

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.

ROSARY SOCIETY – just 3 more good praying people needed.

Parishioners of St. Michael's Church of Newton Falls formed the Rosary Society in answer to the request of Our Lady of Fatima in 1917 to **pray for peace**. Our Lady continues to request this devotion by asking us to Pray! Pray! Pray! Now, more than ever "America needs Prayer" and "America Needs the intercession of Our Lady of Fatima. Many of the parishioners of St. Michael's have joined SS. Peter and Paul Parish and they are inviting parishioners to join them in becoming members of the Rosary Society. Membership requirements are really quite simple:

1. Daily recitation of 1 Our Father, 10 Hail Mary's and 1 Glory Be.
Each member is given one decade of a mystery to say daily for one month. On the first Sunday of each month, that decade will be exchanged for the succeeding decade. A rosary CARD depicting the decade will be used for the exchange. Twenty (20) members praying 20 decades means the entire 4 mysteries of the rosary will be prayed daily.
2. There are NO meetings. 3. Annual dues are \$10.00, which are used for Divine Liturgies said for the Rosary members and for whom they pray, Easter & Christmas donations, and special occasions. *Call Marianne Cabosky at 330-872-7718 to join.*

JUST A FEW REMINDERS:

1. Please refrain from unnecessary and loud talking before, during and especially after the Divine Liturgy. Be considerate of those wishing to spend a little more time with God. Thank you for your cooperation by doing your visiting in the Social Hall or in the Narthex (Vestibule) of the Church or outside.

2. **E.C.F. CLASS ATTENDANCE ...** Parents and Guardians, it is important to understand that any good Christian Education in Faith & Life in Christ begins with and depends on you. All children are expected to attend one of the Divine Liturgies on the Weekend, as well as class attendance in order to grow in their faith. They cannot do this on their own. We have adjusted class time to accommodate those families wishing to attend the 9:00 AM Divine Liturgy.

Attendance, since Christmas has been very poor! Please teach your children by your practice and example. God bless you!



(PP) Divine Liturgy Attendance weekend of 4 February:

5:00 PM: 71; 9:00 AM: 24 11:00 AM: 72

1st All Souls attendance:

Our return to the Lord for all He has given us: \$3,248.45



- **Sun. Feb. 11** ECF Classes– 9:45 AM to 10:45 AM
- **Sat. & Sun. Feb. 10 & 11** Coffee & donuts after all Liturgies.
- **Sun. Feb. 11** Meeting of Oblates of St. Benedict – 2 PM at the Monastery – Please ring #301.



**MONDAY, FEB. 12TH – LENT BEGINS – DAY OF STRICT FAST –
NO MEAT, EGGS OR DAIRY PRODUCTS**



YEAR-END CONTRIBUTION STATEMENTS FOR 2017

The year-end statements will remain in the Social Hall this week only. After this week, they will be in the Parish Office.

PROPER RECEPTION OF HOLY COMMUNION

The cold and flu season is upon us. I would like to take this opportunity to remind you of the proper way to receive Holy Communion. Please come close, tilt your head back, open your mouth wide, without extending your tongue and wait for Father to drop the Body and Blood of our Lord into your mouth. **Please do not close your mouth upon the spoon.** Also, please assist with the distribution by holding the Red Communion Cloth under your chin, in the case that the Eucharist would drop and not fall to the floor.

LOCK-IN RETREAT: (Sponsored by Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy of St. Josaphat)

“BE ON YOUR GUARD, STAND FIRM IN THE FAITH, BE COURAGEOUS, BE STRONG”

- For Teenagers and Young Adults
- Saturday March 3 to Sunday March 4 (1:00 PM to 1:00 PM)
- Saint Anne’s, 3055 S. Raccoon Road, Austintown.
- Optional Service Project to be performed Saturday Morning at the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, 252 E. Wood St., Youngstown, OH
- \$30.00 (meals & T-shirt included) +can of green beans, corn or fruit cocktail.
- **Call the parish office if you wish to attend. We have the forms that must be completed, as well as further directives. Registration is due 28 February 2018.** (Parish pays for ECF teenage students & chaperone).

11 FEBRUARY 2018

SCHEDULE OF DIVINE SERVICES

| | | |
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| Sunday | 11 February | <i>CHEESEFARE SUNDAY. SUNDAY OF FORGIVENESS. The Martyr Blaise, Bishop of Sebaste.</i> |
| (Sunday Vigil) | 5:00 PM 9:00 AM 11:00 AM | +Anna Firment (40th day) +Margaret & +Joseph Lisak – Shirley Dietelbach +Theodore Falatic – Rob & Kim Falatic |
| Monday | 12 February | <i>FIRST DAY OF THE GREAT FAST. Our Holy Father Meletius, Archbishop of Antioch.</i> |
| | 6:00 PM | Pre-sanctified Liturgy |
| Tuesday | 13 February | <i>Our Venerablr Father Martinian.</i> |
| | | No Divine Services |
| Wednesday | 14 February | <i>Our Venerable Father Auxentius. Falling Asleep of our Venerable Father Constantine, whose Monastic name is Cyril, the Apostle of the Slavs. Venerable Maron, Hermit and Wonderworker.</i> |
| | 6:00 PM | Pre-sanctified Liturgy |
| Thursday | 15 February | <i>Holy Apostle Onesimus.</i> |
| | | No Divine Services |
| Friday | 16 February | <i>Holy Martyrs, the Presbyter Pamphilius, Porphyrius and their Companions.</i> |
| | 6:00 PM | Pre-sanctified Liturgy |
| Saturday | 17 February | <i>Saturday of the First Week of Lent, on which we commemorate the Miracle of St. Theodore. Holy Great Martyr Theodore the Recruit.</i> |
| (Sunday Vigil) | 5:00 PM | +Mary Minarish – Marina Starr |
| Sunday | 18 February | <i>FIRST SUNDAY OF THE GREAT FAST. SUNDAY OF ORTHODOXY. MEMORY OF THE HOLY PROPHETS. Our Holy Father Leo, Pope of Rome.</i> |
| | 9:00 AM 11:00 AM | +Andrew Greskovich, Sr. (40th Day) – wife, Loretta +Margaret Gnat (40th Day) – Ron Mosko |



