

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

Saturday, August 10 5:00 PM Deceased members of Cosgrove (+Robert, +Maryhelen,
+Keith & +Keily; Michalchik (+Michael & +Helen);
Suchta (+Dolores) Families by Kim & Kristie Cosgrove

Sunday, August 11 9:00 AM +Richard Lesko by Family

Pages for Sunday's Divine Liturgy: 135 - 137

Web Liturgy for Week of August 11, 2024 sponsored by
Richard & Theresa Peterman in memory of Joseph & Theresa Baldovski

Sanctuary Candle is lit from August 11 - 24
In memory of +Michael Stofko by Linda Stofko & Kovatch Family

FEAST OF THE DORMOTION OF THE THEOTOKOS

Wednesday, August 14	6:30 PM	+Joseph Bich by Mary & Paul
Thursday, August 15	9:00 AM	+George Matus by MM Robert Goldi

13th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Saturday, August 17 5:00 PM +Marge Porvaznik by Drew Porvaznik

Sunday, August 18 9:00 AM +Joanne Volkay by +Jim & Carol Lawson

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

Regular Offertory	\$2,721.00
Maintenance Fund	840.00
Holy Day	752.00
Loose Cash	100.00
Peter's Pence	40.00
Candles	127.00
Cemetery	75.00
TOTAL	\$4,655.00

*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, Roy Ruggieri

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

NURSING HOMES/REHABILITATION CENTERS/ASSISTED LIVING

Elsie Urban

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES THIS WEEK

17 Ronald Stagon

15 Andrew & Marjorie Glaid (Anniversary)

16 Richard & Janet Myers (Anniversary)

In person Attendance: *Saturday, August 3: 53; Sunday, August 4: 71*
Feast of the Transfiguration, Vigil: 32; morning: 17

Live Stream Viewing: *Saturday, August 3: 29; Sunday, August 4: 60*
Feast of the Transfiguration: Vigil: 13; morning: 10

Special Donation: \$50 in memory of +Richard Vatrál by Beverly Vatrál

Live Stream: \$25 Leonard & Felicia Simko

ETERNAL MEMORY

+Jean Repine passed from this life to the next on August 1, 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 Jean in His Kingdom forever!*

BLESSING OF FLOWERS

On the Feast of the Dormition in the Byzantine Church we bless flowers, not simply because they were found in the tomb of the Virgin, but because they are the seeds of next year's plantings. What we see in any bloom now is the seed of another one to come, and therefore a strong symbol of resurrection. Besides seeds, we also bless herbs on this day. The prayers speak of all these things, flowers, herbs and seeds, as medicine. There is a *healing that comes from death*, as contradictory as that might sound. St. Gregory Nyssa once referred to death as "the final remedy." Things which cannot be set right in this world can be made right in the next. **Bring your flowers to the Church for blessing. Flowers will be blessed after each Divine Liturgy.**

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. Registration forms are located in the vestibules of the church or can be downloaded at <https://archpitt.org/centennial-pilgrimage-2024/>. **The bus trip is limited to 48 people on a first come, first serve basis.**

GIFT CARDS AND LOTTERY TICKETS

If anyone is able to donate gift cards or lottery tickets for our raffle trees at the Craft Show & Basket Extravaganza, 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.

BASKET EXTRAVAGANZA BASKETS

We will hold our Basket Extravaganza on Sunday, November 10, 2024. We are in need of completed baskets or items to complete a basket. You can contact Diane Pochron at 412-303-6534 for any information or ideas for basket items. Thank you in advance for any help you may be able to give.

UPCOMING EVENTS

September 21/22	Stuffed Cabbage Dinner
October 19	Fall Craft Show
November 10	Basket Extravaganza
December 8	St. Nicholas Banquet-Seminary Benefit
December 15	Christmas Concert by East Winds Symphonic Band

NIGHT AT THE RACES

Saturday, September 7, 2024 6 pm – 10 pm. St. John Chrysostom Church Hall, 506 Saline Street, Pittsburgh. \$20 per person includes dinner, snacks & non alcoholic drinks. BYOB. Doors open at 5:30 PM/Dinner at 6 PM. Races at 7 PM. For more information contact Beverly Rebovich – bevr5255@hotmail.com or Barb Rebovich – Barbara.rebovich1@verizon.net.



Attentive to the Word

Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

1 Corinthians 15: 1-11

Matthew 19: 16-26

The gospel passage for today tells the story of a man who apparently tried to keep his eyes fixed on God, but who could not open himself completely "because he had many possessions." By his own account, this person had kept the commandments from the time of his childhood. He was not a sinful man. Perhaps the reason he asked Jesus what was necessary to gain eternal life was that he wanted to be affirmed that he was, in fact, on the right path. But maybe he also had the deep sense that he could and should do more. Jesus called him to let go of his possessions (those things that really possessed him) and give them away to the poor. Then, when he was free from those things that tied him down, Jesus invited him to join his special followers. The scene is easy to picture. The man is earnest. He recognizes some special qualities in Jesus, senses that he is a true servant of God. He waits with eager anticipation for the teacher to give him the answers his heart desires. And Jesus does tell him very concretely what he is lacking in his quest for God. But Jesus' answer is more than this man can hear. We can picture him slowly turning away from Jesus, perhaps shaking his head, slowly walking away, "for he had many possessions." Where are we in this scene? Can we use our possessions or achievements as means to live a holy life? Can we put these things at the service of others? Can we hold on to the things in our lives lightly? Is there anything in our lives which has become a stumbling block to our following Jesus? Knowing in our hearts that there are some things which hold us back, perhaps, with Jesus' disciples, we want to ask: "Then who can be saved?" Again, Jesus gives the answer: it is only the grace of God that can save us. It is only when we are empowered with the freedom and love which God shares with us that we can let go of the baggage which keeps us from the Kingdom. During this Eucharist, let us pray for one another that we may see clearly that the only real treasure in life is union with God. Let us, with God's grace, put aside any baggage which keeps us from realizing that union. Then we will be truly wise.

