

*Glory to Jesus Christ! Glory Forever!*

**Schedule of Divine Services**

Saturday, February 8      **5:00 PM +Clarence & +Irene Hornak by Sandy Hornak**  
 Sunday, February 9      **9:00 AM +John Pcsolar, Sr. by Dave Pcsolar**

**Pages for Sunday’s Divine Liturgy: Tone 5 pages 146 – 148 & page 215**

**THE WEEK FOLLOWING THE PUBLICAN AND THE PHARISEE  
 IS A FAST FREE WEEK**

Web Liturgy for Week of February 9 sponsored by  
**Marcus, Beth & Tyler Neffield**

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

**SUNDAY OF THE PRODIGAL SON**

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

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

Regular Offertory	\$2,425.00
Maintenance Fund	857.00
Holy Day	304.00
BCW	213.00
Candles	293.00
Loose Cash	30.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$4,122.00</b>

*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.**

## **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**

- 8 David & Betty Banyas (Anniversary)
- 10 Adam & Daniella Chervenak (Anniversary)
- 11 Rita Hilla

**In person Attendance:** *Saturday, February 1: 38; Sunday, February 2: 92*

**Live Stream Viewing:** *Saturday, February 1: 24; Sunday, February 2: 59*

**Special Donation: \$500 by Christine Cafeo**

**Live Stream: \$50 by Leonard & Felicia Simko**

## **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.**

## 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.

## **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:

<b>March 2</b>	<b>St. John the Baptist Cathedral</b>	<b>Forgiveness Vespers</b>
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.

## **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.



# Attentive to the Word

*Sunday of the Publican and the Pharisee*

*2 Timothy 3: 10-15*

*Luke 18: 10-14*

Jesus told lots of challenging stories; and in the Church we tend to call his stories parables. But why did Jesus use stories, parables, to communicate truth to his 1st century audience? Well, he used parables to paint a picture with a punchy, poignant, pertinent point. His pithy parables packed a punch.

Rather than simply pointing the finger at other people, Jesus used his stories, his parables, to challenge the views and assumptions of his listeners. Often, a parable of Jesus would be met with shock, astonishment, chins dropping to the ground in disbelief; and yet some people would hear these parables and be changed by them. Yet more people would hear them and experience the love of God breaking through into their situation.

I wonder how you will respond to this parable we are about to hear. A parable first told by Jesus himself.

The primary target audience is immediately clear: Jesus told this parable for people who were confident of their own sense of righteousness and looked down on everyone else (18:9). They were holier-than-thou!

The parable would also have spoken of God's love and mercy to anyone who'd made a mess of their life through bad choices or was feeling guilty or full of shame. To anyone listening who knew that they needed God's mercy, to anyone who knew they'd wronged God, to anyone who was aware they were in the gutter and needed saving, to anyone who was prepared to humbly seek God for forgiveness – this parable brought hope.

But the primary targets were highly religious people who attempted to be meticulous in their religious practice and who also looked down on others. In today's world this parable speaks to anyone who consciously or subconsciously thinks they're better.

The Pharisee stands for anyone who thinks they're in God's good books and looks down on others. The tax collector stands for anyone who knows they've sinned and humbly asks God for mercy and forgiveness.

It saddens me deeply to know that too many people in the wider community don't believe they would find mercy, forgiveness, acceptance and support in the Church; and it

comes from a sense that too many so-called religious types act and speak as if they're better, more holy, more correct; somehow more pure.

It shouldn't be this way. Jesus mixed with, ate meals with, spent time with, and befriended anyone who felt as if they were an outcast, the lowest of the low. If we claim to be disciples of Jesus – Christians – then he alone is our example.

The author Philip Yancey tells the story of a Christian who was working with street people.

One day he was approached by a woman who was in a desperate situation. She didn't know that the man was a Christian, she just knew him as someone who might be able to help; and so she described the mess she was in: she was sick, she was an addict, she was homeless, working on the street, and had a daughter that she couldn't afford to buy food for. As the man listened to the sordid details he was horrified but he tried not to let it show. Finally he asked her if she had ever thought of going to a church for help. She looked at him in amazement and said, "Church! Why would I ever go there? They'd just make me feel even worse than I do already."

Yancey concludes his story with an observation: How far we have come from [Jesus] the teacher who was criticized as a friend of outcasts and sinners. In the parable the holier-than-thou religious man prays this: "God I thank you I am not like other men – robbers, evildoers, adulterers – or even like this tax collector."

Are there times when we too have prayed or thought quietly to ourselves, "My God, I'm so glad I'm not like him, not like her, not like them, not like that out-of-control family in my road, or that man who did this, that, or the other. Oh God, thank you I'm not like that dishonest MP who forced his wife to take 3 penalty points on her license." Thank God I'm not like that (see 9:11-12).

Jesus is not impressed with that kind of prayer, or that kind of mind-set. Instead he points to the tax collector, the sinner who stands at a distance well aware of their condition before God and prays this: "God, have mercy on me a sinner" (9:13).

Jesus wraps up his parable with some straightforward teaching that we do well to hear, learn from and put into practice: 'Everyone who exalts himself will be humbled and everyone who humbles himself will be exalted' (9:14).

Are you too full of yourself? God desires humility. Are you weighed down by shame, by past failure, past sin, past wrong-doing? If you can pray, "God have mercy on me a sinner" God will lift you up, restore you, forgive you, and will give you a new hope. It's the hope of sins forgiven and a heart washed and made clean. It is this hope that we celebrate with the waters of baptism.