

Mission Statement

Saints Peter and Paul Byzantine Catholic Parish 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. Simeon to schedule.

Mystery of Crowning: Must be a registered, active, supporting member of the parish family. Must meet with Fr. Simeon before setting date and reserving your banquet hall. Pre-Cana program is required and three sessions with Fr. Simeon. 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. Simeon is notified. It especially is important that a family member contact Fr. Simeon whenever a loved-one is hospitalized.

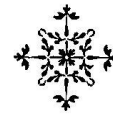
Funerals: Families of the deceased or the funeral director must contact Fr. Simeon before setting and publishing the day and time of the funeral.

Parish Membership: We welcome anyone to become a parishioner of Sts. Peter and Paul 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: Sister Barbara is in the Parish office from 10 AM – 2 PM Monday, Wednesday and Friday. Father Simeon is available on other days and times by appointment.

ETERNAL MEMORY



Grant, O Lord, eternal rest to the soul of Your servant +**Delores Kachenko** who has recently fallen asleep in the Lord. Please remember her and her family in your prayers.

WELCOME, ST. MICHAEL'S PARISHIONERS!

We express our sorrow at the closing of St. Michael's Church. *We invite and welcome you to join us here at SS. Peter and Paul Parish.* **Beginning Sunday, December 17, 2017 there will be an added Sunday Divine Liturgy at 9:00 AM.** Many prefer an earlier Sunday Divine Liturgy and this will give the opportunity of three choices for the weekend Liturgies. This will continue as long as there is sufficient attendance to warrant this addition.

CHURCH DECORATING ... for the Nativity of Our Lord

We will be decorating our Church for the Feast of the Nativity of Christ on Sunday, December 17th at 2:00 PM. Please come and join us in preparing your Church for Christmas.

THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU! (*Byzantines always do things in "3"s*)
... from our young people. Their Pepperoni Sale was a success thanks to your support and their hard work. Their profit resulted in approximately one third of the monies needed for them to attend the ByzanTEEN Youth Rally in July 2018.



(PP) Divine Liturgy Attendance weekend of 26 November:

5:00 PM: 65; 11:00 AM: 94

Our return to the Lord for all He has given us: \$2,281.00

(SM) Divine Liturgy Attendance weekend of 26 November:

22 from St. Michael; 11 from St. Peter & Paul

Our return to the Lord for all He has given us: \$298.00



3 DECEMBER 2017

SCHEDULE OF DIVINE SERVICES

- **Sun. Dec. 3** ECF Classes Resume at 9:30 AM TODAY
- **Sun. Dec. 3** St. Nicholas Feast Day Children’s Program, a visit from St. Nicholas and Dinner after the 11:00 AM Divine Liturgy
- **Tues. Dec. 5** 6:00 PM Divine Liturgy for the Feast of St. Nicholas. Please bring your children to Church.
- **Wed. Dec. 6** St. Vincent de Paul Meals Program. 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM.
- **Thurs. Dec. 9** Spirituality Day to Prepare for Christmas – 1 PM to 4:00 PM. Bishop Emeritus John Kudrick is the Main Speaker.
- **Sun. Dec. 17** Church decorating – 2:00 PM. You are welcome to help!
- **Mon. Dec. 18** Church Cleaning Party – 9:00 AM to Noon. This will involve some extra “Christmas Cleaning”, so we can use your help!



ST. MICHAEL’S CHURCH – NEWTON FALLS

An offer has been accepted for St. Michael’s property. The church property is under a contract of sale. The purchaser has represented that the property will be used for a charitable purpose. Since we are under contract, no items are to be removed from the property. The Archeparchy is in charge of removing very specific items for the benefit of the faithful and/or due to the proper disposition of sacred and consecrated items. Sunday, December 10, 2017 has been set for the final Divine Liturgy. A dinner will follow at Roby Lee’s at approximately 1:00 PM. Any Peter & Paul parishioners wishing to attend the dinner, please call the office by Dec. 3rd. St. Michael parishioners will call Marianne Cabosky at 330-872-7718 or sign the list in the vestibule of the church.



PHILLIP’S FAST OUTREACH

Our Parish Outreach project during the Phillip’s Fast is “Someplace Safe”. The list of needed items is beside your bulletins, either in the rack or on the tables. Boxes will be provided in the Social Hall on the Manor side, to collect your donations. If you can bring in your donations after Dec. 3rd it will be greatly appreciated, since the Social Hall is being used on Dec. 3rd. Thank you, in advance for your caring spirit! **Deadline for donations is December 17, 2017.**

