

*Glory to Jesus Christ! Glory Forever!*

**Schedule of Divine Services**

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

**Pages for Sunday’s Divine Liturgy: Tone 7 pages 156 - 157 & pages 223 - 225**

Web Liturgy for Week of March 3, 2024 sponsored for the  
**Health of the Michael and Melinda Lucas Family**

*Sanctuary Candle* is lit from February 25 – March 10

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

<b>Wednesday, March 6</b>	<b>7:00 PM</b>	<b>Liturgy of the Pre-sanctified Gifts</b>
<b>Friday, March 8</b>	<b>7:00 PM</b>	<b>Liturgy of the Pre-sanctified Gifts with Fourth All-Souls’ Remembrance</b>

**4<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY OF THE GREAT FAST – ST. JOHN CLIMACUS**

Saturday, March 9	5:00 PM	+John Rusnak by Audrey Hinkle
Sunday, March 10	9:00 AM	+Margaret Tima by Paul & Helen Olsakovsky

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

Regular Offertory	\$2,706.00
Maintenance Fund	509.00
Easter Flowers	50.00
Easter	25.00
BCW	42.00
Loose Cash	62.00
Candles	82.25
<b>TOTAL</b>	<u><b>\$3,476.25</b></u>

**Special Offerings: \$1,000 in memory of +Michael & +Patricia Matus by Giglione Family; \$400 given anonymously; \$100 given anonymously; \$80 given anonymously; \$75 in memory of +Patricia Matus by George Janocsko**

## **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

## **MARCH BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES THIS WEEK**

- 4 Mark & Kimberly Simko (Anniversary)
- 5 Mary Ellen Totin
- 6 Darrin Ducar
- 6 Peter Giglione
- 7 Addison Giglione
- 8 Elaine Cannon

**In person Attendance:** *Saturday, February 24: 52; Sunday, February 25: 64*  
Friday, February 23 Presanctified: **25**  
Wednesday, February 28 Presanctified: **41**

**Live Stream Viewing:** *Saturday, February 24: 26; Sunday, February 25: 51*  
Friday, February 23 Presanctified: **33**  
Wednesday, February 28 Presanctified: **29**

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

## **GREAT FAST VESPERS**

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

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

## ETERNAL MEMORY

+**Helen Fialkovich** passed from this life to the next on February 23, 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 Helen in His Kingdom forever!*

## PET THERAPY

The family of Arletta Lutka has asked if anyone with a dog would be willing to visit Arletta with their dog. Her present situation doesn't allow her to have her own dog. If you are willing to visit with your dog, please contact Fr. Andrew for specifics.

## 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.

## "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, Stuffed Pepper, Mushroom, Potato/Green Bean, Tomato Basil, Vegetarian Vegetable, Spinach Orzo, and Vegan Onion soups* for \$7; *Seafood Creole* for \$13/quart. 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

*Third Sunday of the Great Fast- Cross Veneration Sunday*

*Hebrews 4:14 - 5:6*

*Mark 8:34 - 9:1*

Never having witnessed a crucifixion, it is impossible for us to fully understand the horror; the very thought of the cross must have elicited among Christ's followers. His disciples and all the people who heard him teach knew from experience what death by crucifixion meant. They must have certainly been taken aback when Our Lord told them that he would be betrayed, scourged, mocked and nailed, hands and feet, to the wood of a cross. No death was more agonizing or more shameful. The Apostles did not even want to think about it.

St. Luke's version of this Gospel lesson tells us that Christ made his followers think about the cross. He not only revealed to them that he would face death by crucifixion but also cast the shadow of his cross in the direction of anyone who wished to be his disciple. Interestingly, St. Luke tells us that Christ's words are addressed not only to the twelve Apostles but to all: "Whoever wishes to be my follower must deny his very self, take up his cross each day, and follow in my steps" (Luke 9:23).

