

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

- 25 Andrew Oriss
- 25 Nicole Pavasko
- 25 Mary Anne Rozanc
- 25 Josephine Zadrowski
- 26 Susan Sherwin
- 28 Lorraine Pcholinsky
- 29 Christine Munsie
- 30 Adam Chervenak
- 31 Andrew Fedoris, Jr.

In person Attendance: *Saturday, January 17: 45; Sunday, January 18: 68*

Live Stream Viewing: *Saturday, January 17: N/A; Sunday, January 18: 74*

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.

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*.

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.*

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.

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 is Sunday, January 25, 2026.**

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 be 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 “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 Publican and Pharisee

2 Timothy 3:10-15

Luke 18:10-14

This Sunday's Gospel begins our preparation for the Great Fast. It seems to turn the whole purpose of the Fast on its head. The Pharisee boasts of "fasting twice a week," and "giving tithes of all I possess," and thanks God that he is not like other men. But Jesus says he is not justified. Our Lord does not speak of how these two men lived their lives outside the temple. He does not speak explicitly of whether the tax collector repented, though Zaccheus did repent to receive the Lord's mercy and forgiveness. But our Lord focuses on one reality only: what do we believe in our heart. I had a friend who said that if he didn't fast during Lent, he would not feel himself worthy of Communion on Pascha. But to win salvation for ourselves is not the purpose of the Fast - we fast only to come to an understanding that we cannot save ourselves by our own merits. The tax collector understood this and was saved. The Pharisee was proud and missed God's grace. Certainly our Lord does not consider fasting and tithing "bad behavior," but to take pride in them is ignorance. In every Communion and in the whole great fast, we must pray in the depths of our hearts and minds as the Liturgy does: "O God, be merciful to me a sinner! O God, cleanse me of my sins and have mercy on me! O God, forgive me for I have sinned without number.

By Archpriest David Petras

FAST FREE WEEK

Last week the Church began to turn our attention to the season of the Great Lenten Fast. We have set before us today another step in the preparation we must attempt before Great Lent, because this is the Sunday of the Publican and Pharisee. Following this Sunday, we have a fast free week, in which any foods can be eaten every day, including Wednesday and Friday. The reason for this fast free week is to remind us of paradise, and contemplate the only way we can regain paradise fully in our lives. Besides by not permitting a fast during the beginning of our preparation for Great Lent, the Holy Church accuses the pride of the Pharisee, who vainly praised himself for fasting twice a week, and, in agreement with this accusation, acts contrary to his hypocritical and proud fast.

FEAST OF THE THREE HOLY HIERARCHS

On January 30 we commemorate the three Holy Hierarchs, St. Basil the Great, St. Gregory the theologian, and St. John Chrysostom. All three were very well educated, all

three were great leaders of the Church in the fourth or fifth centuries, and all three have left behind a legacy of love for Christ and service to others that continues to challenge every generation of Christians.

Hundreds of years after they departed this life, the 11th century Christians began to disagree as to who was the greatest of these three men. Some thought St. Basil was the best because of his purity and courage. Others considered St. Gregory the greatest because of his brilliant theology. Still others gave the title of “greatest” to St. John Chrysostom because of his incredible ability to speak and clearly present the Faith. This disagreement led to division. Some Christians began calling themselves Basilians; others, Gregorians; and still others, Johannites.

The Three Hierarchs did not like to see their fellow Christians divided in this way, so by the grace of God, they appeared together to Bishop John Mauropos, a monk serving in Euchaita (in Asia Minor). They told him that none of them was greater before God than the other, and they asked that he write a service for the three of them together. They also asked that they all be celebrated together on the same day, as a reminder that none of them is greater than any of the others, before God.

Bishop John immediately told his fellow Christians about the visit from the saints. Because he was so respected (he was very virtuous and eloquent), the three groups were reconciled with each other. Bishop John, following the saints’ instructions, wrote a service to commemorate the Three Holy Hierarchs, and he selected January 30 as the day to celebrate all three of them. Some of the troparia of this service call the Three Holy Hierarchs an earthly trinity because of how they taught us with their speaking/writing (as well as their lives) to worship the Holy Trinity – one God in three persons.

The Three Holy Hierarchs are a great example to all of us. Let us learn from them (and teach our children, as well) several things. First, let us not compare ourselves to others. These three saints were each remarkable, yet they would not tolerate their brothers and sisters comparing them to each other. Secondly, the Three Holy Hierarchs are a model of godly compromise. They found a way to work around the problem of people considering each of them better than the other by suggesting instead that they be celebrated together. Thirdly, let us learn from these saints to work together to the best of our ability. Each of these saints excelled in a different way from the others. God has given each of us gifts/abilities, too. Like the Three Holy Hierarchs, let us use our giftings to the extent that we are able; for the glory of God, not to try to outshine those around us.

Through the prayers of the Three Holy Hierarchs, Lord Jesus Christ, our God, have mercy on us, and save us.

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.