

*Christ is Risen! Indeed He is Risen!***Schedule of Divine Services**Saturday, April 13 **5:00 PM +Ronald Smoley by Anna Marie Wargo & Family**Sunday, April 14 **9:00 AM +Andy Harhai by Daughter, Andrea****Pages for Sunday's Divine Liturgy: 177 - 180**Web Liturgy for Week of April 14, 2024 sponsored by
Richard & Theresa Peterman*Sanctuary Candle* is lit from April 7 – 20
In memory of +Anna M. Borsh by Agnes Borsh**SUNDAY OF THE PARALYTIC MAN**Saturday, April 20 **5:00 PM +Fr. Dennis Bogda, by Bill & Georgiana Sabol**Sunday, April 21 **9:00 AM +Jeff Lucas, by Bob Shrum & Teresa Sekel****OUR RETURN TO THE LORD FOR ALL HE HAS GIVEN ME:**

Regular Offertory	\$3,050.00
Maintenance Fund	790.00
Holy Day	100.00
BCW	14.00
Easter	510.00
Loose Cash	10.00
Candles	101.75
Seminary	20.00
TOTAL	\$4,595.75

**Special Donation: \$75 in memory of +Corinne Bilock by George Janocsko;
 \$100 in memory of +Margurite Seigler by Staci & Ron Szybowicz & Jack Varhola;
 \$50 in memory of +Richard Vatrál by Beverly Vatrál**

*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 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, Paul Chervenak

Italicized names indicate Parish Shut-ins. Other names are submitted prayer requests.

NURSING HOMES/REHABILITATION CENTERS/ASSISTED LIVING

Elsie Urban

APRIL BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES THIS WEEK

- 14 Emily Smith
- 16 Shawn & Margaret Condon (Anniversary)
- 18 Anna Marie Miller
- 18 Michael G. Semego
- 20 Marsha Hrabik

In person Attendance: *Saturday, April 6: 56; Sunday, April 7: 53*

Live Stream Viewing: *Saturday, April 6: 22; Sunday, April 7: 56*

Special Donation: \$50 in memory of +Corinne Bilock by Mary Ann Urban

MANY YEARS

Our Parish Family extends its prayerful best wishes to **Fr. John Welch** and **Fr. Timothy Fariss**, newly ordained priests for the Archeparchy. They were ordained on Sunday, April 7, 2024 at St. Michael Church, Hermitage, PA. *May God grant to His newly ordained priests, John and Timothy, peace, health and happiness for many years!*

SAINTS CYRIL AND METHODIUS LECTURE

The 24th Annual Saints Cyril & Methodius Lecture will be presented online, via the Seminary website at **www.bcs.edu** on **Tuesday, May 7 at 7:00 PM.** *Very Rev. Professor John A. McGuckin.*, is this year's esteemed lecturer and has selected as his topic: "Theological Radicalism in a Time of Political Revolution." The lecture can be accessed live or at a later time from archives on the B.C.S. YouTube channel.

CHOIR PASCHAL PROGRAM

The Pittsburgh Byzantine Catholic Archeparchial Choir invites faithful and friends to an inspiring program of Paschal hymns and songs of the glorious Resurrection of our Lord. ***Presented at St. Elias Byzantine Catholic Church in Munhall on April 21, the program will begin at 3:00 p.m.***, and will feature many beloved and seldom-heard Renditions of the triumphant Paschal greeting, “Christ is Risen! Christos Voskrese!” A cake-and-coffee reception will follow the program in the Church social hall.

NINETEENTH ANNUAL WOMEN’S DAY OF REFLECTION

Saturday, April 27, 2024, 9:00 AM – 2:30 PM, Cathedral Center. “*When you look for me, you will find me.*” (Jeremiah 29:13) ***Pre-registration is required by April 20, 2024, \$40 includes lunch (no refunds).*** Registration forms can be found in the vestibules. For more information call 412-322-8773 or email ore@archpitt.org.

EASTER BASKET OF CASH RAFFLE THANK YOU

Thank you to all who bought and/or sold tickets for our Easter Raffle. Every ticket was sold and it was a success. Congratulations to our winners: *Ellen & Larry Kryszinski* were the grand prize winners. The other winners included *Bill Plavchak, Nancy Hosni, Meg Condon, Mary Ann Urban, Darla Roman, Tom Bodnar, Teresa Sekel and Jeanine Perhacs.*

RUMMAGE SALE ITEMS

We will be holding another Rummage Sale on **May 31 and 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.

