

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, Barbara Sowko

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

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES THIS WEEK

- 22 Georgiana Sabo
- 26 Gregory Chekan
- 26 Steven Kovatch
- 26 David Wincko
- 27 William & Georgiana Sabo (Anniversary)

In person Attendance: *Saturday, February 14: 51; Sunday, February 15: 68*

Forgiveness Vespers: 44

Monday Pre-sanctified Gifts: 44

Wednesday Pre-sanctified Gifts: 38

Live Stream Viewing: *Saturday, February 14: 26; Sunday, February 15: 69*

Forgiveness Vespers: 16

Monday Pre-Sanctified Gifts: 24

Wednesday Pre-Sanctified Gifts: 30

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 22	St. John Chrysostom, Greenfield	Fr. Michael Kunitz
March 1	Holy Spirit Church, Oakland	Fr. Tyler Wisniewski
March 8	Holy Ghost Church, McKees Rocks	Fr. Vitalii Stashkevych
March 15	Ss. Peter & Paul Church, Braddock	Fr. Frank Firko
March 22	St. Pius X Church, Carrick	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.

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 **TODAY**.

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, Poppysseed and Lekvar Kolache are \$18 each; plain paska, \$7; Raisin paska, \$8. **DEADLINE FOR EASTER ORDERS IS 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 "Kathedral Kitchen" is restocked. We have quarts of *Halushki & Stuffed Cabbage*, *Wedding*, *Chicken Noodle*, *Chicken Gnocchi*, *Stuffed Pepper*, *Pasta Fagioli*, *Beef Vegetable*, *Beef Barley*, *Spinach Orzo*, *Spinach Bean*, *Vegetarian Vegetable*, *Mushroom soups and Chili* for \$7. *Seafood Creole* for \$14/quart. **Bold denotes meatless.** 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.

GIFT CARDS AND LOTTERY TICKETS

If anyone is able to donate gift cards or lottery tickets for our raffle tree at the Spring Craft Show, please put them in an envelope in the collection basket and mark it "Lottery Tree." Thank you in advance for any help you may be able to give.

PUSSYWILLOWS NEEDED

Even though we are still very much in the midst of winter, I thought I would place this reminder now for when the weather turns warmer (hopefully soon!). When the weather turns better and the tree begin to bud, please cut them when they bud (before they turn yellow), and bring them to church. We will store them here until Palm Sunday. **Do not put them in water.**

UPCOMING CATHEDRAL EVENTS

April 25 Spring Craft Show

May 29 & 30 Rummage Sale



Attentive to the Word

First Sunday of the Great Fast

Hebrews 11:24-26-12:2

John 1:43-51

Jesus calls Philip with the simple words "follow Me." Each of us is called in like manner in Baptism. Most of us were baptized as infants and others made the commitment for us. How or where were you first aware of the Lord's call in your own life and the need to make this commitment your own? Do you still feel that call? Or has the fire gone out? If the fire has gone out, what is the way to get "fired up" again?

Philip tells Nathanael about Jesus because his experience has so moved him. Does your experience of Jesus' call in your life cause you to tell others? Or do you think your experience is a private thing and it's just "what's done" so you keep it to yourself?

Philip says to Nathanael, "Come and see." This is the Church's approach. Does my preparation for and participation in the Church's liturgical life make me "see" better? If not, what do I need to do to enter more deeply into the Mystery of God working with His People in and through the Church?

Nathanael asks Jesus how He "knows" him. "Know" in Old English means "having an intimate relationship with." Do you have or want this kind of tight relationship with God? Does it scare you? Intimate relationships require work to keep them going. Do you work at yours with God or do you just "go along to get along"--letting it become something routine. Is Lent a time to get back on focus?

If the sky opened and you saw the sight Jesus describes what would you think would be your reaction? Would you react like the Biblical people and be in awe or would you remain the same? Many people can become jaded in our present world because it denies that there is something more here than meets the eye or can be directly experienced. Do you think people really hear this statement of Jesus or does it just slide off without making any impression on the hearers?

This first Sunday of the Great Fast, the Sunday of True Worship calls us to examine our relationship with Christ. Not only are we called to correct doctrine and correct worship, but we are called to get our own relationship with Christ and His Church on the right track. If we've strayed off course, now is the time to get it back on track again.

RESTORATION OF THE HOLY IMAGES

One of the most distinctive aspects of the Byzantine Tradition is the use of icons. Icons are used to cover the walls of churches, to be venerated by kissing; and they are used in our homes as signs of God's presence in our midst.

The first Sunday of the Great Fast is called the Sunday of True Worshipp. On this day we remember the victory of orthodoxy in the controversy over icons. The Byzantine Church during the 8th and 9th centuries battled against the heresy of iconoclasm (i.e., literally "breakers of icons"). This day honors the validation and restoration of icons in the life of our Church.

Icons speak a language – they are a way of communication. Through them, God speaks to us, not in words, but in images. They speak to us of a new way of seeing – a way of seeing the world as God intended it.

We often think that our eyes see clearly, that we see things just the way they are. But, in reality, we can only see in a broken and disfigured manner because we are all sinful. We can only see through the eyes of the broken world – a world that can be selfish, hostile, cold, and unloving.

At other times, we only see what we want to see. Our vision is limited by our own smallness – or by what we are looking for. Icons purposely look different. They jar us into seeing in a new way. They invite us to see possibilities – the world that is transfigured and transformed – a world which is truly the reflection of God's image.

On this Sunday, we are invited to try to see in a new way – to see this world as God's creation – to see each other as an image of God.

GIFT CARD BABY SHOWER

Deacon Nicholas and Cailee Krivacs are expecting their first baby in April. Deacon Nicholas is a seminarian for the Archeparchy. He transferred from the Eparchy of Passaic and adopted the Cathedral as his home parish in the Archeparchy. They were crowned in marriage at the Cathedral June 2025. Deacon Nicholas is in his last months of his seminary formation and will be ordained a priest sometime this summer. He serves as deacon at the Cathedral on his "free" Sunday of the month throughout the seminary school year. It was decided to host a baby shower for them. It will be held on **Sunday, March 1, 2026** following the 9 AM Divine Liturgy. If you plan on attending, please sign the sign-up sheet in the vestibule of the church so that food can be properly prepared. *We are suggesting gift cards to Walmart, Target, Kohls, etc.*

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.