

*Glory to Jesus Christ! Glory Forever!***Schedule of Divine Services**

Saturday, June 29 **5:00 PM** +Susan Goda by Rich & Patty Goda
40th Day Remembrance of +Paul J. Chervenak by Darlene Chervenak
 Sunday, June 30 **9:00 AM** +Ronald Ditillo by Carol Beavers

Pages for Sunday's Divine Liturgy: 146 - 148

Web Liturgy for Week of June 30, 2024 sponsored by
Michael & Jodi Polczynski

Sanctuary Candle is lit from June 30 – July 13
In memory of +Andrew & +Susan Lesko by Jean Repine

7th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Saturday, July 6 **5:00 PM** +Corinne Bilock by Jane & Elaine Savko
40th Day Remembrance of +Ann Havrilcsak
 Sunday, July 7 **9:00 AM** +Michael Szerbin by Children

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

Regular Offertory	\$2,093.00
Maintenance Fund	579.00
Holy Day	295.00
Loose Cash	110.00
Candles	92.00
Cemetery	120.00
TOTAL	\$3,289.00

*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, Aaron Spang, Suzie (Wargo) Bodziach, *Betty Martin*, Patty Schneider, Jeannie Pasternak, Janet Myers, Ethel Wahal, Paul Cherep, Bernadette Thorwart

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

NURSING HOMES/REHABILITATION CENTERS/ASSISTED LIVING

Elsie Urban

JULY BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES THIS WEEK

- 1 John Hoblack
- 2 Ethel B. Wahal
- 3 Luke Pasternak
- 5 Lauren Pavasko

In person Attendance: *Saturday, June 22: 51; Sunday, June 23: 53*
Feast of Nativity of John the Baptist: 30

Live Stream Viewing: *Saturday, June 22: 21; Sunday, June 23: 46*
Feast of Nativity of John the Baptist: 22

Special Donation: \$100 in memory of +Ronald Ditillo by Carol Beavers

Live Stream Donations: \$100 by Ollie & Jean Guthrie
\$25 by Leonard & Felicia Simko

MANY YEARS 2024 GRADUATES

Our Parish Family extends its prayer best wishes to our graduates. May they grow in faith and be protected under God's wings. May God bless their future endeavors, and may God grant to each of them many blessed years!

John Heddleston, Steel Valley High School
Aidan Munsie, West Mifflin High School
Ryder Varhola, Steel Valley High School

CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION PILGRIMAGE

A pilgrimage to celebrate the centennial of the Byzantine Catholic Church of Pittsburgh and the 50th anniversary of the dedication of the Byzantine Chapel in the National Basilica has been scheduled for the weekend of October 12 & 13, 2024. As was mentioned the celebration will take place at the Basilica Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, Washington, DC. When we receive the specifics of the cost, we will start accepting reservations for a bus trip.

SUMMER CONCERT

The *East Wind Symphonic Band* will hold a concert on **July 14, 2024 from 3:00 PM to 5:00 PM** in the Cathedral Center. Come on out to enjoy an array of popular tunes, uplifting marches, wind band arrangements and Broadway favorites! Invite your family and friends to join you.

ANNUAL GCU & BYZANTINE CATHOLIC FAMILY DAY AT KENNYWOOD

Thursday, July 25, 2024. Discounted tickets may be purchased through the GCU: <https://gcuusa.com/events/2024-gcu-byzantine-family-day-at-kennywood-park-102-years>. \$27 - ages 4 + Free - ages 3 and under. A catered lunch is also available: (age 11+): \$25; (ages 3-10): \$20. Admission and Lunch tickets must be prepaid. Deadline, to order tickets, is Wednesday, **July 10, 2024. Discounted tickets are good only on July 25, 2024.**

A CELEBRATION OF MARRIAGE

Metropolitan William and the Archeparchy of Pittsburgh will honor all those couples celebrating their milestone wedding anniversary of 10, 15, 20, 25, 35, 40, 45, 50, 55, 60, 65 or beyond years during this calendar year of 2023. The Archieparchial celebration will take place at St. Elias Church, Munhall on Sunday, **8 September 2024 at 3 PM.**

Please inform the Parish Office, by **July 14**, if you are celebrating one of these milestone anniversaries this year, so that your names can be submitted to the Chancery. Thank you in advance for your prompt attention to this.

JUBILEE YEAR OF HOPE 2025

Archbishop William C. Skurla, Bishop Kurt R. Burnette, and Bishop Robert M. Pipta invite the faithful of the Byzantine Ruthenian Metropolitan Church of Pittsburgh to join them on a Pilgrimage to Italy from May 5 to 15, 2025, to celebrate the Jubilee Year of Hope as declared by Pope Francis. Brochures are located in the vestibules of the church.



