

Glory to Jesus Christ! Glory Forever!

Schedule of Divine Services

Saturday, August 31 5:00 PM +Leonard & +Josephine Stagon by Family

**Sunday, September 1 9:00 AM In Thanksgiving for continued health of Brian Bodle
by Janocsko, Bodle & Beers Families**

Pages for Sunday's Divine Liturgy: Pages 152 - 153

Web Liturgy for Week of September 1, 2024 sponsored by
**Janocsko, Bodle & Beers Families in thanksgiving
for continued health of Brian Bodle**

Sanctuary Candle is lit from August 25 – September 7
Sponsored by Nicholas & Barbara Sowko

**SUNDAY BEFORE THE EXALTATION OF THE CROSS – BIRTH OF THE
THEOTOKOS**

Saturday, September 7 5:00 PM +Robert Wargo by Anna Marie Wargo & Family

**Sunday, September 8 9:00 AM +Mark Cifrulak by Nancy Cifrulak & Family
+Bishop John Bilock (30th Anniversary)**

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

Regular Offertory	\$3,255.00
Maintenance Fund	684.00
Holy Day	210.00
Loose Cash	60.00
Candles	104.00
Cemetery	375.00
TOTAL	\$4,688.00

*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: 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, Linda Deskevich.

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

NURSING HOMES/REHABILITATION CENTERS/ASSISTED LIVING

Elsie Urban

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES THIS WEEK

- 1 Michael Scott
- 3 George M. & Mary Katherine Janocsko (Anniversary)
- 4 Janine Tima
- 5 Timothy & Carol Oriss (Anniversary)
- 6 Clement Berovik
- 7 Diane Pochron
- 7 Nicholas & Barbara Sowko (Anniversary)

In person Attendance: *Saturday, August 24: 54; Sunday, August 25: 65*

Live Stream Viewing: *Saturday, August 24: 26; Sunday, August 25: 52*

ECF CLASSES

Eastern Christian Formation classes for the children of the parish are being organized. They will be conducted every other Sunday following the Divine Liturgy beginning September 8, 2024.

ETERNAL MEMORY

+Arletta Lutka passed from this life to the next on August 24, 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 Arletta in His Kingdom forever!*

+Susan Dusecina, 104, mother of Fr. Regis Dusecina passed from this life to the next on August 18, 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 Susan in His Kingdom forever!*

STUFFED CABBAGE DINNER

We will be having a Stuffed Cabbage Dinner on Saturday, September 21 and Sunday September 22. We are offering eat in or take out. The dinner includes: Stuffed Cabbage, mashed potatoes, vegetables, roll & butter. **Price is \$13.00 per dinner. Dinners can be picked up on Saturday, September 21 from 3 – 6 PM and on Sunday, September 22 from 10 AM – 1 PM.** In addition we will be selling quarts of haluski and soup, our kolache and other baked goods as well as raffle tickets.

BAKED GOODS

We are looking for baked goods to sell during our Stuffed Cabbage dinner. Donations can be dropped off on Thursday, September 19 at 6 PM and Saturday, September 21 from 9 AM – 12 Noon.

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

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.

HOLIDAY BUS TRIP

GCU Pittsburgh Constellation is sponsoring a one-day bus trip to tour The Christmas Story House and Museum as well as Castle Noel Tour on Saturday, November 16, 2024. Lunch will be included. The bus departs St. John Cathedral at 7:00 AM. Ticket Cost: GCU Members: \$140; Non-Members: \$195. There is a 30-guest minimum. Deadline to register is Sunday, October 13. If you have any questions, please contact Kim Kolesar at kak210@comcast.net or 412-999-5714.



Attentive to the Word

Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

2 Corinthians 4: 6-15

Matthew 22: 35-46

“Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?”

We all know from catechism classes that God gave Moses ten commandments. But in the centuries after Moses, Israel became dissatisfied with just these ten. Like children who argue against their parents, the people of Israel nit-picked the Ten Commandments, in order to justify themselves and their actions. So the leaders of Israel added smaller and more particular commandments, to prop up the Ten. By the time of Jesus, the common teaching of the Law of Israel involved 613 commandments.

