

Glory to Jesus Christ! Glory Forever!

Schedule of Divine Services

Saturday, November 30 **5:00 PM** +Susan Goda by Rich & Patty Goda
Sunday, December 1 **9:00 AM** +Mary Pavasko by Nick & Barb Sowko

Pages for Sunday’s Divine Liturgy: Tone 3 pages 135 - 137

Web Liturgy for Week of December 1 sponsored by
Julia Pecuch

Sanctuary Candle is lit from December 1 - 14

**Deceased of the Cosgrove +Robert, +Maryhelen, + Keith & +Keily, Mihalchik
(+Michael & +Helen) & Suchta (+Dolores) Families by Kim & Kristie Cosgrove**

FEAST OF OUR HOLY FATHER NICHOLAS

Thursday, December 5 **6:30 PM** +Ann Havrilcsak by William & Carol Tatrai
Friday, December 6 **9:00 AM** +Dan Perhach by Richard & Boys

29thSUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST – FEAST OF THE MATERNITY OF SAINT ANNA

Saturday, December 7 **5:00 PM** +Ron & +Joanne Smoley by Anna Marie Wargo
Sunday, December 8 **9:00 AM** Health & well-being of Teresa Sekel & Bob Shrum
by Kathy Zavada & Jacki Basalla

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

Regular Offertory	\$2,682.00
Maintenance Fund	564.00
Holy Day	172.00
Flowers	25.00
Christmas	40.00
Loose Cash	95.00
Candles	108.00
TOTAL	\$3,686.00

*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, Patty Schneider, Jeannie Pasternak, Janet Myers, Ethel Wahal, Paul Cherep, Nick & Lorraine Havrilla, Andrew & Linda Deskevich, William Sabo

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

NURSING HOMES/REHABILITATION CENTERS/ASSISTED LIVING

Elsie Urban, Betty Martin

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES THIS WEEK

7 Lilia Neri

In person Attendance: *Saturday, November 23: 56; Sunday, November 24: 68*
Entrance of the Theotokos: 18

Live Stream Viewing: *Saturday, November 23: 25; Sunday, November 24: 47*
Entrance of the Theotokos: 13

PHILIP'S FAST ALMSGIVING

This year for our Philip's Fast Almsgiving we will be assisting a local family and personal care facility. We are seeking monetary donations that we will use to purchase the essential household items for the family and gifts for them and the residents of the personal care facility. Donation envelopes are available at each of the entrances to the church. If you enclose a check, please make it payable to St. John Cathedral.

Please **return** any donations **no later than Sunday, December 8**. Thank you in advance for considering this as part of your Philip's Fast Almsgiving to help these families in need.

OUR PREPARATION FOR THE BIRTH OF CHRIST

The purpose of our preparation is to create an atmosphere of expectation, hope, and anxious eagerness in the hearts of the people, for the coming of Christ in the flesh. The Church designates a time for preparation of prayer, penance, fasting, almsgiving, forgiving, and accepting forgiveness. Families are called in a special way to make ready for Christ by keeping fast days in the home, praying together, reading Scripture, and preparing for forgiveness and the Mystery of Reconciliation (Confession). If we have not yet begun to prepare spiritually, or have become lax in our preparation – it is not too late to start in earnest to prepare for the coming of Christ!

Live Stream: \$75 by Leonard & Felicia Simko

Special Donation: \$100 by Patricia Madden

MYSTERY OF DIVINE FORGIVENESS AND RECONCILIATION



We cannot appreciate the gift of “God with us” unless we are receptive. Let us make every effort to prepare ourselves for the coming of Christ by coming before Him and asking forgiveness of our sins. ***Confessions will be heard on Saturday, December 21 following the 5 PM Divine Liturgy and on Sunday, December 22 following the 9 AM Divine Liturgy.***

2025 DIVINE LITURGY AND SANCTUARY CANDLE INTENTIONS

Divine Liturgy and Sanctuary Candle intentions are being accepted for 2025. Please contact Judy for available dates.

CHRISTMAS CONCERT

Enjoy a free concert on **Sunday, December 15, 2023 at 3:30 PM – 5:30 PM** at our Cathedral Center as presented by *The East Winds Symphonic Band*. Seating will be on a first-come basis. A free will offering will be welcomed.

PARISH CHRISTMAS BRUNCH

Our Parish will have its Christmas Brunch on **Sunday, 22 December 2024 following the 9 AM Divine Liturgy**. There are sign-up sheets in the vestibules of the church.

KOLACHE ORDERS

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 “Kathedral 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.

