

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.

“MOVIE AFTERNOON”...get rid of those “Winter Blahs”

Sunday Afternoon – January 21 at 2:00 PM – we will meet in the Social Hall for an afternoon of relaxation, camaraderie, and enjoyment. The “Price” is right ... No Charge...Movie “refreshments” will be provided. The “Feature” of the day is: *Angels in the Outfield*. (Quite entertaining for both the young and the young at heart). Laughter is good for whatever ails you. Come and join us for an afternoon of fun!

FAST – FREE WEEK

Today we celebrate the Sunday of the Publican and the Pharisee. This is the second Sunday of preparation leading into the season of the Great Lenten Fast. Following this Sunday, we have a fast free week, in which any foods can be eaten every day, including Wednesday and Friday. The reason for this fast free week is to remind us of paradise, and to contemplate the only way we can regain paradise fully in our lives. In addition by not permitting a fast during the beginning of our preparation for Great Lent, the Holy Church accuses the pride of the Pharisee, who vainly praised himself for fasting twice a week, and, in agreement with this accusation, acts contrary to his hypocritical and proud fast.

LAST WEEK for....2018 CONTRIBUTION ENVELOPES & CALENDARS

The 2018 Contribution Envelopes are ready for pick-up in the Social Hall. *They will remain in the Social hall until January 21st. Last year, the cost for mailing the envelopes boxes, was \$3.34 per box and postage rates are rising at the end of January. We need to be good stewards of the financial support to your church. We will mail the envelopes to “out of state” contributors and to the home bound parishioners. After January 21st, the envelopes will be in the parish office and will be able to be picked up during regular office hours. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.*



(PP) Divine Liturgy Attendance weekend of 14 January:

5:00 PM: 50; 9:00 AM: 33 11:00 AM: 68

Our return to the Lord for all He has given us: \$2,279.48



- **Sun. Jan. 21** ECF Classes resume today – 9:30 AM to 10:45 AM
- **Sun. Jan. 21** “Movie afternoon” – 2:00 PM.
- **Mon. Jan. 22** Church Cleaning Party – 9:00 Am to Noon. Many hands make light work, so if you can lend a hand, it will be greatly appreciated.

*****Ladies Guild Anniv. Dinner – Jan.30, 2018 – 5:00 PM at Buena Vista***
WE HOPE TO SEE ALL OF YOU THERE!**



PILGRIM VOCATION PROGRAM . . .you may not be able to do anything else to help our Byzantine Catholic Church...but you can pray!

*One way we can all be involved in vocation ministry is through prayer. Everyone in the Parish is invited to pray for and encourage others within the Church that they might respond generously to God’s call in their lives. **Please sign up today on the sheet posted in the Social Hall to have the Pilgrim Vocation Icon in your home. You and we will be greatly blessed.***

ALL SOULS REMEMBRANCE

During our Liturgical Year our Byzantine Church remembers its faithful departed in a special way on 5 All Souls Saturdays. The first All Souls Saturday is 3 February 2018. There is an envelope in your offertory box for these All Souls Remembrances. If you wish to have your loved ones remembered on these special days, please submit the names, printed, with an offering in the envelope by **January 21** so that the names can be organized. Previously submitted names do not need to be resubmitted, only additional names. Thank you for your prompt attention.

YEAR-END CONTRIBUTION STATEMENTS FOR 2018

... will be ready for pick-up in the Social Hall next week-end, January 27 and January 28.

21 JANUARY 2018

SCHEDULE OF DIVINE SERVICES

Sunday	21 January	<i>SUNDAY OF THE PUBLICAN AND THE PHARISEE. Our Venerable Father Maximus the Confessor. The Holy Martyr Neophyte. Holy Martyrs Eugene, Candidus, Valerian and Aquila. Holy Virgin Martyr Agnes of Rome.</i>
(Vigil Liturgy)	5:00 PM 9:00 AM 11:00 AM	+Kay Roscoe – Hosos family +Stephen Sernulka, III – Rick & Mary Ryznar +Brian Koehn – Mom & Mike
Monday	22 January	<i>Holy Apostle Timothy. Holy Venerable-Martyr Anastasius the Persian.</i> No Divine Liturgy
Tuesday	23 January	<i>Holy Martyr Clement, Bishop of Ancyra. Holy Martyr Agathangel. Commemoration of the Sixth Ecumenical Council.</i>
(Chapel)	8:30 AM	+John Balogh – wife, Barbara & Slyk family
Wednesday	24 January	<i>Venerable Mother Xenia of Rome.</i>
(Chapel)	8:30 AM	+Lucy Prokop – Dick & Marlene Calvaruso
Thursday	25 January	<i>Holy Father Gregory the Theologian, Archbishop of Constantinople.</i>
(Chapel)	8:30 AM	+Sandra Slyk – Austintown-Glenwood Cycle
Friday	26 January	<i>Venerable Father Xenophon and his wife Mary. Our Holy Father Joseph, Archbishop of Thessalonica.</i> No Divine Liturgy
Saturday	27 January	<i>Translation of the Relics of our Holy Father John Chrysostom.</i>
(Sunday Vigil)	5:00 PM	+Victor Byers – Dr. & Mrs. Dom Villareal
Sunday	28 January	<i>SUNDAY OF THE PRODIGAL SON. Venerable Father Ephrem the Syrian, Bishop of Nineveh. Venerable Father Isaac the Syrian, Bishop of Nineveh.</i>
	9:00 AM 11:00 AM	+Doris Mosko – Ron Mosko +Phyllis Eggens – Hilary Seibert



