

Glory to Jesus Christ! Glory Forever!

Schedule of Divine Services

Saturday, February 24 **5:00 PM** +Anna Bovee & +Carole Collins by Family

Sunday, February 25 **9:00 AM** +Margaret Kostovny by Dolores Zoretich

Pages for Sunday’s Divine Liturgy: Tone 6 pages 152 - 153 & pages 222 - 223

Web Liturgy for Week of February 25, 2024 sponsored by
Debbie & Justine Cosgrove in memory of +Keith Cosgrove

Sanctuary Candle is lit from February 25 – March 10

In memory of +Julia & +Michael Suray by Carol Beavers & Michael A. Suray

Wednesday, February 28 7:00 PM Liturgy of the Pre-sanctified Gifts

**Friday, March 1 7:00 PM Liturgy of the Pre-sanctified Gifts with
*Third All Souls Remembrance***

3rd SUNDAY OF THE GREAT FAST – VENERATION OF THE CROSS

Saturday, March 2 **5:00 PM** +Leonard Stagon by Carolyn Speicher

Sunday, March 3 **9:00 AM** +John Richard Drobne & +Stephen Joseph Pavlo
by Mary Louise (Drobne) Pavlo & Family

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

Regular Offertory	\$3,475.00
Maintenance Fund	552.00
Holy Day	30.00
BCW	64.00
Loose Cash	40.00
Candles	63.00
TOTAL	\$4,224.00

*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.*

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

FEBRUARY/MARCH BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES THIS WEEK

- 26 Gregory Chekan
- 26 Steven Kovatch
- 26 David Wincko
- 27 William & Georgiana Sabo (Anniversary)
- 2 Gloria Erney

In person Attendance: *Saturday, February 17: 55; Sunday, February 18: 80*
Friday, February 16 Presanctified: **20**
Wednesday, February 21 Presanctified: **35**

Live Stream Viewing: *Saturday, February 17: 39; Sunday, February 18: 63*
Friday, February 16 Presanctified: **34**
Wednesday, February 21 Presanctified: **31**

GREAT FAST VESPERS

The parishes of the Pittsburgh Protopresbyteral District will celebrate the Great Fast Vespers on the Sundays of the Great Fast this year at the following Churches:

February 25	Holy Ghost Church, McKees Rocks	Homilist, Fr. Vasyl Polyak
March 3	Ss. Peter & Paul Church, Braddock	Homilist, Fr. Michael Kunitz
March 10	St. John Chrysostom Church, Pittsburgh	Homilist, Fr. David Abernethy
March 17	St. John the Baptist Church, Lyndora	Homilist, Fr. Frank Firko

You will have the opportunity to celebrate the Mystery of Reconciliation (Confessions) from 3:30 to 4:00 p.m. and the Vespers at 4:00 p.m. After the Vespers we will gather in the Social Hall of the church for a Lenten Soup, Bread and Beverage.

CHOCOLATE BYZANTINE CROSSES

Our Parish is selling Sarris' chocolate Byzantine Cross for Pascha. They will be available on Palm Sunday weekend. Orders need to be prepaid and envelopes are available in the vestibules of the church. **Deadline to order is March 3, 2024.**

EASTER KOLBASI SALE

Saints Peter & Paul, Duquesne parish Men's Club is once again selling kolbasi. Cost is **\$7/lb.** Sign-up sheets are at the entrances. **Please order by March 10, 2024.** DELIVERY IS PALM SUNDAY WEEKEND March 23 & 24, 2024. Thank you.

PUSSYWILLOWS NEEDED

Since Pascha is early this year, keep your eyes open for the budding of the pussywillows. With the way our weather has been, budding can happen earlier than expected. Please cut them when they bud (before they turn yellow), and bring them to church. We will store them here until Palm Sunday. **Do not put them in water.**

"CATHEDRAL KITCHEN"

The "Kathedral Kitchen" has been restocked. We have quarts of *Halushki & Chili, Wedding, Beef Vegetable, Beef Onion, Chicken Noodle, Chicken Gnocchi, Pasta Fagioli, Stuffed Cabbage, Mushroom, Potato/Green Bean, Tomato Basil, Vegetarian Vegetable, Spinach Orzo, and Vegan Onion soups* for \$7. If you would like to buy any please see Patty Bovee, Diane Pochron or Fr. Andrew. ***Bold denotes meatless.***

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.

