

Christ is Risen! Indeed He is Risen!

Schedule of Divine Services

Saturday, April 26 **5:00 PM +Ron Smoley by Anna Marie Wargo**
 40th Day Remembrance of +Father Simeon Sibenik
 Sunday, April 27 **9:00 AM +Corinne Bilock by Bob & Janet Druga**

Pages for Sunday's Divine Liturgy: Pages 175 - 177

Web Liturgy for Week of April 27 sponsored by
Bajus Family in memory of +Donald Bajus

Sanctuary Candle is lit from April 20 – May 3
In memory of +Donald Bajus by Family

SUNDAY OF THE OINTMENT BEARERS

Saturday, May 3 **5:00 PM +Donald Bajus by Family**
 Sunday, May 4 **9:00 AM Health & Blessings for Dorothy Basalla by Jacki Basalla**

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

Regular Offertory	\$ 2,593.00
Maintenance Fund	562.00
Holy Day	40.00
Flowers	50.00
Easter	22,040.00
Candles	156.30
Loose Cash	271.00
TOTAL	\$25,712.30

Special Pascha Donation: \$50 by Rebecca Michalco

Live Stream Donation: \$500 by Kathy Zavada

Parking Lot Donation: \$100 by Joe & Peg Barron

*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, Andrew & Linda Deskevich, William Sabo, Nick & Marion Mamula, Barbara Sowko, Bernadette Thorwart

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

NURSING HOMES/REHABILITATION CENTERS/ASSISTED LIVING

Betty Martin

APRIL/MAY BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES THIS WEEK

- 27 Marjorie Glaid
- 28 Gerald & Judith Rihn (Anniversary)
- 28 Ernest & Mary Ann Varhola (Anniversary)
- 1 Patricia Goda

In person Attendance:

Holy Thursday: 160

Good Friday Royal Hours: 12; Vespers: 75

Holy Saturday Resurrection Matins/Divine Liturgy: 160

Resurrection of Our Lord: 61

Bright Monday: 19

Bright Wednesday/Feast of St. George: 17

Live Stream Viewing:

Holy Thursday: 27

Good Friday Royal Hours: 11 ; Vespers: 45

Holy Saturday Resurrection Matins/Divine Liturgy: 44

Resurrection of Our Lord: 63

Bright Monday: 16

Bright Wednesday/Feast of St. George: 8

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.

THE CONCLAVE AND THE PRAYER FOR A NEW POPE

As Catholics around the world mourn the passing of Pope Francis and give thanks for his life of humble service, we now turn our hearts and prayers toward the Church's next chapter. In this time of transition, the College of Cardinals prepares for one of their most sacred and solemn duties in the life of the Church: the election of a new pope through the conclave.

The word conclave comes from the Latin *cum clave*, meaning "with a key." This refers to the tradition of locking the cardinals within the Sistine Chapel, away from outside influence, until a new pope is elected. This centuries-old practice is both spiritual and symbolic: the Church, guided by the Holy Spirit, enters into prayerful discernment to choose the next successor of St. Peter.

Only cardinals under the age of 80 are eligible to vote. Before entering the conclave, they attend Mass and take an oath of secrecy. Once inside, ballots are cast twice in the morning and twice in the afternoon, with prayer and reflection between each vote. When a two-thirds majority is reached, the new pope is elected.

White smoke rising from the Sistine Chapel signals to the world: *Habemus Papam*—we have a pope.

During this sacred period, the faithful are encouraged to join the universal Church in prayer—not only for the repose of Pope Francis' soul but also for the guidance of the Holy Spirit upon the cardinals who will choose his successor. This is not merely a political process; it is a deeply spiritual moment in which the Church seeks God's will.

PRAYER FOR THE PAPAL CONCLAVE

Heavenly Father, we pray in union with the whole Church for the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the Cardinals. May *they* listen attentively to Your Spirit during the Conclave.

Almighty God, we pray that the Conclave brings us a Pope who pleases You by guiding Your Church to grow in faithfulness to You. We pray together with the intercession of our Mother Mary and all the Saints. Please Lord, protect and guide your Church during this time of transition. Amen.

