

## 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.

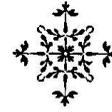
**Funerals:** Families of the deceased or the funeral director must contact Fr. Simeon before setting and publishing the day and time of the funeral.

**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.

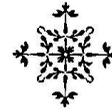
**Rectory Office Hours:** Sister Barbara is in the Parish office from 10 AM – 2 PM Monday, Wednesday and Friday. Father Simeon is available on other days and times by appointment.

## ETERNAL MEMORY



Grant, O Lord, eternal rest to the soul of Your servant +**William Marks** who has recently fallen asleep in the Lord. William Marks is the father of Father Kevin Marks, pastor of St. Michael's, Hermitage, PA. Please remember William and his family in your prayers.

## ETERNAL MEMORY



Grant, O Lord, eternal rest to the soul of Your servant +**Richard McGrath, Sr.** who has recently fallen asleep in the Lord. Please remember him and his family in your prayers.

## SPIRITUALITY DAY

The Benedictine Sisters are offering a Day of Spirituality in preparation for the Resurrection of Christ, on ***Sunday, March 18th from 1:30 PM to 4:30 PM.*** It will be held in our Social Hall. The presenter will be Father Thom Dansak. His topic is "*Repentance: Asking Forgiveness of Sin.*" Father Thom is an excellent and knowledgeable speaker, who will help us to advance in our relationship with God. There will be time for reflection, questions and refreshments, and an opportunity to receive the Mystery of Reconciliation (Confession). To register, call 330-856-1813 or email [gohm@netdotcom.com](mailto:gohm@netdotcom.com) by Sunday, March 11, 2018. There is no charge for the day.



## Divine Liturgy Attendance weekend of 4 March:

5:00 PM: **68**; 9:00 AM: **35** 11:00 AM: **78**

Pre-sanctified Liturgy: Fri.: **32** Wed.: **34**

**Our return to the Lord for all He has given us: . . . \$2,995.95**



11 MARCH 2018

SCHEDULE OF DIVINE SERVICES

- **Sun. Mar. 11** ECF Classes– 9:45 AM to 10:45 AM
- **Wed. & Fri.** 6:00 PM – Pre- Sanctified Liturgy during Great Lent. Come and pray these beautiful Lenten prayers with your fellow parishioners.
- **Sat. Mar. 10** 9:00 AM - 4<sup>th</sup> All Souls Saturday – Divine Liturgy w/Reading of Diptyches
- **Tues. Mar. 13** Ladies Guild Meeting – 7:00 PM in the Social Hall. Bingo nite...bring your quarters.
- **Sun. Mar. 18** Spirituality Day – 1:30 to 4:30 PM. Our Church teaches that we are to receive the Sacrament of Confession at least once a year. This is an excellent time to receive God’s forgiveness, and to help us to grow in our relationship with our Maker.

**CHOCOLATE BYZANTINE CROSS SALE** – Crosses will be ready for pick-up before or after the Liturgies – **March 24 & 25**. Thank you for your orders!

**NUTROLLS – ORDERS ONLY – LAST DAY TO ORDER!**

The Ladies Guild will be baking Rolls for the Feast of the Resurrection. *Rolls* are \$10 each, and will be ready for pick up on the weekend of 17-18 March, from 3:00 PM to 6:30 PM.

**PASKE SALE – ORDERS ONLY** *Regular Paska Bread* is \$6 per loaf. *Paska Bread with raisins* is \$6.50 per loaf Paskas will be available for pick up on the weekend of 24-25 March, from 3:00 PM to 6:30 PM. Order forms are located on the table in the Social Hall.

**PUSSYWILLOWS NEEDED**

Spring is almost here, (even though it doesn’t feel like it), so keep your eyes open for the budding of the pussy willows. Please cut them when they bud (before they turn yellow), and bring them to the Social Hall. **Do not put them in water!**

