

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

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

Pages for Sunday's Divine Liturgy: Tone 3 pages 135 - 137

Web Liturgy for Week of January 26 sponsored by
Dennis Donahue

Sanctuary Candle is lit from January 26 – February 8
Special Intentions of Susan (Wargo) Bodziach by Anna Marie Wargo

THREE HOLY HIERARCHS

Thursday, January 30 **9:00 AM +Anna Bovee & +Carole Collins**
 by Nick & Barbara Sowko

SUNDAY OF ZACCHAEUS – ENCOUNTER OF OUR LORD WITH SIMEON & ANNA

Saturday, February 1 **5:00 PM +Jack Karadus by Anna Marie Wargo**
 Sunday, February 2 **9:00 AM +Joseph Raschak by Marilyn Raschak**

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

Regular Offertory	\$3,553.00
Maintenance Fund	769.00
Holy Day	60.00
BCW	14.00
Candles	96.00
Loose Cash	30.00
TOTAL	\$4,522.00

*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.*

Please call the parish office if you would like your 2024 contribution statement.

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/FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES THIS WEEK

29 Christine Munsie

30 Adam Chervenak

31 Andrew Fedoris

1 Joseph M. Varhola

In person Attendance: *Saturday, January 18: 50; Sunday, January 19: 65*

Live Stream Viewing: *Saturday, January 18: 23; Sunday, January 19: 74*

**Special Donation: \$100 by Marilyn Raschak in memory of +Joseph Raschak;
\$100 by Ed & Anita Wisniewski**

MANY YEARS

Our Parish Family extends its prayerful best wishes to **Bishop Artur Bubnevych**, who will be ordained and enthroned as the 6th bishop of the Eparchy of Phoenix on Tuesday, January 28, 2025. *May God grant to His servant, Bishop Artur peace, health and happiness for many years!*

2024 PARISH FINANCIAL PRESENTATION

On **Sunday, February 9, 2025**, following the 9 AM Divine Liturgy, I will give a presentation on the 2024 Parish Finances. The presentation will be held in the Cathedral Center. *A light lunch will be served. Sign-up sheets are in the vestibules.*

ALL SOULS SATURDAYS

The first All Souls Divine Liturgy is Saturday, February 22, 2025 at 9:00 AM. We come together to pray for our deceased loved ones. They are by no means forgotten nor a nameless mass of people, for by name we mention them, we perpetuate their memory and we pray that our loving and merciful God will be pleased to bring them into His saving presence.

PLEASE USE THE ALL SOULS ENVELOPE AND ATTEND THE DIVINE LITURGIES FOR YOUR DECEASED LOVED ONES.

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.

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 70th 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-sixth Sunday after Pentecost

2 Corinthians 6:16 - 7:1

Matthew 15: 21-28

A Canaanite woman believes that Jesus has the power to heal her daughter and calls out to Jesus: “Have pity on me, Son of David! My daughter is tormented by a demon.” (15:22) At first, Jesus remains silent. He did not respond. His disciples ask if they should “send her away.” The woman calling out after them. Jesus then gives the reply: “I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.” (v. 24).

The Canaanites at that time were mostly pagan. The Jews regarded them to be nonbelievers. There even was a temple built in Tyre to worship an idol, Baal. The Baal cult was very cruel and demonic. Some in the pagan cult mistreated woman and children. The Israelites looked down on those from Canaan. The Canaanites were not regarded to be on the same social level as the Jews.

The Canaanite woman, a mother, is determined that her daughter receive healing grace from Jesus. She was aware of other healings the Lord had bestowed upon those who had faith. She calls Jesus by a Messianic title, “Son of David.” She recognizes Jesus to be the Messiah of whom the Prophets foretold and publicly acknowledges Him long before many others who were His followers.

The Canaanite woman, a mother, is persistent in her pleas to the Lord’s disciples, as well as to Christ Himself. She had great faith and paid homage to Jesus. Once again, she asks Our Lord Jesus for help. His reply was: “It is not right to take the food of the children and throw it to the dogs.” (v. 26) The woman does not become discouraged, but continues her plea: “Please, Lord, for even the dogs eat the scraps that fall from the table of their masters.” (v.27)

Jesus is amazed at the great level of faith that the Canaanite woman had. The Lord then tells her: “Let it be done for you as you wish.” (v. 28) The Evangelist Matthew tells us that her daughter was healed, cured, at that very hour. Having faith and trusting in the Lord brings us new life and a healing of body and soul.

Because of this mother’s great faith and persistence, the daughter who was ill is now cured. Faith is what is needed for a miracle to occur. With faith, great things can occur. For even in the Old Testament times, it was by faith that Moses had led the

Israelites, the Chosen People, out of Egypt and into the Promised Land, out of slavery and into deliverance, into “the land of milk and honey.”

Faith is to be our guiding light. Faith is true wisdom that helps us overcome the temptations of the devil. A person filled with faith and humility can truly accomplish great deeds, acts done for the greater glory of God and salvation of souls. The true Christian is full of good and positive thoughts that inspire one to perform charitable act of mercy. This will ultimately lead us to the Heavenly Kingdom.

May we all seek to fulfill the Holy Will of God here on earth so as to be deemed worthy of the Kingdom of God. Heaven will be our eternal home. May we encourage others to live the Gospel message.

FEAST OF THE THREE HOLY HIERARCHS

On January 30th, we celebrate the Synaxis of the Three Hierarchs: St Basil the Great, St Gregory the Theologian, and St John Chrysostom. They are often called “pillars” of the Faith because they stood up and defended the faith against false teachings.

We would like to quote some of their sayings to pay prayerful respect to those three great holy men. Hopefully, their words will inspire us to imitate the wonderful actions that they urged people to do in the course of their entire lives.

Saint Gregory the Theologian:

“Give something, however small, to the one in need. For it is not small to one who has nothing. Neither is it small to God, if we have given what we could.”

Saint Basil the Great:

“A tree is known by its fruit; a man by his deeds. A good deed is never lost; he who sows courtesy reaps friendship, and he who plants kindness gathers love.”

Saint John Chrysostom:

“If you wish to leave much wealth to your children, leave them in God’s care. Do not leave them riches, but virtue and skill. For if they learn to expect riches, they will not mind anything besides, and their abundant riches shall give them the means of screening the wickedness of their ways.”

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.