

***Glory to Jesus Christ!    Glory Forever!*****Schedule of Divine Services**

Saturday, January 18      **5:00 PM +Maria Heddleston by Jan & Paul Malloy**  
 Sunday, January 19      **9:00 AM +Michael Matus by Sylvia Vehec**

**Pages for Sunday's Divine Liturgy: Tone 2 pages 130 – 132**

Web Liturgy for Week of January 19 sponsored by  
**Mary Lou Bajus in memory of +Maria Heddleston**

*Sanctuary Candle* is lit from January 12 - 25  
**In memory of +Richard Vatrál by Beverly Vatrál**

**36<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

Saturday, January 25      **5:00 PM +Paul Matijak**  
 Sunday, January 26      **9:00 AM +Anna Kostrej by Magdalene Semego**

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

Regular Offertory	\$1,751.00
Maintenance Fund	529.00
Holy Day	52.00
Candles	89.95
Loose Cash	10.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$2,431.95</b>

**Special Christmas Donation: \$500 by Kathleen Zavada**

*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.*

<b>Please call the parish office if you would like your 2024 contribution statement.</b>
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## **PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK AND SHUT-INS**

**AT HOME:** Margie Seman, Teri Phares, Raymond Petro, Jr., Luke Pasternak, Marissa Stout, 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 & Linda Deskevich, William Sabo

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

## **NURSING HOMES/REHABILITATION CENTERS/ASSISTED LIVING**

Elsie Urban, Betty Martin

## **JANUARY BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES THIS WEEK**

19 Suzanne Fedoris  
21 John Miskovitch  
22 Betty Banyas  
22 Debbie Cosgrove  
23 Jane Savko  
25 Andrew Oriss

**In person Attendance:** *Saturday, January 11: 42; Sunday, January 12: 61*

**Live Stream Viewing:** *Saturday, January 11: 27; Sunday, January 12: 61*

## **THE JUBILEE YEAR OF HOPE 2025**

On Christmas Eve, our Holy Father, Pope Francis, opened the Holy Door at St. Peter's Basilica in Rome to begin the Jubilee Year of Hope, "Pilgrims of Hope."

Every 25 years, the Universal Church celebrates a Jubilee Year. Its celebration dates back to the Old Testament. During those Jubilee Years, debts would be forgiven, and prisoners and slaves were freed. Now, Jubilees are celebrated as a time to re-establish a proper relationship with God, with one another and with all of Creation.

The Jubilee reminds us not of what is to come but what has already happened, which is the sanctifying grace for us needed to enter the kingdom of heaven. This already happened with the person of Christ coming to us on earth. He has left us with the tools needed, and the Jubilee reminds us to use those tools to join in His salvation and bring others along with us.

Do not miss out on the opportunity to observe this Holy Year. As Christians we are called to constant conversion and radical living out the Gospel of Jesus Christ. That means in every moment in every week in every month in each and every year we are alive, we should strive to focus on our relationship with God and with each other. Let us make our own commitments to being holy people in this place and time, this Holy Year 2025.

## **COFFEE AND DONUTS**

Please join your parish family for a Coffee & Donut Social after the 9:00 AM Sunday Divine Liturgy on *January 19, 2025*.

## **THE JUBILEE YEAR OF HOPE PRAYER**

“Father in heaven, may the faith you have given us in your son, Jesus Christ, our brother, and the flame of charity enkindled in our hearts by the Holy Spirit, reawaken in us the blessed hope for the coming of your Kingdom.

May your grace transform us into tireless cultivators of the seeds of the Gospel. May those seeds transform from within both humanity and the whole cosmos in the sure expectation of a new heaven and a new earth, when, with the powers of Evil vanquished, your glory will shine eternally.

May the grace of the Jubilee reawaken in us, Pilgrims of Hope, a yearning for the treasures of heaven. May that same grace spread the joy and peace of our Redeemer throughout the earth. To you our God, eternally blessed, be glory and praise forever. Amen.”

## **PARKING LOT STEPS**

During the snowy weather, the steps leading to the church from the upper parking lot will closed because it is nearly impossible to keep them clean and passable when it continuously snows. Please use the parking lot entrance. Thank you for your understanding during the snowy days. Just want everyone to be safe.

## **NEWLY SANCTIFIED JORDAN WATER**

On the Feast of Theophany we celebrated the Great Sanctification of Water. You are encouraged to take some water home for your sanctification, so don't forget to bring your Holy Water containers.