Sunday	11 March	<i>FOURTH SUNDAY OF THE GREAT FAST. MEMORY OF OUR HOLY FATHER CLIMACUS. Our Holy Father Sophronius, Patriarch of Jerusalem.</i>
(Sunday Vigil)	5:00 PM 9:00 AM 11:00 AM	<b>+Mildred &amp; +George Syrko – family Prayer intention of the Rosary Society Healing for the sick of our Parish – Ron Mosko</b>
Monday	12 March	<i>Venerable Father and Confessor Theophane of the Sygrain Mountain. Holy Father Gregory, Pope of Rome. Holy Father Symeon, the New Theologian.</i> <b>No Divine Services</b>
Tuesday	13 March	<i>Translation of the Relics of our Holy Father Nicephor. Patriarch of Constantinople.</i> <b>No Divine Services</b>
Wednesday	14 March 6:00 PM	<i>Our Venerable Father Benedict.</i> <b>Pre-sanctified Liturgy</b>
Thursday	15 March	<i>THE GREAT CANON OF OUR HOLY FATHER ANDREW OF CRETE. Holy Martyr Agapius and His Companions.</i> <b>No Divine Services</b>
Friday	16 March 6:00 PM	<i>Holy Martyrs Sabinus and Papas.</i> <b>Pre-sanctified Liturgy</b>
Saturday	17 March	<i>Akathistos Saturday. Venerable Father Alexis, Man of God. Holy Father Patrick, Enlightener of Ireland.</i>
(Sunday Vigil)	5:00 PM	<b>Health of Bill Shuttic – friends</b>
Sunday	18 March	<i>FIFTH SUNDAY OF THE GREAT FAST. MEMORY OF OUR HOLY MOTHER MARY OF EGYPT. Holy Father Cyril, Archbishop of Jerusalem.</i>
	9:00 AM 11:00 AM	<b>+Harry Reynolds – Marjorie, Paul &amp; Cheryl Simon +Thomas Kesko – Falatic family</b>



*Attentive to the Word*  
*Fourth Sunday of the Great Fast*

*St. John Climacus*

*Mk: 9: 17 - 31*

*Tone 7 pgs. 156 - 158 and 226 - 227*

*(Follow directions on Pages 226 - 227)*

James 1:5 tells us that God offers wisdom to anyone who asks. However, he goes on to warn that if we doubt, our prayers will not be answered. But at times, don't all of us struggle with some degree of doubt? Let's explore some reasons for our disbelief.

First, faith usually defies human reasoning. For example, when we are in financial difficulty, logic says to save every penny, whereas God says He will bless the generous giver. Second, feelings of fear, inadequacy, or guilt can interfere with trusting biblical truth. Third, we often focus on the circumstance rather than our heavenly Father. He is at work, yet we fail to notice His hand. And finally, uncertainty about God's will can lead us to doubt Him.

Wavering faith has severe consequences: missed blessings, lack of peace and joy, and a heart that is easily thrown off course when difficulty arises. How, then, can we avoid faltering in our faith? In Mark 9, a man pleaded with Jesus to rebuke the spirit possessing his son. When Christ replied that "all things are possible to him who believes," the father said, "I do believe; help my unbelief (vv. 23-24). And Jesus granted his request.

Like that man, we can ask the Lord to increase our faith. But we should also spend time reading God's Word and meditating on His promises. From the story in Luke, we know that doubt is common—and that God is patient and understanding. Faith comes from Him. So when you are at a crossroads and the right response requires faith, or when you pray and notice doubt, ask Him to help you believe.

### **HEAVEN IS A STAIRWAY**

During a conversation with her pastor, a young parishioner expressed an idea which describes well the road a Christian – and everyone who would obey the laws of this

moral universe – is called to walk. She said: "Hell is a paved road. Heaven is a stairway!"

She was not aware that she was echoing the thoughts of the Church Teacher whom we are commemorating this fourth Sunday of Lent, St. John Climacus. His title comes from the name of a book he wrote in which he describes a person's ascent to heaven as a ladder of moral and spiritual development. She was also echoing the words of our Great Teacher the Lord Jesus Himself. He said: "Enter by the narrow gate; for the gate is wide and the way is easy, that leads to destruction, and those who enter by it are many. For the gate is narrow and the way is hard, that leads to life, and those who find it are few" (Mt 7:13-14).

It is good to think of this when we are tempted and discouraged because of the difficulties and barriers that we find in our daily lives. They may be there to teach us useful lessons in order that we could more easily find the way that leads to true freedom for our souls, hearts and minds. Yes, it seems that difficulties can, paradoxically, make things easier for us – depending on the goals for which we are striving! Let's be courageous and determined. Sometimes the harder the road, the greater the treasures to which it leads us. Let's aim for heaven! Let's keep our eyes firmly focused on the splendor of our destination – life in all its fullness!

### **ST. ANDREW OF CRETE**

St. Andrew of Crete (c. 660-740), whose "Great Canon" the Byzantine Church prays during Lent, was born in Damascus, Syria. He became a monk at Monastery of St. Sabas and served later at the Holy Sepulchre. From his monastery in Jerusalem he was sent to Constantinople (modern Istanbul), where he became deacon of the Hagia Sophia. He also ran a refuge that took in orphans and cared for the elderly.

Andrew was the author of many hymns and canons still used in liturgical books. He wrote homilies that display great oratorical skill. In developing the Byzantine liturgy, he is credited with inventing the canōn, a new genre of hymnography that consists of nine odes in stanza form, each sung to a different melody.

He ended his days as Archbishop of Gortyna, on the island of Crete, a position to which he was elevated in 692.