

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 and Lisa Mosko are in the Parish office from 11:30 AM – 2:30 PM on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. Father Simeon is available on other days and times by appointment.

PRAYER OF PROTECTION FROM THE CORONAVIRUS

O God Almighty, Lord of heaven and earth, and of all creation visible and invisible, in Your ineffable goodness, look down upon Your people gathered in Your Name. Be our helper and defender in this day of affliction. You know our weakness. You hear our cry in repentance and contrition of heart.

O Lord Who loves mankind deliver us from the impending threat of the coronavirus. Send Your Angel to watch over us and protect us. Grant health and recovery to those suffering from this virus. Guide the hands of physicians, and preserve those who are healthy that we may continue to serve You in peace and glorify Your Most Honorable and Majestic Name, of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen.



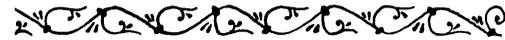
Divine Liturgy Attendance weekend of April 18:
5:00 PM: 0; 9:00 AM: 0; 11:00 AM: 0

Church closed due to virus.

Our return to the Lord for all He has given us: . . . \$3,459.00



- **All May events are cancelled until further notice.**
- **Weds. May 6** St. Vincent de Paul Meals Program 9:00 AM – 2:00 PM.



FREE ADULT EDUCATION

Live webinars, free of charge. Register at EasternCatholic.org/Events. **Wednesday evenings 8 – 9 PM on May 6, 13, and 20.** The presentation will be “Purification of the Heart – The First Stage of the Spiritual Life.” The presenter is Rev. Deacon Thomas Moses. The purification of the heart is the first of three stages, the essential starting point of the Christian life. How do we identify the presence of the passions in our own lives, and what are the means, the medicine, that the Church gives us to overcome them? An excellent opportunity for adult education in our Byzantine Church.

LAUGHTER IS THE BEST MEDICINE

A young couple invited their elderly pastor for Sunday dinner. While they were in the kitchen preparing the meal, the minister asked their son what they were having. “Goat,” the little boy replied. “Goat?” replied the startled man of the cloth, “Are you sure about that?” “Yep,” said the youngster. “I heard Dad say to Mom, ‘Today is just as good as any to have the old goat for dinner.’ ”



Dear Friends, This is a “goldmine” of a website for us at this very difficult time. We encourage you to tune in to the different services. Once you open the website, click on "Eastern Catholic North America" to see Liturgy opportunities from all over the U.S. and Canada.

http://liveliturgy.com/?fbclid=IwAR3Y0osLGL5cC6m6w_ng7yO9FwTd_O7VB JpJq6WnEAe3awruGyFfICmf_UQ

APRIL 26, 2020 SCHEDULE OF DIVINE SERVICES

Sunday	26 April	<i>SUNDAY OF THE MYRRH-BEARING WOMEN. The Holy Martyr Basil, Bishop of Amasea.</i>
(Sun. Vigil)	5:00 PM 9:00 AM 11:00 AM	No Divine Liturgy No Divine Liturgy No Divine Liturgy
Monday	27 April	<i>The Holy Bishop-Martyr Symeon, Cousin of our Lord. Our Venerable Father Stephen, Bishop of Vladimir in Volhynia.</i>
		No Divine Liturgy
Tuesday	28 April	<i>The Holy Apostles Jason and Sosipater. The Holy Martyrs Dadas, Maximus and Quintillianus. Our Holy Father Cyril, Bishop of Turoy.</i>
		No Divine Liturgy
Wednesday	29 April	<i>The Nine Holy Martyrs of Cyzice. Our Venerable Father Memnon the Wonderworker.</i>
		No Divine Liturgy
Thursday	30 April	<i>The Holy Apostle James, Brother of John the Theologian.</i>
		No Divine Liturgy
Friday	1 May	<i>The Holy Prophet Jeremiah. The Passing of Blessed Clement Sheptyckyj (1951).</i>
		No Divine Liturgy
Saturday	2 May	<i>Our Holy Father Athanasius the Great.</i>
(Vigil Liturgy)	5:00 PM	No Divine Liturgy
Sunday	3 May	<i>SUNDAY OF THE PARALYTIC MAN. The Holy Martyr Timothy and His Wife Maura. The Passing of our Venerable Father Theodosius of the Pecherskaya Lavra.</i>
	9:00 AM 11:00 AM	No Divine Liturgy No Divine Liturgy

No Divine Liturgies due to the Coronavirus.