## **JANUARY AND FEBRUARY DINNERS**

Our January and February dinners have not been scheduled since we are doing the cooking for the Fireman's Night at the Races as well as the 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Dinner for St. Therese School.

## **“CATHEDRAL KITCHEN”**

The “Kathedral Kitchen” has been restocked. We have quarts of *Halushki, Chili & Wedding, Chicken Noodle, Wedding, Chicken Gnocchi, Mushroom, Pasta Fagioli, Stuffed Cabbage, Tomato Basil, Stuffed Pepper soups* for \$7; Stuffed Cabbage: ½ dozen for \$18 and 1 dozen for \$30. If you would like to buy any please see Patty Bovee, Diane Pochron or Fr. Andrew.

## **RUMMAGE SALE ITEMS**

We will be holding another Rummage Sale on May 30 & 31, 2025. Please put aside any items you no longer want or need for our rummage sale.

As in the past, we cannot accept TV's, computers, shoes and clothes. Small boxes may be left in the church vestibules. Please consider also helping to mark and sell the items in May/June. Thanks for your donations.



# Attentive to the Word

*Thirty-fifth Sunday after Pentecost*

*1 Timothy 1:15-17*

*Luke 18: 35-43*

We are all sinners and therefore we are all blind and in need of God's grace. Sin is a blinding influence upon our souls that interferes with our attempt at drawing near and seeing God clearly.

The apostles did not understand Jesus when He told them what was to happen when they went into Jerusalem – how He was to suffer and die. They too suffered a blindness but they tragically were not aware of their own blindness at that time. This truly is the worst kind of blindness (not being aware of not being able to see). Those who are blind and are aware of their blindness at least seek a remedy; but those who are unaware of their blindness never seek help.

The humble sinner with the grace of God discovers his blindness and cries out to God for help. The proud sinner imagines that he sees and that all is well and never asks for God's help.

The world will do all it can to oppose the sinner's return to God. Just as the blind man in today's gospel was rebuked by the crowd, so likewise the world even today does all it can to keep the repentant sinner from turning to God.

Just as the blind man called out all the louder for Jesus, likewise, the sinner must call out all the louder and with greater persistence in his prayers to Jesus for help. This perseverance in prayer will cause Jesus to stop His passing by so that He can call us to Him.

This is not the time to falter or draw back in cowardice as the world would have us do. The world will be trying it's best to keep us to itself and will pull with all its might upon us to keep us away from God. The more we feel the pressure of the world pulling us back and attempting to stop our advancing towards God the more we should cry out all the louder and persistently.

At the same time we must be very judicious in that which we beg of God. It is true that God can do all things and He can let us stumble upon worldly good fortune and success in this life. This is usually not the best for us. Worldly success usually comes at the expense of eternal happiness. It is all too true that we do not really know what is best for us, or even what is in our own best interest. Only God truly knows what is of greatest benefit for our souls.

Scripture makes it clear and easy for us when we are told to seek first the kingdom of heaven and its justice and everything else will be given us besides. It is the prayer that God's will be done here on earth just as it is in heaven. When we give ourselves over willingly to God and ask Him to do with us whatever He wills, then we will no doubt receive all that is necessary for us to obtain our eternal reward.

We may not have luxury and comfort in this life. We most likely will be called upon by Jesus to take up our cross daily and follow Him. As long as we refuse to hear this we are blinder than the physically blind man. The blind man's physical blindness was a blessing rather than a curse once we see that it was the occasion for him to call out to Jesus and to receive a most precious gift directly from the hand of God. Perhaps this man's blindness prevented him from committing sins of sight for many years and now in receiving sight for the first time he is also strengthened against most of those temptations because he now realizes what a precious gift sight truly is.

We now can see that this man's blindness was the occasion of grace for him and in this way was truly a blessing rather than a curse for him. Likewise the gift of sight was a blessing for him and an occasion of grace. It should not matter to us whatever God chooses to give us or take away from us. Whatever He does, He does for our own good and we should be pleased with it and see in it an opportunity to grow in grace and love.

May we fill the rest of our days calling out to Jesus that we may see the Truth and thus grow in grace, in light, in faith, in hope, but above all in love. In this manner we will see the vanity and emptiness of this world and long with ever greater desire for the eternal permanence of happiness in 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.