

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.

2018 CONTRIBUTION ENVELOPES & CALENDARS

The 2018 Contribution Envelopes are ready for pick-up in the Social Hall. If there is any name or address correction, if you are unable to locate your envelopes, or if you wish a set of envelopes, please call the office, or drop a note in the collection basket. **This year all envelope numbers were reassigned due to the number of deaths and relocation of former parishioners. Please discard your old envelopes at the end of 2017. If you want proper credit for your contributions, you must use the envelopes you were assigned for the year 2018.**

CHRISTMAS CAROLING . . .



The adults be caroling for our Parishioners who are in Nursing homes or who are home-bound on **December 31st**. We want them to know they are loved and missed. In order to allow time for you to get home and eat something before caroling, **we will meet at 1:15 PM in the Social Hall and hopefully leave at 1:30 PM.** We hope to be back by 4:00 PM. *Everyone is invited to join us in bringing joy to our Shut-ins.*

CHRIST IS BORN!

GLORIFY HIM!



(PP) Divine Liturgy Attendance weekend of 24 December:

5:00 PM: 55; 9:00 AM: 35 11:00 AM: 59

Christmas: 6:00 PM: 107; 9:00 AM: 36; 11:00 AM: 55

Dec. 26: 18 Dec. 27: 8

Our return to the Lord for all He has given us: . . (Sun.) \$2,746.00

(Mon.) Christmas \$11,562.00



SCHEDULE OF DIVINE SERVICES

- **Sun. Dec. 31** NO ECF Classes. **We want all of you back next week.**
- **Mon. Jan. 1** Holy Day! Feast of Circumcision & St. Basil the Great! Also New Year's Day. *Divine Liturgy at 6:00 PM.*
- **Wed. Jan. 3** St. Vincent de Paul Meal's Program – 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM. We can use your help!
- **Sat. Jan. 6** *Feast of Theophany – Holy Day of Obligation – Divine Liturgies for Theophany are 6:00 PM Friday Eve. & 9:00 AM Sat. Morning. Sunday Liturgies are 5:00 PM Sat. Eve. & 9:00 & 11:00 AM Sun. Morning. One does not count for the other. We must attend both days.*
- **Sun. Jan. 7** Undecorate the Church – 1:00 PM.
- **Sun. Jan. 21** "Movie afternoon" – 2:00 PM. (Title will be announced later.)

N.B. NO LADIES GUILD OR AUXILIARY MEETINGS IN JANUARY



THANK YOU FROM FATHER SIMEON

I would like to thank all who remembered me during this Holy Season of Christ's birth with Christmas greetings and the generous gifts. Your thoughtfulness and generosity were greatly appreciated. May God continue to bless us throughout the New Year as we journey together as a family of faith.



PILGRIM VOCATION PROGRAM

We have gotten a little lax in our Pilgrim Vocation Icon Program. For the last 2 weeks, our Vocation Icon has been lying on the table in the front of the candle stand. Vocations are the result of the Christian Community actively engaged in prayer that "the master of the harvest will send out laborers for his harvest." **One way we can all be involved in vocation ministry is through prayer.** Everyone in the Parish is invited to pray for and encourage others within the Church that they might respond generously to God's call in their lives. **Please sign up today on the sheet posted in the Social Hall to have the Pilgrim Vocation Icon in your home. You will be greatly blessed.**

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| Sunday | 31 December | <i>SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS. MEMORY OF THE JUST JOSEPH, HUSBAND OF MARY; OF DAVID, PROPHET AND KING; OF THE HOLY APOSTLE JAMES, BROTHER OF THE LORD. Leave-taking of Christmas. Venerable Mother Melany of Rome.</i> |
| (Vigil Liturgy) | 5:00 PM 9:00 AM 11:00 AM | +John E. Mosko (40 th day) – Ron Mosko +Michael Uhlin – Gloria & Joseph Uhlin +Helen Sekula – Debbie & Mark Gregorie |
| Monday | 1 January | <i>CIRCUMCISION OF OUR LORD, GOD AND SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST. HOLY FATHER BASIL THE GREAT, ARCHBISHOP OF CAESAREA IN CAPPADOCIA.</i> |
| | 6:00 PM | +Marge Sudimack – Ron Mosko |
| Tuesday | 2 January | <i>Prefestive Day of Theophany. Our Holy Father Sylvester, Pope of Rome.</i> |
| | | No Divine Liturgy |
| Wednesday | 3 January | <i>Prefestive Day of Theophany. Holy Prophet Malachi. Holy Martyr Gordius. Venerable Mother Genevieve of Paris.</i> |
| | | No Divine Liturgy |
| Thursday | 4 January | <i>Prefestive Day of Theophany. Synaxis of the Holy 70 Apostles. Venerable Father Theoctist, Hegumen at Cuomo in Sicily.</i> |
| (Chapel) | 8:80 AM | +Richard Begalla – Ruth Billcheck |
| Friday | 5 January | <i>Vigil of Theophany. Holy Martyrs Theopempt and Theona. Venerable Mother Syncletica. Holy Prophet Micah.</i> |
| (Theophany) | 6:00 PM | +Frank Hoso, Jr. – Raymond Bishop |
| Saturday | 6 January | <i>THEOPHANY OF OUR LORD, GOD AND SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST.</i> |
| (Theophany) | 9:00 AM | +Lynn Byers – Byers Family |
| (Sunday Vigil) | 5:00 PM | +Steve Zombar – Jen, John, Betty & Steve |
| Sunday | 7 January | <i>SUNDAY AFTER THEOPHANY. SYNAXIS OF THE HOLY FORERUNNER, PROPHET AND BAPTIST JOHN.</i> |
| | 9:00 AM 11:00 AM | +Sylvia Siska – Zoe Gradishar Blessing on the 95th birthday of Helen Kuhar |