Attentive to the Word

SUNDAY OF THE MYRRH-BEARERS

Mark 15:43 - 16:8

Follow Directions on Pages 177 - 180

On this third Sunday of Pascha, we celebrate the memory of the holy myrrh-bearing women, Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus.

And we remember them, most especially, at a critical moment in their lives for the focus of today's feast is found in the love and devotion they showed to Our Lord Jesus Christ at the time of His death and burial.

For the holy myrrh-bearing women, those devoted servants of Jesus, it was their last act of love after a long period of service. For Joseph and Nicodemus, it was their first public act of devotion to Jesus, for only after His crucifixion and death did Joseph and Nicodemus publicly acknowledge their commitment to Christ.

To all appearances, the Lord Jesus Christ was dead, His mission a dismal failure. What could Nicodemus' and Joseph's allegiance do at this point? It could do nothing except enable them to be born anew as Jesus had said, to come into the light of the truth, as men of integrity, to love and to follow the truth without regard for the consequences. To do this took courage.

The Gospel is even explicit here: "Joseph took courage and went to ask Pilate for the body of Jesus." For the first time, these disciples were willing to put aside all other considerations and to act for Christ boldly, with no regard for the consequences. And there were consequences. According to the tradition of the Church, both men were expelled from the temple and eventually died as martyrs for the faith.

And the myrrh-bearing women – who were these women? Seven women are actually named in the Gospels, but there were others as well who had come from Galilee, accompanying Jesus and the 12 apostles. St. Luke records that they were women "who had been healed of evil spirits and infirmities: Mary, called Magdalene, from whom seven demons had gone out, and Joanna, the wife of Chuza, Herod's steward, and Susanna, and many others who provided for them out of their means."

For these faithful women disciples, Calvary and the cross seemed to be the end of all hope. It seemed to be the end of their beloved master, who had been tortured, crucified and was now dead and buried. And yet, even in the face of this great loss and unbearable hopelessness, they remained faithful to Christ and continued to serve Him.

In these holy women, love for Jesus was blind to all fears, to danger, and to hopelessness. Their attention was focused solely on serving Jesus this one last time, even in the midst of their deep mourning. And so they went, with their fragrant spices and oils, to anoint Jesus' body.

As a great consolation and in recognition of their fidelity, the Lord appears to them first after His resurrection. And so, to the measure that they mourned, they also rejoiced. But, as with Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus, we remember that the myrrh-bearing women served Christ during their period of loss and mourning, before the joy of the Resurrection was revealed. And how significant that is for us, that Jesus first brings the joy of the Resurrection to those who continued to serve Him in the midst of sorrow and apparent hopelessness.

We – each and every one of us – have been called to serve the Lord as His faithful disciples. And we have been called to serve Him not only in those "good times," in the midst of joy and glory, but also on those more difficult days that we each face. On those days that are marked by the Cross, we are all called to carry in imitation of the Lord Himself.

And so, as we commemorate today the example and the fidelity of the myrrh-bearing women and Joseph and Nicodemus and their loving service to Christ, let us also remember that we, too, have been called to serve the Lord and those through whom He makes Himself known to us.

We are called to serve with the single-minded love and devotion of those who followed Him to the cross and to the tomb. And we who serve faithfully and willingly can be assured that we, like those we remember today, will come to know that the tomb is empty and that the risen Lord will come again on the day of His second and glorious coming.

By Metropolitan Herman



“You have heard, dearly beloved, that holy women who had followed the Lord came to the sepulcher with spices. They had loved Him when He was alive, and they showed Him their eager tenderheartedness even when He was dead. Their deed points to something that must be done in our holy Church. Thus as we hear of what they did, we must also think of our responsibility to imitate them. We too, who believe in Him Who died, approach His sepulcher with spices if we are strengthened with the sweet smell of the virtues, and if we seek the Lord with a reputation for good works. And the women who came with spices saw angels, since those who advance toward God through their holy desires, accompanied by the sweet smell of the virtues, behold the citizens from on high.”

St. Gregory the Great, Forty Gospel Homilies

Christ is Risen!

Indeed He is Risen!