

Glory to Jesus Christ! Glory Forever!

Schedule of Divine Services

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

Pages for Sunday's Divine Liturgy: Tone 4 pages 141 142 & pages 277 - 280

Web Liturgy for Week of December 8 sponsored by
Richard & Sally Krinock

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

SUNDAY OF THE FOREFATHERS

Saturday, December 14 **5:00 PM +Andy Porvaznik by Drew Porvaznik**
Sunday, December 15 **9:00 AM Health & well-being of Andy & Linda Deskevich by**
 Cathy & George

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

Regular Offertory	\$6,110.00
Maintenance Fund	934.00
Holy Day	217.00
Flowers	60.00
Christmas	2,590.00
Archdiocesan Charities	50.00
Loose Cash	20.00
Candles	67.00
Cemetery	100.00
TOTAL	\$10,148.00

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

8 Peter Minydzak
12 Richard Perhach
13 Carol Beavers

In person Attendance: *Saturday, November 30: 54; Sunday, December 1: 63*
Thanksgiving: 45

Live Stream Viewing: *Saturday, November 30: 20; Sunday, December 1: 51*
Thanksgiving: 15

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 Sunday, December 15 following the 9 AM Divine Liturgy and on Saturday, December 21 following the 5 PM Divine Liturgy.***

CHURCH CLEANING

Saturday, 21 December 2024 has been set aside to give our church a good cleaning before the Feast of the Nativity. The day will begin at **9 AM**. We could use as many hands as possible to clean all area in preparation for the Nativity. No matter what time or for how long your help will be greatly appreciated.

ETERNAL MEMORY

+**Msgr. Raymond Balta**, a retired priest of the Archeparchy, passed from this life to the next on December 1, 2024. May he 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 priestly servant Raymond in His Kingdom forever!*

COFFEE & DONUT SOCIAL – DECEMBER 8 & 15

Please join your parish family for a Coffee & Donut Social after the 9:00 AM Sunday Divine Liturgy on ***December 8 & 15, 2024.***

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.

“JOYFULLY WE SING!”

The Archieparchial Choir invites all to share the spirit and joy of the Holy Nativity of our Lord on **Sunday, December 22, 2024 at 2:00 PM** at St. Elias Church, Munhall. A hospitality reception will follow. All are welcome.

“CATHEDRAL KITCHEN”

The “Kathedral Kitchen” has been restocked. We have quarts of *Halushki, Chili & Wedding, Chicken Noodle, Mushroom, Pasta Fagioli, Stuffed Cabbage, Tomato Basil, Stuffed Pepper 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.**

SUPER BINGO

Saturday, December 14, 2024, Noon – 4 PM. St. Pius X Byzantine Catholic Church, 2336 Brownsville Road. 20 Regular games @ \$100; 4 Specials @ \$250; \$500 Jackpot (sold separately). Refreshments, Basket Raffle, Door Prizes. For ticket information call 412-881-8344.



Attentive to the Word

Twenty-ninth Sunday after Pentecost
Maternity of the Holy Anna
Colossians 3: 12-16; Galatians 4: 22-31
Luke 17: 12-19; Luke 8: 16-21

Tradition held that they should shout, "Unclean!" People afflicted with leprosy or any of a variety of other infectious skin diseases were forbidden from blending in with the rest of society. They were their own community, but it was a community of discomfort, exile, and despair. Then Jesus walked by, and the ten lepers in today's passage saw hope incarnate walk past them. So they made the most of their opportunity.

They didn't approach Jesus directly; they stood at a distance as they were supposed to. But rather than announce the standard warning of uncleanness, the ten men asked Jesus for pity. There was faith in their words alone, as it seems clear that what they requested from Jesus, whom they called "Master," was the healing that they had undoubtedly heard He was capable of granting. Jesus' power to heal any ailment had already been well established.

While this story describes the power of Jesus, it is also a sad commentary on the spiritual condition of the other nine. Nine of the ten men left immediately, apparently without so much as a word of thanks. Their reaction resembled a crowd clamoring for autographs, only to dart away the moment they have their prize. Only one man responded.

That man, the eyewitness we should try most to emulate, was a foreigner, a Samaritan. The other nine people were already callous to His works, even the ones that transformed them personally. Yet we see repeated examples of Samaritans and Gentiles, who stood as outsiders to the faith of the Jews, praising Jesus for what He had done.

Jesus told this lone grateful recipient of His grace to finally go and show the priest he had been cleansed, and only he was commended for his faith. He could consider himself well physically and spiritually (v. 19). He was no longer unclean, but had both his skin and his heart made pure, clean, and whole.

Thankfulness can become a habit that we forget. Take some time today to express your gratitude to God for what He has done for you—and be specific. Then send some notes or emails of thanks to people in your life for how they have blessed you in ways big and small. When we practice the discipline of thankfulness, we'll discover that we see evidence everywhere of God working in our lives.

FEAST OF THE MATERNITY OF ANNA

Sacred scripture is the account of God's special relationship with humanity in the course of salvation history. One way the sacred writers would call attention to this unique relationship between God and humanity was by emphasizing the special births of important

religious persons to women recognized as long past the years of child bearing. In this way, what was humanly impossible was seen as possible only through the presence, activity and providence of God.

Two examples immediately come to mind. One is the birth of Isaac by Sarah when she and Abraham were in their old age - long after she was capable of bearing children. The other example is the birth of the Forerunner, St. John the Baptist, to Zechariah and Elizabeth after she, too, had been ridiculed by her peers for being unable to bear children.

Today the Church in her Sacred Tradition gives witness to God's special involvement with us and the importance of the Mother of God in salvation history by first emphasizing the barrenness of St. Anne and therefore celebrating her conception of Mary.

For the Church, Mary has always held a unique and venerated role. She is seen as the New Eve, the mother of a restored and revived humanity. Her stature as both the Mother of God (Theotokos) and Mother of the Church gives us witness that God is not removed from humanity. On the contrary, God is with us in Christ.

At the vespers for this feast celebrating the conception of Mary in the barren womb of St. Anne, we read about Jacob's dream of the ladder bridging earth and heaven (Genesis 28:10-17). This dream becomes a reality in the conception and person of the Mother of God. God descends to interact with a human couple (Joachim and Anne) in their sterility. Humanity in turn conceives and gives birth to a sinless woman who, in giving birth to Jesus the Son of God, will help it ascend and encounter God the Father. In Christ we stand assured that God is not isolated from us. Rather God is always with us, and we are as in Him.

Come, let us dance in the Spirit! Let us sing worthy praise to Christ! Let us celebrate the joy of Joachim and Anne, the conception of the Mother of God, for she is the fruit of the of the grace of God.

From the vespers of the fore-feast

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.

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.