

*Christ is Born! Glorify Him!*Schedule of Divine Services

Saturday, December 27 5:00 PM +John Organiscak by Robert Bodnar & Family

Sunday, December 28 9:00 AM +Eleanor Chekan by David & Susan Pcsolar

Pages for Sunday's Divine Liturgy: Pages 302 - 305Web Liturgy for Week of December 28 sponsored by
Edward Kolson*Sanctuary Candle* is lit from December 28 - January 10Deceased members of the Cosgrove (+Robert, +Maryhelen, +Keith, & +Keily),
Mihalchik (+Michael & +Helen) & Suchta (+Dolores) Families**CIRCUMCISION OF OUR LORD – BASIL THE GREAT, ARCHBISHOP**

Wednesday, December 31 6:30 PM +Carol Serechin by Joanne Agick

SUNDAY BEFORE THEOPHANY

Saturday, January 3 5:00 PM +Helen Smykla by Marjorie Zakazewski

+Elizabeth Martin by Bill & Georgiana Sabo

Sunday, January 4 9:00 AM +Jean Repine by Mark & Virginia Repine

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

Regular Offertory	\$4,209.00
Maintenance Fund	639.00
Holy Day	20.00
Flowers	295.00
Christmas	6,765.00
Archdiocesan Charities	10.00
Candles	109.00
Loose Cash	71.00
TOTAL	\$12,118.00

*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 PRAY FOR THE SICK AND SHUT-INS

AT HOME: Margie Seman, Teri Phares, Raymond Petro, Jr., Luke Pasternak, 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 Deskevich, Sr., William Sabo, Nick & Marion Mamula, Edward Salsgiver, Bob Stein, Dave Scott

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

DECEMBER/JANUARY BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES THIS WEEK

28 Joann Ostheim
29 Joseph Bilock
29 Yavor Lazarov
2 Joseph M. Kundrat
3 Richard Sawczak

In person Attendance: *Saturday, December 20: 48; Sunday, December 21: 107*

Live Stream Viewing: *Saturday, December 20: 19; Sunday, December 21: 49*

ETERNAL MEMORY

+**Very Reverend Archpriest Eugene Yackanich**, a retired priest of the Archeparchy, passed from this life to the next on December 19, 2025. May he 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 priestly servant Eugene in His Kingdom forever!*

2026 CALENDARS

Our Parish family would like to thank the **Savolskis-Wasik-Glenn Funeral Home** for their generosity in providing our calendars again this year. God bless them for their kindness and generosity!

Special Christmas Donations: \$35 by Sandy & Mike Meharr; \$100 by Fred & Mary Ellen Petro; \$75 by Beverly Vatrál

Special Donation: \$100 by Holy Ghost Byzantine Catholic Church, McKees Rocks; \$50 by Jeanine Perhacs for Blessings for the Varhola Family

2025 - A LOOK BACK

As we begin the Year 2026, we should reflect on this past year to see where we were, where we are now, and where we are going, especially because of the continued challenges, frustrations, and uncertainties. Not only should we do this individually, but we should do this as a parish family. As a community of faith, our existence is made possible through the efforts of many people. We should take the time to recognize all those who make the Cathedral of Saint John the Baptist what it is today:

God the Father, God the Son & God the Holy Spirit; our Holy Father, Pope Leo; Metropolitan William; the clergy and religious sisters and brothers of the Metropolitan Province; all of the parishioners of the Cathedral of St. John the Baptist; our Parish secretary; our Cantors; our Catechists; our Altar Servers; our Sacristan; our Ushers; all our volunteers.

Thank you for your continued support and generosity toward the growth of your faith community of Saint John Cathedral. I look forward to working with you in 2026 as we journey together toward eternal salvation.

SAINT BASIL THE GREAT, ARCHBISHOP OF CAESAREA

St. Basil is one of the foremost Fathers of the Church. Born at Caesarea of Cappadocia in 329 or 330, he began his studies in Caesarea and continued them at Constantinople and Athens where he met Gregory Nazianzen. Their close friendship lasted all their life. Basil returned to Caesarea in 356. He retired in the desert near Neo-Caesarea where his mother Emilia and his sister Macrina were living monastic lives. That is where he wrote his *Essays on Spiritual Life*. He was ordained to the priesthood by Eusebius, Bishop of Caesarea, and succeeded him in 370. He died on January 1, 379.

The most famous of his writings are: "Selections from Origen," "On the Holy Spirit," "Refutation of Arianism," "On the Spiritual Life," "Monastic Rule," several books of Commentaries on the Scriptures, sermons and letters. His eloquence is persuasive and his preaching strong. He is remembered also for his apostolic zeal, his courage in defending the faith against the Arian Emperor Valens, and for his social foundations: hospitals and orphanages. All these endeavors led to his receiving the titles of "Divinely Inspired" and "the Great."

