +Susan Goda by Tom Goda & Mary Ann  
 Sunday, January 14 9:00 AM +Michael Matus by Ernest & Mary Ann Varhola

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

Regular Offertory	\$1,641.00
Maintenance Fund	356.00
Holy Day	310.00
Christmas	1,350.00
Candles	87.15
Cemetery	25.00
Loose Cash	65.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$3,834.15</b>

**Special Donation: \$1,000 given anonymously**

*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 call the parish office if you would like your 2023 contribution statement.

## **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, 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**

- 10 Daniel & Michele May (Anniversary)
- 11 Riley Munsie
- 11 Ian Munsie
- 11 Kathleen Wincko
- 13 Evelyn Allan
- 13 Samuel Tima
- 13 Bernard E. & Janet Ducar (Anniversary)

**In person Attendance:** *Saturday, December 30: 46; Sunday, December 31: 65*  
*Circumcision of Our Lord: 26*

**Live Stream Viewing:** *Saturday, December 30: 27 (WS); 10 (FB)*  
*Sunday, December 31: 53 (WS); 31 (FB)*  
*Circumcision of Our Lord: 20 (WS); 12 (FB)*

## **Special Donations In Memory of +Sue Goda:**

**\$20** by Greg & AnnaMarie Chekan; **\$20** by Tom Goda & Mary Ann; **\$20** by Drew Porvaznik; **\$25** by Dr. Pat & Victoria Carrigan; **\$10** by George & Maria Lipchik; **\$50** by George & Maria Hric; **\$50** by George & Martina Stasko; **\$50** by Edy & Danka Stasko; **\$25** by Janice Reinhardt

**In Memory of +Paul & +Eleanor Chekan \$500** by Greg & AnnaMarie Chekan

**In Memory of +Eleanor Chekan: \$40** by Mary (Racho) Drosdack; **\$40** by Thomas, T.J. & Hope Racho; **\$20** by Rich & Patty Goda

**In Memory of +Mary Pavasko:**

**\$75** by Clay Beringer III

## **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 \$13.00 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.**

## **KOLACHE AND PASKA ORDERS**

I realize we are still in the festive time of the Nativity and Theophany, but our journey to Pascha begins next week with our Pre-Lenten Sundays. We are now taking orders for Easter kolache and paskas. Order sheets are located in the vestibules. **DEADLINE FOR EASTER ORDERS IS FEBRUARY 18, 2024.**

## **“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.

## **RUMMAGE SALE ITEMS**

We will be holding another Rummage Sale on June 1, 2024. Please put aside any items you no longer want or need for our rummage sale.

As in the past, we cannot accept TV's, computers, shoes and clothes. Small boxes may be left in the church vestibules. Please consider also helping to mark and sell the items in May/June. Thanks for your donations.

## **2023 PARISH FINANCIAL PRESENTATION**

On **Sunday, January 28, 2024**, following the 9 AM Divine Liturgy, I will give a presentation on the 2023 Parish Finances. The presentation will be held in the Cathedral Center.



# Attentive to the Word

*Sunday after Theophany*

*Ephesians 4: 7-13*

*Matthew 4: 12-17*

We have now celebrated the Winter Pascha, the birth and the baptism of Christ. Having gone through all of this, we hear in today's Gospel how Jesus began his work. It was only a short reading, but there are two very particular points I would take from it.

First, that to begin his ministry, Jesus has to depart. He withdrew into Galilee. The only explanation that we are given for this in the reading from the Gospel of Matthew that we heard is that John the Baptist, his forerunner, has been put in prison, and presumably Jesus would have been next.

So, on one level, Jesus avoids the confrontation, as we all should: not putting ourselves in situations of conflict or temptation. This is what we pray: lead us not into temptation.

It is not that Jesus is unwilling to face temptations and dangers; he has, after all, just returned from battling with the devil in the desert. But he had been led into the desert by the Spirit in order to do battle there; we should not seek out such conflicts, but we can also be sure that we will be led into struggles.

In the case of Jesus today, now is not the time for another battle. He has work to do; the time for the ultimate battle and final victory will come later.

There is another more profound level why Jesus departs: it is indicated by the fact that he moves from his hometown, Nazareth, to Capernaum, in the Galilee of the Gentiles. The point is made in the other Gospels, and it has become a standard saying, that a prophet is without honor in his own country. But this means that Jesus begins his preaching about the Kingdom after being rejected in his own country.

What does this mean for us? It is easy to think we are simply the heirs of what he began: he preached the Kingdom, called the disciples, set up the Church, and sent out the apostles, so establishing a tradition to which we are the rightful heirs, needing only to preserve the forms we know.

But to stay there would be very short-sighted of us! We need to reflect on the fact that we are the ones who have just been celebrating his birth and baptism, giving special emphasis (as we Eastern Christians like to do) to the word "today": "Today the Virgin gives birth to the transcendent one;" "Today Christ is baptized in the Jordan." Well, if all this is "today," then it is also today that Christ departs from those who were present at his birth and baptism. That is, he departs from us, to begin his ministry.

How it is that we, who claim to have been celebrating all of this, now find ourselves deprived of what we thought we had? The Gospels put us in this position continuously and in various ways. The disciples, who had been with him from the beginning, are the ones who deny him at the moment of trial; the first shall be last and the last first.

Our own self-confidence, having been present at his birth and baptism, is undermined. Christ has departed from us to begin his ministry. Yet we are not left in this position. For if Christ has to depart from us to begin his ministry, then we are in a position to be addressed by Christ, to hear what he has to say-for this is also addressed to us, today. It is the sinners that Christ has come to call, not the righteous.

This is the second point today's reading makes. Christ departs to those who sat in darkness to preach the Kingdom; it is for those who sit in the region and shadow of death that light has dawned. Only those in darkness need light. The light that is being spoken of is clearly not a physical light. It is, rather, a spiritual light, the light of the knowledge of God, and life in communion with him as made available in and through Christ.

But if this is the light being spoken of, one can be sure that those sitting in darkness did not realize that they were in darkness; they would have said that they see things perfectly clearly. It is only in the light that Christ brings that those who sit in the darkness of sin and death can realize that they are sitting in darkness. This light has only just begun to dawn on us; only having witnessed Christ's birth and Theophany do we now realize how far off we are from him.

There is a general law of the spiritual life. We do not begin with an awareness of our own situation, our own sinfulness, and then come to Christ as the answer to our problems. If we try to do that we will surely both misdiagnose the problem and create a savior in our own image. Rather, we begin with Christ, who shows us the truth both about God and about ourselves, so that we can come, as it said in the Epistle, "to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ." The particular pattern for this fullness of life is made abundantly clear in the teachings of Christ which follow on from today's reading - the Sermon on the Mount.

When Christ begins to preach, his message is simple: "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand." Repent! Not simply "be sorry," but convert, reorient your lives.

To do so requires both reflection and action: reflection, to know where it is that we should be going, and action, to begin to take steps in that direction. Most importantly, there is no time to lose, for the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand.

So, let us pray that we don't delay, but rather give heed to the proclamation of Christ addressed to us, so that we also may come to stand in the light.

*By Fr. John Behr*

## 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.