

Glory to Jesus Christ! Glory Forever!

Schedule of Divine Services

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

Pages for Sunday's Divine Liturgy: Tone 8 page 158 & pages 226 - 227

Web Liturgy for Week of March 10, 2024 sponsored by
Edward & Judith Kisailus

Sanctuary Candle is lit from March 10 – March 23
In memory of +Richard Fialkovich by +Helen Fialkovich

Wednesday, March 13 7:00 PM Liturgy of the Pre-sanctified Gifts
Friday, March 15 7:00 PM Liturgy of the Pre-sanctified Gifts

5th SUNDAY OF THE GREAT FAST – MARY OF EGYPT

Saturday, March 16 5:00 PM +Joseph Rusnak by Audrey Hinkle
 Sunday, March 17 9:00 AM +Joan Bodnar by Arlene Saulsbury

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

Regular Offertory	\$7,140.00
Maintenance Fund	893.00
Holy Day	150.00
Easter Flowers	190.00
Easter	180.00
BCW	20.00
Loose Cash	5.00
Candles	141.00
TOTAL	\$8,719.00

Live Stream: \$100 by Michael Lucas: \$200 given anonymously
Special Donation: \$75 in memory of +Helen Fialkovich by George Janocsko;
\$100 in memory of +Leonard Stagon by Family

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

- 10 Magdalene Semego
- 12 David Banks
- 13 Amy Myers.
- 15 Carol Lawson

In person Attendance: *Saturday, March 2: 56; Sunday, March 3: 52*
Friday, March 1 Presanctified: **30**
Wednesday, March 6 Presanctified: **37**

Live Stream Viewing: *Saturday, March 2: 26; Sunday, March 3: 66*
Friday, March 1 Presanctified: **34**

ETERNAL MEMORY

On March 2, 2024 **+Sr. Agnes Herbenick**, of the Sisters of St. Basil the Great, Uniontown, passed from this life to the next during her 66th year of religious life. Sr. Agnes taught at the Cathedral school. 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 +Sr. Agnes in His Kingdom forever!*

On February 20, 2024, **Henry Dansak**, brother of Fr. Thomas Dansak, passed from this life to the next. 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 servant Henry in His Kingdom forever!*

MYSTERY OF DIVINE FORGIVENESS AND RECONCILIATION

This Lenten season gives us the opportunity to look into ourselves to make a complete change of heart and repent of our sins. Let us make every effort to prepare ourselves to celebrate the Resurrection of Christ by coming before Him and asking forgiveness of our sins. ***Confessions will be held on Saturday, March 16 & Sunday, March 17 following the Divine Liturgy.*** Fr. Andrew is available every Saturday from 4 – 4:30 pm and before every Pre-sanctified Liturgy.



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.

KOLACHE AND PASKAS PICK-UP

Your orders for kolache and paskas may be picked up on **Friday, March 15 from 2–5 PM** or following the Divine Liturgies on **Saturday, March 16 & Sunday March 17.**

BUTTER LAMBS AND BEETS & HORSERADISH

We will have butter lambs and jars of beets & horseradish for purchase when you pick up your kolache and paska orders, first come, first served.

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 “Cathedral 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

Fourth Sunday of the Great Fast - St. John Climacus

Hebrews 6: 13-20

Mark 9: 17-31

This Gospel Lesson of the 4th Sunday of Great Lent raises the very important yet very troubling issue of what happens when we as Christians fail when trying to do what Christ taught or commanded?

The disciples in the Gospel lesson could not heal the epileptic boy. It is the boy's father who brings his son to Christ, not the disciples. They are not eager to confess their failure to Christ or before the crowd.

Jesus' reaction to his disciples (he is not speaking to the crowd) is very strongly disapproving: "O faithless generation, how long am I to be with you? How long am I to bear with you? Bring him to me."

Lent is a sojourn. Last Sunday we visited the place of the Cross of Christ which was to strengthen us on our way. This Sunday we have to deal with the eventuality that we will confront situations where our best efforts at being disciples and Christians will not be good enough and we will fail. This is a difficult message especially in an American culture which measures everything by success – the prosperity Gospel. It is possible that at times we Christians will try but will fail to do things that Christ commanded us to do. How will we react? How should we react?

In the Gospel lesson the father of the boy confesses his unbelief – and Christ heals his son. The man confesses his failure, he doesn't try to hide it, or to blame the disciples for his lack of faith. He makes his confession, and despite admitting to his failure, Christ heals the boy.

The disciples are puzzled by all of this. "Why could we not cast it out?" They ask this question privately. Are they afraid what Christ might say to them? Are they embarrassed and don't want the crowd to hear about their failures?

It seems as if they are saying, "OK, we understand this man lacked faith, but what about all of us? Why couldn't we heal the boy for we are following you!?"

It will happen to each of us at some point that we will try but will fail to do Christ's will. Will our concern be what the crowd thinks about us, or will we be concerned about the person to whom we failed to successfully minister?

We can look at ourselves during Lent: Christ promises to heal our sins. All we have to do is confess them: But how reluctant we are to confess our sins. This is simply opening our lives to Christ and being honest about who we are and what we have done. And yet so many are reluctant to confess and avoid confession and avoid acknowledging their sins. We fail on such a task and then wonder why we can't do even greater works than these. Why

can't we do the greater works Christ told us to do? It will be very hard if we don't do the first thing He told us to do – repent!

It is in the midst of their failure, that Christ told the Twelve about his impending crucifixion. Despite their failures, despite our failures, God's plan for salvation continues on. Christ goes to the cross and defeats death and accomplishes the salvation of the world. Sometimes God is unfolding bigger things in the plan of salvation while we are too focused on our small defeats and failures.

So what happens when we fail to accomplish what Christ wills us to do? Salvation, God's plan and will, go on. We like the disbelieving father, must confess our sins, and embrace the discipline of being followers of Christ as we continue our own sojourn toward the Kingdom of God.

SAINT JOHN CLIMACUS

Saint John Climacus was a monk of the Monastery of the Holy Transfiguration on the God-trodden Mountain of Sinai where he died in the year 605. For forty years he lived in the mountains near the monastery, renouncing the distractions of the world to center his life on God. At the age of fifty-six he became the head of the monastery and wrote the famous book entitled "The Ladder of Divine Ascent." In this book, Saint John recorded his teachings and observations concerning the ascetic life as a series of thirty steps. He explained all the levels of Christian growth from a sinful start to the height of spiritual perfection, Christian love, as a ladder ascending to Heaven.

Saint John Climacus is often also referred to as Saint John of the Ladder. His regular feast day falls on 30 March. His commemoration during Great Lent was added to the calendar of the Church because his book was read in the monasteries during the Lenten period to encourage monks and nuns in their ascetic practices. We honor Saint John on the fourth Sunday of Great Lent for encouragement in our acts of prayer, fasting and almsgiving as we too climb the ladder of divine ascent. We must also, constantly progress upwards in our quest as Christians to reflect God's love in our lives. We must always take the love that God bestows upon us as His children and share it with our brothers and sisters. Let us ascend that ladder of divine ascent, proposed by Saint John Climacus and ascend it eagerly.

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:

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.

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.