

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.

2018 SCHEDULE OF DIVINE SERVICES FOR GREAT AND HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

March 26 – Holy Monday

7:00 PM Liturgy of the Pre-sanctified Gifts

March 27 – Holy Tuesday

7:00 PM – Liturgy of the Pre-sanctified Gifts

March 28 – Holy Wednesday

7:00 PM – Liturgy of the Pre-sanctified Gifts with Anointing of the Sick.

March 29 – Holy Thursday

7:00 PM – Vespers with Divine Liturgy of St. Basil

March 30 – Holy & Great Friday

7:00 PM – Entombment Vespers

March 31 – Holy Saturday

9:00 AM – Jerusalem Matins

8:00 PM – Resurrection Matins with Divine Liturgy

The Blessing of Easter Baskets will take place in the Social Hall on Saturday evening.

April 1 – Feast of the Resurrection

9:00 AM – Divine Liturgy

11:00 AM – Divine Liturgy

The Blessing of Easter Baskets will take place in the Church on Sunday morning.



Divine Liturgy Attendance weekend of 18 March:

5:00 PM: 71; 9:00 AM: 45 11:00 AM: 65

Pre-sanctified Liturgy: Fri.: 37 Wed.: 29

Our return to the Lord for all He has given us: . . . \$2,530.50



25 MARCH 2018

SCHEDULE OF DIVINE SERVICES

- **Sun. Mar. 26** ECF Classes– 9:45 AM to 10:45 AM There are only about 5 class sessions left, so let’s try to get the children here to attend these last few classes.
- **Wed. & Fri.** 6:00 PM – Pre- Sanctified Liturgy during Great Lent. Come and pray these beautiful Lenten prayers with your fellow parishioners.
- **Mon. Mar. 26** Church cleaning party – 9:00 AM until Noon. We can use your help in preparing our Church for the Feast of the Resurrection.
 - See the back page of the bulletin for the Holy Week Schedule.

God does not forget the sinner; He forgets the sin.

RECONCILIATION FOR PASCHA

The Church holds the approaching time of Holy Week and the Glorious Resurrection so sacred and important that it asks of all its members to celebrate the Sacrament of Penance and share in the Most Holy Body and Precious Blood of Our Lord, God and Savior, Jesus Christ . . . We call this our “Easter Duty.” How can anyone who believes in Jesus Christ let this most holy time pass by without being reconciled with God? . . . to acknowledge our sinfulness and seek divine forgiveness in the Sacrament of Reconciliation. *Father is available for Confessions on Saturdays from 4:00 – 4:30 PM and after the Presanctified Liturgy on Wednesday and Friday – to assist us in being spiritually prepared to celebrate Pascha. Please Note that confessions for Easter will not be heard beyond Wednesday of Holy Week.*

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

PASKA PICK-UP ...Saturday, 24 March, from 4:00 PM to 6:30 PM and Palm Sunday, before and after the Divine Liturgies.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED To deliver the Paska’s and gifts to our Shut-ins after the 11:00 AM Liturgy. If you can help, please call Elaine at 330-770-1100, or just come after the 11:00 AM Liturgy and let her know that you are available to help.

Sunday	25 March	<i>PALM (FLOWERY) SUNDAY. ANNUNCIATION OF THE THEOTOKOS.</i>
(Sunday Vigil)	5:00 PM 9:00 AM 11:00 AM	Int. of Sr. Mary Martha Kacmarek – Benedictine Sr. +Michael Vazur – Betty Vazur +Pauline Kostraba – Dr. Andrew Kostraba
Monday	26 March	<i>HOLY MONDAY</i>
	7:00 PM	Liturgy of the Pre-sanctified Gifts. (Confessions after).
Tuesday	27 March	<i>HOLY TUESDAY</i>
	7:00 PM	Liturgy of the Pre-sanctified Gifts (Confessions after).
Wednesday	28 March	<i>HOLY WEDNESDAY</i>
	7:00 PM	Liturgy of the Pre-sanctified Gifts with anointing for Health of body, mind and spirit. (Confessions after).
Thursday	29 March	<i>HOLY THURSDAY</i>
	7:00 PM	Vespers and Liturgy of St. Basil.
Friday	30 March	<i>HOLY AND GREAT FRIDAY</i>
	7:00 PM	Entombment Vespers with Procession.
Saturday	31 March	<i>HOLY SATURDAY</i>
	9:00 AM 8:00 PM	Jerusalem Matins Intention of the Parish Family
Sunday	1 April	<i>PASCHA: THE FEAST OF THE RESURRECTION OF OUR LORD AND GOD AND SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST.</i>
	9:00 AM 11:00 AM	Intention of the Parish Family Intention of the Parish Family

