

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

CONTRIBUTION ENVELOPES

The 2019 Contribution Envelopes will be ready for pick-up next weekend in the Social Hall. *If you wish a set of envelopes, please call the office, or drop a note in the collection basket. If you want proper credit for your contributions, you must use the envelopes you were assigned for the year 2019.*

OUR PREPARATION FOR THE BIRTH OF CHRIST

The purpose of our preparation is to create an atmosphere of expectation, hope, and anxious eagerness in the hearts of the people, for the coming of Christ in the flesh. The Church designates a time for preparation of prayer, penance, fasting, almsgiving, forgiving, and accepting forgiveness. Families are called in a special way to make ready for Christ by keeping fast days in the home, praying together, reading Scripture, and preparing for forgiveness and the Mystery of Reconciliation (Confession). If we have not yet begun to prepare spiritually, or have become lax in our preparation – it is not too late to start in earnest to prepare for the coming of Christ!



PARISH OUTREACH . . .

Part of the Phillip's Fast is "almsgiving." Our Outreach Program 2018 will be to assist our local veterans (both male and female). We are working through the *Military Order of the Purple Heart* Organization. They work with the local DAV Association, as well as local Trumbull County veterans. One of the things they do is to provide a food pantry for veterans. They provided turkeys for Thanksgiving and are now working to assist the veterans and their families with toys and other necessities during this Christmas season. **There will be a second collection on Sunday, December 30, 2018 to assist the Military Order of the Purple Heart in their projects to help our veterans and their families. Please make checks payable to: SS. Peter and Paul Church (not to the organization).**



Divine Liturgy Attendance weekend of 9 December:

5:00 PM: **61**; 9:00 AM: **45**; 11:00 AM: **96**

Our return to the Lord for all He has given us: . . . \$3,304.29



16 DECEMBER 2018

- **Sun. Dec. 16** ECF Classes meet today – 10:00 AM to 10:45 AM
- **Sun. Dec. 16** Spirituality Day – 1:30 PM to 4:15 PM in the Social Hall
- **Mon. Dec. 17** Church Decorating for Christmas – 10:00 AM. You are welcome to help! (See Elaine or Marcy when you arrive.)
- **Tues. Dec. 18** Church Cleaning Party – 9:00 AM to Noon. We can use your help to do the “little extra’s” for our Christmas cleaning.



MYSTERY OF DIVINE FORGIVENESS AND RECONCILIATION

We cannot appreciate the gift of “God with us” unless we are receptive. Let us make every effort to prepare ourselves for the coming of Christ by coming before Him and asking forgiveness of our sins . . .

Saturday: 15 December: 3:30 PM to 4:30 PM
Sunday: 16 December: 4:15 PM (after the Spirituality Day)
Tuesday: 18 December: 6:00 PM to 7:00 PM

There will be no confessions heard after Wednesday, 19 December.

SCHEDULE OF DIVINE SERVICES FOR THE FEAST OF THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD

December 24 – 6:00 PM, *Compline with Divine Liturgy*

December 25 – 9:00 AM, *Divine Liturgy*

December 25 – 11:00 AM, *Divine Liturgy*

CHURCH DECORATING ... for the Nativity of Our Lord

We will be decorating our Church for the Feast of the Nativity of Christ on Monday, December 17th at 10:00 AM. Please come and join us in preparing your Church for Christmas.