From those among the Commandments that deal with “loving our neighbor”, the Jewish scholars of the law produced 14 commandments about business practices, 19 about employees, servants and slaves, 36 about courts and judicial procedure, eleven about property rights, seven about criminal law, and 24 about punishment and restitution! And that doesn’t exhaust the commands to “love our neighbor”! When you turn to “loving God”, the lists of commandments are even longer, including 33 about the Temple and sacred objects, 46 about idolatry, and 102 about sacrifices and offerings!

With 613 commandments, it was easy for the average Jew to lose focus. Jesus wanted to bring focus back, just as He wants for you and your family today. He wants to bring focus to the rhythm of your daily life, as it unfolds week after week. This focus will strengthen your life, in proportion to the time you give to living Jesus’ answer: “You shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and the first commandment.”

But it’s interesting what happens next. The scholar of the law didn’t ask Jesus which commandment in the law is the second greatest. But Jesus tells Him anyway. Maybe you know people who answer your questions like this: you ask them one question, but their answer is the answer to a different question. God is like this in our prayer, at times. God always answers our prayers, but He doesn’t always answer in the way we hope. Sometimes His answer doesn’t seem to correspond at all to what we were talking to Him (or maybe at Him) about. However, when God changes the subject of the conversation, maybe it’s better to turn the conversation over to Him, and spend more time listening.

In today’s Gospel passage, when Jesus gives the answer to a question that the scholar didn’t ask, He makes clear that the second-greatest commandment is very important. Reflect for a moment on the Ten Commandments: out of the ten, the first

three are about “loving your God”, and the latter seven are about “loving your neighbor”. Why are there more than twice as many commands about “loving your neighbor” than there are about “loving your God”? It’s not because loving your neighbor is twice as important as loving your God. More likely, it because loving your neighbor is twice as difficult as loving your God. The English writer, G. K. Chesterton, once observed that “The Bible tells us to love our neighbours, and also to love our enemies; probably because they are generally the same people!”

Why is Chesterton right? Why, so often, are our neighbors also our enemies? In this second-greatest commandment, when Jesus commands you to love your neighbor as yourself, He’s not using the word “neighbor” as we might be tempted to do. We, in our fallen human nature, want to shrink the meaning of “neighbor” to as few people as possible. That’s why Jesus told the Parable of the Good Samaritan, so that His followers would see every human being as their neighbor.

So then, the second-greatest command is to love every human being as yourself. That’s very daunting. That’s impossible to carry out without divine grace. Vices in our fallen human nature make this command very hard to carry out.

To love is to follow the Spirit of the law. To love is to fulfill the letter of the law, instead of circumventing its intent. To love is even to go beyond the law, because the law is only a guide pointing in the direction that love will take us. The law isn’t meant to tell us where to stop.

By Fr. Thomas Hoisington

BEGINNING OF THE LITURGICAL YEAR

The Eastern Christian Churches start the new Church Year on September 1 At the Ecumenical Council of Nicaea held in 325, the Church Fathers accepted this date, as the official beginning of the church year. Already from the 8th century, we find record of this practice being kept. The Eastern Catholic Churches continue to follow this liturgical tradition. The Latin rite has designated the first Sunday of Advent as the start of their liturgical year.

The liturgical year is a year-long celebration of the Church recalling and reliving the mysteries of salvation history. Our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, continues to live among us and instruct us of His Gospel message of salvation and prepare us and lead us to our eternal destination in Heaven. The role of the Mother of God in salvation history is integral and two of Her feasts are given a predominate place: one at the beginning, Feast of the Nativity of the Mother of God and another at the end of the church year, Feast of the Dormition. The Liturgical year helps us to maintain a close relationship with Our Lord Jesus Christ. We unite our fervent prayers to Our Lord and Maker. We are one in spirit and mind. We are one in voice and heart as we sing praise to the Blessed Trinity, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

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.