

## 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.

## MANY YEARS

Our Parish Family extends its prayerful best wishes to **Anna Jade Hall and Harlow Grace Beadle**, who each recently celebrated the Mysteries of Initiation. We welcome them as members of our Family of Faith. *May God grant to Anna Jade and Harlow Grace peace, health and happiness for many years!*

## FIRST RECONCILIATION, RENEWAL OF BAPTISMAL VOWS & SOLEMN COMMUNION

Today our Parish Family extends its prayerful best wishes to **Anna Jade Hall, Harlow Grace Beadle, and John William Whitacre, Jr.**, who have each come to the fullness of the Church through the celebration of the renewal of their Baptismal Vows, the Mystery of Reconciliation and their solemn Holy Communion. *May God grant to Anna, Harlow, and John peace, health and happiness for many years!*



With zeal the holy women brought myrrh to your tomb, O Savior, and their souls were filled with joy by a resplendent angel. They proclaimed You as the God of the universe, and they cried joyfully to the disciples: He is risen, our Lord and our Life.

The choir of your disciples joined the myrrh-bearers with joy; together with them we all celebrate this feast and glorify your holy Resurrection. Through their prayers, O Lord and Lover of Mankind, we pray to You: Grant great mercy to your people.



**Divine Liturgy Attendance weekend of April 28:**

5:00 PM: **81**; 9:00 AM: **40**; 11:00 AM: **72**

**Our return to the Lord for all He has given us: . . . \$3,923.25**



- **Sun. May 5** **First Solemn Communion at the 11:00 AM Divine Liturgy.** *All of our ECF Students and Catechists are asked to attend this Liturgy and sit together in rows 2&3 on the Blessed Mother side of the Church.*
- **Sat. & Sun. May 11 & 12** Mother's Day Remembrance.
- **Sat. & Sun. May 11 & 12** Coffee & Donuts after all Divine Liturgies.
- **Tues. May 14** Parish Guild Meeting – 7:00 PM in Social Hall. LCR Game – Bring quarters.



**TRASH TO TREASURE SALE**

Saturday, June 8, 2019, from 8 AM – 3 PM in SS. Peter & Paul Social Hall and Parking Lot. You are invited to rent table spaces at \$20.00 per table or parking lot spaces at \$10.00 per space to sell your superfluous items. You are responsible for the set-up, pricing, sale and removal of your items. Doors will be open Friday, June 7, from 12:00 PM to 2:30 PM and from 6:30 PM to 8:30 PM to enable you to “Set-up.” All vendors are expected to be at their tables or outdoor spaces by 7:45 AM on Saturday, June 8, and remain open for business until 3:00 PM (unless you are “sold out”). Registration blanks are available in the Social Hall.

Please call Elaine at 330-770-1100 if you need clarification or have any further questions. **Remember: Spaces are limited and are reserved on a first come – first serve basis. So, get your reservations and payment in early! Deadline is Sunday, June 2.**



*Christ is Risen! Indeed, He is Risen!*

MAY 5, 2019  
SCHEDULE OF DIVINE SERVICES

Sunday	5 May	<i>SUNDAY OF THE MYRRH-BEARING WOMEN. The Holy and Glorious Martyr Irene. Our Venerable Father Nicephor, Hegumen of the Medikion Monastery.</i>
(Vigil Liturgy)	5:00 PM 9:00 AM 11:00 AM	+Carl Verney – Betty & Steve Zombar +Steven Sernulka, III – M/M Dominic Paducci <b>Int. of John, Harlow, &amp; Anna on First Solemn Communion</b>
Monday	6 May	<i>The Holy and Just Job the Long-suffering.</i> <b>No Divine Liturgy</b>
Tuesday	7 May	<i>The appearance of the Sign of the Cross in the heavens at the third hour of the day in Jerusalem, before the Emperor Constantius. The Holy Martyr Acacius.</i>
(Chapel)	8:30 AM	+Sandra Slyk – Austintown Glenwood Cycle
Wednesday	8 May	<i>The Holy Apostle and Evangelist John the Theologian. Our Venerable Father Arsenius the Great.</i>
(Chapel)	8:30 AM	+Donald Sutyak – Eveline Blonar
Thursday	9 May	<i>The Holy Prophet Isaiah. The Holy Martyr Christopher. Translation of the Relics of our Holy Father Nicholas to Bari.</i>
(Chapel)	8:30 AM	+Beverly MacPherson – St. Benedict's Auxiliary
Friday	10 May	<i>The Holy Apostle Simon the Zealot.</i> <b>No Divine Liturgy</b>
Saturday	11 May	<i>The Foundation of Constantinople. The Holy Priest-Martyr Mocius. Our Holy Fathers Cyril and Methodius, Apostles of the Slavs. Our Holy Father Basil (Hopko), Bishop of Midila.</i>
(Vigil Liturgy)	5:00 PM	<b>Mother's Day Remembrance</b>
Sunday	12 May	<i>SUNDAY OF THE PARALYTIC MAN. Our Holy Fathers Epiphanius, Bishop of Cyprus and Germanus, Patriarch of Constantinople.</i>
	9:00 AM 11:00 AM	<b>Mother's Day Remembrance</b> <b>Mother's Day Remembrance</b>



