

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.

MANY, MANY THANKS...

to all those wonderful parishioners who gave up their New Year Sunday afternoon to visit and sing Christmas carols for our Parishioners who are homebound or in Care Facilities. They are very grateful to be remembered and to know that they are still part of our parish family.

REMEMBERING THE HOMEBOUND

We pray to the Lord, the Giver of Life and all good gifts, for the health and blessings of those who are ill, homebound, in care facilities, and are unable to attend church. In our good fortune and many blessings from God, let us not forget those who are also part of our parish family – remember them with prayers, cards, visits, phone calls, etc. Let us share our blessings!

HOW QUICKLY WE FORGET ...

PLEASE REFRAIN FROM UNNECESSARY AND LOUD TALKING BEFORE, DURING AND ESPECIALLY AFTER THE DIVINE LITURGY. DO YOUR VISITING IN THE SOCIAL HALL OR IN THE NARTHEX (VESTIBULE) OF THE CHURCH OR OUTSIDE.



(PP) Divine Liturgy Attendance weekend of 1 January:

5:00 PM: 75; 11:00 AM: 71

Our return to the Lord for all He has given us: \$2,623.97

Additional Christmas Donations \$350.00

(SM) Divine Liturgy Attendance weekend of 1 January:

19 from St. Michael; 14 from St. Peter & Paul

Our return to the Lord for all He has given us: \$1213.00

Additional Christmas Donations \$200.00



8 JANUARY 2017

- **Sun. Jan.8** **ECF CLASSES RESUME TODAY. 9:30 AM – 10:45 AM.**
Attendance has been very poor these past two months. Parents, coming back following a break is always difficult. However, please continue your responsibility in getting your children to religious education classes and to the Divine Liturgy. You are your children’s primary educators. If God is important in your life, it will rub off into the lives of your children...if, not, that also will be communicated and absorbed. Remember, they need to grow up knowing one another and feeling that they are a part of our parish family. They are our precious gifts – new life in the community of God’s worshippers.
- **Sun. Jan. 8** Meeting of Oblates of St. Benedict – 2:00 PM to 4:00 PM at the Monastery. Please ring #301.
- **Mon. Jan. 11** “Un-decorate” the tidy-up the Church – 9:30 AM



JUST A REMINDER: (for those who have not yet picked up their 2017 Contribution Envelopes).

The 2017 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 2016. If you want proper credit for your contributions, you must use the envelopes you were assigned for the year 2017.*

NEWLY SANCTIFIED JORDAN WATER

On the Feast of Theophany we celebrated the Great Sanctification of Water. The dispenser containing the newly sanctified water is located by the Belvedere Ave. entrance. You are encouraged to take some water home for your sanctification.

SCHEDULE OF DIVINE SERVICES

Sunday	8 January	<i>SUNDAY AFTER THEOPHANY. Venerble Father George the Chozebite. Venerble Mother Dominica. Holy Father and Confessor Emilian.</i>
(Vigil Liturgy) (SM) (PP)	5:00 AM 8:30 AM 11:00 AM	+Dorothy Byers – Byers Family +Tim Ferry – M/M Mick Johnson +Brian Koehn – Mom & Mike
Monday	9 January	<i>Postfestive Day of Theophany. Holy Martyr Polyeuct.</i> No Divine Liturgy
Tuesday	10 January	<i>Postfestive Day of Theophany. Holy Father Gregory of Nyssa. Venerable Dometian, Bishop of Melitene. Venerable Father Marcion.</i>
(Chapel)	8:30 AM	+Mamie Bosak – son, Jerry Bosak
Wednesday	11 January	<i>Postfestive Day of Theophany. Venerable Father Theodosius, Founder of the Common Life.</i>
(Chapel)	8:30 AM	+Kay Roscoe – Mark & Anita Stocz
Thursday	12 January	<i>Postfestive Day of Theophany. The Holy Martyr Tatiana.</i>
(Chapel)	8:30 AM	+Ann Marie Metz – Jim & Maryann Futey
Friday	13 January	<i>Postfestive Day of Theophany. Holy Martyrs Hermylaous and Stratonicus. Venerable Father Hilary, Bishop of Poitiers.</i> No Divine Liturgy
Saturday	14 January	<i>Leave-taking of Theophany. Venerable Fathers killed by the Arabs in Sinai and Raitho I 312. Commemoration of the Passing of the holy Equal-to-the-Apostles, Nina, Enlightener of the Georgians.</i>
(Vigil Liturgy)	5:00 PM	Health & Blessings for Virginia Pipa
Sunday	15 January	<i>THIRTY-FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST. Our Venerable Fathers, Paul of Thebes and John the Hut-dweller.</i>
(SM)	8:30 AM	+Ronald Ferrance – Connie & Dennis Reed