Attentive to the Word
Sunday of Cheesefare
Mt: 6: 14 - 21

Tone 3 Pg. 135 - 136 and Pg. 218 - 219

Our Epistle and Gospel readings go hand in hand this morning, offering us great words of wisdom and preparation as we begin Great Lent this evening. Over the course of our pre-Lenten preparation, we've been instructed in the perspective with which we are to enter the fast. Starting with Zacchaeus Sunday, we've been presented with a series of questions through the parables of Christ—is our hearts' desire to see the Lord? Are we prepared to humble ourselves before the Lord? Are we ready to return to Him in repentance and brokenness of heart? And finally, we were presented with the Last Judgment, to ensure that we consider the question of our salvation with all seriousness and sobriety.

Great Lent is all about returning to Christ...and we struggle with fasting and repentance and prayers and almsgiving and spiritual readings to do just that. The most prominent feature of Great Lent is our fasting. And today, we hear from Christ and St. Paul exactly how it is we are to undertake our fast.

Christ warns us; when you fast, don't fast like the hypocrites. They say the fast is for God, but it's really to obtain the praise of others. And when they receive this praise, Christ says, that is their reward. We are not to call attention to our fasting. The only one who should see and know our labors is God, and He'll reward us as He sees fit. Our fasting is to be solely for God, as an offering of our lives and our wills and as an offering of love to our Savior.

This point is very much related to something St. Paul said in the Epistle reading as well. As we are fasting, we are not to worry about what other people are doing. St. Paul writes, "Let him who eats, despise not him who does not eat; and let him who does not eat, not judge him who eats: for God has received him. We are not to let others know what we are doing, and we are not to worry about how others are keeping the fast.

St. Paul then goes on to remind us that the day of our salvation is close at hand; the day we are to stand before the Throne of the Lord of Glory is closer now than it has ever been. And so we offer a fast of repentance, according to the words of Christ. And to our fast from food, we join a fast from all sin. We put off the works of darkness, and clothe ourselves in the armor of light.

The Fathers of the Church warn us that our fasting can easily be for nothing—if we fast for the praise of men, then it's worthless. And if we don't fast from works of wickedness, then our fasting from food is for nothing. This evening we will begin our Lenten journey to that great and holy day of our Lord's Resurrection. But we must keep in mind that our Lenten journey will be of no use if it's simply a dietary modification for the course of 40+ days. We're called by our Lord to lay aside all sin and to focus all of our energies on being with Christ.

To set the tone for our fast let us meditate on this quote from St. John Chrysostom—"Do you fast? Give me proof of it by your works. If you see a poor man, take pity on him. If you see a friend being honored, do not envy him. Do not let only your mouth fast, but also the eye and the ear and the feet and the hands and all the members of our bodies. Let the hands fast, by being free of avarice (greed). Let the feet fast, by ceasing to run after sin. Let the eyes fast, by disciplining them not to glare at that which is sinful. Let the ear fast, by not listening to evil talk and gossip. Let the mouth fast from foul words and unjust criticism. For what good is it if we abstain from eating birds and fishes, but bite and devour our brothers?"

"FORGIVE US AS WE FORGIVE"...very scary words

In Mt 6:14-21 Jesus, once again insists' on mutual forgiveness between people as a precondition of God's forgiveness. Those who do not forgive are not forgiven. This teaching is repeated by Jesus in the parable of the unforgiving servant which concludes with virtually the same words. The opinion that even unforgiving Christians are forgiven by God is contradicted by Christ Himself. The moral action of the faithful, when they forgive others their trespasses, is bound with the love of God: not to forgive others is willfully to alienate ourselves from the forgiveness of God.

Keeping a sad countenance while fasting, so that everyone can see how one is suffering, is mere external display. Jesus rejects such hypocrisy. Thus; during seasons of fasting, the hymns of our Byzantine Church call the faithful to *wash and anoint their faces*. There is no "Ash Wednesday" to display that we are in a penitential season. And fasting is not merely abstaining from eating. Physical fasting works together with spiritual fasting, or self-denial. Fasting is for the glory of God, not to impress people around us. By attaching themselves to treasures on earth people cut themselves off from heavenly treasures. Let us really try to fast in the true spirit of the Great Fast.

Following Each Divine Liturgy we will pray the prayer of Mutual Forgiveness, which you will find in the pews.