

Glory to Jesus Christ! Glory Forever!

Schedule of Divine Services

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

Pages for Sunday's Divine Liturgy: 152 - 154

Web Liturgy for Week of July 7, 2024 sponsored by
Mary C. Timko

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

SUNDAY OF THE FATHERS OF THE SIX ECUMENICAL COUNCILS

Saturday, July 13 **5:00 PM** +Magdaline Ostheim by Family
Sunday, July 14 **9:00 AM** +Kurtz-+Bich Family by Mary Plesniak

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

Regular Offertory	\$2,200.00
Maintenance Fund	739.00
Holy Day	402.00
Loose Cash	90.00
Peter's Pence	15.00
Candles	131.00
TOTAL	\$3,577.00

*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

- 7 John Raget
- 7 Yavor & Anne Lazarov (Anniversary)
- 8 David & Evelyn Allan (Anniversary)
- 9 Lorraine Dumblosky
- 9 Filip Lazarov
- 9 Arthur & Judy Snyder (Anniversary)

In person Attendance: *Saturday, June 29: 53; Sunday, June 30: 51*
Feast of Peter & Paul Preeminent Apostles: 41

Live Stream Viewing: *Saturday, June 29: 27 ; Sunday, June 30: 57*
Feast of Peter & Paul Preeminent Apostles: 16

Long ago, an ordinary man called John laid his head on the breast of Christ and listened to the heartbeats of the Lord. Who can guess what that man felt as he heard the beat of that mighty heart? None of us can ever be in his place, but all of us can hear, if we only listen, the heartbeats of God, the song of love He sings to us. If we meditate on the most holy sacrament of the Eucharist, we will hear not only His heartbeats, but our own hearts beating in unison with His. -Last Word

Jesus gave us joy so that we might comprehend that the sufferings, tensions, difficulties, and problems which fill every life have a remedy – joy? His joy whispers to us, shouts to us, that life is worth living, even with all of its sufferings and difficulties; that it all has a purpose; and that it leads to perfect happiness when borne with Him, through Him, and for Him. It leads to union with Him. -Dearly Beloved, Volume II

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

Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

Romans 15: 1-7

Matthew 9: 27-35

Many people were always with Christ. There were crowds who always wanted something from Him. It was probably quite difficult for these two blind men, mentioned in today's Gospel reading, to approach Jesus. There was only one thing left for them: to cry out loud in order to attract Jesus' attention. And it was because of their insistence, because of their cry, that they got what they asked for. These two blind men turned to Jesus with the words, "Have mercy on us, Son of David!" (Matthew 9:27).

This Gospel passage teaches us constancy in prayer. When we have a request, we turn to God with it. When we see that we are not getting what we want, we may simply retreat. And instead of being persistent in these requests of ours, so that, like these blind men, persistently cry for help, we stop. Very often we do not immediately receive from God what we ask for. This happens so that we can understand whether we really need what we are asking for.

Christ touches these people and they receive healing. Christ is able to touch each of us as well. And He touches each of us when we participate in the Holy Liturgy, and especially when we receive the Holy Eucharist. Christ touches our eyes so that we can see. He touches our ears so that we can hear those who need help. He touches our heart – and then we begin to love, we begin to be good Christians.

"The light of the body is the eye. As, therefore, your eye is healthy, your whole body will be bright. And when your eye is evil, your whole body shall be in darkness. If the light that is in you is darkness, then how great the darkness will be!" From these

words of Christ, we can conclude that the level of our life depends on our spiritual vision, that is, on the level of our faith.

A wise man asked his disciples: “How can you tell when the night ends and the day comes?” The students began to think, but could not find an answer. Then one of them stood up and said, “Probably when you can already distinguish one tree from another, when you can already recognize people.” “No,” replied the sage. “So how can we recognize it?” the disciples asked the sage. And he said, “When you meet a person and see your brother or sister in their face, it will be a sign that the night has ended and the day has come, that the night of sin has ended in your soul and the light of God’s grace has dawned.”

The church fathers, preaching about the miraculous healing in this Gospel story, say that people usually adhere to a “dogmatic” faith in life and rarely a “living” faith. It is because of this that the Lord asks the blind, do you believe that I can do this to you? Do you profess your faith with your heart or your mind? Living faith is acquired by the feat of constant prayer and purification of the heart. That is why so many people, not knowing about these things in the spiritual life, spend their whole lives waiting for a miracle without doing anything for it on their part. Some of the fathers say that if a stagnant lake is not cleaned, it gradually overgrows and becomes a swamp. Similarly, a lazy soul destroys all living things and dies itself. A hardworking soul is similar to a small stream, which gradually turns into a full-flowing, large river, which overcomes all obstacles on its way in order to connect with its final goal – the sea or the ocean. In a spiritual sense, it is important for every Christian to go through the whole earthly life and to prepare worthily to enter a happy Eternity.

Dear believers! Today, Christ seeks to touch each of us, cleanse our sins, dispel our doubts, heal our infirmities and support us in our sufferings.

By Fr. Serhii Deiak

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.