

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.

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES THIS WEEK

10 Daniel & Michele Szerbin (Anniversary)

In person Attendance: *Royal Hours: 4; Christmas Eve: 125; Christmas: 50*
Saturday, December 27: 45; Sunday, December 28: 63

Live Stream Viewing: *Royal Hours: 12; Christmas Eve: 30; Christmas: 34*
Saturday, December 27: 25; Sunday, December 28: 63

THEOPHANY-EPIPHANY CONCERT 2026

Mark your 2026 calendar for the first uplifting event of the New Year! Join your Catholic neighbors as they present the 4th annual Theophany-Epiphany Community Churches Concert on Sunday, January 11 at St. Gregory Byzantine Catholic Church in Upper St. Clair.

St. Gregory's Chant Group will be joined by the Schola Cantorum of St. Michael the Archangel Roman Catholic Parish and the Our Lady of Victory Maronite Catholic Church Choir in a program of seasonal choral and chant music in celebration of the Nativity and Baptism of Jesus Christ. Each group will sing selections and stage festival scenes from their respective traditions in Latin, Ruthenian, Arabic, Syriac and English.

The concert will be presented on Sunday, January 11, at 3:00 pm at St. Gregory Church, 2005 Mohawk Road, Upper St. Clair 15241. All are welcome to attend this gathering of joyous voices, which will be followed by a hospitality reception in the church hall.

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 loved 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 DECEASED LOVED ONES.

ETERNAL MEMORY

+**Reverend John Kapitan, Jr., OFM** a retired priest of the Archeparchy, passed from this life to the next on December 29, 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 John in His Kingdom forever!*

FUNERAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR ARCHPRIEST EUGENE YACKANICH

Visitation: Wednesday, January 7, 2026, 2PM - 7PM

Parastas: Wednesday, January 7, 2026, 7PM

Funeral: Thursday, January 8, 2026, 10 AM

Visitation and all services will take place at St. John the Baptist Byzantine Catholic Church, 185 East Main Street, Uniontown, PA.

THANK YOU

I would like to thank everyone for their generosity to the Parish with your Christmas offering. Thank you for the support so many have given to all of our fund-raising efforts during the year of 2025.

Also, I would like to thank all who remembered me during this Holy Season of Christ's birth with Christmas greetings and the generous gifts.

Your thoughtfulness and generosity were greatly appreciated. May God continue to bless us throughout the New Year as we journey together as a family of faith.



PHILIP'S FAST ALMSGIVING THANK YOU

Thank you to everyone who participated in our Philip's Fast Almsgiving opportunities. Your generosity was certainly evident. We were able to provide gifts for a personal care facility with 18 residents. Donations were sent to Clelian Heights, The Great Pittsburgh Community Food Bank, The Salvation Army of Homestead and Christian Associates of Southwest PA. May God bless you for your generosity.

"CATHEDRAL KITCHEN"

The "Kathedral 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 before Theophany

2 Timothy 4:5-8

Mark 1:1-8

In the Gospel for the Sunday before Theophany, we read about the role of St. John the Baptist in salvation history. Isaiah the Prophet spoke of one coming to prepare “the way of the Lord.” John is the one sent by God to prepare for the coming of Jesus, the long-awaited Messiah. Throughout the Old Testament, we read of the many prophecies announcing the coming of a Messiah who would save His people from their sins. John the Baptist is the last and greatest of all the Prophets.

The Tropar for Tuesday speaks of John the Baptist as “the Forerunner” of Christ and “deemed worthy to baptize the One foretold.” The Baptist “suffered for the truth”. He was beheaded by King Herod. Although he suffered martyrdom for announcing the truth, the Baptist announces the Lord Jesus as “God become man.”

In the Kondak for Tuesday, John the Baptist is remembered as “the prophet, the herald, and the Forerunner of the Word of God.” John had placed his hand upon “the One Whom the prophets foretold,” baptizing Jesus in the River Jordan. John the Baptist is a “just man” and he shall be “in everlasting remembrance” and “of evil hearsay” he (the Baptist) had no fear.

In today’s Gospel reading, the Evangelist Mark speaks about the humble lifestyle of John the Baptist: “John was clothed in camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist. He fed on locusts and wild honey.” (1:6) He lived “in the desert proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins.” (v. 4)

John the Baptist, as did the Prophets before him, was calling upon the people to repent of their many sins. The Prophets were calling upon the people to experience a “metanoia.” That is, a conversion from sin and a turning back toward God. Sin is never a

good, but rather an evil that goes against the Holy Will of God. It does not build us up, whether oneself or our community, but rather inhibits proper growth and development. It deters us from achieving our true potential in life. Sin destroys from within, oneself and others. It causes disharmony and a lack of trust. There is no inner peace nor true and lasting peace among individuals and nations.

John's baptism was one of water. Water cleans what is dirty, what is stained. The baptism Jesus offers is one of "the Holy Spirit." Christian baptism not only takes away sin, it imparts to those who receive it grace, sanctifying grace. Sanctifying grace is an operation of the Holy Spirit. The Spirit enables us to live good and holy lives, in tune with the Holy Will of God. The Holy Spirit helps us to say "No" to sin and say "Yes" to God and the ways of God. The Holy Spirit does not exclude anyone but is all-inclusive and helps us to be so with others.

Our brothers and sisters in Christ are suffering, are wounded by the evils inflicted upon them by an aggressive and heartless neighbor. Many a destruction of person, property, and livelihood have been thrust upon them. Many innocent children have been injured or even died in the "prime of their life." Each of those acts are definitely not of God, the All-Good One. They are sins and also atrocities committed against "humanity," human civilization.

God did not create us to be at war with one another. Rather God has called us all to live in harmony with one another. We all are called upon to recognize that we are members of "one family." We are children of God created in His "image and likeness." God, Our Heavenly Father, truly cares for all. And that is the reason for the season of Christmas which we continue to celebrate. God sent His Only Begotten Son to redeem us. "God Eternal is born is to save us with His love, Christ the Son of God." Let us continue to glorify Him.

By Fr. D. George Worschak

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.