

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 AND CALENDARS

The 2019 Church Calendars and Contribution Envelopes are ready for pick-up in the Social Hall. Our Parish family would like to thank the *Sinchak and Kaszowski Funeral Home* for their generosity in providing our calendars again this year. *God bless them for their kindness and generosity!*

*Please pick up your contribution envelopes 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 2018. If you want proper credit for your contributions, you must use the envelopes you were assigned for the year 2019.***



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).**



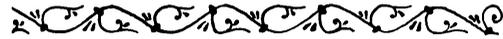
Divine Liturgy Attendance weekend of 16 December:

5:00 PM: **61**; 9:00 AM: **54**; 11:00 AM: **69**

Our return to the Lord for all He has given us: . . . \$2,641.60



- **Sun. Dec. 23** ECF Classes meet today – 10:00 AM to 10:45 AM
- **Sun. Dec. 30** Christmas Caroling – 12:45 PM to 4:15 PM



MYSTERY OF DIVINE FORGIVENESS AND RECONCILIATION

Father was ill on Tuesday, Dec. 18, 2018 and was not able to hear confessions. Father will be available for confessions on Saturday, Dec. 22 and Sunday, Dec. 23 after the Divine Liturgies.

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*



CHRISTMAS CAROLING . . .



We will be caroling for our Parishioners who are in Nursing homes or who are home-bound on December 30. We want them to know they are loved and missed. We will leave the Church at 12:45 PM and expect to return to the Church by 4:15 PM. Please set aside an afternoon to join us for this important event.

23 DECEMBER 2018
SCHEDULE OF DIVINE SERVICES

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>
(Vigil Liturgy)	5:00 PM 9:00 AM 11:00 AM	+Bill Maddox – Mary Toumazos Prayer Intention of the Rosary Society +Elizabeth Prokop – Mark & Rose Carnahan
Monday	24 December	<i>Vigil of Christmas. The Holy Great Martyr Eugenia.</i>
	6:00 PM	Intention of SS. Peter & Paul Parish Family
Tuesday	25 December	<i>CHRISTMAS, THE BIRTH OF OUR LORD, GOD AND SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST.</i>
	9:00 AM 11:00 AM	Intention of SS. Peter & Paul Parish Family Intention of SS. Peter & Paul Parish Family
Wednesday	26 December	<i>SYNAXIS OF THE THEOTOKOS. Holy Martyr Euthymius, Bishop of Sardis.</i>
	6:00 PM	+Robert Blake – John & Dianna Koza
Thursday	27 December	Holy Apostle, First Martyr and Archdeacon Stephen. <i>Our Venerable Father and Confessor Theodore, Brother of Theophane the Hymnographer.</i>
	9:00 AM	+Carl Verney – Robert Fejko
Friday	28 December	<i>Holy 20,000 Martyrs of Nicomedia.</i> No Divine Liturgy
Saturday	29 December	<i>Saturday after Christmas. Holy Innocents killed by Herod in Bethlehem. Venerable Father Marcellus</i>
(Sun. Vigil)	5:00 PM	+Tom James – James family
Sunday	30 December	<i>SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS. Memory Of Holy Joseph, Husband of Mary: the Prophet David: Apostle James, Brother of Our Lord.</i>
	9:00 AM 11:00 AM	+Millie Simko – Marjorie Reynolds +Helen Sekula – Wiley Byers Family



Attentive to the Word

Sunday Before Christmas – of the Ancestors

Mt. 1: 1 – 25

*Tone 6 Pg. 152 & follow directions
on Pages 285 – 287*

GENEALOGY OF CHRIST

Every year before Christmas we read the genealogy of Christ from St. Matthew's Gospel, and we ask ourselves, Why? Why do we have to read all these names that mean so little to us, if anything at all? For one thing, they are the people to whose family the Lord Jesus Christ belongs through His humanity. They are relatives of His, and this should be enough for us to find their names deeply moving: Christ is of their blood, Christ is of their family. Among them are names of Saints and names of sinners.

The Saints among them could well teach us what it means to believe; not simply to have an intellectual faith, but a faith which means a complete trust in God, an unlimited faithfulness to Him. In this context, think of Abraham whose faith was tested to the utmost. How difficult we find it to give to God something of ours: but Abraham was asked to bring as a blood-offering his own son -- and he did not doubt God.

We can remember the struggle of Jacob with the Angel in the darkness, as we at times struggle for our faith, for our integrity, for our faithfulness, in the darkness of the night, or the darkness of doubt, in the darkness that seizes us at times on all sides.

But, we can also learn something from those who in history, in the Bible, appear to us as sinners. They were frail and this frailty conquered them; they had no strength to resist the impulses of their bodies and of their souls, of the complex passions of men. And yet -- they believed in God passionately. One of them was David, and one of his Psalms expresses it so well: "From the deep I cry unto Thee..." From the depths of despair, of shame, from the depths of his fall, from the depths of his alienation from God, from the darkest depths of his soul he still cried to God. He does not hide from Him, he does not go away from Him but it is to Him he comes with this desperate cry of a desperate man.

Do we, when we are at the darkest point of life, when we are wrapped in all the darkness that is within us do we, from within this darkness, come to God and say:

It is to You, O Lord, I cry! Yes - I am in darkness, but You are my God. You are the God Who created the light, and the darkness, and you are within the darkness as You are within the blinding light; You are in death as You are in life; You are in hell, as You are on the Throne; and from wherever I am I can cry to You.

To us these people are names; of some of them we know a little; about others we know nothing. But, they all were concrete human beings, men and women like us, with all our frailty and all our hope, all the wavering of the will and all the hesitations. They are concrete and real, and they are Jesus' ancestors. And we ourselves can try and learn, in the concreteness of our lives, whether we are frail or strong at a given moment, still to be God's own. This will be possible for us, only to the extent to which Christ becomes more and more real to us and when it is in Him, and through Him that we discover them all.

Metropolitan ANTHONY (Bloom)

THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD



The Icon of the Nativity of Christ tells us the whole story of Christmas. In the Center of the Icon, Jesus is wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger. This manger which holds Jesus is in a dark cave. The dark cave represents the world before Jesus came. Jesus is the New Light Who came to lead us out of darkness into the New Life.

Next to Jesus is the Mother of God, and at the bottom right side of the Icon is St. Joseph, the foster father of Jesus. the man standing next to Joseph is the Devil, tempting Joseph to doubt that Jesus is God, the Messiah - the PROMISED ONE. The Angels are shown telling the shepherds the good news that Jesus Christ is born!

THE CHRISTMAS GREETING

It is certainly commendable to wish someone a "Merry Christmas." But how powerful a message is given by the traditional Byzantine Christmas greeting:

"Christ is Born!" and the response: **"Glorify Him!"**

CHRISTOS RAZDAJETSJA! SLAVITE JEHO!