(PP) 11:00 AM +Doris Mosko – Byers Family

Attentive to the Word
Sunday after Theophany

Mt. 4: 12 – 17

**Tone 1 Pg. 125; then follow directions on
page 316 - 318**

"Repent! For the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand!" We hear these stirring words of our Lord proclaimed at the end of the Holy Gospel reading prescribed for the Sunday after Holy Theophany (Matthew 4:12-17). Jesus is beginning His public ministry, and like all the prophets of old, He is inviting people to reform their lives, but He adds one new element: belief in His Gospel.

The "reform of life" of which Jesus speaks is not a suspended moment in time, a once-for-all effort. Rather, it is a continuing process which is operative through life. Perhaps we may object - claiming that we have, in fact, reformed our lives. More exactly, however, the truth may be that once this has begun, we may never relax the effort. Continuing reform brings us new dimensions of faith in and love of God and of one another.

In times past, in certain parts of the world and with the early settlers of our country, it was a civic duty to be a Christian, a practicing Christian. The whole atmosphere of society promoted this. In our own times, we are challenged by an entirely different atmosphere - the insidious spirit of secularism which effectively eliminates any mention or hint of God in our lives.

We need only look at what has happened to the celebration of our Lord's holy birth (Christmas) and His holy Resurrection (Pascha). In many communities, no longer is there a Nativity scene on public display, no religious music may be used in public schools, and the birth of Christ is treated like any other civic holiday such as Independence Day (July 4th), Memorial or Labor Day. Holiday "gift giving" has replaced the example of the presentation of gifts by the Wise Men from the East at the crib in Bethlehem, God's Gift to us in the Person of His own Son, for the exchange of seasonal gratification and self-satisfaction.

Pascha finds people buying and wearing new outfits of clothes, not truly cognizant of the "putting on" of Christ with the robe of new life imparted at baptism,

which formed a major part of the Resurrection ceremonies in more ancient times. An "Easter Bunny" puts eggs in children's baskets, but few remember that the egg is a dramatic symbol of life contained in the tomb, the very tomb from which Christ rose - alive after death and giving as the promise of our own resurrection and of life forever.

This attitude has posed keen problems for the authentic Christian in a world more and more framed in a secularist context. In the face of such challenges, we must call to mind more readily how our religious faith is rooted in Christ, as He calls us to repentance. Our Church, in fact, will soon place us again in the preparatory period preceding the Great Fast (Lent) to remind us that our spiritual lives have a direction different from the direction the secular world would have us move, and in which it sometimes does move us. The clarion call of our Savior "Repent! For the Kingdom of God is at hand!" is a keen reminder to keep our lives on that straight course leading us, in hope, to heaven.

By Msgr. John T. Sekellick, JCL



"You are the light of the world...
No one after lighting a lamp
puts it under
the bushel basket...
let your light shine
before others..."
-Matthew 5:14-16 1888



"... But now you are light in the Lord; walk as children of light."
Ephesians 5:8
Read: Matthew 5:14-16

Lamps were among the most valued possessions in Israelite homes. Light was a symbol of life, and a good lamp provided light for every household function. In fact, an Israelite woman checked her lamp all through the night, adding more oil or fixing the wick, to make sure the light stayed strong and sent the message "all is well." Jesus wants our lives to be like a good lamp, sending out the daily signal that all is well in our relationship with Him. When people see you, they should see the light of Christ and give glory to God. Can those around you see Jesus in the way you behave and the way you talk? Does your life communicate His positive truth, or do you send negative statements of criticism or discouragement? Do your actions make someone want to know more about your Lord?

Perhaps the statement your life is making right now is not what it should be. Maybe you are discouraged by inconsistency or feelings of inadequacy. Remember that Jesus gives you the strength and wisdom you need because He is the "light of life." God promises to continue building His truth into your life day by day, so that your character and conduct reflect His distinguishing presence.