

## 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.

## ECF REGISTRATIONS

Parents & Guardians: You have received a mailing concerning registration of your children in our Catechetical program. **Registrations are due by September 9th**, in order to assist us in the preparations for the beginning of the ECF school year. If you do not receive a mailing, and you have children in grades K thru 12, please pick up a registration form at the entrances of the church. **All children, even if they attend a Catholic school should be enrolled and attend classes here on Sunday mornings.** The success of the program depends upon the cooperation and support of all of us. Our children are the future of our parish & our Church. Help us to assist you in the spiritual education of your children. ECF Classes will begin September 23<sup>rd</sup>.

## JUST A REMINDER:

Please help us to keep our church clean and in good order by not leaving bulletins or song sheets on the pews themselves. You are encouraged to take the Sunday bulletin home with you and/or share it with someone else. If you are not going to take the bulletins with you, kindly return them to the racks from which you picked them up.

Also, some parishioners pay for the glass candles and take them home or to the cemetery, to honor their loved ones. This is fine, but we ask that you return the empties back to the church. We return these to our candle supplier, who recycles them by refilling and reusing them. This helps to keep our cost and yours to a minimum. Thank you in advance for your cooperation with this request.

## TRUMBULL COUNTY LIFE CHAIN

Life Chain is a well-known pro-life prayer gathering of local churches held each year on the first Sunday of October. Our church always takes part in this silent prayer gathering. More information will be forthcoming. Keep October 7<sup>th</sup> open.



**Divine Liturgy Attendance weekend of 26 August:**

5:00 PM: **58**; 9:00 AM: **33** 11:00 AM: **80**

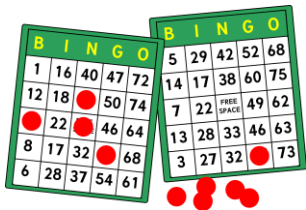
**Our return to the Lord for all He has given us: . . . . . \$2,698.75**



- **Sat. & Sun. Sept. 1 & 2** Yearly Pilgrimage (Otpust) at Mt. St. Macrina – Uniontown, PA. Detailed schedule of events is posted on the Social Hall bulletin board.
- **Wed. Sept. 5** St. Vincent de Paul Meals Program – 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM. Your help is appreciated, even if it is just an hour or two.
- **Tues. Sept. 11** Ladies Guild Meeting – 7:00 PM in the Social Hall
- **Sat. & Sun. Sept. 15 & 16** Coffee & Donuts after all the Divine Liturgies. Comes and chat with your friends and meet those parishioners that you do not know.
- **Mon. Sept. 17** Meeting of St. Benedict’s Auxiliary – 7:00 PM in the Social Hall. Dice Game...bring a small wrapped gift(s) and bring a potential member.



**COMING SOON!**



**October 7, 2018 – Ladies Guild Card Party**

Spread the Word! Tell your relatives and friends. Let us know if you Work for or own a business where we can post an advertisement!



**September 15, 2018 Vatra – Carpatho - Rusyn Picnic**

Rain or Shine! Held at Infant of Prague Church grounds  
7754 South Avenue in Boardman, OH  
Kitchen opens at Noon! Pirohi, Stuffed Cabbage, Cabbage and Dumplings, Kielbasi & Kraut and the Bacon Fry.  
Along with Music, Genealogy and Sales Tables.  
Divine Liturgy at 6:00 PM

2 SEPTEMBER 2018

SCHEDULE OF DIVINE SERVICES

Sunday	2 September	<i>FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST. The Holy Martyr Mammias. Our Venerable Father John the Faster, Patriarch of Constantinople.</i>
<b>(Sun. Vigil)</b>	<b>5:00 PM</b> <b>9:00 AM</b> <b>11:00 AM</b>	<b>+Daniel Pinti – John &amp; Dianna Koza</b> <b>+John J. Hoso – Raymond Bishop</b> <b>+Robert Shaffer – Jim &amp; Anita Shaffer</b>
Monday	3 September	<i>Holy Martyr Anthimus, Bishop of Nicomedia. Venerable Father Theoctist, Companion of St. Euthymius the Great. Holy Deaconess Phoebe of Cenchreae.</i> <b>No Divine Liturgy</b>
Tuesday	4 September	<i>Holy Martyr Babylas, Bishop of Antioch. Holy Prophet Moses, who saw God.</i>
<b>(Chapel)</b>	<b>8:30 AM</b>	<b>+Helena Smith</b>
Wednesday	5 September	<i>Holy Prophet Zachary, Father of the Forerunner and his wife, the Holy and Venerable Elizabeth. Holy Mother Teresa of Calcutta.</i> <b>No Divine Liturgy</b>
Thursday	6 September	<i>Memory of the Miracle of the Holy Archangel Michael at Colossae in Chionia. Holy Martyr Eudoxius and Companions.</i>
<b>(Chapel)</b>	<b>8:30 AM</b>	<b>+Dorothy Byers – a friend</b>
Friday	7 September	<i>Prefestive Day of the Feast of the Birth of the Theotokos. The Holy Martyr Sozon.</i>
<b>(Sat. Vigil)</b>	<b>6:00 PM</b>	<b>+Helen Sekula – George &amp; Callista Reese</b>
Saturday	8 September	<i>FEAST OF THE BIRTH OF THE THEOTOKOS.</i>
<b>(Sun. Vigil)</b>	<b>5:00 PM</b>	<b>+Andrew Greskovich, Sr. – wife, Loretta &amp; family</b>
Sunday	9 September	<i>SUNDAY BEFORE THE EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS. Postfestive Day of the Birth of the Theotokos. The Holy and Just Grandparents of God, Joachim and Anna. The Holy Martyr Severian.</i>
	<b>9:00 AM</b> <b>11:00 AM</b>	<b>+Sylvia Siska – Zoe Gradishar</b> <b>+Theodore Falatic – Wiley Byers</b>



