

Glory to Jesus Christ! Glory Forever!

Schedule of Divine Services

Saturday, October 26 5:00 PM +Anna Pcsolar by Dave Pcsolar

Sunday, October 27 9:00 AM +Andy & +Anna Mae Harhai by Daughter, Andrea

Pages for Sunday's Divine Liturgy: Tone 6 pages 152 – 153

Web Liturgy for Week of October 27, 2024 sponsored by
Janet M. Petro

Sanctuary Candle is lit from October 20 – November 2
Special Intentions of MM Nicholas & Lorraine Havrilla by Family

24th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Saturday, November 2 5:00 PM +Allison Repine by Mark & Virginia Repine

Sunday, November 3 9:00 AM +John Hromyak by Joe Bilock

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

Regular Offertory	\$2,115.00
Maintenance Fund	634.00
Holy Day	5.00
Loose Cash	5.00
Candles	80.00
Cemetery	60.00
TOTAL	\$2,899.00

Special Donation: \$300 by Kathleen Zavada

*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, Nick & Lorraine Havrilla, Andrew & Linda Deskevich.

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

NURSING HOMES/REHABILITATION CENTERS/ASSISTED LIVING

Elsie Urban

OCTOBER/NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES THIS WEEK

31 David Banyas
1 Martin Bovee
4 Michael Pcholinsky

In person Attendance: *Saturday, October 19: 50; Sunday, October 20: 59*

Live Stream Viewing: *Saturday, October 19: 24; Sunday, October 20: 58*

SAINT NICHOLAS CHARITY EVENT

The *Annual "St. Nicholas Celebration"* benefitting the Byzantine Catholic Seminary of Saints Cyril and Methodius at **St. John Cathedral** is Sunday, December 8, 2024. A Moleben will be celebrated at 3 PM in the Cathedral followed by a social hour and dinner in the Center. **Adults tickets are \$45 and children (12 and under) are \$20. All families and parishioners are encouraged to attend. Please see Fr. Andrew for more information.** *Deadline, to order tickets, is November 10, 2024.*

SEMINARY BENEFIT RAFFLE

In conjunction with the annual St. Nicholas Banquet, a raffle is being conducted that benefits our Byzantine Catholic Seminary. Each ticket cost \$10 and is based on the PA Daily 3-digit Number. If you are interested in purchasing a ticket, please see Fr. Andrew.

KOLACHE ORDERS

We are now accepting Kolache orders for Thanksgiving and Christmas. Deadline to order Kolache for Thanksgiving is November 3, 2024; pick up is November 22 from 3–5 PM. Deadline to order Kolache for Christmas is December 1, 2024; pick up is December 13 from 3–5 PM. Order sheets are located in the vestibules of the church. **PLEASE NOTE: Kolache price will be \$17.00 each.**

“CATHEDRAL KITCHEN”

The “Cathedral Kitchen” has been restocked. We have quarts of *Halushki, Chili & Wedding, Chicken Noodle, Chicken Gnocchi, Mushroom, Pasta Fagioli, Stuffed Cabbage, Tomato Basil, Stuffed Pepper and Beef Vegetable soups* for \$7; Stuffed Cabbage: ½ dozen for \$18 and 1 dozen for \$30. If you would like to buy any please see Patty Bovee, Diane Pochron or Fr. Andrew.

BASKET EXTRAVAGANZA

Sunday, November 10, 2024, 12-4 PM, Cathedral Center. There will be 30+ baskets, a variety of vendors, **eat in Beef tips over noodles dinner**, 50/50 raffle and more. Tickets must be purchased in advance. For tickets, please call Diane at 412-303-6534. Your place for Christmas gift ideas.

SPAGHETTI DINNER

SS. Peter & Paul Parish Club, Duquesne is sponsoring their annual Spaghetti Dinner on Sunday, October 27, 2024 from 1-5 PM. Adults: \$12; Children 6-10; \$6 Children 5 & Under; free. Raffles & baskets.

HONORING OUR VETERANS AND MILITARY PERSONNEL

On *Saturday and Sunday, November 9th and 10th* our Parish will honor in a special way our Veterans and Military Personnel. This celebration will include prayerful supplications and a blessing at the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy. If you served in the armed forces of our country and are planning to attend this celebration, please notify the parish office. We ask that you please submit to the parish office by **Wednesday, November 6th** the names of Veterans in your families (deceased and living).