Attentive to the Word

Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

Romans 12: 6-14

Matthew 9: 1-8

Jesus here performed a great miracle: he healed a man who was paralyzed. We know from the accounts in the other Gospels that this man had been paralyzed for quite some time, and that it was not an easy task to bring him to Jesus. The house in which they were gathered was completely full, and the men had to ascend the outside stairs and cut a hole in the roof of the house and lower the paralyzed man down on ropes. It was quite a spectacle, quite a miracle that Jesus performed: a man who was carried by his friends on a mat, lowered through a roof into the house, who after Jesus speaks picks up the mat and puts it on his back and departs to his own home.

Now if I had been there, I would have had a lot to share with my family when I went home that night. I would have been full of stories: "Can you imagine what happened today? It was unbelievable! You've never seen anything like it!" I would have talked a great deal about the friends and their perseverance, and how I wished I had friends like that, and can you imagine the faith of those men who brought him?

I would talk about what it was like for that paralyzed man to lie there on his bed and be lowered into the midst of the house with all those eyes staring at him, and for him to hear those words. What faith it took for him to move when those words were spoken! I would have talked about Jesus, about the miracles that He had performed, and everything that He had been doing and teaching.

We hear at the end of the Gospel reading the words, "and the multitudes glorified God, who had given such power to men." I wonder, with all my talking about the events of the day, if I would have thought to glorify God, who had given such power to men. Would that have been my first reaction? Would I have seen the miracle and immediately said, "Glory be to God for what He has done through this man Jesus!"

I am afraid that my first response would not have been to give thanks, to see God's hand at work. I would have been so focused on what had happened, and on the human beings who were there, that I would have missed what was so obvious to these men, women and children who were raised in the Old Covenant, who had a different perspective than do we who have been raised in this modern secular world.

We've been raised not to see God anywhere. It's okay if you see Him in church, perhaps, as long as when you go out the door you don't take Him with you into the public arena, because it's not God who works out there, it is men. In our schools we teach the history of men (and sometimes women) and what men have done.

We don't dare talk about God when we talk about history. We don't dare say, "In this event we see the hand of God," because we're not allowed to talk about God. If you want to

talk about God, do it in church. But when you're in a history class at a secular university, you're only allowed to talk about men.

You and I have been raised to see everyone but God. When we think that it is God, we have been raised to doubt. That skeptical voice comes in the back of your mind and says, "That's just a co-incidence. That happens to a lot of people. Don't be foolish and think that it's God. You're reading into it. It didn't really happen." So we talk about men, we talk about events, but so very seldom do we glorify God who has given such power to men.

As Christians, we have to fight against the secular worldview. In our souls, we have to recapture the worldview of the ancient Jews and Christians, who looked for God in everything, who saw all the events of history, as complicated as they are, as the outworking of God's dealings with men. They looked at life as an opportunity to give thanks to God, and sought to use everything that happened as an opportunity not to glorify men, but to glorify God "who has given such power to men."

When we don't look for God in the affairs and events of our lives, then our lives become flat and empty. So often people say, "I don't see God working in my life." I usually say to them, "Are you looking for Him? Because God is working in your life." We all experience miracles all the time. We all have been blessed by God in ways that far exceed our ability to understand.

But how many of us have missed what God has done because we weren't looking for God? How many of us have stolen glory from God because we gave the glory to ourselves or to other human beings? How many of us have stolen glory from God by complaining about the things that didn't happen, instead of giving thanks to God for the things that did?

As Christians, we must be different from the world. We must be different from those who do not see God and who refuse to accept Him. We must be men and women of faith, who believe that God is active in the affairs of men, that God cares about us and loves us, that nothing happens that God has not allowed to happen, that God is working all things together for the good of those who love Him, that every good thing comes down from above, from the Father of Lights, in whom there is no alteration, nor shadow of turning.

We must believe it not only when we're in church, but when we're driving our cars, when we're sitting in our offices, when we're preparing our dinners, when we're mowing our grass, when we're on the telephone, when we're typing on the computer. We must be people who sense the presence of God and who look for ways and opportunities to give thanks to God for everything.

We are to be beacons of faith in a world of doubt, because people want to believe, but they are trapped in a world of unbelief. If we are willing to believe and to stand up and speak our words of faith, then like a fly drawn to the light, they will be drawn to faith. At least for an instant, before they retreat into that world of darkness, they, together with us, will glorify God for the great power He has given unto men.

By Fr. John Mack

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.