*Attentive to the Word*  
*Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost*

*Mt. 22:35-46*

*Tone 6 Pages 152 - 153*

Jesus silenced the Sadducees when they taunted him over a hypothetical problem. A woman married the brother of her dead husband, and then when he died, she married another brother, going through seven brothers. Whose wife would she be in heaven? Jesus demolished their argument, based on equating this lifetime with eternity. Surely they should know that heaven is not a continuation of life as we know it. Life in the beyond is not to be compared with this world.

What is religion all about? This is what Jesus is explaining. One theologian quite popular in the last century, Paul Tillich, trying to widen the definition of religion said it is a person's "ultimate concern." The artist's religion is his painting, the composer's his music, the architect's his building. This is using the term religion beyond the boundaries of theology. Jesus makes clear the true meaning of religion: Ultimate love of God, and love for all humanity. And He places them in proper perspective.

You must love God with everything that is within you. St. Augustine wrote, "Love God; then do as you please." If a person does just that and thinks through the implications, he cannot make an error, for he will thereby love everything else that God has created. Some, however, find a way to base their beliefs on God, and then appoint themselves His defense attorney. They make a lifetime of hating what they perceive as variation from their definition of God. The infamous Inquisition of the Middle Ages was such a distortion of faith. We all know the type who has enough religion to hate what God hates, but cannot find it within their hearts to love what He loves.

Another opposite extreme is to reject a deity who would allow suffering on earth. The famous Dostoevsky novel *Brothers Karamazov* takes up this theme. Ivan is an atheist. He cannot make himself believe in a God who would permit innocent suffering to happen. Why does God permit men to torture others, or to bring agony to children? Such a God is either impotent or unconcerned. Suffering is indeed a deep mystery. Jesus Himself does not offer any explanation other than to share the suffering of mankind on the Cross. Love is always an ongoing challenge. Obstacles arise on the journey through life that cause us to pause at times and measure the love we have for others.

The Sadducees based their religion on ritual observances, formulas of prayer and sacrifices they felt pleased the Lord. But David's prayer reminds us: "You do not desire

sacrifice, else I would give The Pharisees built their faith on observance of laws. They made a religion of legalism, following rules that they imposed on others, harnessing God's freedom into a system. But Jesus offers a faith that transcends all human limits to His grace and glory.

*By Fr. Vladimir Berzonsky*



### **THE NATIVITY OF THE THEOTOKOS – SEPTEMBER 8**

The Holy Virgin Mary was born of aged parents, Joachim and Anna. Her father was of the lineage of David, and her mother of the lineage of Aaron. Thus, she was of royal birth by her father, and of priestly birth by her mother. In this, she foreshadowed Him Who would be born of her as King and High Priest.

Her parents were quite old and had no children. Because of this they were ashamed before men and humble before God. In their humility they prayed to God with tears, to bring them joy in their old age by giving them a child, as He had once given joy to the aged Abraham and his wife Sarah by giving them Isaac. The Almighty and All-seeing God rewarded them with a joy that surpassed all their expectations and all their most beautiful dreams. For He gave them not just a daughter, but the Theotokos – The Birth-giver of God. He illumined them not only with temporal joy, but with eternal joy as well. God gave them just one daughter, and she would later give them just one grandson – but what a daughter and what a Grandson!

Mary, Full of grace, Blessed among women, the Temple of the Holy Spirit, the Altar of the Living God, the Table of the Heavenly Bread, the Ark of God's Holiness, the Tree of the Sweetest Fruit, the Glory of the race of man, the Praise of womanhood, the Fount of virginity and purity – this was the daughter given by God to Joachim and Anna. According to Tradition, Mary was born in Nazareth, and at the age of three, was taken to the Temple in Jerusalem. In her young womanhood she returned again to Nazareth, and shortly thereafter heard the Annunciation of the Holy Archangel Gabriel concerning the birth of the Son of God, the Savior of the world, from her most-pure virgin body.

**TROPARION - Your birth, O Virgin Theotokos, heralded joy to the universe, for**

**from you arose the Son of Justice, Christ our God. Removing the curse, He gave the blessing, and by destroying Death He granted us eternal life.**