

## 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.

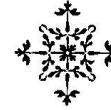
**Funerals:** Families of the deceased or the funeral director must contact Fr. Simeon before setting and publishing the day and time of the funeral.

**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 +**Sandra Kohut** who has recently fallen asleep in the Lord. Please remember her and her family in your prayers.

## UPCOMING EVENTS ... MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

- Bingo / Card Party – SS Peter & Paul Social Hall – 29 April 2018.
- Trash-to-Treasure Sale – 3 June 2018.

## SCHOLARSHIPS FOR CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

The Monsignor Hladky Memorial Foundation will continue to offer scholarships toward tuition for students of all grade levels who wish to attend a Catholic elementary, junior high or high school. **Parents may request applications** for the 2018-2019 school year until April 22, 2018. Please call 330-847-8257. Completed applications must be returned by May 22, 2018.

## NEW BYZANTINE PRAYER APP!

Eastern Christian Publications has announced a new app for smartphones. The App is free and available in both the Apple Store for iPhone and iPads, and from Google Play for Android devices. Search for **ECPubs** and install with a few clicks. Check it out! It has some really good information for anyone to grow spiritually!



## Divine Liturgy Attendance weekend of 1 April:

8:00 PM: **114**; 9:00 AM: **82** 11:00 AM: **126**

Bright Mon.: **48** Bright Tues.: **19**

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

**Weekly Offering. . . \$225.00**

**Good Friday. . . . \$1050.00**

**Pascha. . . . . \$11,426.00**

*Christ is Risen!*

*Indeed He is Risen!*



8 APRIL 2018

SCHEDULE OF DIVINE SERVICES

- **Sun. Apr. 8** ECF Classes resume today, April 8<sup>th</sup> at 9:45 AM.
- **Tues. Apr. 10** Ladies Guild Meeting – 7:00 PM in the Social Hall.
- **Sun. Apr. 15** Meeting of Oblates of St. Benedict – 2:00 – 4:00 PM at the Monastery. Please Ring #301.
- **Mon. Apr. 16** St. Benedict’s Auxiliary Meeting – 7:00 PM in the Social Hall. Very informative DVD by Fr. Thomas Hopko. *All Parishioners and friends are invited to view the DVD.*

**THANK YOU**

I would like to thank all who remembered me during the celebration of the Feast of Feasts with Paschal greetings, food and generous gifts. Your thoughtfulness and generosity were greatly appreciated. May God continue to bless us as we live out the reality of the Resurrection as a family of faith.

**SPECIAL THANKS:...**

go out to all those who helped, in any way, to make our celebration the festive occasion that it was – to the cantors and all who sang together – to the servers, the ushers, the faithful women, who do the unseen things, the cleaners, the helpers, the children, the catechists – and all who made the spirit possible! Our Church lives in the events of Christ’s death and resurrection. We certainly felt the presence of God in our celebrations! Let us continue that kind of participation in all of our Liturgies and Liturgical Services! **Indeed, Christ is Risen!**

**FOR WOMEN – FIFTEENTH ANNUAL DAY OF REFLECTION**

*Saturday, 5 May 2018 9:00 AM – 2:20 PM*

*Cathedral of St. John the Baptist – Munhall, PA*

“Angels Build Bridges” was chosen as the “Theme” for this day of Reflection, because bridges provide transportation, connect people and inspire strength and purpose. Equally important are those persons who connect and inspire us with their purpose in life. The three gifted presenters are like angels who build *bridges of compassion, service and support*. They will share their stories of assisting others and, thus motivate us to find our way of easing the suffering of others and being an example of compassionate love. **Registration forms and directions are at the entrances of the Church!** All proceeds from the day are donated to local women’s shelters. A very worthwhile event.