SCHEDULE OF DIVINE SERVICES

Sunday	16 December	<i>SUNDAY OF THE FOREFATHERS. The Holy Prophet Haggai.</i>
(Vigil Liturgy)	5:00 PM 9:00 AM 11:00 AM	+Michael & Stella Stemock – Mark Stemock +Ann Petro – Michael & Sue Johnson +James Danko – sisters, Rosemary, Kathy & Judy
Monday	17 December	<i>The Holy Prophet Daniel and the Three Holy Children; Hananiah, Azariah and Mishael.</i> No Divine Liturgy
Tuesday (Chapel)	18 December 8:30 AM	<i>The Holy Martyr Sebastian and His Companions.</i> +Donald Sutyak – Burke & Beth Ensign
Wednesday (Chapel)	19 December 8:30 AM	<i>The Holy Martyr Boniface.</i> +Edward Brienz, Sr. – Richard & Kimberly Childs
Thursday (Chapel)	20 December 8:30 AM	<i>Prefestive Day of Christmas. The Holy Martyr Ignatius the God-bearer.</i> +Sr. Mary John Semon – Benedictine Sisters
Friday	21 December	<i>Prefestive Day of Christmas. The Holy Martyr Juliana of Nicomedia.</i> No Divine Liturgy
Saturday (Sun. Vigil)	22 December 5:00 PM	<i>Saturday before Christmas. Prefestive Day of Christmas. The Holy Great Martyr Anastasia.</i> +Bill Maddox – Mary Toumazos
Sunday	23 December	<i>SUNDAY BEFORE CHRISTMAS, OF THE ANCESTORS. The Ten Holy Martyrs of Crete. Commemoration of the Dedication of the Great Church of Holy Wisdom in Constantinople.</i> 9:00 AM 11:00 AM
		Prayer Intention of the Rosary Society +Elizabeth Prokop – Mark & Rose Carnahan



Attentive to the Word Sunday of the Forefathers

Lk. 14: 16 - 24

Tone 5 Pg. 146 & Pages 281 - 283

This familiar parable is read in the Church each year just two Sundays before the feast of our Lord's Nativity. In it we are reminded of the great care with which God prepared the way of His incarnation. All of the Law and the Prophets look forward to this moment, the moment when the God/man Jesus Christ comes into the world. He is, in fact, the fulfillment of the Law and the Prophets – the goal towards which they were all aiming. The whole world was prepared by them for this great event. As the parable tells us the King – that is God – has prepared a great feast for us and has invited us to come and enter into the joy that He has prepared for us.

In the parable however, there were some who refused this invitation, considering their own affairs to be more important or more desirable than the feast of the King. Although God had chosen them, they did not choose God. Is this not unlike our first parents Adam and Eve. God had created them so that they might live in His love and in complete harmony with Him. But they chose to follow their own will and not to enter into the joy that God had prepared for them. They too were chosen by God but they did not choose God and so were cast out of paradise. The Way that God prepared for us to return to Him is in fact the Person of Jesus Christ, God Himself taking human flesh and becoming incarnate. Just as through Adam all men fell into sin and corruption and death, now through Jesus Christ all men were invited to rise out of that condemnation and live again according to the love and grace of God. The Way back to the Kingdom of God had been restored. We had again been chosen by God. But some refused this second choosing, instead choosing to follow their own desires.

Even so, our God, in His great love for us, holds the door open to all mankind that we might enter into this great feast that He has prepared for us. He goes into the highways and searches out even those who did not know Him so that they might come and share in His joy. No matter who we are, no matter from whence we come, the doors to the Kingdom of God are open to us. We are called to set aside our own desires, our own will, our own worldly pleasures, to reap the joys and pleasures of the Kingdom of God in exchange for those of the world. We are called to come to Him.

Today we begin in earnest to move toward the feast of the birth of the God/man Jesus Christ. Today we are called to see the great preparation that has gone into this event, and the love and care of God for us. Today we look back at the whole of the history of the people of God and see that it is the history of God's preparation, all leading to the moment when He would take flesh, and become incarnate, entering the world as a child. Today you have been given an invitation to come and join the feast, to abandon the world and enter the Kingdom of God. Today you have been chosen by God – will you then choose Him?



NO TIME FOR GOD ? !

When God came into the world people didn't have time. They were too busy. There was no room for Him in the inn. "He came unto his own, and they that were his own people received him not." And it seems that still today we have no room. We crowd Him out with so many things, especially with our busyness.

In Luke 14:16-24, the Lord tells a parable about busy people. A man – He said – gave a banquet and sent out invitations. One by one those who were invited to the banquet offered their excuses for not being able to come. They were all too busy; one with his farm, one with his wife, and another with his oxen. What Jesus is saying here is that man can become so busy making a living that he can neglect to make a life. God can be crowded out so easily by the trivial and the frivolous. The things that matter most are at the mercy of the things that matter least. Jesus is telling us also that important duties that keep us from God are not duties at all, but sins.

Listen to these words of a pastor: "On Friday night, a man boasted to me that he had taken a vacation in twenty-five years. He was too busy selling insurance. The following Monday I conducted his funeral. He died of a heart attack."

Fast living. Fast dying. And the tragedy of it all is that we miss the banquet. We miss the greatest gift of all – eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.