

*Christ is Risen! Indeed He is Risen!*Schedule of Divine Services

Saturday, April 6      **5:00 PM +Paul & +Eleanor Chekan by Elaine & Jane Savko**  
 Sunday, April 7      **9:00 AM +Elmer Pristas by Gloria Erney**

**Pages for Sunday's Divine Liturgy: 175 - 177**

Web Liturgy for Week of April 7, 2024 sponsored by  
**William and Georgiana Sabo**

*Sanctuary Candle* is lit from April 7 – 20  
**In memory of +Anna M. Borsh by Agnes Borsh**

**SUNDAY OF THE MYRRH-BEARERS**

Saturday, April 13      **5:00 PM +Ronald Smoley by Anna Marie Wargo & Family**  
 Sunday, April 14      **9:00 AM +Andy Harhai by Daughter, Andrea**

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

Regular Offertory	\$3,091.00
Maintenance Fund	523.00
Holy Day	118.00
BCW	14.00
Easter Flowers	10.00
Easter	18,540.00
Loose Cash	419.00
Candles	201.00
Cemetery	75.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$22,991.00</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 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**

7 Timothy Erney

13 Mary Elaine Kurtz-Plesniak

14 Emily Smith

**In person Attendance:** Holy Wednesday: **63**  
Holy Thursday: **75**  
Good Friday Royal Hours: **10**; Vespers: **75**  
Holy Saturday Resurrection Matins/Divine Liturgy: **165**  
Resurrection of Our Lord: **53**  
Bright Monday: **15**

**Live Stream Viewing:** Holy Wednesday: **33**  
Holy Thursday: **41**  
Good Friday Royal Hours: **16**; Vespers: **51**  
Holy Saturday Resurrection Matins/Divine Liturgy: **64**  
Resurrection of Our Lord: **68**  
Bright Monday: **N/A**

**Parking Lot Donation: \$100 by Joe & Peg Barron**

**Special Donations: \$150 given anonymously**

## **ETERNAL MEMORY**

+**Corinne “Deanie” Bilock** passed from this life to the next on March 30, 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 Deanie in His Kingdom forever!*

## **CRAFT SHOW**

Our Spring Craft Show will be held on Saturday, April 13, 2024 from 10 AM – 3 PM. There will over 30 crafter/vendors. We will be selling our ethnic food (eat in or take out) as well as our kolache and other baked goods. *If you are able and willing to help, please let Fr. Andrew know.*

## **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.

## **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](mailto:ore@archpitt.org).

## **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.

## **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.



# Attentive to the Word

*Thomas Sunday*

*Acts 5: 12-20*

*John 20: 19-31*

Spring affects our lives. Lawns are cleared and mowed. Storm windows get replaced by screens. Snow tires are put in storage. Houses are aired out as part of the spring cleaning ritual. Bulbs planted last autumn bloom, along with flowers planted this spring. More and more time is spent outside. While inside we hear the outside sounds of children playing and birds singing. There is an unmistakable newness, freshness, cleanness in the air, as scents captured by winter are slowly freed.

Has Pascha likewise affected our lives? Has our heart been warmed along with the yawning sun? Does the light of our Christian witness shine along with the Paschal candle? Is there a certain sweetness in our being that joins with the newly released fragrance of last spring? Hopefully, the answer to at least some of the above will be “yes.”

For those who have not sacrificed during Great Lent, for those who have not hungered for God’s love and mercy, there is little joy at Pascha. Even for those who have made a sincere effort during the Lenten preparation, and for whom the Resurrection has been a moving experience, there is always the danger of the darkening, cooling-off period following Easter. The manifestation of this danger is liturgically expressed in the Gospel reading for the second Sunday of Pascha -St. Thomas Sunday.

All of the twelve apostles knew that Christ was the Messiah. Peter was speaking for the group when he confessed this belief. The doubt of Thomas was not about Christ’s Divinity, but rather about his resurrection. We are familiar with the Gospel narration. Thomas believed, but only so far. How similar is our faith, or lack of faith, two thousand years later.

Now that we are in the midst of spring, it may be difficult to remember the snow-covered ground, frozen rivers, and arctic winds of not so long ago. So it was with the twelve when Christ, the sun of Righteousness, was in their midst. Just as a late winter storm challenges our belief in the coming of spring, so did Christ’s arrest in Gethsemane and His Crucifixion on Golgotha challenge the faith of His disciples and plunge them into the cold darkness of fear and doubt. When He appeared to them during the evening of the First Easter Sunday, it was as if the sun rose in the middle of a snowstorm, to quiet the wind, melt the snow, and warm the earth.

Every time we recite or sing the Creed, we state with our mouths what we believe. Unfortunately, this belief may not go any further than the mental state. Our Christian experience may be no more than a series of poetic, cerebral expressions that we repeat countless times, without really understanding to the extent of our ability. We may be able to remember and repeat the articles of the Creed, but are unable to explain them or relate them to our everyday lives. We need to feel our beliefs in our hearts as well as understand them in our minds. As the Fathers of the Church wrote, in the *Philokalia*, we should stand before God with our minds in our heart, without thoughts tempering our feelings, and our feelings giving life to our thoughts. This will happen as we seek the Kingdom of God and acquire the Holy Spirit.

Our one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church gives us many means to maintain Paschal joy. Every time we receive the Eucharist, especially on Sunday, we behold the Resurrection of Christ. Every time we confess our sins, we become brighter and warmer people. Whenever we pray, we make more room for God to live in us. Whenever we read the writings of the Fathers or the Lives of the Saints, we reinforce our belief that sanctity is very possible. Whenever we act according to God's commandments, by feeding His sheep, we do good to Christ as to the least of His flock. During the Paschal season, the Church calls for the reading of the Acts of the Apostles and the Gospel of John. Both of these books are very helpful in maintaining Paschal joy. The Acts help by fulfilling the Old Testament readings of Lent, as a sort of verbal and spiritual reward to those who endure and have faith. The Gospel of John underscores the living Presence of Christ, even to the end of time, from a very personal and intimate point of view.

Yes, we do believe. We do have some faith, but we need to increase our faith, with God's help, every day of our lives. If Christ says that faith as much as a mustard seed can move a mountain, how small is our faith if we can't even move a coffee cup on a table/ However small our faith may be, it is nonetheless very real and has every potential to increase. We alone stand in the way of our spiritual growth. We have to ask for it and keep asking for it. We need to learn from our Church services. We need to pray and read Holy writings. We need to help our neighbor. We need to do these things more and more. We need to confess, "Lord, I believe. Help my unbelief." We need to trust in God.

## 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.