Attentive to the Word
Sunday of the Publican & the Pharisee

Lk: 18: 10 - 14

Res. Tone 8 Pg. 161 - 163: and Pg. 215



Today is the second pre-Lenten Sunday offered by the Church to prepare us for the upcoming season of the Great Fast. The second step in our approach to Great Lent and Pascha and the theme of the second pre-Lenten Sunday is one of humility. Nothing begins without the desire to see Jesus Christ - and when we truly see Him, then and only then are we able to *see ourselves*.

The Gospel reading for this *Sunday of the Publican and Pharisee* is taken from Luke 28:10-14. Two men went to the temple to pray. The Pharisee was actually a very religious man. He fasted, prayed, and gave away ten percent

of his goods. Yet he boasted about his accomplishments and, as a result, his prayers were rejected by God. The publican, on the other hand, was truly evil, a genuine sinner. He sought to make a change in his life, however, by confessing his sinfulness and begging God for mercy. Consequently, he was justified and accepted by God.

Like the Pharisee, we too are filled with pride and boastfulness; unlike the publican, we often refuse to acknowledge our sinfulness, confess it, and beg for mercy.

On this Sunday we are invited to take a deeper look inward, to search the depths of our souls and to beg for mercy. We are called, through our vision of Jesus Christ, to acknowledge our sins and to fall before the face of God in repentance, making the publican's prayer our own: *God, be merciful to me, a sinner!*

The Pharisee, overcome with his pride, and the Publican, bent down in repentance, came before You, the only Lord. The first trusted in himself and was deprived of your blessings; the other spoke but a few words and received your blessings in abundance. Behold my tears and strengthen me, O Christ our God, for You are indeed the Lover of Mankind. (Vespers for the Publican & The Pharisee)

THE VIRTUE OF TRUE HUMILITY

There is a story about a monk who was sent from one monastery to another to serve as abbot. When the new abbot arrived at the monastery, he was not recognized by the other monks. Moreover, he said nothing to them about his true identity. The monks of the monastery decided that their new visitor was too unimpressive for any important duty, so they assigned him to perform the most menial tasks in the monastery kitchen. Uncomplaining, the new but unrecognized abbot spent his days cleaning pots, washing floors and shelling beans.

One day, however, the bishop came to call on the monastery and desired to speak to the new abbot. The monks told the bishop that their new abbot had not yet arrived. The only new guest in the monastery, they told the bishop, was an unimpressive little monk who was working in the kitchen. The bishop took the other monks into the kitchen and formally introduced them to their new abbot. On that day they received not only a new abbot, but also a lesson in true humility which would last them a lifetime!

The virtue of true humility is also found at the center of today's Gospel lesson of the Pharisee and the Publican. The latter prayed with true contrition, "O God be merciful to me a sinner," while the former prayed with head unbowed and extolled his own virtues. A characteristic of true humility is the admission of our own sinfulness without making excuses. As the Season of the Great Fast draws near, let us approach this time with the true humility of the Publican!

When the Pharisee went up to the temple in his vainglory and the publican bowed in his repentance, they both stood before You, O Master! The one lost his reward through boasting; while the other won Your blessing through his sighs. Because I too am sighing in Your presence, strengthen me, Christ God, for You are the lover of mankind ...Almighty Lord, I have known how effective tears are, for they saved Ezekiel from the teeth of death and delivered the sinful woman from her repeated iniquities. As for the publican, they justified him instead of the Pharisee. Wherefore I beseech You to count me among the former and have mercy on me.

Stichera of the Triodion. Vespers, Sunday of the Publican and Pharisee.