

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.

Please pick-up 2019 CONTRIBUTION ENVELOPES AND CALENDARS

*Please pick up your contribution envelopes in the Social Hall! If there is any name or address correction, if you are unable to locate your envelopes, or if you wish a set of envelopes, please call the office, or drop a note in the collection basket. **This year all envelope numbers were reassigned due to the number of deaths and relocation of former parishioners. Please discard your old envelopes at the end of 2018. If you want proper credit for your contributions, you must use the envelopes you were assigned for the year 2019.***



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, 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 6 January:

5:00 PM: **59**; 9:00 AM: **62**; 11:00 AM: **69**

Our return to the Lord for all He has given us: . . . \$4,618.25

- **Sun. Jan. 13** **ECF Classes** – 9:55 AM – 10:45 AM Let’s try to make 2019 a perfect attendance year! Parents, coming back following a break is always difficult. However, please continue your responsibility in getting your children to religious education classes and to the Divine Liturgy. You are your children’s primary educators. If God is important in your life, it will rub off into the lives of your children...if, not, that also will be communicated and absorbed. Remember, they need to grow up knowing one another and feeling that they are a part of our parish family. They are our precious gifts – new life in the community of God’s worshippers
- **Mon. Jan. 14** “Un-decorate” the Church – 9:30 AM.
- **Sun. Jan. 20** Oblates of St. Benedict – 2:00 to 4:00 PM at the Monastery. Ring #301.
- **Sun. Jan. 27** Movie afternoon – 2:00 PM. Come and Join us for an afternoon of “FREE” entertainment.
- **Mon. Jan. 28** Church Cleaning Party – 9:00 AM – Noon. Come and lend a helping hand.
- **Tues. Feb. 12** Ladies Guild Anniversary Dinner at Giorgio’s at 6:00 PM. Call Elaine 330-770-1100 by Feb. 5th if you plan to attend.



NEWLY SANCTIFIED JORDAN WATER

On the Feast of Theophany we celebrated the Great Sanctification of Water. The dispenser containing the newly sanctified water is located by the Belvedere Ave. entrance. You are encouraged to take some water home for your sanctification.

“MOVIE AFTERNOON” (anticipating the “January Blahs”)

Sunday Afternoon – January 27th 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: *to be announced later*. Laughter is good for whatever ails you. Everyone is invited to come and join us for an afternoon of fun.

SCHEDULE OF DIVINE SERVICES

Sunday,	13 January	<i>SUNDAY AFTER THEOPHANY. Holy Martyrs Hermylaous and Stratonicus. Venerable Father Hilary, Bishop of Poitiers.</i>
(Sun. Vigil)	5:00 PM	+John Hrop, Jr. – Hosos family
	9:00 AM	+Kim Uhlin – Rosary Society
	11:00 AM	+Brian Koehn – Mom & Mike
Monday,	14 January	<i>Leave-taking of Theophany. Our Venerable Fathers killed by the Arabs in Sinai and Raitho in 312. Commemoration of the Passing of the holy Equal-to-the-apostles Nina, Enlightener of the Georgians.</i>
		No Divine Liturgy
Tuesday,	15 January	<i>Our Venerable Fathers Paul of Thebes and John the Hutdweller.</i>
(Chapel)	8:30 AM	+John & +Josephine Wargo – Elizabeth Cantelmo
Wednesday	16 January	<i>Veneration of the Chains of the Holy, Glorious and Illustrious Apostle Peter.</i>
(Chapel)	8:30 AM	Health of Mary Ellen Graham – Friends
Thursday,	17 January	<i>Our Venerable Father Anthony the Great.</i>
(Chapel)	8:30 AM	+Rebecca Kapusta – Mr. & Mrs. Jim Basista
Friday,	18 January	<i>Our Holy Fathers Athanasius and Cyril of Alexandria.</i>
		No Divine Liturgy
Saturday	19 January	<i>Our Venerable Father Macarius of Egypt.</i>
(Vigil Liturgy)	5:00 PM	+Stephen Sernulka, III – Bill Isabella
Sunday,	20 January	<i>THIRTY-FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST. Our Venerable and God-bearing Father Euthymius the Great.</i>
	9:00 AM	+Millie Simko – M/M Richard Simko & family
	11:00 AM	+Helen Sekula – John & Lisa Mosko



Attentive to the Word

Sunday after the Theophany

Mt. 4: 12 - 17

Follow Directions on Pages 316 - 318

"We have seen the True Light; we have received the heavenly Spirit..."

(Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom)

When St. John the Baptist preached God's message of reform, it was because the kingdom of God was close at hand. This feeling of anticipation is made clear by the Old Testament reference of the prophecy of Isaiah in Mt 3:3 - "Prepare the way of the Lord..." However, as Christ began to preach his message of reform, it did not carry the overtones of anticipation as in John's proclamation. Rather, Christ made it known that the kingdom of heaven IS at hand. The Old Testament reference is made to the same prophet, Isaiah, but this time the message is not of an event to come, but of an event that has already taken place: "a people living in darkness has seen a great light..." (Mt 4:16)

Especially as Christians, we live in the kingdom of God. It is up to us, however, to look around us and recognize those elements which belong to God's kingdom: those elements of peace which are already in our hearts or in our homes or in the world around us. Those elements which are found in the cooperation of people working together, the warmth of helping someone dry up an unnecessary tear, the joy of people celebrating, the contentment of being alone with God. All of these elements are the presence of God's kingdom at hand and they shine with the great light of Christ.

If we fail to recognize these elements in our hearts, in our homes, and in the world, it does not mean that the kingdom of heaven is not at hand, but rather, we're forgetting the first part of Christ's message: 'reform your lives!' While we may be living in the presence of God's kingdom, we must still work towards eternal life in that kingdom.' We must work at reforming our lives, reforming our homes, and reforming the world around us until we can see that constant light of Christ.

Through faith we receive Christ in the Eucharist and taste his eternal kingdom. Through good deeds and good thoughts we can see the bright light of Christ shining in the world around us and follow it to eternal life. As the people in the region of Galilee saw a great light in Christ, may we also, through the Eucharist and

good deeds, see the great light of Christ and sing out that 'we have seen the True Light and have received the heavenly Spirit.'

By Msgr. Eugene A. Chromoga

THEOPHANY VERSUS EPIPHANY

The Eastern Christian Churches use the term Theophany instead of Epiphany for the feast we celebrate on January 6. The term Theophany means, God being made manifest. The term epiphany means, just something being made manifest. Additionally, Epiphany in the Western Church is the celebration of the Magi coming to the child Jesus. On the Feast of Theophany, the Eastern Churches celebrate the baptism of Jesus and it is also the Feast when the Trinity was revealed.



Four year old Jill asked, "God is bigger than us, right?" The mother agreed. Then Jill asked, "God lives in us, right?" Her mom agreed. Jill blurted out, "If God is bigger than us and lives in us, shouldn't He show through?" *Jill is a first class theologian.*



"... But now you are light in the Lord; walk as children of light." Ephesians 5:8

Read: Matthew 5:14-16

Lamps were among the most valued possessions in Israelite homes. Light was a symbol of life, and a good lamp provided light for every household function. In fact, an Israelite woman checked her lamp all through the night, adding more oil or fixing the wick, to make sure the light stayed strong and sent the message "all is well."

Jesus wants our lives to be like a good lamp, sending out the daily signal that all is well in our relationship with Him. When people see you, they should see the light of Christ and give glory to God. Can those around you see Jesus in the way you behave and the way you talk? Does your life communicate His positive truth, or do you send negative statements of criticism or discouragement? Do your actions make someone want to know more about your Lord? Perhaps the statement your life is making right now is not what it should be. Maybe you are discouraged by inconsistency or feelings of inadequacy. Remember that Jesus gives you the strength and wisdom you need because He is the "light of life." God promises to continue building His truth into your life day by day so that your character and conduct reflect His distinguishing presence.