

*Glory to Jesus Christ! Glory Forever!*

**Schedule of Divine Services**

Saturday, February 10    **5:00 PM +Robert Wargo by Anna Marie Wargo & Family**  
 Sunday, February 11    **9:00 AM +Debbie Pangratz by Paul & Doris Pangratz**  
    **4:00 PM FORGIVENESS VESPERS**

**Pages for Sunday's Divine Liturgy: Tone 4 pages 141 - 142 & pages 218 - 219**

Web Liturgy for Week of February 11, 2024 sponsored by  
**Paul & Doris Pangratz**

*Sanctuary Candle* is lit from February 11 - 24

**In memory of +Elaine Geraci & +Florence Kolesar by Jean Repine**

**First Day of the Great Lenten Fast – A day of Strict Fast**

**Monday, February 12            7:00 PM            Liturgy of the Pre-sanctified Gifts**

**Wednesday, February 14    7:00 PM            Liturgy of the Pre-sanctified Gifts**

**Friday, February 16            7:00 PM            Liturgy of the Pre-sanctified Gifts**

**1<sup>st</sup> SUNDAY OF THE GREAT FAST**

Saturday, February 17    **5:00 PM +Judy Kovatch by Linda Stofko & Kovatch Family**

Sunday, February 18    **9:00 AM +Joan Bodnar by Bill & Kathy McLaughlin**

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

Regular Offertory	\$2,971.00
Maintenance Fund	715.00
Holy Day	242.00
BCW	210.00
Loose Cash	60.00
Candles	401.04
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$4,599.04</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, 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

## **FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES THIS WEEK**

- 11 Ian Munsie
- 11 Riley Munsie
- 11 Kathleen Wincko
- 13 Evelyn Allan
- 13 Samuel Tima
- 14 Joyce Lesko
- 17 Kristine Janocsko
- 17 Paul Remack, Jr

**In person Attendance:** *Three Holy Hierarchs: 14*  
*Meeting of Our Lord with Simeon & Anna: 13*  
*1<sup>st</sup> All Souls Remembrance: 30*  
*Saturday, March 3: 43; Sunday, March 4: 64*

**Live Stream Viewing:** *Three Holy Hierarchs: 15*  
*Meeting of Our Lord with Simeon & Anna: 11*  
*1<sup>st</sup> All Souls Remembrance: 13*  
*Saturday, March 3: 23; Sunday, March 4: 57*

**Live Stream:** \$25 by Leonard & Felicia Simko

## **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.

## GREAT FAST VESPERS

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

<b>February 11</b>	<b>St. John the Baptist Cathedral</b>	<b>Forgiveness Vespers</b>
February 18	Holy Spirit Church, Oakland	Homilist, Fr. Andrew Deskevich
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.

## “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*, *Tomato Basil*, *Vegetarian Vegetable* and *Wedding soups* for \$7. If you would like to buy any please see Patty Bovee, Diane Pochron or Fr. Andrew.

## SARRIS CANDY ORDER FORMS

Order forms for Sarris Candy are located in the vestibules of the church. If you would like to order candy for Easter, please return by **February 25, 2024**.

## 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.**

## 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.

## 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.**

## 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.



# Attentive to the Word

*Cheesefare Sunday*

*Romans 13:11 - 14:4*

*Matthew 6: 14-21*

In the Eastern Christian Church, the last Sunday before Great Lent – the day on which, at Vespers, Lent is liturgically announced and inaugurated – is called Forgiveness Sunday. On the morning of that Sunday, at the Divine Liturgy, we hear the words of Christ:

"If you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you, but if you forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses..." (Mark 6:14-15)

Then after Vespers – after hearing the announcement of Lent in the Great Prokeimenon: "Turn not away Thy face from Thy child for I am afflicted! Hear me speedily! Draw near unto my soul and deliver it!", after making our entrance into Lenten worship, with its special memories, with the prayer of St. Ephraim the Syrian, with its prostrations – we ask forgiveness from each other, we perform the rite of forgiveness and reconciliation. And as we approach each other with words of reconciliation, the choir intones the Paschal hymns, filling the church with the anticipation of Paschal joy.

