

## 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.

## ETERNAL MEMORY



In blessed repose, grant rest to your departed servants +**Alex Selanik** who has recently fallen asleep in the Lord. Please remember him and his family in your prayers.

## **SPAGHETTI DINNER - M-m-m GOOD**

WHERE? St. Michael Byzantine Church, 405 Robinson Rd. Campbell OH

WHEN? Palm Sunday – April 9, 2017

TIME? 12:00 Noon to 3:00 PM Take Outs Available!

PRICE? Adults: \$9:00 Children: 12 and under: \$4.00

## SCHOLARSHIPS FOR CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

The Monsignor Hladky Memorial Foundation is offering scholarships toward tuition for students of all grade levels who are attending a Catholic elementary, junior high or high school. Parents may request applications until April 14, 2017. Please call 330-847-8257. Completed applications must be returned by May 14, 2017.

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Volunteering is a great way to further a cause, support an organization, and make a difference in your community. It can also be an opportunity to meet new people and learn new skills. If you would like to give something besides money, consider lending your time and talents to Trumbull Mobile Meals. It is an opportunity to serve. TMM needs approximately 50 volunteers daily to pack and deliver meals. Delivery drivers use their own vehicle to deliver meals during the noon hour. Packers pack meals for delivery from 8:15 AM to 11:00 AM. Please call the TMM office (330-394-2538) if interested in volunteering.



### **(PP) Divine Liturgy Attendance weekend of 19 March:**

5:00 PM: 71; 11:00 AM: 69

Pre-sanctified: Fri.: 33; All Souls: 16

**Our return to the Lord for all He has given us: . . . . . \$3,156.45**

### **(SM) Divine Liturgy Attendance weekend of 19 March:**

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

Pre-sanctified Liturgy: Wed.: (SM) 5; (PP) 5

**Our return to the Lord for all He has given us: . . . . . \$418.00**



- **Sun. Mar. 26** ECF CLASSES TODAY. 9:30 AM – 10:45 AM.
- **Sun. Mar. 26** Last day to order Byzantine Chocolate Crosses
- **Mon. Mar. 27** Church Cleaning Party – 9:00 AM to Noon.
- **Sat. Apr. 1** Spirituality Day – 1:00 to 4:00 PM (PP) – Fr. Will Rupp, speaker.



### PASKA (EASTER BREAD) SALE

The Ladies Guild will be baking Paskas for the Feast of the Resurrection. **Advance orders only.** The Paska’s, both with or without raisins are \$6.00 each, and will be ready for pick up on the weekend of April 8 & 9. **Order forms are located in the Social Hall. Deadline to order is 2 April 2017.**

*Please Note: Paska’s will be blessed on Palm Sunday and delivered to parishioners who are on our shut-in list. A few volunteers are needed to help with the deliveries. Call Elaine Vislosky (330-770-1100) if you are able to help with deliveries.*

### MID-LENT “MOVIE” AFTERNOON

As was promised, we will again have a movie afternoon get together on Sunday, March 26<sup>th</sup> (without the “bumps-in-the-road”)... The movie or DVD will be *Carol Burnett – A Reunion*. **“Curtains up” at 2:00 PM.** Come prepared to have a fun afternoon. Snacks will be provided.

### BYZANTINE CATHOLIC WORLD

Subscriptions for the BCW are due at the Chancery this week and will be mailed on Friday – March 31, 2017. If you intend to continue receiving the BCW (we encourage you to do so), or if you are a new subscriber, please use the envelope in your contribution box and return to the office before the mailing date. Cost is \$14.00 per year.

26 MARCH 2017

### SCHEDULE OF DIVINE SERVICES

Sunday	26 March	<i>FOURTH SUNDAY OF THE GREAT FAST. (Leave-taking) of Annunciation. Synaxis of Gabriel the Archangel.</i>
(Vigil Liturgy)	<b>5:00 PM</b>	<b>+Lucy Prokop – George &amp; Donna Bodajlo</b>
(SM)	<b>8:30 AM</b>	<b>Prayer Intention of Rosary Society</b>
(PP)	<b>11:00 AM</b>	<b>+Robert Kleese – Ron Mosko</b>
Monday	27 March	<i>Our Venerable Mother Matrona of Thessalonica.</i>
		<b>No Divine Services</b>
Tuesday	28 March	<i>Our Venerable Father Hilary the Younger. Holy Stephen the Wonderworker.</i>
		<b>No Divine Services</b>
Wednesday	29 March	<i>Venerable Father Mark, Bishop of Arethusa; Deacon Cyril and others who suffered martyrdom under Julian the Apostate.</i>
(SM)	<b>6:00 PM</b>	<b>Liturgy of the Pre-sanctified Gifts</b>
Thursday	30 March	<i>THE GREAT CANON OF OUR HOLY FATHER ANDREW OF CRETE. Venerable Father John Climacus, Author of “The Ladder”.</i>
		<b>No Divine Services</b>
Friday	31 March	<i>Our Venerable Father Hypatius, Bishop of Gangra.</i>
(PP)	<b>6:00 PM</b>	<b>Liturgy of the Pre-sanctified Gifts.</b>
Saturday	1 April	<i>Akathistos Saturday. Our Holy Mother Mary of Egypt.</i>
(Vigil Liturgy)	<b>5:00 PM</b>	<b>+Robert Blake – Betty &amp; Macala Blake</b>
Sunday	2 April	<i>FIFTH SUNDAY OF THE GREAT FAST. Memory of Our Holy Mother Mary of Egypt. Venerable Father Titus.</i>
(SM)	<b>8:30 AM</b>	<b>+William Surin - Joseph &amp; Mary Jennings</b>
(PP)	<b>11:00 AM</b>	<b>+Henry Passek – David Rowley family</b>



