

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, Barbara Sowko, George Janocsko.

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

MARCH BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES THIS WEEK

- 8 Elaine Cannon
- 10 Magdalene Semego
- 12 David Banks
- 13 Amy Myers

In person Attendance: *Saturday, February 28: 45; Sunday, March 1: 98*
Friday, February 27 Pre-sanctified: 30
Wednesday, March 11 Pre-sanctified: 44

Live Stream Viewing: *Saturday, February 28: 32; Sunday, March 1: 52*
Friday, February 27 Pre-sanctified: 29
Wednesday, March 11 Pre-sanctified: 21

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 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.

Live Stream: \$50 by Paul Cullen

Special Donations: \$50 by Reverend Carol O'Hare; \$100 in memory of +Leonard Stagon by Family

ETERNAL MEMORY

On March 3, 2026 +Sr. **Helen Schott**, of the Sisters of St. Basil the Great, Uniontown, passed from this life to the next during her 70th year of religious life. She was a former Provincial and the sister of the late Metropolitan Archbishop Basil Schott. May she 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 +Sr. Helen in His Kingdom forever!*

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

*Third Sunday of the Great Fast
Veneration of the Holy Cross*

Hebrews 4:14-5:6

Mark 8:34 - 9:1



Jesus said to his disciples, “Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me. For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it. What profit would there be for one to gain the whole world and forfeit his life? Or what can one give in exchange for his life? For the Son of Man will come with his angels in his Father’s glory, and then he will repay everyone according to his conduct. Amen, I say to you, there are some standing here who will not taste death until they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom.”

Life is a series of calculated risks. There is always a chance of either a complete failure or total success. That is why it is important to know well the options and all the things at stake. But when the benefits and rewards totally outweigh the risks, and especially when the prospect of getting the best deal is certain, it would be foolish not to take the risk. This is clearly illustrated by Jesus in the parables of the buried treasure and the pearl of great price. The biggest rewards often require the largest risks: selling all possessions to acquire the land where the treasure is buried or to purchase the priceless pearl.

In the Gospel today, the Lord invites us to take the risk with Him. But this is not that simple. It is because He talks about losing all and gaining all: “For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.” Loss and gain. Lose all first, then gain all. We give everything to God and then He can give us the prize over and infinitely beyond what we have given. St Teresa of Avila said that “those who risk all for God will find that they have both lost all and gained all.”

The most fundamental option we have in life is whether to follow Jesus or not. It is easy to say ‘Yes’ to His invitation, but we are made to realize what it entails: “Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me.” Hence, many people are afraid to follow Jesus. They cannot bear the prospect of carrying the cross, they cannot endure the specter of losing everything.

This is because they think that happiness is achieved by getting whatever they want. They always equate happiness with getting and having more. What they fail to

realize is that happiness is achieved, not by getting but by giving – everything to God. It is the best investment that is worth all the risk. It is a win-win situation. There is no way one can lose.

To become a saint, we have to go all the way for Christ. St. Thérèse of Lisieux puts it, "You cannot be half a saint. You must be a whole saint or no saint at all." We have to invest everything that we have, all that we are, for as the Apostle Paul said, "Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully" (2 Cor 9:6).

All the saints have made this all-important decision, investing everything for God, giving everything to God, taking all the risks for God. And they are completely right. For them, the cross is a burden that is sweet to bear in view of the priceless reward that awaits them: "I consider that the sufferings of this present time are as nothing compared with the glory to be revealed for us" (Rom 8:18). For St. John Vianney, the cross is so precious, not only in view of the reward, but as the best way to become truly Christ-like: "We complain of suffering! We should have much more reason to complain of not suffering, since nothing makes us more like Our Lord than carrying His Cross. Oh, what a beautiful union of the soul with Our Lord Jesus Christ by the love and the virtue of His Cross!"

In the Gospel today, the Lord invites us to ask ourselves this question: "What profit would there be for one to gain the whole world and forfeit his life?" Everything in this world – and in fact, even this world – is passing away. Holding on to them is like a man frantically clutching at straw as he goes down the cliff. Of what use are our worldly possessions, power and fame when all these will come to nothing in the end? We must be wise enough to realize that the only one that does not pass away is God. And holding on to Him, no matter what happens, is the best decision we can make in our life.

Let us ponder on the words of the famous poem of St. Teresa of Avila:

"Let nothing disturb you; Nothing affright you.
All things are passing; God never changes.
Patient endurance attains to all things,
Whoever possesses GOD is wanting in nothing:
GOD Alone Suffices."

By Fr. Mike Lagrimas

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.