

**SUNDAY OF ZACCHAEUS – ENCOUNTER OF OUR LORD WITH SIMEON & ANNA**  
**February 2, 2025**

*Glory to Jesus Christ! Glory Forever!*

**Schedule of Divine Services**

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

**Pages for Sunday’s Divine Liturgy: Tone 4 pages 141 – 142 & page 215**

Web Liturgy for Week of February 2 sponsored by  
**Irene Meininger in memory of +Ray Meininger & +Stephen & +Mary Berezna**

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

**SUNDAY OF THE PUBLICAN & THE PHARISEE**

Saturday, February 8      **5:00 PM +Clarence & +Irene Hornak by Sandy Hornak**  
Sunday, February 9      **9:00 AM +John Pcsolar, Sr. by Dave Pcsolar**

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

Regular Offertory	\$5,531.00
Maintenance Fund	472.00
Holy Day	147.00
BCW	49.00
Candles	48.00
Loose Cash	20.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$6,267.00</b>

*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

## **FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES THIS WEEK**

4 Peter & Darlene Minydzak (Anniversary)

5 Jonelle Bovee

8 William & Betty Banyas (Anniversary)

**In person Attendance:** *Saturday, January 25: 64; Sunday, January 26: 49*  
*Feast of Three Holy Hierarchs: 13*

**Live Stream Viewing:** *Saturday, January 25: 23; Sunday, January 26: 54*  
*Feast of Three Holy Hierarchs: 11*

**Special Donations:** \$100 by Anita Wisniewski; \$50 by Blaise Wisniewski

## **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 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

*Sunday of Zacchaeus - Feast of the Encounter*

*1 Timothy 4: 9-15 & Hebrews 7: 7-17*

*Luke 19: 1-10 & Luke 2: 22-40*

The story of Zacchaeus from the Gospel according to St Luke should be familiar to all of us. We read it every year just before the beginning of the Sundays of preparation for Great Lent. It has a powerful message about people's expectations of Jesus, about what we have to do to welcome Jesus, and about what Jesus came into the world to do.

Let's start with the end of the story. That's the "punch line," the sentence that sums up the whole point of the story. Jesus tells Zacchaeus, "The Son of Man came to seek out and to save the lost." In other words, Jesus came into the world to save us sinners from the consequences of our sins. But He didn't come in a passive way, saying, "Here I am; if you want to be saved, come to me and I'll see what I can do for you." No; Jesus said plainly that He came to seek out the lost—He actively looks for the sinners, those in trouble, those who are outsiders. After all, Jesus invited himself to the house of Zacchaeus, because He knew the need was great there.

Of course, Zacchaeus also went to the trouble of seeking Jesus. He had to push through the crowd and even climb a tree just to catch sight of the Lord. He must have had some faith in God, and some awareness of his own sinfulness and need for salvation, or he wouldn't have gone to all that trouble. He wouldn't have done it just out of curiosity. And when Jesus declared that He would come to Zacchaeus' house, Zacchaeus happily welcomed Him. He also promised to give half his money to the poor and to repay 400 percent anyone he had cheated. So his encounter with Jesus did save him. He was lost—apparently in greed and self-absorption—but Jesus sought him out and saved him.

We have it so much easier than Zacchaeus. From the time we are babies most of us are united to Christ in baptism, nourished by Christ's Body and Blood in the Holy Eucharist, surrounded and supported by the Christian community. We don't have to climb a tree to see Jesus; we just have to drive a few miles (or maybe quite a few miles) to church. But we need Jesus as much as Zacchaeus did.

In spite of all our opportunities and advantages, we too are actually lost in sin and in need of salvation. Maybe we don't earn our living by cheating people as Zacchaeus did, but we let our pride and greed and anger damage our relationship with God and with other people. Like Zacchaeus' neighbors, we might grumble about Jesus being the guest of sinners (instead of us holy, pious, righteous people!). Like Zacchaeus, we need to recognize that we are sinners, too. Like Zacchaeus, we need to repent and make amends

for the ways in which we have hurt others and sinned against God. We, too, need to make every effort to seek the Lord, so that He can come to us and say, “Today salvation has come to this house.”

*By Fr. James Graham*

## **FEAST OF THE ENCOUNTER**

Our lighted candles are a sign of the divine splendor of the one who comes to expel the dark shadows of evil and to make the whole universe radiant with the brilliance of his eternal light. Our candles also show how bright our souls should be when we go to meet Christ.

The Mother of God, the most pure Virgin, carried the true light in her arms and brought him to those who lay in darkness. We too should carry a light for all to see and reflect the radiance of the true light as we hasten to meet him.

The light has come and has shone upon a world enveloped in shadows; the Dayspring from on high has visited us and given light to those who lived in darkness. This, then, is our feast, and we join in procession with lighted candles to reveal the light that has shone upon us and the glory that is yet to come to us through him. So let us hasten all together to meet our God.

The true light has come, the light that enlightens every man who is born into this world. Let all of us, my brethren, be enlightened and made radiant by this light. Let all of us share in its splendor, and be so filled with it that no one remains in the darkness. Let us be shining ourselves as we go together to meet and to receive with the aged Simeon the light whose brilliance is eternal. Rejoicing with Simeon, let us sing a hymn of thanksgiving to God, the Father of the light, who sent the true light to dispel the darkness and to give us all a share in his splendor.

Through Simeon’s eyes we too have seen the salvation of God which he prepared for all the nations and revealed as the glory of the new Israel, which is ourselves. As Simeon was released from the bonds of this life when he had seen Christ, so we too were at once freed from our old state of sinfulness.

By faith we too embraced Christ, the salvation of God the Father, as he came to us from Bethlehem. Gentiles before, we have now become the people of God. Our eyes have seen God incarnate, and because we have seen him present among us and have mentally received him into our arms, we are called the new Israel. Never shall we forget this presence; every year we keep a feast in his honor.

*Excerpt from a seventh century sermon by St. Sophronius (Orat. 3 de Hypapante 6.7: PG)*

## 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.