

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 10:30 AM – 2 PM Monday, Wednesday and Friday. Father Simeon is available on other days and times by appointment.

(PP) CONTRIBUTION STATEMENTS & 2017 ENVELOPES

Contribution envelopes and 2016 year end contribution statements that were not picked up are in the church office. If you want or need them, please call the parish office.

WANTED . . . PUSSY WILLOWS

It seems a little strange to be asking for pussy willows in the month of February, but with the spring-like weather that we have been experiencing, some plants and pussy willows have already emerged from their winter nap. Please . . . when your pussy willows **begin to bloom**, please cut them and bring them to the Social Hall. We will store them here until Palm Sunday. **DO NOT PUT THEM IN WATER.**

FUNDRAISER FOR ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish is sponsoring an ethnic dinner to benefit the St. Vincent de Paul Meals Program. It is being held at SS. Cyril & Methodius Social Hall – Saturday, February 18, 2017. Tickets are \$15.00. Doors open at 5:00 PM. For tickets, call Rosemary 330-727-6726 or George 330-394-8249. For menu & other information, see the flyer posted on the bulletin boards.

C-RS LECTURE

The Youngstown Chapter of the Carpatho-Rusyn Society is sponsoring a lecture by Richard Custer entitled *Uncovering and Publishing the History of Pennsylvania's Carpatho-Rusyns*. The lecture will be held at St. Michael's Byzantine Catholic Church, 2230 Highland Avenue in Hermitage, PA on Saturday, February 25, 2017 at 1:30 PM. This should prove to be a very interesting and informative afternoon. For more information, see the flyer posted on both bulletin boards.



(PP) Divine Liturgy Attendance weekend of 5 February:

5:00 PM: 72; 11:00 AM: 78

Our return to the Lord for all He has given us: \$3,468.75

(SM) Divine Liturgy Attendance weekend of 5 February:

22 from St. Michael; 9 from St. Peter & Paul

Our return to the Lord for all He has given us: \$978.00



- **Sun. Feb. 5** ECF CLASSES TODAY. 9:30 AM – 10:45 AM.
- **Sun. Feb. 12** Meeting of Oblates of St. Benedict – 2:00 PM at the Monastery. Please ring #301.
- **Sat. Feb. 18 (PP)** First All Souls Saturday. Divine Liturgy at 9:00 AM with reading of the Diptychs.
- **Sun. Feb. 19 (SM)** Observance of First All Souls with reading of the Diptychs during the Divine Liturgy.
- **Mon. Feb. 20** Meeting of St. Benedict’s Auxiliary – 7:00 PM in the Social Hall. Bring your dimes & quarters for fun games of Bingo.



COME ONE – COME ALL

Before the beginning of Great Lent, on Meatfare Sunday afternoon (Feb. 19th) at 3:00 PM, we are planning an afternoon “movie” get-together for relaxation and camaraderie in P&P social hall. We will have several “family friendly” movies or other DVD Entertainment to choose from. Snacks & beverages will be provided. You need only to come prepared to laugh and have an enjoyable afternoon. Everyone, from both parishes, is invited. We hope to see you there.

ATTENTION: PARISHIONERS OF ST. MICHAEL’S:

You are invited to take part in the World Day of Prayer being held at the Baptist Church in Lordstown on Friday, March 3, 2017 at 11:00 AM. You have taken part in this event in previous years and you are encouraged to continue to do so. Our country and our cities need all the prayers they can get to help bring us back to living the values of the Gospel. See the bulletin insert or the bulletin board for more information.



2017 PRAYER INTENTIONS OF POPE FRANCIS: (taken from *The Worldwide Prayer Network*). **February Intention: “Comfort for the Afflicted”.** Let us join our prayer with the prayer of Pope Francis, that those afflicted with disease, drugs, fear, etc. may receive the help and comfort they need and deserve.

12 FEBRUARY 2017

SCHEDULE OF DIVINE SERVICES

Sunday	12 February	<i>THE SUNDAY OF THE PRODIGAL SON. Our Holy Father Meletius, Bishop of Antioch.</i>
(Vigil Liturgy)	5:00 PM	+Stephen Sernulka – Rick & Mary Ryznar
(SM)	8:30 AM	+Ronald Ferrance – Jim & Linda Bobbey
(PP)	11:00 AM	Liturgy of Thanksgiving – Helen Kuhar
Monday	13 February	<i>Our Venerable Father Martinian</i> No Divine Liturgy
Tuesday	14 February	<i>Venerable Father Auxentius. Venerable Maron, Hermit and Wonderworker. Passing of Venerable Father Constantine, whose monastic name is Cyril, the Apostle of the Slavs.</i>
(Chapel)	8:30 AM	+Sister Miriam Konkus – Benedictine Sisters
Wednesday	15 February	<i>The Holy Apostle Onesimus.</i>
(Chapel)	8:30 AM	+Jean Labosh – Oblates of St. Benedict
Thursday	16 February	<i>The Holy Martyrs, the Presbyter Pamphilius, Porphyrius and their Companions.</i>
(Chapel)	8:30 AM	+Andrew Susko, Jr. – M/M Herb Snyder
Friday	17 February	<i>The Holy Great Martyr Theodore the Recruit</i> No Divine Liturgy
Saturday	18 February	<i>First All Souls Saturday. Memory of All the Faithful Departed. Our Holy Father Leo, Pope of Rome.</i>
(PP)	9:00 AM	Liturgy for the Departed with Reading of Diptychs
(Vigil Liturgy)	5:00 PM	+Ken & +Ann Tisher – Ron Mosko
Sunday	19 February	<i>MEATFARE SUNDAY. The Holy Apostle Archippus.</i>
(SM)	8:30 AM	+Liturgy for the Departed with Reading of Diptychs
(PP)	11:00 AM	+Lynn Byers – Family