THE FEAST OF THE DORMITION

The feast of the Dormition of the Theotokos has profound spiritual significance and follows on from the Resurrection of Christ. Christ took His body from the All-Holy Virgin and He resurrected it with His divinity, therefore the body of the Theotokos also received glory, honor and dignity. All the spiritual gifts possessed by the All-Holy Virgin are connected with the fact that she is the Mother of Christ. The All-Holy Virgin has experienced what all the saints will experience at the Second Coming of Christ and in the life that will follow.

The event of the Dormition of the Theotokos directs our thoughts to the basic issues of our life, which are connected with death and dying, heaven and God. We are usually busy with everyday things, and we ignore or avoid problems that relate to such questions as: "What is life?",

“What is death?”, “Why does death exist?”, “Where do we go after death?”, “Where are the people we love who have departed from this world?”, “How are we going to live the rest of our life without them?”, and all the other questions that torment us in different ways.

Many people have pointed out that the worst problem afflicting people in their lives is not economic difficulties but death. One example that confirms this fact is that, when someone dear to us dies, nothing brings us pleasure: delicious celebratory meals do not satisfy us, the beauty of nature does not delight us, and nothing in life brings us joy. Sometimes when we are going through such states of mourning we become eccentric. We behave in a peculiar way, perhaps even aggressively, and this annoys and puzzles those around us. Death is the greatest social problem.

The feast of the Dormition of the Theotokos shows us that within the Church, by the grace of Christ, even death itself takes on a meaning that banishes every kind of grief. Death does not lead us to destruction and nothingness, but to a relationship and encounter with others who departed before us. Death is actually a crossing or transition from the land of exile to our true home country, just as the Israelites crossed over from Egypt through the Red Sea into the Promised Land. Death is such a crossing. It is an encounter with Christ, the All-Holy Virgin, the saints and the angels, and an entrance into the heavenly Church. Death is not a dissolution, a rift or a separation, but an entry into the heavenly Church, provided, of course, that we live with this longing and according to God’s will.

Extolling the All-Holy Virgin, the hymn-writer says to her: “Hail, dawn of the mystical day.” Dawn is daybreak, the transition from darkness into light. How beautiful the dawn is, when day begins to break and the sun rises! The All-Holy Virgin shows us this spiritual dawn through her glorious Dormition. The day is the uncreated Light of God that illuminates everything. And this day is mystical in the sense that it cannot be understood rationally or through the senses, but is granted to those who know how to love Christ from their heart. They have hope, their life has meaning, and they are optimistic.

The feast of the Dormition of the Theotokos shows us that the All-Holy Virgin is the dawn of the mystical day, and that her death is a glorious Dormition, a meeting with her Son. It also shows us that she is the Mother of Life and she made her way towards Life, as the tomb and death could not hold her back. For us, too, the Dormition of the Theotokos is “the dawn of the mystical day”, the hope of life that banishes tears and mourning. This reminds of the words of the Prophet and King David: “Though I walk in the midst of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for You are with me” (Ps. 22[23]:4). When someone loves Christ and lives with Him, he is afraid of nothing, because Christ is the victor over death and the giver of life.

From this perspective, this feast of the Mother of God is a cause of joy and gladness, and gives our life meaning. Or rather, it shows us Christ, Who is Life itself. With this faith we overcome all obstacles, chase away all troubles and our hearts are at peace.

VA PITTSBURGH DONATION WISH LIST

VA Pittsburgh Healthcare System depends on the goodwill of benefactors and volunteers who wish to give something back to America's heroes, and they accept material donations to provide enhanced services to Veterans receiving treatment at their facilities. As part of our Parish Philip's Fast almsgiving, we will be collecting items to donate to the Vets. Below is a list of items they could use:

Personal Care Items:

- *Body Wash*
- *Denture Adhesive & Cleaner*
- *Roll-on Deodorant*
- *Combs, Toothpaste*
- *Tooth Brushes*
- *Shaving Cream*
- *shampoo & conditioner*
- *disinfectant wipes*
- *hand sanitizer*
- *tissues*
- *reading glasses*
- *gloves*

Refreshments:

- Chips, pretzels, snack crackers, and granola bars (single serve sizes)
- Sugar in a can
- Soda (two-liter bottles of regular and diet, caffeine free is preferred)
- Raisins
- Pudding cups
- Slim Jims
- Soup Cups

- Coffee (regular or decaf) and coffee creamers
- Grocery gift cards

Assorted Items:

- Disposable cups, napkins, plates, forks and spoons
- Gift Cards for outpatient programs
- Markers for art projects
- Chess and checkers sets
- Books (for the Canteen)
- Puzzle Books
- Large, flat-screen TV (for Wii bowling)
- Karaoke Machine
- Headsets for dialysis patients

NO USED ITEMS ARE BEING ACCEPTED AT THIS TIME.

Please bring any items to the church by **August 25, 2024** so that the items can be delivered for the Labor Day weekend.

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.