Christ does not say that some of his followers will have to face the cross in their lives. He teaches that all who wish to follow him must embrace his cross. There will be no exceptions. There are many levels of meaning that may be discovered in this straightforward and stark teaching of Christ. I shall focus in on three of these levels: 1.) Martyrdom as union with the Crucified Christ; 2.) Our personal problems as a participation in Christ's death; 3.) Mortification as an indispensable experience of Our Lord's passion in our lives. Although bloody martyrdom is an honor reserved for only a few, participating in Christ's death and resurrection is part and parcel of every Christian's life.

Vatican II's Dogmatic Constitution on the Church (#42) reminds all Catholics that martyrdom is a special gift of the Holy Spirit that most perfectly conforms the believer to his Divine Lord. The Council Fathers taught that every Catholic must be ready and willing to give up everything, even life itself, rather than deny Christ and the Catholic Faith.

Although every Christian will not be asked to shed his blood for Christ in martyrdom, each will be asked to bear a cross or a number of crosses in the course of a lifetime. There are as many crosses as there are Christians. Each person's cross is unique and, in a mysterious way, suited to his spiritual needs. The cross may take the form of physical or emotional illness, the loss of a loved one, a family problem, poverty, the feeling of estrangement from God, spiritual desolation, the lack of recognition, the inability to use one's talents in a satisfying way, loneliness or any personal tragedy.

The cross is the very thing that we do not want; the problem that seems unbearable. If you are now struggling with some personal problem that touches you at the very core of your being you should, of course, try every means of solving that problem. Christians don't necessarily have

to go looking for the cross. On the spiritual level, though, you should try to realize that your problem is permitted by God and he may be using it as the very thing that will bring you closer to him and perhaps save your soul from hell.

The Christian who receives a participation in the cross of Christ must open himself to deep communion with God. Without the frequent reception of the Sacraments of Penance and the Holy Eucharist, daily prayer, meditation on the sufferings of Christ and deep devotion to Our Lady, the person who experiences profound human sorrow may be damaged in his profession of faith. If his suffering does not lead him to deeper union with Our Lord, it will lead him to bitterness and, perhaps, even to hell.

However, the inner struggle each Christian experiences in his daily attempts to obey the commandments and to be faithful to the many duties of his state in life is the principal way that he shares in the passion and death of Christ.

Scripture teaches us that the Christian life is a battle - a daily combat that must be waged by every believer against the temptations of Satan, the deceptive 'values' of the world and, above all, the sinful tendencies of our fallen human nature. St. Paul emphatically taught his converts that without painful self-mastery there can be no real following of Christ. He compared the Christian's daily efforts to control his sinful desires to athletic training (1 Cor. 9:25-27).

In order to stay in the fight and to be victorious in the end, the Christian must train his body and his will to be faithful. There is no denying the fact that a certain amount of violence must be done to human nature if it is to be raised to a supernatural life. The Saints all recommend the practice of a free act of self-mastery everyday-an act that is not directly related to the fight with sin. In short, they teach that it is worthwhile and helpful to give something up or to do some distasteful thing in the effort to train the will to do good and resist evil. This denial of things that in themselves are good and permissible is known as voluntary mortification.

The daily mortification should be simple, hidden from the view of others and not harmful to our health. A person must decide upon the particular form of penance he wants to practice. He should pray about it, seek advice from his confessor, use prudence and then act. He should be practical and fight to stay faithful to the resolution.

You may decide to deny yourself something at every meal - salt on the eggs, butter on the roll, sugar in the coffee, dessert. Perhaps you will choose to leave your mail unopened for a few days after it arrives, etc. If we practice voluntary mortification we will grow strong in the battle against temptation and we will be prepared to bear the heavy crosses that may come into our lives. In turn, learning to suffer with Christ through the problems of life, we will be prepared to give up everything for him. We will be ready for bloody martyrdom. The cross has only one purpose in the Christian life - it makes us like Christ!

Let's think often of Our Lord's haunting words to all of his true disciples and place his saving cross at the center of our lives: "Whoever wishes to be my follower must deny his very self, take up his cross each day, and follow in my steps."



**MARCH 10<sup>TH</sup> - DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME BEGINS!  
TURN YOUR CLOCKS AHEAD ONE HOUR!**

## 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.