

Glory to Jesus Christ! Glory Forever!

Schedule of Divine Services

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**

Pages for Sunday’s Divine Liturgy: Tone 2 page 130 & pages 217 - 218

**Web Liturgy for Week of February 8 sponsored by
Mary & Richard Hluben**

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

SUNDAY OF CHEESEFARE

Saturday, February 14 5:00 PM +Robert Wargo by Anna Marie Wargo & Family

Sunday, February 15 9:00 AM +Linda Deskevich by Nancy Cifrulak

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

Regular Offertory	\$7,289.00
Maintenance Fund	844.00
Holy Day	417.00
BCW	104.00
Candles	186.00
TOTAL	<u>\$8,840.00</u>

*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.*

Live Stream: \$50 by Joana Dizak

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, Barbara Sowko

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

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES THIS WEEK

- 8 David & Betty Banyas (Anniversary)
- 10 Kimberly Kolesar
- 10 Adam & Daniella Chervenak (Anniversary)
- 11 Rita Hilla

In person Attendance: Feast of the *Three Holy Hierarchs*: **11**

Saturday, January 31: 24; Sunday, February 1: 66

Encounter of Our Lord with Simeon: 18

Live Stream Viewing: Feast of the *Three Holy Hierarchs*: **3**

Saturday, January 31: 39; Sunday, February 1: 85

Encounter of Our Lord with Simeon: 26

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:

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.

Open to me the doors of repentance, O Giver of life. As we worship in Your temple this morning, teach us how to purify the temples of our bodies, and in Your compassion, purify me by the goodness of Your mercies.

From Matins of Meatfare Sunday

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 “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



Meatfare Sunday

1 Corinthians 8:8-9:2

Matthew 25: 31-46

On this day as we continue to progress through this time preparing for the season of Lent, all of us are reminded through the words of the Sacred Scriptures of the need for us to live our lives carefully, being ever vigilant against the many temptations present all around us which may lead us into the wrong paths in life, moving ever further away from the Lord and His salvation. We are all reminded today that while God has generously given us all the many opportunities for us to follow Him and to embrace His mercy and forgiveness, but we must not take those for granted, or else we may come to regret it when the time comes for us to account for our lives before the Lord, at the time of the Last Judgment. Will we want to end up in the wrong side of the judgment at that time, brothers and sisters?

In our Gospel passage today, we heard from the Gospel of St. Matthew the Apostle and Evangelist in which the Lord Jesus presented to His disciples and to all those who were listening to Him about the time of the Final or the Last Judgment, which will come to happen at the end of time. The Lord told them all how everyone will have to account for their lives before God, the Judge of all, Who is none other than the Lord Jesus Himself. Essentially, He has come into this world not just to lead us all into the salvation and eternal life by His loving sacrifice on the Cross, but also to reveal to us the coming time of reckoning at the end of time, when we have to account for all of our actions in each of our lives, be it those that are good or those that are wicked, as well as any failures for us to act.

All of these things will determine whether we will be worthy of God and His glorious inheritance. God has always been generous in loving us and on showing us His mercy, and He certainly wants us all to be reconciled and reunited with Him. However, at the same time, we must always remind ourselves that God, Who is all holy, good and perfect, will not allow sin and evil to exist in His Holy Presence. If we are to come towards Him with sins and wickedness that we have not repented from and have not been forgiven from, then we will be condemned by those same sins and wickedness which we have committed, all the disobedience and other unworthy deeds which we have done, which prevents us from truly being worthy of the Lord.

We must remember well as we continue to progress through this time and season of Lent that our faith in the Lord is the source of our salvation, for God has given us His grace through our faith in Him. However, we also must not think that our faith in the Lord

without action and concrete deeds to back it up will benefit us in any way. As St. James the Apostle mentioned in his Epistle, and also the Apostolic tradition of the Church stated, that faith without good works is dead. This must not be misunderstood as what some believed wrongly, that we can gain salvation through our works without faith. Instead, it means that our faith in God must always be supported and made concrete and alive through real actions, not by mere words and formalities only, or else, that faith will not avail us.

And how should we live our faith such that we are truly worthy of the Lord? It is by following what He Himself had said in the Gospel passage today about the Final Judgment. He told all of His disciples and all those who were listening to Him about the actions taken by all those who will be found worthy at the time of the Final Judgment, that is those who have shown love to the least among their brothers and sisters, caring for those who are sick and needy, showing love and attention to the marginalised and all those who are suffering from various difficulties. All those actions show true faith that is indeed lived with genuine desire and sincerity to love both God and one's fellow men and women alike, which is exactly what all of us as Christians have been called to do.

On the other hand, if we neglect to do those good deeds and ignore the need to show love and sincere care towards our fellow brethren, no matter how we may claim to be faithful to God, but in the end, that faith will not avail us, because all of our ignorance of the opportunities and the actions that we could have done for the benefit of others, or if we only care about ourselves, causing suffering for others and ignoring the plight of the needy and those who are suffering in our midst, all those things led us into sin against God, the sin of omission, which will be judged against us, and makes us unworthy to share in the true happiness and eternal glory that God has promised to those who have been truly faithful to Him. Essentially, we cannot come towards the Lord unless we make the conscious effort to do what is right and just, as well as commit ourselves to do His will, to show love towards our brethren in our midst.

Therefore, as Lent approaches, let us all continue to deepen our relationship with God, and strengthen our faith in Him by doing whatever we should be doing in this period of renewal and rejuvenation of our faith. Let us all do them with true understanding of our faith and with genuine desire to seek to be forgiven by God from our many sins and wickedness. We must continue to journey towards the Lord, reestablishing the connection which have been weakened by sin, and resist the many temptations present around us trying to drag us away from our loving God and Father. May the Lord also help us in this journey so that we may continue to persevere and move forward in our path towards Him, and with this blessed time and opportunity of Lent, may we rediscover that love which we all ought to have for God, and grow ever more committed to Him, now and always.

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.