GIFT CARDS AND LOTTERY TICKETS

If anyone is able to donate gift cards or lottery tickets for our raffle tree at the Spring Craft Show, please put them in an envelope in the collection basket and mark it "Lottery Tree." Thank you in advance for any help you may be able to give.



Attentive to the Word

Second Sunday of the Great Fast

Hebrews 1:10 - 2:3

Mark 2: 1-12

Pope Benedict XVI in his 2012 Lenten message called on the faithful to care for others. We are to be concerned about one another and not to remain in ‘isolated’ or ‘indifferent’ to the needs of other people. Concern for others, he said, means wanting what is good physically, morally and spiritually for one’s neighbor, and this, in a contemporary culture that ‘seems to have lost the sense of good and evil.’

Wanting that which was good physically, morally and spiritually for one’s neighbor, was what prompted the men in the Bible to help their paralytic friend – his needs moved them to action. So determined are they that they carry him up a roof, dig a hole in it, and lower him down on a stretcher.

As we make our way through this Lenten season, we are called upon to have faith and like the men in the Gospel, to see the plight of other, to carry our neighbors in need. And we carry them to Jesus, the Great Physician, the One who can heal and attend to every need. We don’t just do this in a physical sense, through acts of charity and love, but also spiritually, through our prayers and forgiveness.

Lent calls upon on us to dedicate ourselves anew to Christ. It is a season of reflection and stock-taking, for deep soul-searching and repentance, and for living out the commandment: ‘Love thy neighbor as thy self’ (Mark 12:31); to have a heart of compassion, not a heart of stone.

So many Christians sadly walk around with hearts of stone. Oblivious to the needs and wants of others. Uncaring and unsympathetic. Self-righteous. Perhaps a bit like the Scribes present in the Gospel. Watching Jesus’ every word and every movement. Criticising. Others are mercifully less so. But all of us need our hearts broken from time-to-time. And Lent is such a time.

A time of fasting and prayer, a time of self-denial and confession, a time of whole hearted devotion to the Saviour of our souls, and a time to help others too, to make their way to the Cross.

Our forebears used to keep a really strict Lent. They would fast and pray throughout. No meat or meat products were to be eaten for the 40 days of Lent. And strictly no alcohol. This applied not just to clerics, but to all laypeople. These days, we are called to abstain from meat on Wednesdays and Fridays and strict fast on the first day of Lent and Great and Holy Friday.

During our life's journey and especially during the Lenten Season, we need to see the importance of recognizing the physical and spiritual needs of others. But often in order to do so, for our eyes to be opened, lifted off our selfish selves, we need to break with sin. And we can do so by offering sacrifices to Christ during Lent.

Sacrifices? Yes. Fr Michael Geisler, explains: "Self-denial helps a person overcome both psychological and physical weakness, gives him energy, helps him grow in virtue and ultimately leads to salvation. It conquers the insidious demons of softness, pessimism and lukewarm faith that dominate the lives of so many today" (Crisis magazine July/August 2005). Saint Paul says: "I preach that they should do penance and turn to God, doing works worthy of penance." (Acts 26:20).

As we continue our Lenten journey, may we perform 'works worthy of penance.' That we would determine to see the need in ourselves, and the needs of others. That we would stop at nothing to get ourselves right with God, and help others get right with Him too. To grow in holiness, as we live for Jesus. And in all that we do, and all that we say, give glory to God our Father through Jesus His Son.

Allow me to conclude with a quote by St John Chrysostom:

"Do you fast? Give me proof of it by your works. If you see a poor man, take pity on him. If you see a friend being honored, do not envy him. Do not let only your mouth fast, but also the eye and the ear and the feet and the hands and all the members of our bodies. Let the hands fast, by being free of avarice. Let the feet fast, by ceasing to run after sin. Let the eyes fast, by disciplining them not to glare at that which is sinful. Let the ear fast, by not listening to evil talk and gossip. Let the mouth fast from foul words and unjust criticism. For what good is it if we abstain from birds and fishes, but bite and devour our brothers? May He who came to the world to save sinners, strengthen us to complete the fast with humility! Have mercy on us and save 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.