

*Glory to Jesus Christ! Glory Forever!*Schedule of Divine Services

- Saturday, January 31 5:00 PM +Jack Karadas by Anna Marie Wargo
+John Organiscak by M/M Ed Wisniewski & Family
- Sunday, February 1 9:00 AM Birthday Commemoration of +Joseph Raschak
by Marilyn Raschak

Pages for Sunday's Divine Liturgy: Tone 1 pages 125 - 127 & page 216

Web Liturgy for Week of February 1 sponsored by
Martin & Carol Barvinchak

Sanctuary Candle is lit from January 25 - February 7
In memory of +Linda Deskevich by Kim & Kristie Cosgrove

ENCOUNTER OF OUR LORD WITH SIMEON

Monday, February 2 6:30 PM +Donna Ostinowsky by Jeff & Faith Weigman

Saturday, February 7 9:00 AM 1st All Souls Remembrance

SUNDAY OF MEATFARE

- Saturday, February 7 5:00 PM +Judy Kovatch by Linda Stofko & Kovatch Family
- Sunday, February 8 9:00 AM +Samuel Egidi by Chekan Family
- In memory of William E. Hilla, 8th Anniversary of his death &
Celebration of the 94th Birthday of Rita Hilla by Diane & Mike Pochron

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

Regular Offertory	\$1,216.00
Maintenance Fund	332.00
Holy Day	57.00
BCW	29.00
Candles	58.07
TOTAL	\$1,692.07

Please call the parish office if you would like your 2025 contribution statement.

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.

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES THIS WEEK

- 1 Joseph Varhola
- 4 Peter & Darlene Minydzak (Anniversary)
- 5 Jonelle Bovee

In person Attendance: *Saturday, January 24: 57; Sunday, January 25: 3*

Live Stream Viewing: *Saturday, January 24: 42; Sunday, January 25: 121*

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:

February 15 St. John the Baptist Cathedral

- February 22 St. John Chrysostom, Greenfield
- March 1 Holy Spirit Church, Oakland
- March 8 Holy Ghost Church, McKees Rocks
- March 15 Ss. Peter & Paul Church, Braddock
- March 22 St. Pius X Church, Carrick

Forgiveness Vespers

- Fr. Michael Kunitz
- Fr. Tyler Wisniewski
- Fr. Vitalii Stashkevych
- Fr. Frank Firko
- Fr. Valerian Michlik

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.

*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.*

COFFEE & DONUT SOCIAL – FEBRUARY 1

Please join your parish family for a Coffee & Donut Social after the 9:00 AM Sunday Divine Liturgy on *February 1*.

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.

2025 PARISH FINANCIAL PRESENTATION

On **Sunday, February 8, 2026**, following the 9 AM Divine Liturgy, I will give a presentation on the 2025 Parish Finances. The presentation will be held in the Cathedral Center. *A light lunch will be served. Sign-up sheets are in the vestibules.*

KOLACHE AND PASKA ORDERS

We are now taking orders for Easter kolache and paskas. Order sheets are located in the vestibules. Nut, Apricot, Nut/Apricot, Poppyseed and Lekvar Kolache are \$18 each; plain paska, \$7; Raisin paska, \$8. **DEADLINE FOR EASTER ORDERS IS MARCH 1, 2026.**

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 1, 2026.**

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 1, 2026.**

“CATHEDRAL KITCHEN”

The “Cathedral 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.



Attentive to the Word

Sunday of the Prodigal Son

1 Corinthians 6: 12-20

Luke 15: 11-32

The Prodigal Son is among the most famous of the parables. This story is positioned to inspire us with hope and comfort as we approach the Great Fast and focus on repentance. The meaning is familiar and applies to each one of us: no matter how much we've messed up, we will be welcome, when we find our way back home.

Who do we relate to this year as we hear the Gospel reading? The young man who squandered his inheritance? The older brother who was loyal to his father but resentful and bitter with the royal treatment his father gave his brother? Or the father who continued to watch for the son who left and opened his arms to him when he returned?