HOLIDAY KOLBASSI SALE

Ss. Peter & Paul Men’s Club, Duquesne is once again selling kolbassi. Cost is \$7/lb. Sign-up sheets are at the church entrances. ***Please order by December 1, 2024 and DELIVERY IS SATURDAY, DECEMBER 21 AND SUNDAY, DECEMBER 22, 2024.***



Attentive to the Word

Twenty-eighth Sunday after Pentecost

Colossians 1: 12-18

Luke 18: 18-27

The story of the rich young ruler (St. Luke 18:18-27) addresses a very important question that all of us must ask for ourselves to Christ: “What good thing shall I do that I may have eternal life?” This is a very serious question from a man whom some of the holy fathers say is very sincere, and his question requires a serious answer.

This rich young ruler is a lover of money; this becomes clear after Christ tells him “If you want to be perfect, go, sell what you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me.” Up until this point, the rich young ruler had been asking several questions, and the culmination of his questions led to one answer from Christ, an answer meant for this rich young man personally, and yet at the same time, an answer meant for each and every one of us.

This is how Christ answers each one of us – with a perfect prescription for our passions, if we have the heart and the openness to listen. For this young man loved money and his possessions more than he loved Christ and Christ knew this. Christ desired to cure this man’s sickness and heal his soul, yet this man was not prepared to hear this answer, and went away sorrowful.

Are we willing to hear what Christ would tell us? This is a question we must ask ourselves continually.

FEAST OF OUR HOLY FATHER NICHOLAS

During the time of Advent, we celebrate the feasts of saints about whom we are much better informed than we are about Nicholas of Myra: saints whose service to the Church seems to have been far more outstanding: for example, the apostle St Andrew, or St John of Damascus, the great Syrian doctor, or St Ambrose, bishop of Milan. But one could say that none of the saints of Advent hold as high a place in popular devotion as does Nicholas, bishop of Myra in Lycia. The Church itself surrounds his feast (December 6th) with a special solemnity. And meanwhile we know almost nothing about him. The incidents of his life for which he is best known do not belong to history, but to legend". However this legend, this veneration, this figure, have a spiritual meaning which we shall try to bring out.

One of the responses from the service for the saint shows precisely where the worth and originality of St Nicholas lie: ‘Thy practical virtues, O Father clothed by God, have made the beauty of thy priestly robes shine with yet greater splendor’. These lines

say all, and put it perfectly. He is the ideal type of 'hierarchy' who would not only be a pontiff or a doctor, but who would also be actively involved in the secular world, doing good there. He wears 'priestly robes', but on him, these 'shine with yet greater splendor' than on so many others, because he combined them with 'practical virtues'. The legends attached to the name of Nicholas always represent him as engaged in bringing help to some urgent case of human distress. This 'saintly life', which cannot pretend to be historical (but which might have some historical foundation, orally transmitted and enlarged upon) expresses an ideal of charity. It is what the chants of the service for the saint repeat several times: 'Called upon from all sides, thou didst hasten to help those who sought the shelter of thy protection... appearing to them in faith by day and by night, saving them in their destitution and their trials Who, seeing thy infinite condescension, would not marvel at thy patience and at thy joyous mercy towards the poor and thy compassion towards the afflicted . . .?'. Today, still, crowds of Orthodox willingly shelter under the patronage of Nicholas who is a healer of the sick, the liberator of captives, the treasure of the poor, consoler of the afflicted and the guide to travellers. He is a living symbol of the Savior's mercy and love towards men. For, in the final analysis, it is to Jesus himself, that the popular devotion accorded to St Nicholas reaches.

The gospel for matins is that of the Good Shepherd (John 10. 1-9). The epistle for the liturgy takes up the theme of obedience to those in authority and above all to Jesus Christ 'that great shepherd of the sheep' (Heb. 13. 17-21). The gospel for the liturgy is that of the Beatitudes (Luke 6. 17-23). May this feast bring us a message of 'practical Christianity' and of hope in divine goodness.

The only certain historical facts are that Nicholas was bishop of Myra and that he died around the middle of the fourth century. According to legends which were collected and edited in Greek by Metaphrastus, during the tenth century, Nicholas made a pilgrimage to Palestine, took part in the Council of Nicaea and was imprisoned under Diocletian. A large number of miracles are attributed to him as well as striking acts of charity. He is credited with the setting free of captives, with saving schoolboys from death and young girls from dishonor. His cult is particularly strong in Greece and in Russia. His name is mentioned in the liturgy attributed to St John Chrysostom. By the sixth century, a church had already been dedicated to him in Constantinople. In 1087, Italian merchants stole his body from Myra (in Asia Minor) and transported it to Bari (in Italy), where he still is, and continues to work miracles. In addition, his veneration was introduced to Germany by an empress of Greek origin, Theophano, the wife of Otto II, in the tenth century. Portrayals of Nicholas are as numerous in western art as they are in eastern iconography.

By a monk of the Eastern Church

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.