N.B. On Easter Sunday, *the Blessing of Easter Baskets will take place in the Church.*



*Attentive to the Word
Palm (Flowery) Sunday
Annunciation of the Theotokos*

Jn: 12: 1 - 18 & Lk: 1: 24 - 38

Pgs. 235 - 241 and 329 - 331

*Palm Sunday ; third Antiphon followed by Troparia of
Annunciation & Palm Sunday, & Kontakion of Annunciation.
Communion Hymns from both feasts.*



Palm Sunday is the celebration of the triumphant entrance of Christ into the royal city of Jerusalem. He rode on a colt for which He Himself had sent, and He permitted the people to hail Him publicly as a king. A large crowd met Him in a manner befitting royalty, waving palm branches and placing their garments in His path. They greeted Him with these words: "Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord, even the King of Israel! (John 12:13).

This day together with the raising of Lazarus are signs pointing beyond themselves to the mighty deeds and events which consummate Christ's earthly ministry. The time of fulfillment was at hand. Christ's raising of Lazarus points to the destruction of death and the joy of resurrection which will be accessible to all through His own death and resurrection. His entrance into Jerusalem is a fulfillment of the messianic prophecies about the king who will enter his holy city to establish a final kingdom. "Behold, your king is coming to you, humble, and mounted on an ass, and on a colt, the foal of an ass" (Zech 9:9).

Finally, the events of these triumphant two days are but the passage to Holy Week: the "hour" of suffering and death for which Christ came. Thus the triumph in an earthly sense is extremely short-lived. Jesus enters openly into the midst of His enemies, publicly saying and doing those things which most enrage them. The people themselves will soon reject Him. They misread His brief earthly triumph as a sign of something else: His emergence as a political messiah who will lead them to the glories of an earthly kingdom.

The liturgy of the Church is more than meditation or praise concerning past events. It communicates to us the eternal presence and power of the events being celebrated and makes us participants in those events. Thus the services of Lazarus Saturday and Palm Sunday bring us to our own moment of life and death and entrance

into the Kingdom of God: a Kingdom not of this world, a Kingdom accessible in the Church through repentance and baptism.

On Palm Sunday palm and willow branches are blessed in the Church. We take them in order to raise them up and greet the King and Ruler of our life: Jesus Christ. We take them in order to reaffirm our baptismal pledges. As the One who raised Lazarus and entered Jerusalem to go to His voluntary Passion stands in our midst, we are faced with the same question addressed to us at baptism: "Do you accept Christ?" We give our answer by daring to take the branch and raise it up: "I accept Him as King and God!"

Thus, on the eve of Christ's Passion, in the celebration of the joyful cycle of the triumphant days of Lazarus Saturday and Palm Sunday, we reunite ourselves to Christ, affirm His Lordship and express our readiness to follow Him to His Kingdom ... "that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection, and may share His sufferings, becoming like Him in His death, that if possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead" (Philippians 3:10-11).

By Very Rev. Paul Lazor



FEAST OF THE ANNUNCIATION



Today we celebrate one of the great Feast Days of the Church – the Annunciation. The Troparion of the Feast begins, **"Today is the beginning of our salvation and the revelation of the eternal mystery: The Son of God becomes the Son of a Virgin."** With this song of praise our Church greets the feast of the Annunciation of the Mother of God, calling it the beginning of our salvation. This is one of the most important feasts of our Liturgical Year.

St. Athanasius the Great, in his sermon on the Annunciation, calls this feast the *first in the list of feasts*, for it begins the work of salvation of the human race. The basis for this feast is the joyful annunciation recorded in St. Luke's Gospel (1:26-38). The feast of the Annunciation is not only one of the twelve greatest feast days of the Church, but its service is taken even if it should fall on Palm Sunday, Great and Holy Friday, or on the feast of the Resurrection of our Lord (Pascha). Let us give thanks to the Lord for this great Feast, for if Mary had not said "YES" to God, we would not be looking forward to Pascha.