

## 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 11 AM – 2:30 PM Monday, Wednesday and Friday. Father Simeon is available on other days and times by appointment.

## YEAR-END CONTRIBUTION STATEMENTS

The year-end contribution statements are ready to be picked up. They are in alphabetical order, on tables in the Social Hall. The statements will be there until February 17<sup>th</sup>. If you want them after that date, you will have to request them from the office.



## OUR CHURCH – SERVING EACH OTHER AND THE COMMUNITY

A parishioner is one who is registered as a member of a parish and who gives of his/her time, talent and treasure to serve his/her church and the larger community.

There are many ways that we can volunteer our services. Here at SS. Peter and Paul we have many ministries to which we can volunteer our services: The Ladies Guild (now Parish Guild), who sponsor many parish activities that we enjoy, the Rosary Society, Oblates of St. Benedict, our Shut-in Hospitality (visiting, sending cards & bulletins, making phone calls, etc.), Church cleaning, Work parties, Liturgy helpers: Cantors, Lectors, Servers, Ushers, Collection-counters; Catechists/children; Adult formation; The Benedictine Sisters, who are part of our parish, also offer Spirituality days and membership in St. Benedict's Auxiliary, who often engage speakers, or have programs that provide growth opportunities; We volunteer our services at St. Vincent de Paul monthly, to provide home-cooked meals for those less fortunate and we can always use extra hands; We take part in "Out-reach programs" in the local area; We join with other churches and pastors in celebrating an Interfaith Service at Thanksgiving.

We have begun to expand our involvement in Social Media; thanks to several of our young parishioners, who have volunteered to take pictures, we have made a serious attempt to submit articles and pictures of parish activities in our eparchial newspaper, the BCW.

There are many ways to volunteer your gifts. GET INVOLVED! Help your parish to grow. Call the Office for more information and contacts.



## Divine Liturgy Attendance weekend of 10 February:

5:00 PM: 62; 9:00 AM: 44; 11:00 AM: 67

**Our return to the Lord for all He has given us: . . . . \$3,015.00**



- **Sun. Feb. 17** ECF Classes - 9:55 to 10:45 AM.
- **Mon. Feb. 18** St. Benedict's Auxiliary Meeting at 7:00 PM in the Social Hall. LCR Game - bring quarters and a friend.
- **Mon. Feb 25** Church Cleaning Party – 9:00 AM to Noon. We can use your help.
- **Sun. Mar. 3** Ladies Guild is now renamed Parish Guild and is open to all men and women. Their first event is a *Bingo-Card Party – March 3rd* at 1:00 PM. Hope to see all of you there!
- **Weds. Mar. 6** St. Vincent de Paul Meals Program – 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM. We can always use extra hands.



### 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 23 February 2018. The other All Souls Saturday remembrances are 16 March, 23 March, 30 March, and 8 June.



### ST. MICHAEL BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH LENTEN KICKOFF

Weds., March 6<sup>th</sup> – 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM - St. Michael's Social Center, 2140 Highland Road, Hermitage, PA. Homemade Frozen Pierohi (Stuffed Dumpling) - Baker's Dozen (13) - Potato-Cheese - \$6.00 - or Sauerkraut - \$7.00; Homemade Halushki - \$8.00 a Quart.

### APPROPRIATE CHURCH BEHAVIOR

A Greek word “anamnesis” means “to recall to mind.” It would be helpful for all of us to recall to mind where we are when we are in church. A Church is the house of God. We should remember we are in God's presence and as such should focus our attention on worship. As adults, we have the responsibility to teach our young people what is appropriate behavior. Loud and unnecessary talking before, during and after the Liturgy is not appropriate Church behavior! Unless you are ill, it is also inappropriate to leave the Church before the closing of the Royal Doors. Please be respectful of your fellow parishioners who wish to remain a little longer in the quiet presence of God.

17 FEBRUARY 2019

### SCHEDULE OF DIVINE SERVICES

Sunday	17 February	<i>SUNDAY OF THE PRODIGAL SON. The Holy Great Martyr Theodore the Recruit.</i>
(Sun. Vigil)	<b>5:00 PM</b> <b>9:00 AM</b> <b>11:00 AM</b>	<b>+Patricia Harper – Ruth Ann Sutyak</b> <b>+Harry Reynolds – Mike &amp; Rosanne Dando</b> <b>+Steve Zumerling – Zoe Gradishar</b>
Monday,	18 February	<i>Our Holy Father Leo, Pope of Rome.</i> <b>No Divine Liturgy</b>
Tuesday, (Chapel)	19 February <b>8:30 AM</b>	<i>The Holy Apostle Archippus.</i> <b>+Lucy Prokop – Maxine &amp; Richard Sinclair</b>
Wednesday (Chapel)	20 February <b>8:30 AM</b>	<i>Our Venerable Father Leo, Bishop of Catania. Our Holy Father Agathon, Pope of Rome.</i> <b>+Edward Brienz, Sr. – Richard &amp; Kimberly Childs</b>
Thursday (Chapel)	21 February <b>8:30 AM</b>	<i>Our Venerable Father Timothy of Symbola. Our Holy Father Eustathius, Archbishop of Great Antioch.</i> <b>+Becky Kapusta – Sr. Adele Vecchione</b>
Friday	22 February	<i>Finding of the Venerable Relics of the Martyrs at Eugenia.</i> <b>No Divine Liturgy</b>
Saturday	23 February	<i>First All Souls Saturday. The Holy Martyr Polycarp, Bishop of Smyrna.</i> <b>9:00 AM</b> <b>(Vigil Liturgy) 5:00 PM</b>
		<b>First All Souls Liturgy w/ Reading of the Diptyches</b> <b>Intention of Agnes Ihnat – Nick &amp; Marie Ihnat</b>
Sunday	24 February	<i>MEATFARE SUNDAY. SUNDAY OF THE LAST JUDGMENT. First and Second Finding of the Head of John the Baptist.</i> <b>9:00 AM</b> <b>11:00 AM</b>
		<b>+Anthony Simon – Marjorie, Paul, &amp; Cheryl</b> <b>+John Vazur – Ruth Guinta</b>



