

*Glory to Jesus Christ! Glory Forever!*Schedule of Divine Services

Saturday, January 27 5:00 PM +Irene & Clarence Hornak by Sandy Hornak

40th Day Remembrance of +Eleanor Chekan by Joseph & Donna Chekan

Sunday, January 28 9:00 AM +Paul Matijak

Pages for Sunday's Divine Liturgy: Tone 2 pages 130 – 132 & page 216Web Liturgy for Week of January 28, 2024 sponsored *anonymously***In Honor & Memory of the Hardworking Volunteers
of St. John Cathedral. Past & Present***Sanctuary Candle* is lit from January 28 – February 10**In Memory of +Anna Mae Harhai by Daughter, Andrea****FEAST OF THE THREE HOLY HIERARCHS**

Tuesday, January 30 9:00 AM +Nicholas Stiliha by Lynda Luk

MEETING OF OUR LORD WITH SIMEON & ANNA

Friday, February 2 9:00 AM +Joseph Raschak by Marilyn Raschak

Saturday, February 3 9:00 AM 1st All Souls Remembrance**SUNDAY OF MEAT-FARE**

Saturday, February 3 5:00 PM +Jack Karadus by Anna Marie Wargo

Sunday, February 4 9:00AM +Julia & Michael Suray by Carol Beavers &

Michael A. Suray

40th Day Remembrance of +Mary Pavasko**OUR RETURN TO THE LORD FOR ALL HE HAS GIVEN ME:**

Regular Offertory \$5,867.00

Maintenance Fund 602.00

Holy Day 20.00

BCW 14.00

Candles 44.20

TOTAL \$6,547.20

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, 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/FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES THIS WEEK

28 Jennifer Beatty
29 Christine Munsie
31 Andrew Fedoris
1 Joseph Varhola
1 Stephen Modrak

In person Attendance: *Saturday, January 20: 38; Sunday, January 21: 52*

Live Stream Viewing: *Saturday, January 20: 39; Sunday, January 21: 80 (WS)*

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.

Special Offering: \$80 given anonymously

**In Memory of +Eleanor Chekan: \$25 by Agnes Borsh; \$25 by Helen Ivanchan
\$50 by Beverly Vatrak given in Memory of +Leonard & +Irene Schwab**

Live Stream Donations:

**\$50 by Joana Dizak
\$100 by Joseph & Susan Korinchak
\$25 by Leonard & Felicia Simko**

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

ETERNAL MEMORY

+**Msgr. Russell Duker**, a retired priest of the Archeparchy, passed from this life to the next on January 22, 2024 at the age of 80 and in his 54th 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 Russell in His Kingdom forever!*

Visitation: Tuesday, January 30, 4-8 PM. Priestly Parastas: 7 PM, Cathedral
Wednesday, January 31, 2-8 PM. Priestly Parastas: 7 PM, Cathedral
Funeral: Thursday, February 1, 10 AM. Cathedral

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.

BREADED PORK CHOP DINNER

Our parish will serve a take-out only Breaded Pork Chop dinner on **Saturday, February 10 from 3 – 6 PM and on Sunday, February 11 from 10 AM – 1 PM. Price is \$13.00 per dinner.** The dinner includes: Breaded Pork chop, stuffing, vegetable, bread and butter. In addition we will be selling quarts of haluski, quarts of soup, our kolache, and various baked goods.

“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.

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.



Attentive to the Word

Sunday of the Prodigal Son

1 Corinthians 6: 12-20

Luke 15: 11-32

On this Sunday the Church tells the parable of the Father who had two sons. Like all parables, it has a symbolic meaning. Who is the Father and who are the two sons? The Father represents God the Father, the Father of all humanity. The elder son represents the Jewish people. The elder son represents the Jews, for alone of all people the Jewish people had kept the memory of God, accurately, faithfully conserving the stories of Creation, the story of the Fall of Mankind and the prophecies of the Coming of a Saviour, the Messiah. The Jews, the elder son, had remained with the Father.

On the other hand, the younger son represents the Gentiles, that is the pagan world. At the time of Christ, this meant the whole world except for the Jews. Unlike the Jews, the pagans had confused their memories of God the Creator with all sorts of false stories, myths and legends. They had confused the Creator with creation, and instead of worshipping God, they worshipped stones and rivers, the sun and the moon, kings and queens, thinking that they were gods and so making them into idols. The pagans, the younger son, had journeyed into 'a far country' and there 'wasted their substance'. In other words, they had distanced themselves from God, forgotten His Truth, so wasting their spiritual inheritance. As a result, they suffered from 'a mighty famine', in other words, from spiritual hunger, and so ate with 'swine', that is, ate with the illusions of the demons. However, they repented and turned back towards the Father, who welcomed them with open arms, running out towards them to embrace them.

This parable is in fact a warning to the Jews. We can see this vividly portrayed in the icon of the parable which is in the middle of the church. There we see the Father showing love and forgiveness towards the repentant son, who lies at His feet, begging forgiveness. The elder son, however, is angry, full of bitterness and jealousy. In hatred he

says.

Perhaps we feel some sympathy with the elder son. After all, he never wasted his substance, he did remain loyal to the Father. The problem is that the elder son's service was a form of slavery, he did not stay with the Father out of love, but out of self-interest, in expectation of a reward. This was not love freely given, but an obligation fulfilled in the hope of the payment of the hireling.

We can compare this with the attitude of the Father. He instantly forgives all that the younger son, the pagan world, has done and says: 'Let us make merry'. The attitude of the Father is not gloom, but joy. The elder son, on the other hand, is full of gloom and cannot bring himself to be joyful or express love, because he has no love for his brother. The Father says: 'All that I have is thine', and shares everything. The elder son wishes to share nothing, for he is locked up in pride and self-love. Indeed, the elder son does not want to share in all that the Father has. Yes, he wants to share in His wealth and His property, but he does not want to share in what the Father has above all else - in His merciful compassion and love.

Thus we are reminded of the words of the Apostle Paul, that though we may have all qualities, if we do not have love, then we are nothing. In this way, this parable has a meaning for us. We may have great wealth, but if we have no love, then all our wealth is worthless and our lives, like the lives of so many very wealthy people, are futile and purposeless. We may have a wonderful job, but if we do not use it to create something positive, then it only satisfies our own vanity and has no real significance. We may have a beautiful house or car, but if we use them only to flaunt our riches and feed our selfishness, then they serve no purpose. Where there is no love, there is only the emptiness of futile vanity and the gloom of selfish pride.

Therefore, let us too make merry, for Christ the King of Love makes joy even out of the most difficult problems and all we prodigals are able to return at any moment to the Father and be embraced by His love. Rejoice, God is with us!

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.