Attentive to the Word *Sunday of the Prodigal Son*

Lk. 15: 11 – 32

Tone 6 Pg. 152 - 153;

Kontakion of the Prodigal Son – Pg. 216

. "Virtually maintenance free." This is the claim on so many products these days: everything from the newest automobiles promising "no tune up for 100,000 miles" to building material for decks and fences. One retailer promises this: "The allure of a wood fence can be attained with virtually no upkeep."

The routine life of caring for everything from cars to clapboards has been reduced perhaps to a once-in-a-lifetime purchase or touch-up. Not long ago, it was common to set aside once or twice a year for painting, cleaning and general maintenance of the house and home. The glazing on the windowpanes would grow old and cracked and needed replacing. Today, many would ask, "What is glazing?"

The blinds would get covered in dust and need to be vacuumed. Now, they are sandwiched between pieces of glass in doors and windows. Boards on the deck, or the deck itself would age, arch, splinter and disintegrate. Now, they are just as shiny 10 years later as the day they were screwed down.

Is it possible that these advanced technologies have crept into our understanding of the Christian faith? Do I operate on the assumption that no "spiritual tune up" is ever necessary?

The Christian life not maintenance-free. The Christian life is not reduced simply to the moment one is baptized. Yes, the Christian life begins there, but just like the last day of high school or college, it is but a commencement, the "first day of the rest of your life." And this life consists of doing basically one thing: *repenting*.

Repentance is to love God with all your soul, mind and strength. How? By turning back to him. By begging his forgiveness (which he freely offers). By telling him, "I recognize that I have abandoned you and your ways." And by asking him to receive you back (which he quickly does).

The most striking biblical portrayal of this is the parable of the Prodigal Son, who wished his father dead, took his inheritance and squandered it in "loose and riotous living" (sound familiar?) He could only get a job feeding animals that his religion forbade him even to touch. He realized he was far from his true home, and he returned and repented in both senses of the term (change his mind and re-orient himself).

His father wasn't sitting in a chair at home pretending his son wasn't gone; nor was his welcome one offered with an "I told you so" wagging of the finger. Rather, the son's return was celebrated with all the joy of discovering that, "My son who was dead is alive again. He was lost, and now he is found."

Who among us squanders his inheritance just once in a lifetime? *Repentance is the maintenance of the Christian life.* Repentance is to love one's neighbor as oneself. How? By offering to my neighbor no less than God himself offers to me. By humbling myself to say, "Forgive me for stealing from you ... or lying to you ... or slandering you ... or gossiping about you." By correcting the correctable when I have transgressed! . . . And by doing the right thing, even to my enemy, remembering Jesus' words, "If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you?"

This repentance, this change of mind, is seen best in the Parable of the Good Samaritan. In this story, a man was beaten by robbers and left in the street for dead. Two of the man's fellow countrymen, the most religious, passed by on the other side, apparently too busy or self-interested to assist him. A foreigner, and relative enemy, happened upon the beaten man and saw only a suffering and dying human being. He dressed and bound his wounds and took him to a place of healing. To top it off, he paid for the man's lodging in advance and promised to return to pay for whatever extra expenses might have arisen.

This is an act of extreme humility and return to living the godly life. Who among us passes by such a suffering person but a single time in 75 years? *Repentance* is the maintenance of the Christian life. This maintenance takes two forms: *confession* and *amendment of life*.

According to the Scriptures and Life of the Church, every Christian is obliged to *confess* his or her sins to another person, and not "just to God." And there is a practical reason in addition to the spiritual ones: naming our darkest sins to another takes the power out of them. It is a movement from darkness to light, from death to life!

Amendment of life is this: Cooperating with the grace of God to turn from the sinful, evil, wicked ways to holy, good, and just ways. It is the living out of Jesus' words to the woman caught in adultery, "Neither do I condemn you; go and sin no more."

We human beings are not the newest automobiles, nor are we composite building material. Rather, we are the pinnacle of God's creation even though we have squandered our inheritance. To assume that I am "maintenance-free" once I am baptized, is to live in darkness and unconfessed sin. To trust that "God will forgive me" without cooperating with him to change my ways, is to make a mockery of the cross.

Perhaps our best tactic ought to be to take the time we have saved (in not having to paint the house, clean the blinds and tune the car) and spend it on spiritual maintenance. It is never too late to have a new beginning. As St. Paul says, "Now is the day of salvation."