Sunday (Sunday Vigil)	8 April 5:00 PM 9:00 AM 11:00 AM	<i>THOMAS SUNDAY.</i> <b>+Anna R. Koza – John &amp; Dianna Koza</b> <b>Prayer Intention of the Rosary Society</b> <b>+George, +Mary &amp; +David Krupsa – C. Eddy</b>
Monday	9 April	<i>Thomas Week. The Holy Martyr Euphrosyne.</i> <b>No Divine Liturgy</b>
Tuesday (Chapel)	10 April 8:30 AM	<i>Thomas Week. Holy Martyrs Terence, Pompey and their Companions.</i> <b>Health of Patty Vislosky – Steve, Betty, Jen &amp; John</b>
Wednesday (Chapel)	11 April 8:30 AM	<i>Thomas Week. Holy Martyr Antipas, Bishop of Pergamum in Asia.</i> <b>+Dorothy Byers – M/M David Batzdorf</b>
Thursday (Chapel)	12 April 8:30 AM	<i>Thomas Week. Venerable Father and Confessor Basil, Bishop of Parium.</i> <b>+John Balogh – wife, Barbara &amp; Slyk family</b>
Friday	13 April	<i>Thomas Week. Holy Priest-Martyr Artemon and His Companions.</i> <b>No Divine Liturgy</b>
Saturday (Sunday Vigil)	14 April 5:00 PM	<i>Thomas Week. Holy Father and Confessor Martin, Pope of Rome. Holy New Martyrs Anthony, John and Eustathius.</i> <b>Health of Zachery Smith – John &amp; Dianna Koza</b>
Sunday	16 April 9:00 AM 11:00 AM	<i>SUNDAY OF THE MYRRH-BEARING WOMEN. Holy Apostles Aristarchus. Pudens and Trophimus.</i> <b>+Richard McGrath, Sr. (40<sup>th</sup> day) – Ron Mosko</b> <b>+Michael Kuhar – wife, Helen &amp; daughter, Karen</b>



*Attentive to the Word*  
*Thomas Sunday*  
*Jn: 20: 19 - 31*  
*Pgs. 175 - 177*



Today is the Sunday of Thomas. Usually we speak of the apostle Thomas as doubting – as the one who did not believe. “Thomas, called Didymus, one of the Twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples said to him, ‘We have seen the Lord.’ But he said to them, ‘Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands and put my finger into the nail marks and put my hand into his side, I will not believe’” (Jn: 20:24-25). His lack of faith, however, is not the whole story.

We learn that Thomas did not remain in his state of unbelief. He returned to the community of the Apostles and it was there that he found the risen Christ and believed. “Now a week later his disciples were again inside and Thomas was with them. Jesus came, although the doors were locked and stood in their midst and said, ‘Peace be with you.’ Then he said to Thomas, ‘Put your finger here and see my hands, and bring your hand and put it into my side and do not be unbelieving but believe.’ Thomas answered and said to him, ‘My Lord and my God!’” (Jn 20:26-28).

How is it that Thomas, chosen by Jesus to be a disciple, chosen to be a witness to miracles, chosen to be a hearer of the words and teaching of the Sermon on the Mount, chosen to be a participant in the Last Supper, could not believe? It was as though the following, witnessing, hearing and participating were in vain.

Thomas was hurt and angry. He had missed the first appearance of the risen Christ to the Apostles. His lack of belief had more to do with his anger and hurt than with the Apostles. He felt and reacted like an outsider. Hurt and anger distanced him from the other Apostles and indeed Christ. It was only when he returned to the community and received the truth – the presence of the risen Christ – that he was able to believe. He was no longer an outsider but was united with the community. His

following, witnessing, hearing and participating needed to be supported in faith with others.

Today, there are many of us who also have difficulty believing. We are like Thomas. We are called to be disciples and followers of Christ, we hear the word of God in the Scriptures and we participate in the holy mysteries of the church. Still unbelief can often remain. Like Thomas we are hurt by many things in our church, our families and our own lives. It is this hurt and pain that keeps us from believing, and not Jesus Christ. We can feel betrayed, unloved, unsupported by those from whom we expect the opposite. Hurt and pain can deeply touch us all – clergy, religious and laity. Indeed, at times, we can feel like Thomas. We can stand alone in disbelief or walk in faith with the community.

THE CHOICE IS OURS! .

The mystery of returning can be very difficult for most, if not seemingly impossible for some. The process is individual, deeply personal and desperately needs the support and help of others – the church, our families and our friends. We often try to do it alone. We turn inward in unhealthy and destructive manners. There is no darkness like that of feeling all alone, but we do not have to stand alone. St. John Chrysostom encourages us, “the work of faith is not ours; it is the gift of God” (*Homilies on the Epistle to the Ephesians*).

We have received the gift of faith in baptism. It is in the community of the church that it will be nurtured and developed.

Let us pray to St. Thomas to help us in our belief. “The disbelief of Thomas has done more for our faith than the faith of the other disciples” (Gregory the Great, *Homilies on Ezekiel*). “It is precisely our faith in Christ which gives us the strength to look trustingly to the future” (John Paul II - *Holy Thursday 2002*).

*By Metropolitan Basil Schott*

*Christ is Risen!*

*Indeed He is Risen!*