

## 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 +**Richard D. Begalla** who has recently fallen asleep in the Lord. Please remember him and his family in your prayers.

## OBLATES OF ST. BENEDICT

The Oblates of St. Benedict are comprised of men and women who want to grow spiritually. St. Benedict was a man of great wisdom! The Rule of Benedict contains many "gems" that can be applied to anyone, in any walk of life. The Oblates also study and discuss many aspects of Byzantine Spirituality, all of which help them to grow in their relationship with the Lord. They meet monthly from 2:00 PM to 4:00 PM at the Monastery in Infant of Prague Manor, Apt. 301. **The first meeting is Sunday, September 10, 2017.** You are welcome to come to this year's first meeting to see if this group might help you grow closer to the Lord.



## UPCOMING EVENTS

- Catechist Meeting – 17 September 2017 – 9:30 AM in the Social Hall
- ECF Classes begin – 24 September 2017 (Summer is over!)
- Bingo / Card Party – SS Peter & Paul Social Hall – 1 October 2017



### (PP) Divine Liturgy Attendance weekend of 27 August:

5:00 PM: 64; 11:00 AM: 65

**Our return to the Lord for all He has given us: . . . . . \$2,360.45**

### (SM) Divine Liturgy Attendance weekend of 27 August:

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

**Our return to the Lord for all He has given us: . . . . . \$414.63**



27 AUGUST 2017

SCHEDULE OF DIVINE SERVICES

- **Sat. & Sun. Sept. 2 & 3** 83<sup>rd</sup> Annual Pilgrimage at Mt. St. Macrina – Uniontown, PA. Mark the date. See the bulletin board in the Social Hall for more information.
- **Wed. Sept. 6** St. Vincent de Paul Meals Program – 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM. We can use a few extra hands.
- **Sun. Sept. 10** Meeting of Oblates of St. Benedict – 2:00 PM to 4:00 PM at the Monastery. Please ring #301.
- **Tues. Sept. 12** **Important Ladies Guild Meeting** – 7:00 PM in the Social Hall.



**ECF REGISTRATIONS**

Parents & Guardians: You received a mailing concerning registration of your children in our Catechetical program. Registrations are due by September 10<sup>th</sup>, in order to assist us in the preparations for the beginning of the ECF school year. If you did not receive a mailing, and you have children in grades K thru 12, please call the office or see Sister Barbara for registration forms. The success of the program depends upon the cooperation and support of all of us. Our children are the future of our parish & our Church. Help us to assist you in the spiritual education of your children.

**\$200.00 RAFFLE – to benefit the Ladies Guild**

**1st Prize: \$100.00 Cash      2<sup>nd</sup> Prize: Lottery Pumpkin**

Raffle Tickets will be sold after all the Divine Liturgies, from September 3<sup>rd</sup> thru October 1, 2017. The drawing will be held at the Ladies Guild Bingo/Card Party, October 1, 2017. **Tickets are \$1.00 each or 6 for \$5.00.** Winner need not be present.

**BINGO & CARD PARTY TICKETS**

Ladies Guild members will be selling Bingo & Card Party tickets before and after all Liturgies. **Tickets are \$6.00.** Ticket purchase includes eligibility for the door prize, other drawings and a box lunch & beverage. Please support the Ladies Guild activities as they host the various functions for our Parish Family.

Sunday,	3 September	<i>THIRTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST. The Holy Martyr Anthimus. Venerable Father Theoctist.</i>
	<b>(Vigil Liturgy) 5:00 PM</b>	<b>+Betty Superak – Peter Superak</b>
	<b>(SM) 8:30 AM</b>	<b>+Harry Reynolds – M. Moneypenny &amp; Kostrub family</b>
	<b>(PP) 11:00 AM</b>	<b>Health &amp; Welfare of Gerald Lickwar – Family</b>
Monday,	4 September	<i>Holy Martyr Babylas, Bishop of Antioch. Holy Prophet Moses, who saw God.</i>
		<b>No Divine Liturgy</b>
Tuesday,	5 September	<i>Holy Prophet Zachary, Father of St. John the Baptist and his wife, the Holy &amp; Venerable Elizabeth. Holy Mother Teresa of Calcutta.</i>
	<b>(Chapel) 8:30 AM</b>	<b>+Patricia Harper – Omar &amp; Jennifer Henry</b>
Wednesday,	6 September	<i>Memory of the Miracle of the Holy Archangel Michael at Colossae in Chionia. Holy Martyr Eudoxius and His Companions.</i>
		<b>No Divine Liturgy</b>
Thursday	7 September	<i>Prefestive Day of the Feast of the Birth of the Theotokos. Holy Martyr Sozon.</i>
	<b>(Chapel) 8:30 AM</b>	<b>+Dorothy Byers – Grove family</b>
Friday,	8 September	<i>FEAST OF THE BIRTH OF THE THEOTOKOS.</i>
	<b>(PP) 9:00 AM</b>	<b>+Stephen Sernulka, III – Richard &amp; Mary Ryznar</b>
Saturday,	9 September	<i>Saturday Before the Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross. Postfestive Day of the Birth of the Theotokos. Holy and Just Grandparents of God, Joachim and Anna.</i>
	<b>(PP) 5:00 PM</b>	<b>+Craig McKnight – John &amp; Dianna Koza</b>
Sunday,	10 September	<i>SUNDAY BEFORE THE EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS. Postfestive Day of the Feast of the Birth of the Theotokos. Martyrs Menodora, Mitrodora &amp; Nymphodora.</i>
	<b>(SM) 8:30 AM</b>	<b>+Mike Babyak – Marie Lewis</b>
	<b>(PP) 11:00 AM</b>	<b>+John Fedyszak – Ron Mosko</b>



