

Glory to Jesus Christ! Glory Forever!

Schedule of Divine Services

Saturday, February 14 5:00 PM +Robert Wargo by Anna Marie Wargo & Family
Sunday, February 15 9:00 AM +Linda Deskevich by Nancy Cifrulak

Pages for Sunday’s Divine Liturgy: Tone 3 page 135 & pages 218 - 219

Web Liturgy for Week of February 14 sponsored by
Anna Marie Miller

Sanctuary Candle is lit from February 8 - 21
In memory of +Sister Valeria Evanyo, OSBM by Simko Family

First Day of the Great Lenten Fast – A DAY OF STRICT FAST

Monday, February 16 6:30 PM Liturgy of the Pre-sanctified Gifts
Wednesday, February 18 1:00 PM Liturgy of the Pre-sanctified Gifts (Duquesne)
6:30 PM Liturgy of the Pre-sanctified Gifts
Friday, February 20 6:30 PM Liturgy of the Pre-sanctified Gifts

1st SUNDAY OF THE GREAT FAST

Saturday, February 21 5:00 PM +Elizabeth Martin by George Serechin
+Annie Cramer by “Lite Lunch Crew”
Sunday, February 22 9:00 AM +Helen Best by Nancy Cifrulak

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

Regular Offertory	\$2,602.00
Maintenance Fund	447.00
Holy Day	45.00
BCW	198.00
Loose	20.00
Candles	80.00
TOTAL	\$3,392.00

Special Donation: \$100 in memory of +Elizabeth & Joseph Mihalic, Sr. by Patricia (Mihalic) Madden

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

16 Lou Bajus
16 Madelyn Hilzendeger
20 Lena Chervenak
20 Gerald Rihn

In person Attendance: *Saturday, February 7: 24; Sunday, February 8: 74*
1st All Souls Remembrance: 6

Live Stream Viewing: *Saturday, February 7: 37; Sunday, February 8: 86*
1st All Souls Remembrance: 21

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.

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

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.*

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 **February 22, 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, 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.

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.



Attentive to the Word

Cheesefare Sunday

Romans 13:11 - 14:4

Matthew 6: 14-21

All of us lead lives so filled with the demands of work and family that little time is left to us to cultivate the garden of our soul. In our preoccupation with the ceaseless business of life, our spirit, if not completely forgotten, is often sadly neglected. When we do find the time to look at ourselves honestly, we soon discover that the spirit of the world has gradually and imperceptibly eaten away at our good intentions; we have become shopworn by the cares and self-centered spirit of the world.

Fortunately for us, the church recognized from its earliest days that we would need regular periods of reflection and renewed effort if we were to free ourselves from the relentless grip of worldly cares, to once again imitate the example of Christ and reflect it in our lives. It did so by developing the season of Lent, a season which invites us to renew our concentration on prayer, fasting, and almsgiving which lie at the very heart of Christian living.

Through the discipline of quiet prayer, we acknowledge and affirm the sovereignty of almighty God in our lives. In doing so, we surrender the notion of living according to the principle of power; we accept that we are not the measure of all things. In the practice of fasting, we seek to overcome the power that material things have gained over us; we strive to be servants of the sacred and not merely masters of the material and profane. Finally, we are called to almsgiving, through which we share the fruits of our labor with those in need, and thus surrender our natural tendency to be self-seeking. Prayer which unites us to God, fasting which curbs our ceaseless desires, almsgiving which allows us to actively love our neighbor as ourselves --- these are the transforming gifts of Lent.

If they are to convey their wonderful grace, however, we must make them the tools by which we deepen and enrich our faith and relationship to Jesus Christ. That, truly, is what it means to be a Christian. The wisdom of the ages invites us once again to this marvelous opportunity to find God in our lives; let us take care that we not waste it.

By Fr. Andrew J. Demotes

“Behold, the time of virtue has arrived! The Judge is seated at the gate. Let us not put on a gloomy face; but, while fasting, let us offer Him our tears and alms; and with compunction in our heart, let us say: We have sinned more numerously than the sands of the sea. Forgive us, O Redeemer of the world, that we may also share the crown of immortality.”

Sessional Hymn from Matins of Cheesefare Sunday

WHAT THE CHURCH FATHERS SAY ABOUT OBSERVING THE GREAT FAST

“The Lord has given us many counsels and commandments to help us toward salvation. He has even given us a pattern of prayer, instructing us on how we are to pray. He has given us life, and with His accustomed generosity, He has also taught us how to pray. He has made it easy for us to be heard, as we pray to the Father in words taught us by the Son ... Let us pray as God our Master has taught us. To ask the Father in words His Son has given us, to let Him hear the words of Christ ringing in His ears, is to make our prayer one of friendship, a family prayer.”

St. Cyprian, martyred Bishop of Carthage (+258)

“With the return of that season marked out in a special way by the mystery of redemption, and of the days that lead up to the paschal feast, we are summoned more urgently to prepare ourselves by a purification of spirit... Initially, all are made new by the rebirth of baptism. Yet there is still required a daily renewal to repair the shortcomings of our mortal nature... All must therefore strive to ensure that on the day of redemption no one may be found in the sins of his former life. Dear friends, what the Christian should be doing at all times should be done now with greater care and devotion, so that the Lenten fast enjoined by the Apostles may be fulfilled, not simply by abstinence from food, but above all by the renunciation of sin.”

Pope St. Leo of Rome (+461)

“The earth bears crops for your benefit, not for its own; but when you give to the poor, you are bearing fruit which you will gather in for yourself, since the reward for good deeds goes to those who perform them. Give to a hungry man, and what you give becomes yours, and indeed it returns to you with interest. As a sower profits from the seed which falls to the ground, so will you profit greatly in the world to come from the bread that you place before a hungry man ... You are going to leave your money behind you here whether you wish to or not. On the other hand, you will take with you to the Lord the honor that you have won through good works.”

St. Basil the Great

“It is folly to abstain all day long from food, but fail to abstain from sin and selfishness.”

“The fast of Lent has no advantage to us unless it brings about our spiritual renewal. It is necessary while fasting to change our whole life and practice virtue. Turning away from all wickedness means keeping our tongue in check, restraining our anger, avoiding all gossip, lying and swearing. To abstain from these things - herein is the true value of the fast. Accept the fast as an experienced educator by whom the Church teaches us piety.”

St. John Chrysostom

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.