



## **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, Barbara Sowko, George Janocsko.

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

## **MARCH BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES THIS WEEK**

- 2 Gloria Erney
- 5 Mary Ellen Totin
- 4 Mark & Kimberly Simko (Anniversary)
- 6 Darrin Ducar
- 6 Peter Giglione
- 7 Addison Giglione

**In person Attendance:** *Saturday, February 21: 39; Sunday, February 22: 67*  
*Friday, February 20 Pre-sanctified: 30*  
*Wednesday, February 25 Pre-sanctified: 47*

**Live Stream Viewing:** *Saturday, February 21: 38; Sunday, February 22: 60*  
*Friday, February 20 Pre-sanctified: 28*  
*Wednesday, February 25 Pre-sanctified: 23*

## **ETERNAL MEMORY**

+**Frank G. Wahal** passed from this life to the next on February 22, 2026. 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 servant Frank in His Kingdom forever!*

## **GREAT FAST VESPERS**

The parishes of the Pittsburgh Protoperbyteral District will celebrate the Great Fast Vespers on the Sundays of the Great Fast this year at the following Churches:

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.

## **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.**

## **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.**

## **EASTER KOLBASI SALE**

Saints Peter & Paul, Duquesne parish Men's Club is once again selling kolbasi. Cost is **\$7/lb.** Sign-up sheets are at the entrances. **Please order by March 15, 2026** DELIVERY IS PALM SUNDAY, March 29, 2026. Thank you.

## **"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 \$16/quart. **Bold denotes meatless.** Stuffed Cabbage: ½ dozen for \$20 and 1 dozen for \$36. Frozen *Potato/Cheese, Kraut, Cottage Cheese, Lekvar, 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

*Second Sunday of the Great Fast*

*Hebrews 1-10-2:3*

*Mark 2:1-12*

One of the themes presented in today's gospel is a lesson in faith. The gospel tells how four men carried a man suffering from palsy to Jesus, and when they were prevented from getting to Him, they made an opening in the roof over where Jesus was preaching. Jesus was moved by this display of faith in Him but did not immediately cure the man of his physical infirmity. First Christ forgave him his sins because he was also diseased by the spiritual sickness of sin.

The gospel, through the lesson of this sick man's faith, teaches that faith is belief in a person. It is meeting and seeing God who accepts us for what we are; loves us for what we are; and invites us to a relationship with Him. Through the eyes of faith, we see God as more than a schedule of rules, more than a spiritual "Excedrin" for your troubles. We see Him as the all-providing Father who loves us. Faith is our response to His call of love.

The beginning of our faith was implanted in our souls as a totally free gift from God. But it is up to us to nurture this seed of faith and help its roots to deepen and grow. How can we do this? When we see the beauty of created things, the talents and goodness in the people God has created, we should realize that all this is but a faint reflection of the beauty and goodness of the person of God.

We can learn about God by reading the Bible, the book He wrote for us Himself through inspired men. Look at what Jesus has told us about His Father in the New Testament! He tells us His Father is like a good shepherd, like a man who has a prodigal son, like a sower sowing the seed of eternal life, like a fisherman casting His net into the sea of men's lives.

We can learn about God through the liturgy. Power went out from Christ in those beautiful gospel stories recounted for us throughout the year. A woman in one of those stories just touched the cloak, Christ was wearing, and she was cured!

In today's gospel story we heard how He healed a man sick not only from physical palsy but also from the spiritual palsy of sin. Other stories tell how the word of Christ touched hearts and converted people. We hear that same word of God Sunday after Sunday in the epistle, gospel and sermon. Has that Word ever really meant much to you? If it has not really affected you, something may be wrong with your reception which required careful attention.

As our ears listen to the word of God and our hands touch the Church, something in the deepest core of our person comes into play, namely the conviction that it is good to believe. Together with faith go hope and love: hope that what we believe will one day be realized and actualized in love. Our faith is a task because even though we acknowledge the revelation given us by God, we have to make that truth a living concrete reality which we believe profoundly without seeing and without feeling. It is a leap in the dark which must be taken again and again; it is a lowering of our selves before the Providence of God just as the man sick with palsy had himself lowered before Christ because He believed in Him.

When we are almost overwhelmed by the seduction of a temptation, it is a leap in the dark to make our faith a reality and to say no. On a day of bad weather on the road, arguments at work or school, quarrels at home, it is an act of dedication to believe in the Holy Spirit and in the potential goodness of other and yourself. When one is almost suffocated by suffering, it is an act of great faith to bring home to yourself God's faithfulness and the meaning which Jesus gave to suffering.

Faith is a very positive power at work for you. Take that leap in the dark, which faith is, realizing that it will carry you out of yourself and into the realm where you belong, heaven.

## 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.