

*Christ is Risen! Indeed He is Risen!*

**Schedule of Divine Services**

Saturday, May 4     **5:00 PM +Michael Stofko by Linda Stofko & Kovatch Family**

Sunday, May 5     **9:00 AM +Mary Pavasko by David & Lauren Pavasko**

**Pages for Sunday's Divine Liturgy: 189 – 191**

Web Liturgy for Week of May 5, 2024 sponsored by  
**Bernie & Helen Koval celebrating their 60<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary**

*Sanctuary Candle* is lit from May 5 - 18  
**In memory of +Richard Fialkovich by David & Denise Fialkovich**

**FEAST OF THE ASCENSION OF OUR LORD**  
**Holy Day of Obligation**

Wednesday, May 8     **7:00 PM +John Nicholas Lesko by Agnes Lesko**

Thursday, May 9     **9:00 AM 40<sup>th</sup> Day Remembrance of +Corinne Bilock by Rita Slava**

**PENTECOST SUNDAY**

Saturday, May 11     **5:00 PM Our Living & Deceased Mothers**

Sunday, May 12     **9:00 AM Our Living & Deceased Mothers**

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

Regular Offertory     \$2,732.00

Maintenance Fund     735.00

Holy Day     88.00

Seminary     55.00

Loose Cash     60.00

Candles     25.00

Cemetery     110.00

**TOTAL     \$3,805.00**

*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

**MAY BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES THIS WEEK**

- 7 Ellen Krysinski
- 9 Michael B. & Helen Koval (Anniversary)
- 10 Janet Myers
- 10 Jack Varhola
- 11 Felicia Simko
- 11 Jessica Sinclair

**In person Attendance:** *Saturday, April 27: 55; Sunday, April 28: 58*  
*Holy Great Martyr George: 13*

**Live Stream Viewing:** *Saturday, April 27: 26; Sunday, April 28: 56*  
*Holy Great Martyr George: 10*

**Special Donations:** \$32 given anonymously  
\$500 by Christina Cafeo  
\$100 by Mary Lou Bajus, in honor of +Donald Bajus

**Special Cemetery Donation:** \$500 by Lois Lyman

**MANY YEARS**

Our Parish Family extends its prayerful best wishes to **Archer Joseph Miller** who received the Mysteries of Initiation on Sunday, April 28, 2024. Archer Joseph is the son of Brady and Taylor Miller. *May God grant to Archer Joseph peace, health and happiness for many years!*

## **MANY YEARS**

Our Parish Family extends its prayerful best wishes to **Fr. Nicholas Mastrangelo** as he celebrates his 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary to the Priesthood on May 9, 2024. *May God grant to His priestly servant Nicholas, peace, health and happiness for many years!*

## **BREADED CHICKEN DINNER**

Our parish will serve a take-out only Breaded Chicken dinner on **Saturday, May 4 from 3 – 6 PM and on Sunday, May 5 from 10 AM – 1 PM. Price is \$13.00 per dinner.** The dinner includes: Breaded Chicken breast, potatoes, veggie, roll and butter. In addition we will be selling quarts of haluski, quarts of soup, our kolache, and various baked goods.

## **SAINTS CYRIL AND METHODIUS LECTURE**

The 24<sup>th</sup> 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.

## **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
May 31/June 1	Rummage Sale

## **"CATHEDRAL KITCHEN"**

The "Kathedral Kitchen" has a limited number of frozen foods available. We have quarts of *Halushki & Chili, Wedding, Beef Onion, Beef Vegetable, Pasta Fagioli, Stuffed Cabbage, Mushroom, Potato/Green Bean, Vegetarian Vegetable, 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.***



# Attentive to the Word

*Sunday of the Man Born Blind*

*Acts 16: 16-34*

*John 9: 1-38*

It's hard to know why Jesus went through the ritual of the spittle, the mud, and the water, in order to heal the man. He healed other blind people with a touch, or simply a word. It might well have been a test of faith. He sent the ten lepers on their way, and they were healed as they journeyed along. He sent the centurion home and, before he reached home he got word that his servant was healed. I often think that this is how Jesus heals many of us. We ask for his healing, and nothing seems to happen immediately. Maybe, after asking for his healing, we should go on our way, and expect to notice the healing taking place gradually as time goes by.

