

Glory to Jesus Christ! Glory Forever!

Schedule of Divine Services

Saturday, March 1 5:00 PM +John Richard Drobne & +Stephen Joseph Pavlo
by Mary Louise Drobne Pavlo & Family

Sunday, March 2 9:00 AM +Leonard Stagon by Family
4:00 PM FORGIVENESS VESPERS

Pages for Sunday's Divine Liturgy: Tone 8 page 161 & pages 218 - 219

Web Liturgy for Week of March 2 sponsored by
John Varhola

Sanctuary Candle is lit from February 23 – March 8
In memory of +John Richard Drobne & +Stephen Joseph Pavlo
by Mary Louise Drobne Pavlo & Family

First Day of the Great Lenten Fast – A DAY OF STRICT FAST

Monday, March 3 6:30 PM Liturgy of the Pre-sanctified Gifts

Wednesday, March 5 6:30 PM Liturgy of the Pre-sanctified Gifts

Friday, March 7 6:30 PM Liturgy of the Pre-sanctified Gifts

1st SUNDAY OF THE GREAT FAST-Forty Holy Martyrs of Sebaste

Saturday, March 8 5:00 PM +Janet Ducar by Bernard E. Ducar

Sunday, March 9 9:00 AM Special Birthday Intentions of Mary Ann Sciomacco
by Helen Dragos

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

Regular Offertory	\$7,096.00
Maintenance Fund	419.00
BCW	63.00
Candles	107.00
Loose Cash	13.00
TOTAL	\$7,698.00

Special Donation: \$50 by Beverly Vatral

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, Andrew & Linda Deskevich, William Sabo, Nick & Marion Mamula, Gus Matta, Barbara Sowko, Fr. Simeon

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

NURSING HOMES/REHABILITATION CENTERS/ASSISTED LIVING

Betty Martin

MARCH BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES THIS WEEK

- 2 Gloria Erney
- 4 Mark & Kimberly Simko (Anniversary)
- 5 Mary Ellen Totin
- 6 Darrin Ducar
- 6 Peter Giglione
- 7 Addison Giglione
- 8 Elaine Cannon

In person Attendance: *Saturday, February 22: 43; Sunday, February 23: 64*
1st All Souls Remembrance: 25

Live Stream Viewing: *Saturday, February 22: 28; Sunday, February 23: 56*
1st All Souls Remembrance: 7

ETERNAL MEMORY

+**Edith Mae Myers**, stepmother of Rick Myers, passed from this life to the next on February 20, 2025. 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 Edith Mae in His Kingdom forever!*

KOLACHE AND PASKA ORDERS

We are now taking orders for Easter kolache and paskas. Order sheets are located in the vestibules. **DEADLINE FOR EASTER ORDERS IS MARCH 16, 2025.**

UPCOMING CATHEDRAL EVENTS

- April 26 Craftshow
- May 1 Steel Valley Awards Banquet
- May 30 & 31 Rummage Sale

SARRIS EASTER CANDY ORDERS

Order forms for Sarris Candy are located in the vestibules of the church. If you would like to order candy for Easter, please return by **March 16, 2025**.

CHOCOLATE BYZANTINE CROSSES

Our Parish is selling Sarris' chocolate Byzantine Cross for Pascha. They will be available on Palm Sunday weekend. Orders need to be prepaid and envelopes are available in the vestibules of the church. **Deadline to order is March 16, 2025.**

"CATHEDRAL KITCHEN"

The "Kathedral Kitchen" has been restocked. We have quarts of *Halushki, Chili & Wedding, Chicken Noodle, Wedding, Chicken Gnocchi, 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.

RUMMAGE SALE ITEMS

We will be holding another Rummage Sale on May 30 & 31, 2025. Please put aside any items you no longer want or need for our rummage sale.

As in the past, we cannot accept TV's, computers, shoes and clothes. Small boxes may be left in the church vestibules. Please consider also helping to mark and sell the items in May/June. Thanks for your donations.

EASTER KOLBASI SALE

Saints Peter & Paul, Duquesne parish Men's Club is once again selling kolbasi. Cost is **\$7/lb**. Sign-up sheets are at the entrances. **Please order by March 30, 2025 DELIVERY IS PALM SUNDAY.APRIL 13, 2025.** Thank you.

GIFT CARDS AND LOTTERY TICKETS

If anyone is able to donate gift cards or lottery tickets for our raffle tree at the Spring Craft Show, 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.

PUSSYWILLOWS NEEDED

Even though we are still very much in the midst of winter, I thought I would place this reminder now for when the weather turns warmer (hopefully soon!). When the weather turns better and the tree begin to bud, please cut them when they bud (before they turn yellow), and bring them to church. We will store them here until Palm Sunday. **Do not put them in water.**

SUPER SATURDAY FLEA MARKET

St. Pius X Byzantine Catholic Church, 2336 Brownsville Road, Carrick. Saturday, April, 5 2025, 9AM-2PM. Come find new treasures in our old treasures! Or sell your unwanted items. Cost per table: \$20 for 1, \$35 for 2, \$50 for 3. Call the church 412-881-8344 to reserve a space.

