

Glory to Jesus Christ! Glory Forever!

Schedule of Divine Services

Saturday, February 15 **5:00 PM +Robert Wargo by Anna Marie Wargo & Family**
 Sunday, February 16 **9:00 AM +Deborah Pangratz**

Pages for Sunday's Divine Liturgy: Tone 6 pages 152 – 153 & page 216

Web Liturgy for Week of February 16 sponsored by
Paul & Dolores Pangratz in memory of +Deborah Pangratz

Sanctuary Candle is lit from February 9 - 22
Special Intentions of William Sabo by Family

Saturday, February 22 9:00 AM 1st All Souls Remembrance

SUNDAY OF MEAT FARE

Saturday, February 22 **5:00 PM Special Intentions of William & Georgiana Sabo
 on the occasion of their 60th Wedding Anniversary**
 Sunday, February 23 **9:00 AM +Anna Mae Harhai by Andrea Harhai**

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

Regular Offertory	\$2088.00
Maintenance Fund	496.00
Holy Day	47.00
BCW	146.00
Candles	80.00
Loose Cash	40.00
TOTAL	\$2,897.00

*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 call the parish office if you would like your 2024 contribution statement.
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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

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

NURSING HOMES/REHABILITATION CENTERS/ASSISTED LIVING

Elsie Urban, Betty Martin

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES THIS WEEK

- 16 Lou Bajus
- 16 Madelyn Hilzendeger
- 20 Lena Chervenak
- 20 Gerald Rihn
- 22 Georgiana Sabo
- 22 Bernard & Josephine Zadrowski (Anniversary)

In person Attendance: *Saturday, February 8: 41; Sunday, February 9: 66*

Live Stream Viewing: *Saturday, February 8: 33; Sunday, February 9: 70*

Live Stream: \$200 by John & Beverly Woessner

ALL SOULS SATURDAYS

The first All Souls Divine Liturgy is Saturday, February 22, 2025 at 9:00 AM. We come together to pray for our deceased loves ones. They are by no means forgotten nor a nameless mass of people, for by name we mention them, we perpetuate their memory and we pray that our loving and merciful God will be pleased to bring them into His saving presence.

PLEASE USE THE ALL SOULS ENVELOPE AND ATTEND THE DIVINE LITURGIES FOR YOUR DECEASE LOVED ONES.

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.**

YOUNG ADULTS GREAT FAST BIBLE STUDY

The Youth and Young Adult Ministry Office invites all **YOUNG ADULTS** (19-39 y.o.; single, married) to join us on **Mondays** during **The GREAT FAST** for **BIBLE STUDY** “**NO GREATER LOVE**”. We begin on **March 10, 2025, at 7:00 pm** (for about 2 hours) at the **St. John the Baptist Cathedral**. To learn more about the Bible Study, visit **[No Greater Love: A Biblical Walk Through Christ's Passion – Ascension](#)**. To register, fill out the form online here: **<https://forms.gle/uYf6dJA2wKxQnD3T8>** or fill out the paper form and email it to **youth@archpitt.org** by **February 26, 2025**. If you have any questions, contact Viktoria Zolnova at **youth@archpitt.org**. After you register, you will receive a confirmation email with further details. Looking forward to walking this journey with you!

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.

PYSANKY CLASS

Our parish will sponsor a pysanky class on **Saturday, March 15, 2025**. More details will be forthcoming.



Attentive to the Word

Sunday of the Prodigal Son

1 Corinthians 6: 12-20

Luke 15: 11-32

The Sunday of the Prodigal Son is the third Sunday of a five-week period prior to the commencement of our journey of the Great Fast. On the previous Sunday, the services of the Church began to include hymns from the Triodion, a liturgical book that contains the services from the Sunday of the Publican and the Pharisee through Great and Holy Saturday. The theme of this Sunday is repentance, and the focus on the parable of the Prodigal Son leads us to contemplate the necessity of repentance in our relationship with our Heavenly Father.

The parable of the Prodigal Son forms an exact icon of repentance at its different stages. Sin is exile, enslavement to strangers, hunger. Repentance is the return from exile to our true home; it is to receive back our inheritance and freedom in the Father's house. But repentance implies action: "I will rise up and go..." (v. 18). To repent is not just to feel dissatisfied, but to make a decision and to act upon it.

In the words of our Lord, we also learn of three things through this parable: the condition of the sinner, the rule of repentance, and the greatness of God's compassion. The reading of this parable follows the Sunday of the Publican and the Pharisee so that, seeing in the person of the Prodigal Son our own sinful condition, we might come to our senses and return to God through repentance. For those who have fallen into great despair over their sins thinking that there is no forgiveness, this parable offers hope. The Heavenly Father is patiently and lovingly waiting for our return. There is no sin that can overcome His love for us.

Finally, this parable offers us insight into the world in which we live. It is a world where the activities of people are disconnected and not ordered toward the fulfillment of God's divine purpose for life. It is a world of incoherent pursuits, of illusory strivings, of craving for foods and drinks that do not satisfy, a world where nothing ultimately makes sense, and a world engulfed in untruth, deceit and sin. It is the exact opposite of the world as created by God and potentially recreated by his Son and Spirit. There is no cure for the evils of our age unless we return to God. The world in which we live is not a normal world, but a wasteland. This is why in our tradition, the reading of Psalm 137 is added to the Matins service for this and the the following two Sundays. This nostalgic lament of the Hebrew exiles states: "By the streams of Babylon we sat and wept as we remembered Zion. On the willows we hung our harps, for how could we sing the Lord's song in a strange land" (Psalm 137).

Here we can see the challenge of life in this world and the alienation from God that can happen when sin reigns in our lives. As a result of sin in our lives, we lose the joy of communion with God, we defile and lose our spiritual beauty, and we find ourselves far away from our real home, our real life. In true repentance, we realize this, and we express a deep desire to return, to recover what has been lost. On this day the Church reminds us of what we have abandoned and lost, and beckons us to find the desire and power to return. Our Heavenly Father is waiting and ready to receive us with His loving forgiveness and His saving embrace.

The icon of the Sunday of the Prodigal Son shows the prodigal being received by his father upon his return. We are presented with an image of a warm and loving embrace, the son showing his need for his father, an attitude that represents repentance, love, and hope for renewal and restoration. The father is shown full of compassion for his son, having born the burden of his sin and suffering, but now filled with joy that he has returned.

When I foolishly spurned your fatherly glory, I squandered the riches you had given me on evil deeds. So now I cry out to you with the voice of the prodigal son: I have sinned against you, O merciful Father; accept my repentance and treat me as one of your hired servants.

Kontakion from the Sunday of the Prodigal Son

GREAT FAST VESPERS

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

	St. John the Baptist Cathedral	Forgiveness Vespers
March 2	St. John the Baptist Cathedral	Fr. David Bosnich
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.

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.