

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

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

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

Pages for Sunday's Divine Liturgy: Tone 1 page 125 - 127 & page 215

Web Liturgy for Week of January 21, 2024 sponsored by
In Memory of +Maria Heddleston by Mary Lou Bajus

Sanctuary Candle is lit from January 14 - 27
In Memory of +Maria Heddleston by Mary Lou Bajus

SUNDAY OF THE PRODIGAL SON

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

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

Regular Offertory	\$1,975.00
Maintenance Fund	387.00
Holy Day	50.00
Christmas	25.00
Candles	44.00
Loose Cash	45.00
TOTAL	\$2,526.00

Special Donation: \$75 In Memory of +Elmer & +Elizabeth Pristas by Gloria Erney**Live Stream: \$50 by Edward & Judith Kisailus (NY)**

*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, 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

- 21 John Miskovitch
- 21 Jacob Wincko
- 22 Betty Banyas
- 22 Debbie Cosgrove
- 23 Jane Savko
- 25 Mary Anne Rozanc
- 25 Josephine Zadrowski

In person Attendance: *Saturday, January 13: 37; Sunday, January 14: 43*

Live Stream Viewing: *Saturday, January 13: 34 (WS); 19 (FB)*
Sunday, January 14: 88 (WS); 66 (FB)

ETERNAL MEMORY

+**Janet Ducar** passed from this life to the next on January 12, 2024. 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 Janet in His Kingdom forever!*

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.

MANY YEARS

Our parish family extends its prayerful best wishes to **Subdeacon Kyprian Wojiechowski** who will be ordained a deacon on Sunday, January 21, 2024 at his home parish of St. Mary Church, Bradenville, PA at 3 PM. *May God grant to Deacon Kyprian peace, health and happiness for many years!*

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.

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 “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.

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 the Publican and Pharisee

2 Timothy 3: 10-15

Luke 18: 10-14

Today we enter into the period covered by the Lenten hymn-book, the Triodion. This is the first of the three Sundays that lead us up to Great Lent itself which then takes us to the Passion of Christ. And today we are given for our contemplation the parable of the Pharisee and the Publican, that is, a tax-collector, someone who collects the public tax.

It is interesting that the Gospel reading today begins where it does. We are not given the immediately preceding verse, which introduces the story: "He also told this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous and regarded others with contempt:" This verse gives the game away; it would already incline us to side with one rather than the other. Instead we are simply presented with two characters: a Pharisee, an upright, righteous member of the religious establishment; and a tax-collector, definitely a negative character, someone who takes money from his fellow countrymen to give it to the hated foreigners. We are asked to identify with one or the other of these characters.

But because of our familiarity with this Gospel reading, the parable doesn't really carry the same force. We already know that the Pharisee is somehow a sinner, and that our allegiance should be with the Publican. After all, isn't it easier to be with the Publican; not much seems to be expected of him!

If we don't think any further about it, we are in danger of making the same mistake that the Pharisee did. As soon as we hear the opening words, don't we already say: thank God I am not like him!

As a matter of fact, the problem with the Pharisee is not that he is somehow sinful, for he is not -at least not in the usual sense of the word. He has done nothing wrong: in fact he is a virtuous man, absolutely faithful to the law, steadfast in the observation of religious obligations: he frequents the temple, fasts when prescribed, and gives money to the poor.

Nor is he simply a hypocrite, outwardly righteous, but with no real faith in God. No, he explicitly attributes his own upstanding life to God and expresses his gratitude for this; he even begins his prayer by thanking God.

Yet how ugly his words sound. He really is "the righteous man who perishes in his own righteousness;" as Ecclesiastes puts it (7:15). The word which recurs most frequently in his prayer is the word "I": I have done all of this, and more. He thanks God, but really he is thinking about himself what he has done, and what he deserves. He reminds God of all the things he has done, to ensure that God recognizes his worth. In doing this, he shows that he is, in fact, satisfied with his own righteousness, content with himself with his virtues and his religiosity. He has no need, finally, of God.

He certainly has no need of the God who warns us that he prefers abstinence to

selfishness, who prefers a fast expressed as compassion for the poor and needy, who prefers the sacrifices of a broken and humble heart rather than burnt offerings. He is clearly not addressing such a God, for, in fact, all the words of the Pharisees prayer are ones that condemn others and exalt himself. His love for God is not manifest in a heart of compassion for others; rather, his form of righteousness leads him into condemnation of others.

The Publican, on the other hand, never uses the word "I"; he has nothing to offer to God, not even an excuse for why he is as he is. He doesn't even look up to heaven, but keeps his eyes on the ground - the humus - in his humility. He simply beats his breast and offers a cry of humility. There is nothing left in which he places any trust-certainly not himself.

But neither does he hold any trust in the kind of righteousness attained by the Pharisee and the whole religious establishment of which the Pharisee is a part. The Publican has no hope in anything, anything, that is, apart from God himself.

And the God he approaches is precisely the one proclaimed in the Gospel, the one who came to call sinners to repentance, not the righteous who think they have no need of him.

That God calls sinners is good news indeed, but it requires of us something much harder than acts of piety: it requires of us that we acknowledge ourselves as sinners! We must not underestimate the difficulty of this, of seeing just how much we stand in need of God. According to St Isaac of Syria, the one who knows how they truly are is greater than one who can raise the dead.

We must not fool ourselves: we all stand in need of God on his terms, not ours. God, as Paul put it, has consigned all to sin ... so that he might have mercy on all (cf. Rom. 11:32, Gal. 3:22). Our continual temptation is to think that we can pull ourselves out of our situation, improve ourselves, conform ourselves to what we think is godly, that we can even emulate the Publican (after all, we already know that we should be like him), and then be proud of our humility!

If we do any of this, we can be sure that, by our own righteousness, we will have strayed further still from God, just as did the Pharisee; all our religiosity, our ascetic strivings and acts of piety, will be for our condemnation.

At the very moment, then, that our minds turn to the approaching period of Lent, the period which is devoted to an intensifying of our religious observances-the extended periods of prayer and fasting, the greater acts of charity expected of us-at this very moment we are given as a warning this image of the Pharisee.

We are given in addition the example of the Publican, who has given up on everything else, who places all his trust in God. Of such despair, St. Isaac also says, there is nothing more powerful. If, by humility, we acknowledge that we are but earth in the hands of God, and finally let God be in control, to create us as he wishes - what could be more powerful than that?

Let us pray that all our efforts in the coming season be tempered by the quality of humility that we see in the Publican, so that God may be truly glorified in his works.

By Fr. John Behr

The week following the Publican and Pharisee is free from fasting and abstinence.

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.