Attentive to the Word  
Thirteenth Sunday After Pentecost  
*Mt. 21: 33 – 42*  
**Tone 4 pages 141 – 142**



We as the Christian Church should receive this parable with fear and trembling. If the nation of Israel had been given great riches, what have we as Eastern Catholic Christians been given? We no longer wait for the Messiah, He has come. In fact, we're preparing even now to receive His body and blood in the Divine Liturgy. Man's salvation is no longer prophesied, but was fulfilled in Christ. We are no longer slaves of the law, but free in the love of Christ. And we, who are in possession of the fullness of this Mystery, are we caring for it any better than God's first chosen people?

The vineyard of the Church is planted. It is hedged from the world by the grace of the Holy Spirit. Our altar is the heavenly altar, and our worship takes place in the heavens. We have been given all we need for the bountiful harvest. But what will our Lord find when He returns? Will we be working diligently in the vineyard—both tilling the soil of our own hearts, as well as calling those outside the vineyard to enter into the joy of the Lord? Or will we just be living, taking advantage of what the Lord has given us, but not doing our part in return?

Christ makes it abundantly clear both in this morning's parable and in other places, if we don't use the gifts we've been given—both as a Church body, and as individual Christians—then the gifts will be taken away. And we'll be called to give an account for our failures. In response to the love and mercy of our Savior, let us strive to bring forth fruits worthy of the kingdom of Heaven. Fruits of love, mercy and compassion. Fruits of prayer, of a sinless life, and Christ-likeness. Fruits that we can give to our Master in return for all that He has given us.

**GIVING . . . .**

We give of ourselves when we give gifts of the **heart**; *love, kindness, joy, understanding, sympathy, tolerance, forgiveness.* We give of ourselves when we give gifts of the **mind**; *ideas, dreams, purposes, ideals, principles, plans, inventions, poetry.* We give of ourselves when we give gifts of **words**; *encouragement, inspiration, guidance.* Emerson said it well: "Rings and jewels are not gifts, but they are apologies for gifts. The only gifts – true gifts – are a portion of yourself." God has offered us the gift of becoming His sons and daughters through faith. This is the gift we have all received. This is the heart of our worship and celebration.

**BIRTH OF THE MOTHER OF GOD - SEPTEMBER 8**



Tradition is the source for details surrounding the birth of the Mother of God. While the birth of our Lord and St. John the Baptist are recorded in Sacred Scripture, the birth of the Mother of God has come to us only from non-Scriptural sources. The Icon of the Feast is based upon these sources.

The Icon of the Nativity of the Mother of God shows St. Anne reclining on a bed with an attendant at her side. The Virgin is generally represented in swaddling clothes, and in the arms of a midwife who is seated on a stool. St. Joachim is presented speaking with his wife. The midwife is reduced in size to focus attention on the holy parents and infant. In icons, the importance of a person is indicated by size. Size is not a physical feature of a person, but a qualitative element relating to importance. St. Anne gazes downward upon her new-born daughter. The servant in the middle stands ready to assist the mother.

The liturgy rejoices in the Nativity of the Mother of God with hymns and chants of deeply spiritual and poetic character. The chant sung at Vespers of this Feast summarizes the Church's thinking about this event. "Indeed, some famous barren women have given birth by the will of God. But the birth of Mary surpasses all births in honor and splendor, as is worthy of the majesty of God. She was born of a barren mother in a miraculous way. Mary herself gave birth in the flesh to the God of All, incarnate in her womb without human seed, against the laws of nature ..." The liturgy and icon call us to praise and worship God in His wondrous presence in our lives.