Attentive to the Word  
Fourth Sunday of the Great Fast

Mk. 9: 17 – 31

Tone 4 Troparion – Page 141 - 142

4<sup>th</sup> Sun of Lent – Follow directions on Pages 226 –  
227

**N.B. Annunciation leave-taking will be omitted.**

When bees are born, they emerge from their cell only after a great struggle. Their strenuous efforts are necessary to cause their body juices to flow and their muscles to become alive. This struggle is necessary to enable them to perform their natural tasks of living. If one were to make a tiny cut in the seal above the brood comb and help the bees to get out of the cell more easily and without the difficult struggle they undergo, they would be robbed of a very important and necessary step in God's plan for their lives. They would be unable to fly and would soon die.

Our Lord tells us of the importance of penance in order to grow in holiness. Discipline of the body is necessary to cope with the temptations and difficulties we face in our spiritual lives. This discipline and the help we receive from God enable us to become better Christians and give us the strength and courage to cope with the difficulties that face us daily.

Struggle teaches us the need for discipline. There is a need for a good conditioning and training program in order to become either a good athlete or a strong Christian. Both require high goals, sacrifices, patience, courage and determination. An athlete does not become a good athlete without a great deal of effort and hard work. A person cannot become a good Christian without the same kind of effort and work.

This discipline and self-denial refers not only to eating and drinking. These usually are the easiest ways to discipline ourselves. What we need are not only these physical means but also to control such things as pride, anger, self-love, envy, lack of charity, etc. We *can* become humble, control our temper, be kind and considerate to others. These require a special effort. No surface change will last long. We need inner change, a change on the inside, a change of heart.

### AKATHISTOS SATURDAY

On the Saturday that follows the fourth Sunday of Lent, the Akathist is sung in honor of the Mother of God. This "Akathist Saturday" was established in

commemoration for an event that took place in 926 A.D., when the pagan barbarians stormed the city of Constantinople. The people besought the aid of the Mother of God, who heard their prayers and helped them to free themselves from the invading pagans. It so happened that on the day when the people filled the church, no one sat down during the time the Mother of God was being honored in prayer, and for that reason the service came to be called in Greek "*Akathistos*," which means "not sitting."

The Akathist is a service consisting of hymns in honor of the Incarnation which include the annunciation to Mary, the visit to St. Elizabeth, the birth of Christ in Bethlehem, the adoration of the shepherds and the Magi, the flight into Egypt and the meeting with the aged Simeon. In the second part, there are rich theological passages and special praises addressed to our Lord and His Mother.

By Fr. Basil Shereghy

### ST. JOHN CLIMACUS

St. John Climacus was born in 525 A.D. in Palestine. In his youth he made great progress studying science and arts. People called him 'the scholastic'. But at age 16 he renounced everything and went to Mount Sinai to be with God. He chose not to live in the monastery atop Mt. Sinai but in a hermitage nearby. He became a disciple of Martyrius, an elder anchorite. For the four years he spent as a novice he practiced silence, perfect humility and obedience. He made his religious profession when he was 20 after fervent prayer and fasting.

Of all the tasks to which John employed himself, it was prayer that took precedence. Herein John practiced what he preached, recommending to Christians, that in all their actions, thoughts and words, they should keep themselves with great fervor in the presence of God, and direct all they do to His holy will. In this way he acquired great purity of heart. Whether in reading Holy Scriptures, the Fathers, or in his studies he prayed perpetually. He also became one of the most learned doctors of the Church. God endowed him with the grace of healing and counseling the spiritual disorders of souls. One monk, Isaac, terribly perplexed from temptations of the flesh, sought St John's counsel. His prayer with Isaac sent that serpent fleeing and leaving Isaac in peace for good.

In the year 600 A.D. at 75 John was unanimously chosen to be Abbot of Mount Sinai. It was in his last years that a learned abbot of Raithu, requested St. John to write holy instructions that could guide others to reach Christian perfection. These written aids became what we know today as the *Ladder of Divine Ascent*. By his work John acquired the popular addition to his name, 'Climacus,' the ladder. It is a beautiful commentary of spiritual insights giving souls 30 steps for acquiring the virtues that yield a life of Christian holiness.

St. John Climacus died on March 30th, 605 at 80 years of age. Our Byzantine Church celebrates his memory on the fourth Sunday of the Great Fast.