Each figure in today's parable can enrich our being. We know God through each other, so let's strive to recognize the goodness around us and be grateful, and like the father, make each other feel at home with us: acknowledged, celebrated, where no one can feel condemned for their shortcomings or unappreciated for their presence. When we can feel that we belong together, we can feel the warmth of God's welcoming embrace, and our joy multiples!

FEAST OF THE ENCOUNTER OF OUR LORD WITH SIMEON

In honor of the divine mystery that we celebrate today, let us all hasten to meet Christ. Everyone should be eager to join the procession and to carry a light. Our lighted candles are a sign of the divine splendor of the One who comes to expel the dark shadows of evil and to make the whole universe radiant with the brilliance of His eternal light. Our candles also show how bright our souls should be when we go to meet Christ. The Mother of God, the most pure Virgin, carried the True Light in her arms and brought Him to those who lay in darkness. We too should carry a light for all to see and reflect the radiance of the True Light as we hasten to meet Him. The Light has come and has shone upon a world enveloped in shadows; the Dayspring from on high has visited us and given light to those who lived in darkness. This, then is our feast, and we join in procession with lighted candles to reveal the Light that has shone upon us and the glory that is yet to come to us through Him. So let us hasten all together to meet our God. Let all of us, my brethren, be enlightened and made radiant by this Light. Let all of us share in its splendor, and be so filled with it that no one remains in the darkness. Let us be shining ourselves as we go together to meet and to receive with the aged Simeon the light whose brilliance is eternal. Rejoicing with Simeon, let us sing a hymn of thanksgiving to God, the Father of the light, who sent the true light to dispel the darkness and to give us all a

share in His splendor. Through Simeon's eyes, we, too, have seen the salvation of God which He prepared for all the nations and revealed as the glory of the new Israel, which is ourselves. As Simeon was released from the bonds of this life when he had seen Christ, so we, too, were at once freed from our old state of sinfulness. By faith we, too, embraced Christ, the salvation of God the Father, as He came to us from Bethlehem. Pagans before, we now have become the people of God. Our eyes have seen God incarnate, and, because we have seen Him present among us and have mentally received Him into our arms, we are called the new Israel. Never shall we forget His presence; every year we keep a feast in His honor.

From a Homily of Sophronios, Patriarch of Jerusalem (c. 636 AD)

ALL SOULS REMEMBRANCE

A question that is often posed to *Eastern* Christians is: “Why do you ask the prayers of dead people? By that question, people may actually be saying: “It is wrong to ask the prayers of dead people.”

The Gospel reading this morning (Luke 20:27-44) sheds some good light on how the question could be answered. Jesus is speaking with some Sadducees. They do not believe in the resurrection of those who have died. Here is the proof that Jesus gave them and gives us:

“But even Moses showed in the burning bush passage that the dead are raised, when he called the Lord ‘the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.’ For He is not the God of the dead but of the living, for all live to Him.”

When a committed Christian dies, they do not cease to exist, nor do they cease to be a part of the Church. The Church that Christ established is both the Church Militant (here on earth) and the Church Triumphant (in heaven). It is all one Church.

When we ask one of the Saints to pray for us, we are asking someone who is alive in the Church Triumphant. When we are in need of prayer, we often ask our friends and our family to pray for us. We might even be put on the list of our prayer team from church. Here’s an important verse of Holy Scripture to consider regarding who we ask for prayer:

“Pray for one another, that you may be healed. The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much.” (James 5:16)

It is certainly important for us to pray for each other and to ask for the prayers of people we know. But, our friends and family, even our prayer team from church, are still in the race. The Saints of our Faith have crossed the finish line in a glorious way. They are now a part of the Church Triumphant. They are that “Cloud of Witnesses” we find in Hebrews 12. There can be no doubt that the Saints are more righteous than all of us. *Eastern* Christians have asked for the prayers of the Saints from the beginning of the Church. And we continue to do that in this world we live in today. Indeed, their prayers avail much.

By Fr. Stephen Powley

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.