GREAT FAST VESPERS

The parishes of the Pittsburgh Protopresbyteral District will celebrate the Great Fast Vespers on the Sundays of the Great Fast this year at the following Churches:

March 2	St. John the Baptist Cathedral	Forgiveness Vespers
March 9	St. John the Baptist Cathedral	Fr. David Bosnich
March 16	Ss. Peter & Paul, Tarentum	Fr. Radko Blichar
March 23	St. Gregory, Upper St. Clair	Fr. Tyler Wisniewski
March 30	Ss. Peter & Paul, Duquesne	Fr. Frank Firko
April 6	St. Andrew the Apostle, Gibsonia	Fr. Michael Kunitz

You will have the opportunity to celebrate the Mystery of Reconciliation (Confessions) from 3:30 to 4:00 p.m. and the Vespers at 4:00 p.m. After the Vespers we will gather in the Social Hall of the church for a Lenten Soup, Bread and Beverage.



Attentive to the Word

Cheesefare Sunday

Romans 13:11 - 14:4

Matthew 6: 14-21

Our Gospel lesson for this Sunday of Forgiveness offers us two main points to contemplate and internalize, as we enter Lent: 1. Wake up and embrace or “put on” the light; and 2. Let go of passing judgment on others.

Let me let go, on this Forgiveness Sunday, of any darkness and any judgment of others. And let me re-focus on the light of God’s mercy, pouring out abundantly on all of us in the grace of this Lenten season. Let me make things simple, letting go of my complicated, human judgment of others, and all my rationalizations thereof, asking forgiveness even of the “difficult” people in my life on this Forgiveness Sunday, as I re-focus on God and His simple Way of judgment, which is mercy. “Who are you to pass judgment on the servant of another?” the Apostle asks me today. Indeed, I need just to let go of this whole business of judgment, and leave it to God, just like that. “Forgive us our debts,” Lord, just like that, “as we forgive our debtors,” that we may move forward on the upcoming, Lenten journey. We all “will be upheld” by You, as we make our way on that journey to Pascha, as best we can.

By Sr. Vassa

ST. EPHREM THE SYRIAN LENTEN PRAYER

O Lord and Master of my life, spare me from the spirit of indifference, despair, lust for power and idle chatter

Instead, bestow on me, Your servant, the spirit of integrity, humility, patience and love.

Yes, O Lord and King, let me see my own sins and not judge my brothers and sisters; for you are blessed forever and ever. Amen.

The prayer of St. Ephrem (St. Ephraim) the Syrian occupies a special place in the services of the holy Church. It is repeated many times during the services of Great Lent.

This prayer penetrates the heart like none other, mysteriously acts upon it, and you feel a special, exceptional divine power in it. Why is that so? Because it was poured from a heart that was perfectly purified and holy, and from a mind that was enlightened by divine grace and had become a participant in the mind of Christ. It is short, but it nevertheless contains an enormous wealth of thoughts and feelings. Extraordinarily important is the very fact that St. Ephraim asks God to deliver him from everything unholy and repugnant to Him, and to vouchsafe him great virtues. Why does he ask for this?

There are people—and there were especially many during pagan times—who rely entirely upon themselves and think that everything is achievable through the powers of their minds and feelings. They do not understand that many things, in fact the most important, precious and cherished things are not accessible to our minds and feelings. Whoever understands this understands what the apostle Paul said: “For what I am doing, I do not understand. For what I will to do, that I do not practice; but what I hate, that I do”(Rom. 7:15).

Thus spoke the greatest and chief apostle, recognizing his powerlessness to walk the path of goodness, profoundly understanding that his flesh, which drags him down and hinders his heart’s ascent on high to God, has enormous power over him. He pined and suffered because he did not do the good that his soul desired, but did the evil that he did not want.

Deeply aware of this, St. Ephraim the Syrian prayed to God that He would deliver him from wickedness, that He would give him the strength to do good. The strength to do good works, like the strength to be freed from vices, is something we receive only from God. The soul of every Christian is vaguely aware of this, and that is why the prayer of St. Ephraim the Syrian so touches it.

Every man has his own spirit—in his soul are the traces left by those vices in which he sins, as well as by the good that he does. It is much easier to be freed from individual vices than from the spirit of these vices. The latter is possible only gradually, with God’s help.

And so St. Ephraim the Syrian asks God not only to give him the spirit of virtues and deliver him from the spirit of his faults, but he asks that his soul would become fragrant with Christ.

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.