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| Sunday, | 3 December | <i>TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST. The Holy Prophet Zephaniah.</i> |
| (Vigil Liturgy) | 5:00 PM | +Tom Vislosky – Harry, Elaine & family |
| (SM) | 8:30 AM | +John & +Margaret Kostrub – Mary Anne & family |
| (PP) | 11:00 AM | +John Vazur – Patricia Sudik |
| Monday, | 4 December | <i>The Great Martyr Barbara. Our Venerable Father John of Damascus.</i> |
| | | No Divine Liturgy |
| Tuesday, | 5 December | <i>Our Venerable and God-bearing Father Sabbas the Consecrated.</i> |
| (PP-Vigil Lit.) | 6:00 PM | Intention of Sr. Barbara – Benedictine Sisters |
| Wednesday, | 6 December | <i>OUR HOLY FATHER NICHOLAS THE WONDER-WORKER, ARCHBISHOP OF MYRA IN LYCIA.</i> |
| Thursday | 7 December | <i>Prefestive Day of the Maternity of Anna. Our Holy Father Ambrose, Bishop of Milan.</i> |
| (PP-Vigil Lit.) | 6:00 PM | +Marjorie Sudimack – Sylvia Hoson |
| Friday, | 8 December | <i>FEAST OF THE MATERNITY OF THE HOLY ANNA.</i> |
| | | No Divine Liturgy |
| Saturday, | 9 December | <i>Our Venerable Father Patapius. The Holy Hannah, Mother of the Prophet Samuel.</i> |
| (PP) | 5:00 PM | +Carl Verney – wife, Marialice & family |
| Sunday, | 10 December | <i>TWENTY-SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST. The Holy Martyrs Menas, Hermogenes and Euegraphus.</i> |
| (SM) | 11:00 AM | Closing Liturgy / Int. of St. Michael Parishioners |
| (PP) | 11:00 AM | +Steve Zumerling – M/M Donald Kovac |



Attentive to the Word
Twenty-sixth Sunday after Pentecost

Lk. 18: 18 – 27

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FEAST OF ST. NICHOLAS – DECEMBER 6

It is easy to understand why this holy bishop has become so closely connected with the festival of Christ's birth. The stories about the saint, fabricated and embroidered in Christian imagination over the ages, in various times and places, all tell of the simple faith and love of the man known only for his goodness and love.



The extraordinary thing about the image of St. Nicholas in the Church is that he is not known for anything **extraordinary**. He was not a theologian and never wrote a word ... yet he is famous in the memory of believers as a zealot for the true faith! He was not an ascetic and did no outstanding feats of fasting and vigils ... yet he is praised for his possession of the “fruit of the Holy Spirit – love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control!” He was not a mystic (in our present meaning of the term) ... yet he lived daily with the Lord and was godly in all his words and deeds! He was not a prophet in the technical sense

... yet he proclaimed the Word of God, exposed the sins of the wicked, defended the rights of the oppressed and afflicted, and battled against every form of injustice with supernatural compassion and mercy! In a word, he was a good pastor, father and bishop to his flock, known especially for his love and care of the poor. Most simply put, he was a **divinely good person!**

The Messiah has come so that human beings can live lives which are, strictly speaking, humanly impossible. He has come so that people can really **be good!** One of the greatest and most beloved examples among believers that this is true, is the holy bishop of Myra ... about almost nothing else is known ... except that he was **good!** For this reason alone, he remains “**the very spirit of Christmas.**” (Pay special attention to the Troparion and Kontakion for the Feast of St. Nicholas.)

THE CONCEPTION OF SAINT ANN – DECEMBER 8

Celebrated for many centuries under a variety of titles, the feast widely known as the Immaculate Conception is celebrated in the Eastern Church as the Feast of the Conception of Saint Ann. This feast commemorates Saint Ann's conception of Mary, the Mother of God.

The writings of the early Church tell us that Mary's parents, Joachim and Ann, prayed earnestly for a child. Ann and Joachim had lived devoutly in marriage for many years. They gave a third of their income to the poor and a third to the Temple. Still, they were scorned for being without offspring. With heavy hearts, they prayed that God would bless them with a child to comfort them in their old age. The Lord God answered their prayers by allowing Ann to conceive a child who would be the mother of God's own Son, Jesus Christ.

Thus, we see in this feast how marvelously God prepared for the birth of His own Son. Our Lord Jesus Christ was mystically born from the virginal womb of a woman who herself was immaculately conceived from a barren womb! Let us, therefore, cry out to the Mother of God, "Hail, O Womb of Divine Incarnation! Hail, O you through whom creation is renewed! Hail, O you through whom the Creator becomes a babe! Hail, O bride and Maiden ever-pure!" (From the *Akathist*)

SUNDAY GOSPEL - Luke 18: 18 - 27

The incident of Jesus calling the rich young ruler can have many applications. In the light of the growing concern for social justice and putting into practice the preferential option for the poor, what could this episode say about our contemporary situation? We recognize that there are vast differences between our 21st century society and Luke's first century Greco-Roman civilization. Luke tried to raise the consciousness of his readers, so that those who were well-to-do would share their wealth by giving to the poor.

It would seem, in light of the tremendous complexities of our world's economic systems, that our almsgiving would not change things. We might find ourselves thinking, “Even if I sold everything I have, gave the money to the poor and followed Jesus, what would my personal charity really accomplish?” But to ask this question is to start at the wrong place—as if what counted was only that which would change the world. The most important aspect is the change that takes place in ourselves. The starting point for real change is the realization that following Jesus means personal conversion. Jesus was calling the rich ruler to personal conversion. Jesus' invitation to “come and follow me” is the key to the application of this passage to our lives. If we start at personal conversion, then the smallest step taken or the most insignificant contribution made is decisive.