

*Christ is Baptized! In the Jordan!*

**Schedule of Divine Services**

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**

**Pages for Sunday's Divine Liturgy: Tone 8 page 161 & pages 316 – 318**

Web Liturgy for Week of January 14, 2024 sponsored by  
**John and Frances Kostrubanic**

*Sanctuary Candle* is lit from January 14 - 27

**In Memory of +Maria Heddleston by Mary Lou Bajus**

**SUNDAY OF THE PUBLICAN AND PHARISEE**

Saturday, January 20 **5:00 PM +Maria Heddleston by Mary Lou Bajus**

Sunday, January 21 **9:00 AM +Joan Bodnar by Janocsko Family**

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

Regular Offertory	\$2,953.00
Maintenance Fund	809.00
Holy Day	777.00
Christmas	775.00
Candles	73.00
Loose Cash	99.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$5,486.00</b>

*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 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**

- 14 Joyce Lesko
- 17 Kristine Janocsko
- 17 Paul Remack, Jr.
- 18 Kristy Giglione
- 19 Suzanne Fedoris

**In person Attendance:** *Theophany of Our Lord: Royal Hours: 11; Evening: 66*  
*Saturday, January 6: 20; Sunday, January 7: 63*

**Live Stream Viewing:** *Theophany of Our Lord: Royal Hours: 13 (WS); 6 (FB)*  
*Evening: 28 (WS); 12 (FB)*  
*Saturday, January 6: 37 (WS); 22 (FB)*  
*Sunday, January 7: 69 (WS); 29 (FB)*

## **Special Donations:**

**\$250 In Memory of +Mary Pavasko by Ambulatory Anesthesia Associates**

**\$100 In Memory of +Marguerite Seigler by Staci & Ron Szybowicz and Jack**

PRAYER/SPIRITUAL WORK - You must never regard any spiritual work as firmly established, and this is especially true of prayer. Always pray as if beginning, for the first time! When we do a thing for the first time, we come to it fresh and with a new-born enthusiasm. If, when starting to pray, you always approach it as though you have 'never prayed properly and now wish to do so, you will always pray with a fresh and lively, zeal. And all will go well. If you are not successful in your prayer, do not expect success in anything. It is the root of all.

-Theophanous the Recluse

## **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 of Zacchaeus*

*1 Timothy 4: 9-15*

*Luke 19: 1-10*



Today, in the Liturgy, the Gospel narrates the encounter between Jesus and Zacchaeus, chief of the publicans of the city of Jericho (Lk 19:1-10). At the centre of this account there is the verb to seek. Pay attention: to seek. Zacchaeus “was seeking to see who Jesus was” (v. 3), and Jesus, after meeting him, states: “the Son of Man has come to seek and to save what was lost” (v. 10). Let us focus a little on these two gazes that seek: the gaze of Zacchaeus who is seeking Jesus, and the gaze of Jesus who is looking for Zacchaeus.

The gaze of Zacchaeus. He is a publican, that is, one of those Jews who collected taxes on behalf of the Roman rulers, a traitor of the homeland, and took advantage of their position. Therefore, Zacchaeus was rich, hated – hated! – by all and branded a sinner. The text says “he was short in stature” (v. 3), and this perhaps also alludes to his inner baseness, to his mediocre, dishonest life, with his gaze always turned downwards. But the important thing is that he was little. And yet, Zacchaeus wants to see Jesus. Something drove him to see him. “He ran ahead”, says the Gospel, “and climbed a sycamore tree in order to see Jesus, who was about to pass that way” (v. 4). He climbed a sycamore: Zacchaeus, the man who dominated everyone, made himself ridiculous and took the path of ridicule – to see Jesus. Let us think a little of what would happen if, for instance, a minister of the economy climbed a tree to look at something: he would risk mockery. And Zacchaeus risked mockery to see Jesus, he made himself look ridiculous. Zacchaeus, despite his lowliness, feels the need to seek another way of looking, that of Christ. He does not yet know him, but he awaits someone who will free him from his condition – morally low – to bring him out of the mire in which he finds himself. This is fundamental: Zacchaeus teaches us that, in life, all is never lost. Please, all is never lost, never. We can always find space for the desire to begin again, to start over, to convert. Re-convert, re-

begin, re-start. And this is what Zacchaeus does.

In this regard, the second aspect is decisive: the gaze of Jesus. He was sent by the Father to seek those who are lost; and when he arrives in Jericho, he passes right by the tree where Zacchaeus is. The Gospel narrates that “Jesus looked up and said to him, “Zacchaeus, come down quickly, for today I must stay at your house”” (v. 5). It is a truly beautiful image, because if Jesus has to look up, it means that he is looking at Zacchaeus from below. This is the history of salvation: God has never looked down on us – no; to humiliate us – no; – to judge us - no; on the contrary, he lowered himself to the point of washing our feet, looking at us from below and restoring our dignity to us. In this way, the meeting of eyes between Zacchaeus and Jesus seems to encapsulate the whole of salvation history: humanity, with its miseries, seeks redemption, but firstly, God, with mercy, seeks the creature to save it.

Brothers, sisters, let us remember this: the gaze of God never stops at our past, full of errors, but looks with infinite confidence at what we can become. And if at times we feel we are people who are “short in stature”, not up to the challenges of life and far less of the Gospel, mired in problems and sins, Jesus always looks at us with love, he looks at us: as with Zacchaeus, he comes towards us, he calls us by name and, if we welcome him, he comes to our home. Then we might ask ourselves: how do we look at ourselves? Do we feel inadequate, and resign ourselves, or precisely there, when we feel down, do we seek the encounter with Jesus? And then: what gaze do we have towards those who have erred, and who struggle to get up again from the dust of their mistakes? Is it a gaze from above, that judges, disdains, excludes? Remember that it is legitimate to look down on someone only to help them get up again: nothing more. Only then is it legitimate to look down from above. But we Christians must have the gaze of Christ, who embraces from below, who seeks those who are lost, with compassion. This is, and must be, the gaze of the Church, always, the gaze of Christ, not the condemning gaze.

*By Pope Francis*

## 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.