

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 Saints 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.

LECTOR MINISTRY

Fr. Simeon has commissioned Timothy Byers to conduct Lector Classes at our Parish. This is for anyone, male or female, who would like to learn about this ministry in our church. A video series from our Archdiocese will be used during these sessions (approx. 4 sessions.) Perhaps, after attending these informative Lector Sessions, you may feel called to assist in this ministry.

Anyone interested, please sign up in the Social Hall.



PRAYERS HEAL.....

Blockbuster new evidence proves that the healing power of prayer is REAL.

Major medical studies from leading hospitals and universities across the U.S. have shown conclusively that a belief in God is powerful medicine - making you healthier, happier and increasing your lifespan.

The proof is overwhelming, says researcher and author Tom Knox - a former atheist who is now a regular worshipper after undertaking an in-depth study of the medical benefits of faith.

How powerful a medicine is faith? Here are just some of the dramatic findings: The American Society of Hypertension discovered that churchgoers have lower blood pressure than the unfaithful.

Even more startling, researchers at the University of Texas concluded: "There is a seven year difference in life expectancy between those who never attend church and those who attend weekly."

The American Journal of Public Health studied nearly 2,000 older Californians for five years - and those who attended religious services were 36% less likely to die during that period than those who didn't.

Faith works miracles because it strengthens the immune system say scientists.

In a major study of nearly 92,000 people in Maryland, those who attended church once or more per week had 50% fewer deaths from coronary artery disease, 56% fewer deaths from emphysema, and 53% fewer suicides.

Concludes author Knox: "Medical evidence shows that atheists can sneer at faith all they like - but they can't assume science is on their side."



Divine Liturgy Attendance weekend of June 16:

5:00 PM: 73; 9:00 AM: 46 11:00 AM: 52

Our return to the Lord for all He has given us: \$3,280.00



JUNE 23, 2019

SCHEDULE OF DIVINE SERVICES

- **Mon. June 17** Beginning of Apostles Fast in preparation for the Feast of SS. Peter and Paul. Fast goes through Fri., June 28.
- **Mon. June 24** Church Cleaning Party 9AM - Noon. We can use your help!
- **Sat. June 29** **SS. Peter and Paul Feast Day. Holy Day of Obligation.**
- **Sun. June 30** SS. Peter and Paul Feast Day Dinner. Sign-up sheet in Social Hall.



NOTE: The Feast of Saints Peter and Paul will be transferred and celebrated on Sunday, June 30th.



APOSTLE'S FAST

There is a fast in the Byzantine Church prior to the Holy Day of Saints Peter and Paul. This fast begins after the Sunday of All Saints and continues until the Holy Day itself. Since the celebration of All Saints depends on when Pascha is observed, the fast for Saints Peter and Paul varies from a couple of days to a month or more. This year the fast begins on June 17 through June 28.

Our church recommends abstaining from meat on Wednesdays and Fridays. Since that is only for 2 weeks, let's try to observe the fast during this time.

SS. PETER AND PAUL DINNER - LAST DAY TO SIGN UP

Just a reminder to sign up for SS. Peter and Paul Dinner. The Dinner will be in our Social Hall after the 11:00 AM Divine Liturgy on Sunday, June 30th. It will be catered by DiLucia's. The donation per person is \$12.00 for adult and \$5.00 for children, ages 4-10. **Reservation deadline is Sunday, June 23rd.** Hope to see all of you there! Come and enjoy a good dinner and good company.

99TH BYZANTINE CATHOLIC FAMILY DAY - JULY 25, 2019

If there is any interest in possible transportation to Kennywood Park, please call the office by July 1st so arrangements can be made. **See the bulletin board in the Social Hall for discount ticket and lunch prices.** Payment must accompany your reservations. In order to receive your park tickets and lunch wristbands, **orders must be in the office by July 5th.**

Sunday	23 June	<i>SECOND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST. The Holy Martyr Agrippina.</i>
(Sun. Vigil)	5:00 PM 9:00 AM 11:00 AM	+Richard Susko - Jay & Joann Mulligan +Millie Simko - Marjorie Reynolds +Steve Zumerling - Edward & Patricia Alberts
Monday	24 June	<i>BIRTH OF THE HOLY PROPHET, FORERUNNER AND BAPTIST JOHN.</i>
	6:00 PM	+John, +Mary & +Paul Fejko - Robert Fejko
Tuesday	25 June	<i>Postfestive Day of the Feast of the Birth of St. John the Baptist. The Holy Venerable Martyr Febronia.</i>
		No Divine Liturgy
Wednesday	26 June	<i>Our Venerable Father David of Thessalonica. The Passing of the Blessed Martyr the Priest Nicholas Konrad and the Blessed Martyr the Cantor Vladimir Pryjma (1941). The Passing of the Blessed Martyr the Priest Andrew Ishchak (1941).</i>
		No Divine Liturgy
Thursday	27 June	<i>Our Venerable Father Sampson the Hospitaller. The Blessed Martyr and Priest Emilian Kovch.</i>
		No Divine Liturgy
Friday	28 June	<i>Translation of the Relics of the Holy Unmercenary Physicians Cyrus and John. Translation of the Relics of the Holy Martyr Theodore (Romzha). The Passing of the Blessed Venerable Martyrs Severian Baranyk and Joachim Senkivskyj (1941).</i>
		No Divine Liturgy
Saturday	29 June	<i>THE HOLY, GLORIOUS AND ILLUSTRIOUS PRE-EMINENT APOSTLES PETER AND PAUL.</i>
(Vigil Liturgy)	5:00 PM	Intention of Steve & Betty Zombar - Wedding Anniversary
Sunday	30 June	<i>THIRD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST. Synaxis of the Twelve Apostles. The Passing of the Blessed Confessor Basil Vsevolod Velychkovsky, secret Bishop (1973). The Passing of the Martyr and priest Zenon Kovalyk (1941).</i>
	9:00 AM 11:00 AM	+Andrew Greskovich, Sr. - son, Andy, Jr. & Mary Kay +John Vazur - Mary L. Sudik