*Attentive to the Word
Sunday after Christmas*

Mt: 2: 13 - 23

Tone 5 Pages 146 - & 302 - 305

Today is the last Sunday of the year. Christmas marks the beginning of a new relationship with our God, because His Son entered into human life. He became what we are, so that we can become what He is by nature, so that we can share in the very life of God. It's a time to celebrate God's eternal beginning into our lives and to hope and to be restored to grace. It's always a new beginning for all mankind.

New Year's marks the beginning of our yearly calendar. It's an end to an old year and the beginning of a new. A time to celebrate, to hope, to be renewed and to look back and also and more important to look ahead, to make a new start.

Theophany is at the end of this week. Jesus baptism marks the beginning of his ministry. Repent, change, make your life over, because the Kingdom of God is at hand.

In the Gospel story of Jesus birth, Jesus was born in a cave and placed in a manger because there was no room for Him in the inn. Jesus began His life on earth being crowded out. Much of ourselves could be reflected in that inn. Are not our lives sometimes so busy and preoccupied with so many things, albeit good, that Jesus Christ gets crowded out. There is just so much room in any person's life. Sometimes our busyness and much good activity crowds out time for Jesus Christ Himself.

The same is true for Herod's Castle. He doesn't have room for another king. He must destroy him before he has to face any competition. He can't accept Jesus birth as good news. It's a threat to his way of life. A lot of people today don't accept Jesus because they would have to surrender their own lives to Christ. They would have to change their lifestyle. They would have to seek justice and truth. And these can carry a heavy price. They would just rather get rid of Jesus.

What are we called to do? What's the birth of Jesus calling for in my life? What's New Year's crying out for me to begin anew or to restore. How is Jesus' call to change, that begins His preaching after His baptism, calling me to change?

To begin anew we have to make some quiet time, some time for reflection. As we struggle with our own personal shortcomings, let us ask God's help in our own forgiving and loving. This is where we begin anew.

Try to seek after the things that matter, to not be afraid to admit mistakes, and to not be afraid to change and grow. There is hope for us and for our world. It has to begin with us - in our homes - in our families. It has to begin with a lot of love and acceptance of our everyday humanness and weakness. It has to begin with faith that God will give us the strength to make the changes needed.

Act today to show love to your family and friends. Act today to reach out in compassion to the stranger in need. Act today to forgive and to ask for forgiveness. Commit yourself today to daily prayer and to reflection on the Holy Scriptures - do not wait for a better day, or a calmer time. This outpouring of love and compassion, forgiveness and prayer is the most powerful action we can undertake to counteract hatred and evil, fear and anxiety, death and destruction.

With the love of Jesus in our hearts, may we enter into the New Year of God's grace.

By Fr. John Zeyack



FEAST OF THE CIRCUMCISION:

“When the eighth day arrived for His circumcision the name Jesus was given the Child, the name the angel had given Him before He was conceived.” Our Lord submitted to the law even though He was the Creator of all mankind and of the entire universe. We would do well to follow His example by also submitting to the law – His law: “Love God with all your heart and soul, with all your strength and mind. Love your neighbor as yourself.” What a world this would be if we all did that. Maybe we can't expect all the people of the world to submit to His law – but we can begin with ourselves – here and now!

FEAST OF ST BASIL:

We also remember St. Basil the Great on this day, who was the Archbishop of Caesarea. He reformed the Liturgy, defied the Emperor in defense of the Faith, and worked for unity of the Church. He also was responsible for organizing monastic life in his time. He was known as “St. Basil the Great”. In him we can see the power of faith in Christ to change and transform our lives.