

*Glory to Jesus Christ!    Glory Forever!*

Schedule of Divine Services

Saturday, March 15    5:00 PM +Anna Kostrej by Magdalene Semego

Sunday, March 16    9:00 AM +Margaret Kostovny & +Catherine Jacobs  
by Dolores Zoretich

**Pages for Sunday’s Divine Liturgy: Tone 2 page 130 & pages 222 - 223**

Web Liturgy for Week of March 16 sponsored by  
**Gregory & Anna Marie Chekan**  
**In memory of +Sarah & +Nick Galzerano & +Anna Conterta**

*Sanctuary Candle* is lit from March 9 – March 22  
**Special Intentions of John & Joanne Organiscak**  
**by Nicholas & Lorraine Havrilla & Family**

Wednesday, March 19    6:30 PM    Liturgy of the Pre-sanctified Gifts

Friday, March 21    6:30 PM    Liturgy of the Pre-sanctified Gifts  
3<sup>rd</sup> All Souls Remembrance

**3<sup>rd</sup> SUNDAY OF THE GREAT FAST – VENERATION OF THE CROSS**

Saturday, March 22 5:00 PM +Joanne Smoley & +Alex Scripp by Anna Marie Wargo

Sunday, March 23 9:00 AM +Jean Repine by Mark & Virginia Repine

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

Regular Offertory	\$1,871.00
Maintenance Fund	449.00
Candles	99.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$2,419.00</b>

## **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**

16 Sydney Banks  
16 Stephen Pavasko  
16 Charles & Teri Phares  
18 Michelle Glaid  
18 Joseph Onoffrey  
19 Melissa Cavanagh Neri  
19 Judy Snyder  
20 Teresa Sekel  
21 Linda Gilgovan

**In person Attendance:** *Saturday, March 8: 60; Sunday, March 9: 56*  
*Friday Pre-Sanctified Gifts: 25*  
*Wednesday Pre-Sanctified Gifts: 41*

**Live Stream Viewing:** *Saturday, March 8: 30 ; Sunday, March 9: 59*  
*Friday Pre-Sanctified Gifts: 24*  
*Wednesday Pre-Sanctified Gifts: 24*

## **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.**

## **PUSSYWILLOWS NEEDED**

Now that the weather turned warmer this week, keep your eyes open for the pussywillow trees 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.**

## **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*, *Wedding*, *Chicken Noodle*, *Chicken Gnocchi*, *Pasta Fagioli*, *Stuffed Cabbage*, *Stuffed Pepper*, ***Mushroom***, ***Tomato Basil***, and ***Spinach Orzo***, soups for \$7; ***Seafood Creole*** for \$14/quart. ***Bold denotes meatless***. 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.

## **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.



# Attentive to the Word

*Second Sunday of the Great Fast*

*Hebrews 1:10 - 2:3*

*Mark 2: 1-12*

Today's reading from the Gospel of St Mark tells the story of Jesus' healing the paralyzed man whose friends bring him to Jesus. As with all of Jesus' miracles, this healing is not the main point of the story. We have to be careful to look beyond the miracles to the real lessons Jesus is trying to teach. This story teaches two lessons that we especially need to hear.

Lesson number one is that spiritual needs must be taken care of before physical or material needs. The paralyzed man is brought to Jesus for healing, and what does Jesus do? He forgives the man's sins! Then, later, to show his authority to forgive sins, Jesus heals the man's body. This is not what people expect, but the Lord heals the man's soul before He heals his body.

Lesson number two is that community faith and working together brings individuals to the Lord for spiritual and physical healing. It is the friends of the paralyzed man who carry him to the house where Jesus is staying. It is those friends who climb up on the roof with their friend on a stretcher. It is those friends who dig through the roof and lower him down to Jesus. And it is when Jesus sees their faith that He heals their friend, soul and body.

How do these lessons apply to us and to our church community? First, we have to make our faith our priority, and then our material and physical welfare will flow from it. We need to pray—at Sunday liturgy, at weekday services, in our homes with our families, and when we are alone with God. We need to develop our faith—reading the Bible and spiritual books, asking questions, going to classes, listening to homilies, participating in discussions. We need to practice our faith—remembering in every situation and every action how we know God wants God's people to act.

Second, we have to work together in faith for the benefit of each one. Whether we are inviting someone to church to "come and see," as Philip did for Nathanael (as we heard in last Sunday's Gospel reading), or praying for the departed or visiting the sick or making coffee on Sunday morning or singing at Liturgy or serving at the altar or baking cookies for a bake sale or writing a check to the church, it is working together in faith, as a Christian community, that will bring each of us to the Lord to receive healing in soul and body.

We might have difficulties with these lessons because most Christians have grown accustomed to treating faith as an individual matter. We hope to have what the Protestants

call “a personal relationship with Jesus, my Lord and Savior.” We look for a parish or church that meets our needs. We set goals for what we hope to get from our religious experience. Sometimes we hope that the liturgy will not disturb our prayers too much.

But this attitude conflicts with the revelation, principally in the Holy Scriptures, that God relates to the world communally—personally, yes, but not individually. In Genesis, chapter 1, we read that God “created them” and “blessed them.” Later, God makes a covenant with God’s people: “I will be your God and you will be my people.” Jesus comes into the world to save his people from their sins (Matthew 1).

When we understand God’s relationship to the world in this communal context, we can more easily take in the lessons of today’s Gospel reading. Together, we believers are the Church, the Body of Christ in the world. Together, we help each other to experience Jesus Christ, who is always “at home” in the church community, speaking the word to his people. We see that each person needs the healing that comes from experiencing the Lord. We don’t always see what needs healing, but together in faith we bring each one to Christ. Like the paralyzed man’s friends, we do for each other the work that is required—the carrying, the lifting, the removing of obstacles—and then God does the healing of soul and body.

And, when we do put faith first and do work together in faith, like the people of Capernaum we will be amazed and exclaim, “Never did we see anything like this!”, giving thanks and praise and glory to the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, One God, now and ever and forever. Amen.

## **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 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.