ANNUAL MOLEBEN FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF THE CAUSES

The Annual Marian Moleben for the Causes of Beatification and Canonization of our Four Saintly Ruthenian Byzantine Catholic Bishops: Blessed Bishop-Martyr, Theodore G. Romzha; Blessed Bishop-Martyr, Paul P. Gojdich, OSBM; Blessed Bishop-Martyr, Basil Hopko, and Alexander Chira on **Sunday, November 3, 2024 @ 3:00 p.m.** at Holy Ghost Byzantine Catholic Church, 225 Olivia Street, McKees Rocks. You are cordially invited. Information on the lives of these holy prelates, along with refreshments will be served following the liturgical service. Please help us by your prayers and presence to advance their Causes.



Attentive to the Word

Twenty-third Sunday after Pentecost

Ephesians 2: 4-10

Luke 8: 26-39

Have you ever felt as is the life you are living is not the life you want to live? That somehow your life is not your own or maybe that you have even become a prisoner of your own life? If so, then you have met the Gerasene demoniac, the man in today's gospel. He used to have a home in the city; now he lives in a cemetery among the tombs. He used to be free; now he wears chains and shackles. He used to have relationships, family and friends; now he has a guard. He used to dress and act like everyone else. For a long time now he has worn no clothes.

Today's gospel offers a vivid image of a man separated from society, naked, bound in chains and shackles, living in a cemetery. It is not, however, simply a description of the man's physical life and environment. If that is all it were about then some clothes, a homeless shelter, some medications, and a pair of bolt cutters would fix his life. End of story. You and I both know that the real challenges of life are not that easily fixed. The real challenges of life are, more often than not, spiritual rather than physical. The tombs, chains, demons, and nakedness are descriptive of this man's interior life. They point to a life separated from God, others, and self. They reveal a soul in need of healing, in need of a new life not just a new environment.

We do not know how this man of the city came to live in the tombs. We do not know what keeps him chained to the dead. We do not know what has left him exposed and vulnerable, having lived without clothes for a long time. We do not know what demons haunt and possess his life. We cannot tell the story of his life. We do not have to. His story is our story. We can tell the story of our own lives. We could each tell about a time when it felt like we were more dead than alive, naked, exposed, and vulnerable. We could describe what it is like to be a prisoner of our own life, to feel the heaviness of life weighing us down like chains and shackles. We can remember times when we lived outside the security of the city of our family, friends, and relationships. We could describe a time when we just were not ourselves, when our lives became possessed by another person, an event, a thing.

The reasons for this are, to borrow a word from today's gospel, legion. They are many. The pain of divorce or a broken relationship with a child or parent. The grief and

sorrow over the death of a loved one. Busyness that leaves us exhausted and isolated. The never-ending pursuit of perfection and need for approval. Anger. Fear. Addiction and the never-ending need for more. Deep disappointment in yourself or another. Guilt that will not allow the acceptance of forgiveness. Resentment and the refusal to forgive. Cynicism that convinces us it is not worth the effort to try again or to look for a new way. Apathy and indifference. Expectations that are never met. The list goes on and on. Eventually we become so attached to these various ways of behaving, thinking, or speaking that they seem to take on a life of their own. They take on power. They possess us. Our life is no longer our own.

Not long ago a gentlemen said to me, “My life just is not what I want it to be and I cannot get it back to the way it was. I go to sleep at night asking God to not let me wake in the morning.” He paused for a moment and then said, “But he never does. Here I am again, another day.” He is living in the tombs, not really dead but not alive either. Like the man in today’s gospel if he could just break the chains he would run away.

Haven’t you ever just wanted to run away from life? Wouldn’t it be nice sometimes to push the reset button and just start over in a new place, with new people, new work, new ideas, new possibilities. The problem is no matter where you go, there you are. As a friend of mine likes to say, “Mismo infierno, el diablo diferentes.” Same hell, different devil. We cannot escape ourselves. No matter how many times the Gerasene demoniac broke the chains and took off for a new place, he always ended in the same old place. Same tombs. Same chains. Same nakedness. Same demons.

It does not have to be that way. Today will be a different day for the man and for us. The demons themselves will testify to the power of God. “What have you to do with me Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I beg you do not torment me.” They beg, negotiate, and seek permission from Jesus. These once life controlling demons are powerless against the One who is Life. God in Christ has ultimate power. Death knows this. Sin knows this. The natural world knows this. The demons know this. Sometimes it seems we are the only ones who do not know this.

There is nothing you encounter in life or death, nothing you have done or left undone, no circumstance of the world around you or the one within you that is not subject to the power of Jesus, the power to restore life, to forgive, to love, to heal, and to carry you through times you cannot bear on your own. In Christ chains are broken, nakedness is clothed, tombs are vacated, and demons are powerless.

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.