What is the meaning of this rite? Why is it that the Church wants us to begin Lenten season with forgiveness and reconciliation? These questions are in order because for too many people Lent means primarily, and almost exclusively, a change of diet, the compliance with ecclesiastical regulations concerning fasting. They understand fasting as an end in itself, as a "good deed" required by God and carrying in itself its merit and its reward. But, the Church spares no effort in revealing to us that fasting is but a means, one among many, towards a higher goal: the spiritual renewal of man, his return to God, true repentance and, therefore, true reconciliation. The Church spares no effort in warning us against a hypocritical and pharisaic fasting, against the reduction of religion to mere external obligations. As a Lenten hymn says:

"In vain do you rejoice in no eating, O soul! For you abstain from food, but from passions you are not purified. If you persevere in sin, you will perform a useless fast."

Now, forgiveness stands at the very center of Christian faith and of Christian life because Christianity itself is, above all, the religion of forgiveness. God forgives us, and His forgiveness is in Christ, His Son, Whom He sends to us, so that by sharing in His

humanity we may share in His love and be truly reconciled with God. Indeed, Christianity has no other content but love. And it is primarily the renewal of that love, a return to it, a growth in it, that we seek in Great Lent, in fasting and prayer, in the entire spirit and the entire effort of that season. Thus, truly forgiveness is both the beginning of, and the proper condition for the Lenten season.

One may ask, however: Why should I perform this rite when I have no "enemies"? Why should I ask forgiveness from people who have done nothing to me, and whom I hardly know? To ask these questions, is to misunderstand the Orthodox teaching concerning forgiveness. It is true, that open enmity, personal hatred, real animosity may be absent from our life, though if we experience them, it may be easier for us to repent, for these feelings openly contradict Divine commandments. But, the Church reveals to us that there are much subtler ways of offending Divine Love. These are indifference, selfishness, lack of interest in other people, of any real concern for them -- in short, that wall which we usually erect around ourselves, thinking that by being "polite" and "friendly" we fulfill God's commandments. The rite of forgiveness is so important precisely because it makes us realize -- be it only for one minute -- that our entire relationship to other men is wrong, makes us experience that encounter of one child of God with another, of one person created by God with another, makes us feel that mutual "recognition" which is so terribly lacking in our cold and dehumanized world.

On that unique evening, listening to the joyful Paschal hymns we are called to make a spiritual discovery: to taste of another mode of life and relationship with people, of life whose essence is love. We can discover that always and everywhere Christ, the Divine Love Himself, stands in the midst of us, transforming our mutual alienation into brotherhood. As I advance towards the other, as the other comes to me -- we begin to realize that it is Christ Who brings us together by His love for both of us.

And because we make this discovery -- and because this discovery is that of the Kingdom of God itself: the Kingdom of Peace and Love, of reconciliation with God and, in Him, with all that exists -- we hear the hymns of that Feast, which once a year, "opens to us the doors of Paradise." We know why we shall fast and pray, what we shall seek during the long Lenten pilgrimage. Forgiveness Sunday: the day on which we acquire the power to make our fasting -- true fasting; our effort -- true effort; our reconciliation with God -- true reconciliation.

*By Protopresbyter Alexander Schmemmann*



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## **REGULATIONS FOR THE SEASON OF THE GREAT FAST - 2024**

**The fasts of the liturgical year are to be kept in accordance with the Norms of Particular Law of the Byzantine Metropolitan Church *sui iuris* of Pittsburgh.**

### **simple abstinence**

- The law of simple abstinence forbids the use of meat, but permits the use of eggs and dairy products.
- All faithful of the Archeparchy who receive the Eucharist are obliged to observe simple abstinence when prescribed. Abstinence is obligatory on all Wednesdays and Fridays of the Great Fast.

### **strict abstinence**

- The law of strict abstinence (fast) forbids the use and consumption of all meat, eggs and dairy products.
- All faithful of the Archeparchy who receive the Eucharist are obliged to observe strict abstinence when prescribed.
- **Strict abstinence (fast) is to be observed in 2024 on Pure Monday, February 12 (the first day of the Great Fast), and on Great and Holy Friday, March 29.**

### **dispensations**

- Priests and parents are to ensure that minors are educated in the authentic sense of penance.
- Pastors and administrators, with just cause and taking into account acceptable reasons due to personal circumstances, may grant to the individual faithful as well as to individual families, dispensations, transferals, or commutations of abstinence and strict fast into other pious practices. Superiors of religious houses or clerical institutions enjoy these same faculties relative to their constituents.

### **liturgical services**

- The Divine Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts takes precedence over all other Lenten Devotions.
- The Divine Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts only is to be celebrated on Wednesdays and/or Friday evenings of the Great Fast and also on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday of Holy Week.