Attentive to the Word

SECOND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Matt. 4: 18 – 23

Troparion: Tone 1, Pg. 125 & the rest of the

Liturgy will be from SS. Peter & Paul: Pgs. 338 – 340

When Christ was choosing his Apostles, he did not make the choice by random selection. Rather, he chose specific men from various walks of life to bring his name to people all over the world. Neither does Christ address his invitations “to whom it may concern!” But he calls each one of us by our own name. The choosing of the Apostles varies from Gospel to Gospel and sometimes within the same Gospel there may be several accounts. These differences in the accounts are not important but rather the importance lies in the similarities between God’s choosing of the Apostles and His choosing of each one of us.

The four particular men in today’s Gospel message were ordinary fishermen involved with life and hard at work with their jobs. In fact, they were right in the middle of a very important part of their work. They were either busy casting their nets or trying to get their nets in order for a cast. Yet, the importance of Christ’s call was more important than anything else they were involved in. “Immediately they abandoned their nets and became his followers.”

At the time of our baptisms, we were each chosen by name to follow Christ; to lead a Christian life according to his example. No matter who we were or what we are now, we have been chosen by Christ to bring God’s love and his message of hope to those who are in our lives. We were chosen once and for all, but Christ continually calls us many times throughout each and every day of our life. We may be deeply involved in a very important part of our work and someone may interrupt us with a seemingly trivial matter or we may be relaxing during a much needed rest period and be aroused by an unsuspecting person. Yet, any interruption or distraction that may come our way is Christ’s way of reminding us that God’s love is more important than what we are involved in. Or he may be calling us to share God’s kindness and patience with someone near us. When distractions and frustrations set in when nobody is around, then Christ may be calling us to a time of prayer or conversation with God.

If we feel that we are unworthy to proclaim the good news of the kingdom, then we are on the right track! Jesus did not choose perfect men to bring love to others. As God, He not only knows our present sins but also he knows our future faults. He not

only calls us as we are, but more importantly he calls us for what we can become. He chose us! Now it is our chance to choose to follow him.

Following Christ does not necessarily mean that we have to perform some type of missionary work in uncharted territories. Rather, following Christ means making his calling an active part of our life; doing missionary work within our own hearts and being the message of Christ for those who he brings to us.



THE HOLY, GLORIOUS & ILLUSTRIOUS PRE-EMINENT APOSTLES, PETER AND PAUL



We call Saints Peter & Paul “Leaders of the Apostles and Teachers of the World” in the troparion for their feast day. They are known as the pillars of the Church because they had a major role in establishing the early Church. They preached about Jesus Christ and baptized many people in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

After the Apostles received the Holy Spirit, Saint Peter “stood up with the Eleven, raised his voice and proclaimed” (Acts 2:14) to the Israelites that Jesus Christ is the Son of God. We read in this story about Saint Peter’s sermons that people wanted more about Jesus. They wanted to know what they must do to become followers of Jesus. Saint Peter told them they must give up their old ways to follow Jesus, in return they would receive the Holy Spirit. He said, “Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit” (Acts 2:38). By the end of the day about 30,000 people accepted Saint Peter’s invitation to be baptized.

In the New Testament are many stories about Saint Paul teaching the people about Jesus. In one story he asked the people who are baptized, about John, “Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you became believers?” (Acts 19:2). They did not know of the Holy Spirit and asked to be baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. “And when Paul laid [his] hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied” (Acts 19:6). This story is just one of many that took place as Saint Paul traveled to different cities and established many churches for the people he baptized. We can read about his travels in his letter that are included in the New Testament.

Both Saints devoted their life to preaching about Jesus Christ and inviting people to be baptized members of the Church. Also both were martyred for this belief in Jesus Christ. In Rome probably in 67 A.D. Saint Peter asked to be crucified with his head downward when he was told he was to be put to death. In 65 A.D. Saint Paul was beheaded because he was a Roman citizen and could not be crucified.