## Attentive to the Word Sunday of the Prodigal Son

*Lk 15: 11 – 32*

*Tone 6 Pages 152 – 153 and Page 216*



Who does not know this parable from the Gospels? Even non-Christians use the expression "like the prodigal son." But how often do we really understand it?

By our sins, but even more by our forgetfulness, we distance ourselves from God and His Kingdom, we go off alone to "a far country." We waste the talents which God has given us. And we become spiritually impoverished, we begin to be in want. This is unavoidable; we were created for God's Kingdom, so we are not capable of being truly happy and satisfied anywhere else. But we are afraid to turn to God, so we seek happiness and satisfaction from transitory things which can never satisfy us.

Several years ago, there was a film [The Poseidon Adventure.] about an elderly couple in a dangerous, frightening situation. The husband said to his wife: "maybe we should pray!" The wife answered: "you haven't been near a church in fifty years; now you think you should ask God for help?" Well, yes! Now is always the right time to ask God for help! The very thought that "maybe we should pray" is a sign that the Holy Spirit is moving our hearts; we could not even think of praying if God did not give us the impulse to pray.

On this Sunday of the Prodigal Son, and on the following two Sundays, we have a special part of our worship that never occurs at any other time: the solemn chanting of Psalm 136, "By the rivers of Babylon, there we sat and wept, when we remembered Zion!" This is the great gift we ask of God: that we may remember Zion, His Heavenly Kingdom. That we may not forget Jerusalem, the heavenly city which is the goal of our pilgrimage. Chanting this psalm, we remember, we realize that in this world we are all exiles, we are all "displaced" from our true Home in the Heavenly Kingdom. That gift of memory, of understanding of our situation, enables us to resolve, like the Prodigal Son: "I will get up and go back to my Father!." With this realization, we resolve to make the effort of Great Lent, to travel this spiritual road back to the Heavenly

Kingdom. It is not easy; it will take time and energy, and sometimes we shall be tired and weary. But we will not be alone; Jesus is with us, and so are all the Saints, and the Father is awaiting us with loving, joyful welcome.

As the late great Pope John Paul II taught:

"We must show people the beauty of memory, the power that comes to us from the Spirit and makes us witnesses because we are children of witnesses; we must make them taste the wonderful things the Spirit has wrought in history; we must show that it is precisely Tradition which has preserved them ..."

So prepare well for Lent. Plan to put aside distractions, to be able to take the time to pray, to read the Scriptures, to fast, to go to Church (and to review the special services in advance). Plan how to regulate the household during Lent, especially to eliminate as many intrusions that keep us away from growing closer to God: i.e. TV, internet, cell phone, etc.

*By Bishop Basil Losten*

### THE PRODIGAL SON PARABLE IN "F"

Feeling footloose and frisky, a feather-brained fellow forced his fond father to fork over the family finances. He flew far to foreign fields and frittered his fortune feasting fabulously with faithless friends. Finally facing famine and fleeced by his fellows in folly, he found himself a feed-flinger in a filthy farmyard. Fairly famished he feign would have filled his frame with the foraged foods of the fodder fragments left by the filthy farmyard creatures.

'Fooley', he said, 'My father's flunkies fare far fancier,' the frazzled fugitive found feverishly, frankly facing facts. Frustrated by failure and filled with foreboding he forthwith fled to his family. Falling at his father's feet, he floundered forlornly. 'Father, I have flunked and fruitlessly forfeited family favor.'

But the faithful father, forestalling further flinching frantically flagged the flunkies. 'Fetch forth the finest fatling and fix a feast.'

But the fugitive's fault-finding frater frowned on the fickle forgiveness of the former folderol. His fury flashed. But fussing was futile, for the far-sighted father figured, such filial fidelity is fine, but what forbids fervent festivity? The fugitive is found! "Unfurl the flags, with fanfares flaring! Let fun and frolic freely flow!" "Former failure is forgotten, folly is forsaken! And forgiveness forms the foundation for future fortitude."

(N.B. Someone had a lot of time on their hands.)