

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, Bernadette Thorwart, Sean Haldin

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

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES THIS WEEK

19 Suzanne Fedoris
21 John Miskovitch
22 Betty Banyas
22 Debbie Cosgrove
23 Jane Savko

In person Attendance: *Saturday, January 10: 36; Sunday, January 11: 68*

Live Stream Viewing: *Saturday, January 10: 29; Sunday, January 11: 66*

Live Stream Donations: \$75 by Joana Dizak; \$500 by Cynthia & George Valko

Parking Lot Donation: \$100 by Joseph & Margaret Barron

WELCOME NEW FAMILY

Our Parish Family extends its prayerful best wishes and welcome to **John, Kim and Brent Kolesar** who have chosen St. John Cathedral as their spiritual home. We look forward to growing together as a family of faith. *May God grant to John, Kim and Brent peace, health and happiness for many years!*

NEWLY SANCTIFIED JORDAN WATER

On the Feast of Theophany we celebrated the Great Sanctification of Water. You are encouraged to take some water home for your sanctification, so don't forget to bring your Holy Water containers.

GIRL SCOUT COOKIES

Isla & Eden Scott are selling Girl Scout Cookies to earn badges, learn new skills and work toward their goals. If you would like to purchase any cookies, there is an order form in the parking lot vestibule. **Deadline to order cookies us Sunday, January 25, 2026.**

COFFEE & DONUT SOCIAL – JANUARY 25

Please join your parish family for a Coffee & Donut Social after the 9:00 AM Sunday Divine Liturgy on *January 25*.

FRONT STEPS AND RAILING

As you can see the front steps are complete with the installation of the railing. I have been advised that during the first year not to use ice melt on the new cement. So depending on the weather and condition of the step, they may be closed from time to time during the winter months. Thank you for your understanding during the snowy days. Just want everyone to be safe and to protect our investment in the new steps.

PARKING LOT STEPS

During the snowy weather, the steps leading to the church from the upper parking lot will closed because it is nearly impossible to keep them clean and passable when it continuously snows. Please use the parking lot entrance. Thank you for your understanding during the snowy days. Just want everyone to be safe.

“CATHEDRAL KITCHEN”

The “Kathedral Kitchen” is restocked. We have quarts of *Halushki & Stuffed Cabbage, Wedding, Chicken Noodle, Chicken Gnocchi, Stuffed Pepper, Pasta Fagioli, Beef Vegetable, Beef Barley, Mushroom, 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.

ALL SOULS SATURDAYS

The first All Souls Divine Liturgy is Saturday, February 7, 2026 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.



Attentive to the Word

Sunday of Zacchaeus

Timothy 4:9-15

Luke 19:1-10

Picasso, the famous painter, was once asked to paint a large mural, 30 by 60 feet, expressing what General Custer's last thoughts were at the Battle of Little Big Horn. They asked him to read every book that had ever been written about Custer so that he may be better able to analyze his mind. Picasso did, and finally the mural was completed. When it was unveiled, it turned out to be a great disappointment. Nobody could make out what the mural meant. In one corner there was a huge cow with a great silver halo over its head. The remainder of the canvas was filled with trillions of Indians each with globs of cotton in both hands. Dumbfounded, they asked Picasso what this meant. He replied, "It's quite simple. General Custer's last thoughts were, 'Holy cow! Where did all these cotton-pickin' Indians come from?'" Whether or not this story is true or simply a piece of fiction is not important. The point is the moral of the tale. Each of us sees things differently. A person who has developed a taste for art, good art, can see in a painting many things that perhaps a person with an under-developed art sense could see. A skilled writer or a teacher of literature can discover and comprehend the metaphors, the similes, the imagery, the symbolism, and so on in a poem or short story that an unskilled reader cannot appreciate. And God, in His infinite insight, can see the best, and often hidden, talents, skills, traits, and tendencies in an individual, which often we, in our limited human vision, may, and do, overlook. We so often see others only at face value, and then we tend to evaluate them in negative, unflattering, uncharitable, and usually erroneous ways. We see what a person appears to be or what he is at present. So it is no wonder that sometimes we only discover the worst in people. But Christ our God, in His great love and compassion, overlooks, or sees the good, the best, within each and every one of us. He finds the potential of what we might become, if given the opportunity. Imagine the despised Zacchaeus in the Gospel lesson that we will soon hear once again at the end of this festive Nativity/Theophany season, immediately before the entrance into the Triodion. He collected taxes from his own people to give to the hated Roman overlords. These publicans were usually quite dishonest, often severely over-taxing their brothers, and then pocketing the money for themselves. And to top it off, HE WAS SHORT! Not that that should be of any consequence, but sometimes we do make judgments based upon physical attributes in order to dislike another human being. What animosity there must have been toward this

puny individual who had the audacity to climb up into a sycamore tree to get a glimpse of Jesus! NOW SEE WHAT OUR LORD DID!!! He stopped beneath that tree and said to the man, "Hurry up and come down, for today I must stay at your house." He saw something good in the man, and used it to the advantage of changing him and thus saving his soul. Psychologists use a term to describe a certain development in an individual that often happens in dysfunctional families, called "self-fulfilling prophecy." This is an attitude that can lead to disastrous results. A while back, a television commercial vividly demonstrated this principle, with lines such as: "Call your child a dummy, an idiot, a worthless bum, and because he has been labeled thus, HE WILL BECOME ONE. Tell your child that you wish she had never been born, or that your life is miserable because of her, AND YOU WILL DESTROY HER SELF-ESTEEM AND DIGNITY. She will most likely become bitter and resentful and destructive. Sometimes it is best if we subscribed to the old adage, "If you have nothing good to say, say nothing at all!" Yet how much better would the world be, how much more harmony and peace would exist, if we only took the time and effort to look more deeply into someone else to discover the good lying beneath the externals. And as always, Jesus is our best example! He saw past the labels and the perceived reputation of people and transformed the lives of so many. He looked at the doubtful, uncertain, but rash and impetuous, Simon the fisherman, and saw Peter the Rock, the leader of the Apostolic group! He looked upon Saul the persecutor, and saw Paul the great preacher and Apostle to the Gentiles! He was presented with an adulterous woman, but she departed a repentant saint. He took a mismatched band of twelve men of little reputation and education and made them into the foundation of His Church! And the list goes on throughout the ages. Luther Burbank, the famous American horticulturist, used to say, "Every weed is a potential flower." From that we can understand God's thinking, "Every man and woman is a potential saint!" It is appropriate that this last Sunday before the preparation period for the Great Fast is also an appropriate prelude to it. Its message leads into those of the following Sundays. First, we must have a DESIRE to see and know our Lord Jesus Christ! This Sunday usually falls within the time when our priests are still blessing the homes within our congregations. And during that blessing prayer, we hear the reference to our Lord's entrance into the home of Zacchaeus, and the marvelous effect it had on him, that he would give half of his goods to poor, and that if he had defrauded anyone, he would restore it fourfold. This reminds us that we must personally receive Him, not only into our homes, but more especially into our hearts, just as Zacchaeus did. Our Lord tells each of us, "Today I must stay at your house." Will your response be the same as that of Zacchaeus? It must be, because only then will you find eternal salvation!

By Very Rev. Robert J. Prepelka

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.