"CATHEDRAL KITCHEN"

The "Cathedral Kitchen" is restocked. We have quarts of *Halushki & Wedding, Chicken Noodle, Stuffed Cabbage, Pasta Fagioli, Beef Vegetable, Beef Barley, Mushroom, Tomato Basil soups and Chili* for \$7. **Stuffed Cabbage: ½ dozen for \$20 and 1 dozen for \$36.** Frozen *Potato/Cheese, Kraut, Cottage Cheese, Potato/Jalapeño pirohi* for \$10 per dozen. If you would like to buy any please see Patty Bovee, Diane Pochron or Fr. Andrew.



Attentive to the Word

Sunday after the Nativity

Galatians 1: 11-19

Matthew 2: 13-23

This time of year, when our thoughts turn toward the wondrous story of our Savior's birth, a lesser-known incident from Jesus' early childhood comes to mind—one I find especially poignant.

Before Jesus had reached His second birthday, He had already become the target of an assassination plot by King Herod, the ruthless and paranoid ruler of Roman-controlled Judea. Joseph and Mary, prompted by a dream from God, took the baby and fled the country. I imagine the sense of responsibility must have been heavy on their young and slender shoulders—they were the chosen caretakers of the very God of the universe, come in human flesh.

I'm always struck by how ironic their flight to Egypt was—the humble infant King taking refuge in the very nation from whose hand He had powerfully delivered the children of Israel so many generations earlier. While the record gives no clear indication one way or the other, I suspect the people of Egypt were never aware of Jesus' divine and royal identity—He certainly wasn't what they would have expected from a king.

Egypt's history was one proud and glorious procession of kings spanning thirty dynasties and nearly 3,000 years. Egyptian kings—the pharaohs—were powerful figures and rich beyond imagination. They wielded wealth like a weapon, built sprawling cities, commanded huge armies, lived in lavish homes, ate the best food, drank the best wine, wore the most extravagant jewelry, and spared no expense when it came to their standard of living.

The pharaohs' standard of dying wasn't bad either. They obviously never heard the saying, "You can't take it with you." Concern for their lot in the afterlife was integral to Egyptian religion, and so their custom was to pack their burial chambers with supplies they would need as they traveled to their next life. King Tut's tomb proved they didn't travel lightly.

But expecting to live forever wasn't a pharaoh's only outrageous aspiration. Records indicate Egyptian kings assumed, and were given, supernatural status. The pharaoh was thought to be responsible for bringing the floods that watered Egyptian crops, and so he received credit for providing the nation's food. He was idolized in statue—citizens bowed to his image, and in the ultimate act of pride, every reigning pharaoh claimed to be the manifestation of at least one god. Akhenaton, Egyptian history's infamous heretic, banished the national pantheon and proclaimed himself to be the living incarnation of the sun-god Ra—he believed he was God in the flesh.

Whether it's the ancient pharaohs demanding the worship of others, or the millions of modern skeptics who reject God, dethrone Him as Creator, and worship themselves, man's inherent pattern has always been to exalt himself. Rebellion against God can take no higher form than self-love—the person who seeks his own interests at the expense of others and places himself at the center of the universe. That is precisely the condition in which you and I wallowed before we were saved, and that is where, ultimately, everyone who doesn't know the Lord remains.

And while history is crowded with men who would be God, only one God would be man. Consider for a moment what it meant for our Lord Jesus to come to earth as a man to secure your salvation. The King of heaven left His throne and took a stable for a nursery. The very Son of God was hunted by a tyrant king and became an infant exile in Egypt. The source of all wisdom and knowledge was born into poverty and lived without earthly wealth and luxury. Holy and without blemish, young Messiah was assaulted by every temptation Satan could thrust on Him, yet He resisted each one to its fullest force. The King of creation willingly subjected Himself to all of what it means to be human—pain, hunger, thirst, sorrow, physical exhaustion, the full range of human emotions—yet did so without sinning.

And in an unfathomable act of selfless, sacrificial love, He left heaven's glory to die for sinners. He offered mercy to a people who deserved only His wrath. He stooped to accomplish that which we not only could not do, but also would not do. In love, the God of the universe stepped from eternity to intervene in human history and save those wholly unable to save themselves.

In a word, the lesson we learn from Christmas is love. Christ's love—love that was manifest in His coming, in His life, and in His death—was a love that sacrificed. A love that sought not its own needs but the needs of others. A love that counted not what it might lose but what others would gain. Love that emptied itself that others would be filled, and humbled itself that others would be lifted up. Love that, to the very end, gave without thought for self or self gain.

THE CIRCUMCISION OF OUR LORD AND GOD AND SAVIOUR JESUS CHRIST

On the eighth day after His birth, the divine Child was taken to the Temple and duly circumcised according to the Jewish Law that had been observed from the time of Abraham. At this time He was given the name Jesus, the name announced to the most holy Virgin by the Archangel Gabriel (Luke 1:31).

The Baptism of the New Covenant was prefigured in the Circumcision of the Old Covenant. The Lord's Circumcision shows that He took true human flesh upon Himself, not its semblance as heretics later taught of Him. The Lord was truly circumcised, desiring thus to fulfill all the Law, which He Himself had given through our forefathers and the prophets. Fulfilling all the ordinances of the Law, He superseded them by Baptism in His Church, for, as the Apostle declares: "For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision avails anything, but a new creation" (Gal. 6:15).

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.