UPCOMING CATHEDRAL EVENTS

May 4/5	Breaded Chicken Dinner
May31/June 1	Rummage Sale

LIFE LESSONS FROM JOSEPH OF ARIMATHEA

Sometimes our faith in Jesus Christ carries a high price. No doubt Joseph was shunned by his peers for caring for Jesus' body, but he followed his belief anyway. Doing the right thing for God may bring suffering in this life, but it carries eternal rewards in the next life.



Attentive to the Word

Sunday of the Myrrh-bearing Women

Acts 6: 1-7

Mark 15:43 - 16:8

Today we celebrate the third Sunday of Pascha, and, like last week, we hear about specific aspects from the Passion, the events of the Crucifixion and Resurrection. Last week we heard about Thomas-how he would not believe until he sees; not simply seeing, but touching Christ's wounds - to demonstrate that the one who conquers death is in fact the Crucified One.

Today we commemorate those involved with the burial of Jesus: especially the myrrh-bearing women, who came to anoint the body of Jesus, and Joseph of Arimathea, mentioned in today's Gospel, and also Nicodemus, a key figure in the Gospel of John.

Common to all these figures is the way in which they attended so carefully to the body of the dead Jesus: Joseph, a prominent council member, put his neck on the line when he approached Pilate for the body of Jesus; Nicodemus anointed his body with myrrh and aloes - sweet smelling spices that would dry the body out and so preserve it - and placed the body in the tomb, carved out of rock (an incredible amount of work); and very early in the morning the women brought more spices to continue to anoint the corpse.

All this work was accomplished with great desire, love, and energy, but also, in a way, accomplished without full knowledge - in ignorance even: Joseph and Nicodemus acted to preserve the body of Jesus, not knowing that by his death he was conquering death, to live eternally; and the women came to the tomb, wondering who would roll away the stone, not knowing that the tomb was already empty.

They wanted to do something that they were not able to accomplish, yet by acting with great desire and love, they became agents of an action that was beyond their wildest dreams and expectations, a mystery beyond their comprehension.

We, on the other hand, we think that we know the whole story. Yet if we are not afraid, trembling like the women at the end of the Gospel reading, we probably don't even realize our ignorance.

We think we already know the ending, and so we tend to be complacent about how we get there. Christ has conquered death: great! I can continue living my life as I was before and can even continue it on the other side of the grave!

We want eternal life, we don't want the Cross. The myrrh-bearers, Joseph and Nicodemus, on the other hand, worked with zeal and love, with no thought about how they would benefit from it.

Having heard the good news, our temptation is to take it on our own terms, and so our attention is held more by the affairs of this life: we know more about our investments, pensions, taxes... than we do about the Scriptures. They lacked the fullness of knowledge, but at least they labored with love; we are willfully ignorant and work at other goals. The reason why Pascha is the center of our ecclesial year - spending so many weeks preparing ourselves for it, and so many weeks afterwards unpacking the mystery - is to make sure we get the point!

The light of Pascha shines to enlighten us, so that we may no longer live in the darkness of our old ways, but rather even if only by a glimpse, by the first rays of a new day, begin to live in the light that befits children of God.

It would be a great mistake to think that this doesn't involve toil and labor, to dry out our bodies, as Joseph and Nicodemus prepared Christ's body, to dry out our passions, our attachments to all that holds us back, all that attracts our attention away from Christ, to prepare ourselves with myrrh-that which is fitting for the dead - so that we also become a sweet-smelling offering to God, working hard at ourselves, carving out of our rock-hard hearts a place where Christ can abide, to give new life to our mortal members.

Only if we truly give ourselves to Christ - to labor with zeal, desire, and love for his body - only then will we find that that which we thought was impossible has been accomplished, that the stone which lies over each of our hearts, weighing us down, making us unable to see or feel God, that that stone will have been rolled away, and then we will no longer have merely a glimpse of what lies ahead, but be invited into the tomb, our heart, the bridal chamber.

Only God can remove the stone; but let us remember that we have to walk to the tomb! They had no idea how they were going to remove it; yet they went. So too must we walk to the tomb, prepared to roll away the stone without any clue about how we might do it, however futile we might think it to be to go to the tomb, weighed down by the heavy weight of our sin-the rock blocking our heart.

But again, we can only do this out of love and desire for Christ: it should be this which impels us to come to Church, to pray, to fast, to renew our minds. All this requires hard work, but work that we can do; and working at this, Christ will certainly do that which is beyond us: change our stony hearts for hearts of flesh, contrite and loving. This is what we will hear more about in the weeks to come with the Paralytic, the Samaritan Woman, and the Blind Man, all examples of the work of God recreating our lives anew.

So let us pray, then, that we have strength to begin the journey to which we are called and the work set before us.

By Fr. John Behr

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.