Knights of Columbus

TWENTIETH ANNUAL WOMEN'S DAY OF REFLECTION

Saturday, May 17, 2025, 9:00 AM – 2:30 PM, Kearns Spirituality Center. "*Do Whatever He Tells You.*" (John 2:11) **Pre-registration is required by May 3, 2025, \$40 includes lunch (no refunds).** Registration forms can be found in the vestibules. For more information call 412-322-8773 or email ore@archpitt.org.



Attentive to the Word

Thomas Sunday

Acts 5: 12-20

John 20: 19-31

AFTER THE CRUCIFIXION the disciples, most likely returned to the Upper Room. They gathered behind locked doors because of fear of the Jewish authorities. They were afraid, indeed probably terrified, due to the fact that the followers of the Nazarene were likely to be rooted out and arrested. The authorities would believe them to be dangerous, having been followers of the one who claimed to be Messiah. They must be eliminated. The feelings that pervaded the disciples the Sunday evening after the crucifixion were a mixture of apprehension, fear, and terror. Since they had heard of Jesus' resurrection, they had every reason to be terrified. The Jewish authorities would believe that they had stolen Jesus' body from the grave. Nothing would stop them until they had found the disciples.

The feelings of apprehension, fear, and terror are common human emotions. They are basic survival mechanisms which we use to protect ourselves from an enemy or a destructive force. Like these disciples of Jesus, most of us have experienced these emotions. Sometimes the basis of our fears can be unfounded; other times they are based upon very threatening realities. Crime on the streets, war in a country, the threat of nuclear war, violence in a home can create legitimate reasons for fear and terror in persons. If individuals live in a state of constant fear and terror, the consequences are draining. Such a state creates both emotional and physical exhaustion.

Most likely the disciples had not slept much since the crucifixion. They had every reason to fear the authorities. Jesus had been perceived as a danger to both religious and political authorities. Therefore, he was killed. Rumors were rampant about the city that this humble teacher had prophesied his resurrection. Such a prophecy, of course, was seen as ridiculous by the authorities, but they were concerned that the disciples of this Nazarene might attempt to steal his body and claim that he, indeed, had risen from the dead. Therefore, the disciples had to be observed, if not arrested. With reports beginning to circulate about his being raised from the dead there was now legitimate cause for terror.

It is within this context that Jesus appears among them and gives the common greeting of the day. "Peace be with you." While with them he repeats the phrase again, "Peace be with you." A week later the disciples are in the house and behind locked doors. This time Thomas is with them; he was not present the first time. Again Jesus appears standing among them saying, "Peace be with you." Although this greeting was common in that day, its significance can hardly be overlooked given the context of fear and terror. The resurrected Christ was more than a peace greeter; Jesus through his presence is the gift of peace. By his presence fearful situations could be met with a sense of well-being and personal welfare as opposed to being paralyzed by the fear and terror of potential tragedies. Jesus' presence created inner peace within the midst of fearful conditions for the disciples. By his resurrection Jesus' presence was available to his disciples. He is to us.

The Easter event makes Jesus our contemporary. He is not an ancient figure buried in a rock-hewn tomb outside Jerusalem. His bones are not to be found for observation and speculation. He is not some memory to be known only by reading the history books. The tomb is empty. His resurrection makes him present to those who have the eyes of faith. He is present to us in the reading of the Sacred Scripture, the baptism of his covenant people, the preaching of the Word, the moments of silent meditation and prayer, and especially the celebration of the Eucharist. He is a present reality to be experienced at the deepest levels of our openness to him.

There come moments in life when each of us experience apprehension, fear, or outright terror. The Good News is that Christ in his presence can be our peace. Sometimes he will remove our fearful illusions by helping us obtain a clearer, more transparent fix on reality. With the removal of a false source of fear we experience his peace. Other times the source of our terror is real and needs to be faced with courage and dealt with. In these cases the resurrected Christ is present. Knowing that this resurrected Presence is before us to guide us, above us to enlighten us, behind us to protect us, beneath us to support us, beside us to befriend us, makes us aware that he is within us to give us his peace! The next time you feel all locked up inside because of fearful, even terrifying conditions in your life, allow Jesus to come inside and stand beside you and say, "Peace be with you! Peace be with you! Peace be with you!" Allow his presence to give you inner peace.

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.