**Attentive to the Word**  
**SUNDAY OF THE OINTMENT-BEARERS**  
*Mark 15:43 -16:8*  
**Follow Directions on Pages 177 - 180**

The women are going to the tomb. They want to do a good deed - a final deed of mercy, to anoint Jesus body properly, to give him their respect in this final act of love. They have a question on their way to the tomb. Who will roll back the stone for us? Who will roll the stone away that keeps them from Jesus?

They are shocked because the stone is rolled away! They are even more shocked because the grave is empty. Then an angel with even more astonishing news greets them: Jesus is risen! He is not here!

This is the news that we bear witness to in the world. This is the news that our Church sings over and over again, a song of triumph! A song of victory! A song that says God wins! God is the final judge! God is the one who raised Jesus from the dead.

But our song and our faith are not just about Jesus. Because what God has done for His Son Jesus, He does for each one of us. He frees us from sin, from death, from evil.

And when the women say who will roll back the stone for us? We say that also. Who will roll back the heavy burden of sin that keeps us from Jesus? Who will move the rock in our heart that keeps us locked in self-pity, self-hatred, self-defeating behaviors?

We know like the women that we can't remove the stone by ourselves. It is too heavy a burden. There is too much guilt, too much anxiety, and too much fear. The stone that we all carry is the stone of human failure, human weakness, and human sinfulness. We are afraid, will this stone ever be lifted from us. We don't know what we will find inside. And so we continue to carry our heavy burden - Jesus already removed the stone, the sins, the failures and the weaknesses of our human nature.

And he wants us to see is that He is risen. That He is our strength, our hope and our life. We don't and we can't take away all the human burden and guilt and pain by ourselves. God does it for us in Jesus Christ! Jesus did it for us on the Cross. Our sins were nailed with Him on the Cross. He is not contained in the tomb - but has risen and raises us with Him.

The women went back home changed. They told their story and no one could hold them back. Christ is risen! God is the Victor!

Let no one hold us back. Let us not be blocked by the stone that blocks our hearts to love, to acceptance, to freedom as God's Children.

Let us return to our homes, our workshops, our market places knowing that Jesus is not in the tomb, but in our hearts. May we speak boldly and with confidence: Christ is risen!

*By Fr. John Zeyak*

We remember today the Myrrh-bearing women, Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus, people who in the course of the Gospel are hardly mentioned, yet who, when Christ was seemingly defeated, when death, rejection, betrayal and hatred had conquered, proved to be people of faithfulness and courage, the faithfulness of the heart and the courage that can be born only of love. At the moment of the Crucifixion all the Apostles had fled save one, John, who stood at the foot of the Cross with the Mother of God. Everyone else had abandoned Christ, only a small group of women stood at a short distance from the Cross, and when He had died, they came to anoint His Body which Joseph of Arimathea had sought from Pilate, unafraid of being recognized as a disciple, because in life and in death love and faithfulness had conquered.

Let us reflect on this. It is easy to be Christ's disciples when we are on the crest of the wave, in the security of countries where no persecution, no rejection is endured, no betrayal can lead us to martyrdom, or simply to becoming the victims of mockery and rejection.

Let us think of ourselves not in regard to Christ alone but with regard to one another, because Christ has said that what we have done to any one of us, to the smallest, to the most insignificant, we have done to Him.

Let us ask ourselves how we behave when someone is rejected, mocked, ostracized, condemned by public opinion or by the opinion of those who mean something to us, whether at that moment our heart remains faithful, whether at that moment we find courage to say, He was, and he remains my friend whether you accept or reject him. There is no greater measure of faithfulness than that faithfulness which is made manifest in defeat. Let us consider this, because we all are defeated, we are defeated in so many ways. We all strive, with whatever energy we have - a little or much, to be what we should be, and we are defeated at every moment.

Should we not look at one another not only with compassion, but with the faithfulness of friends who are prepared to stand by a person who falls, falls away from grace, falls away from his own ideal, frustrates all hopes and expectations which we have set on him or her. At that time let us stand by, at that time let us be faithful and prove that our love was not conditioned by the hope of victory but was a wholehearted gift, gratuitous, joyful, wonderful.

*by Metropolitan Anthony of Sourozh*