As the story unfolds, we notice that the man's eyes were really opened, and that includes the eyes of his soul. Clearly Jesus was intent on healing the total person, or not at all. We don't imagine him healing someone, and then having that person going away still filled with resentment against another. Such a person was not really healed at all. The man in today's gospel was totally healed, and he ended up on his knees, worshipping Jesus.

A practical and simple prayer is "Lord, that I may see." It is a short prayer, but when it comes from the depths of my heart, it is a powerful prayer. Remember that other blind man named Bartimeus? He was told that Jesus was passing by, and he was determined to get his attention. Those around him tried to silence him, but he shouted all the louder. And he also was cured. To another man Jesus asked the pointed question, "Do you want to be healed?"

The greatest good we can do for others is not by giving them money, though that can also be needed at times, but in revealing their own riches to them. It is good to affirm others and make them feel both loved and worthwhile. Many people have grown up with a poor self-image, and they just cannot see the good in themselves. This is another form of blindness, and it is a blindness in others that any one of us can heal. The most certain proof that the Spirit of God lives in you is your willingness and ability to affirm and bring a blessing to other people.

## **FEAST OF THE ASCENSION**

In the Acts of the Apostles, we read “He was lifted up before their eyes in a cloud which took Him from their sight.” (1:9) Christ is glorified. In the Kondak for the Feast, Our Church celebrates His saving work, the redemption of sinful mankind and His return home to the Heavenly Kingdom. In the Kondak, we pray: “When You fulfilled the plan of salvation for us and united all things on earth to those in Heaven, O Christ Our God, You ascended in glory, never leaving us but remaining ever-present. For You proclaimed to those who love You: “I am with you and no one has power over you.”

This event in the life of Christ was one of abundant joy. In the Icon of the Ascension, Christ is depicted in the sky, ascending in glory. He is shown surrounded by a circular nimbus (inside the mandoria). Various bands of color compose this nimbus, symbolizing Heaven. Angels are shown supporting the nimbus (mandoria). This is an indication of Christ’s divinity and glory. This recalls for us the Old Testament image of God surrounded by angels, enthroned upon the Cherubim.

The Ascension took place on the Mount of Olives. In the Icon, there is a mountainous background with olives trees scattered about. Although the Icon is a depiction of the account written in the Acts of the Apostles by St. Luke, it is not meant to be a historical picture. Rather, its purpose is to evoke from the faithful worship and homage to Our Lord and King.

Prominently pictured in the lower portion of the Icon is the Holy Theotokos, the Mother of God. She along with the Apostles are on earth and represent the Church. Among the disciples is St. Paul who was not a witness of the earthly departure and ascension into Heaven. Although historians state that St. Paul could not have been there, he is shown because the icon intends to show the Church bearing witness to this event, Christ’s glorification and return home to Heaven.

The Theotokos, the Mother of God, stands as a personification of the Church. The Church is the Mystical Body of Christ. The Head of the Church is Christ Who is shown ascending into Heaven. Mary’s uplifts Her hands in faith and prayer. She gestures upward to Her Son Who now returns home to Heaven.

The Apostles, disciples of the Lord, are awaiting the Descent of the Holy Spirit. The disciples appear to be somewhat confused. But with the coming of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost, they will receive enlightenment and strength to go out to the nations, preach the Gospel message, and baptize the believers in the name of the Most Holy Trinity.

The Tropar for the Feast sums this up nicely: “You ascended in glory, O Christ our God, and delighted the Disciples with the promise of the Holy Spirit; through this blessing they were assured that You are the Son of God, the Redeemer of the world.”

*By Father D. George Worschak*

## 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.