

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.

RECEPTION OF HOLY COMMUNION

PLEASE ENTER THE CENTER AISLE ONE ROW AT A TIME FROM EITHER SIDE. USE SOCIAL DISTANCING BY FORMING A SINGLE LINE WHERE THE "X'S" ARE MARKED. SEPARATE AT THE ICON TABLE TO FORM TWO LINES.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT. . . .

All things in life are temporary. If things are going well, enjoy them. They will not last forever. If they are not going well, don't worry. They can't last long either.

MILK CHOCOLATE BYZANTINE CROSS SALE - 2020

We now have milk chocolate crosses for sale for anyone who wants them since church was closed for Easter. They are \$6 each.

THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO YOU

There is a wonderful old story
Written in a time long gone:
It is the Gospel according to
Matthew, Mark, Luke and John.

The Gospels were given to show us
The Power of God's love divine.
May that story be told again
In the writing of your life and mine.

People read and admire the Gospel
With its love so inspiring and true.
But what do they say and think of
The gospel according to you?

You are writing each day a gospel
Take care that the writing is true.
For the only gospel some will read
Is the gospel according to you.



Divine Liturgy Attendance weekend of August 8:

5:00 PM: 42; 9:00 AM: 44; 11:00 AM: 35

Transfiguration of our Lord: 30

Our return to the Lord for all He has given us: \$3,668.75



- **Sun., Aug. 16** Annual Parish Picnic at approximately 12:15 PM in the Social Hall for those who signed up.
- **Mon., Aug. 24** Church Cleaning Party 9:00 AM – Noon. We could use your help.
- **Weds., Sept. 2** St. Vincent de Paul Meals Program 9:00 AM – 2:00 PM.

LAUGHTER IS THE BEST MEDICINE

The bingo players hated when Father Jim called the numbers because he'd throw in things like "B-Holy! I-missed-you-in-church! N-joy-my sermons! G-sus loves you! O-come-o-come-Emmanuel!"

The late Reverend Billy Graham told of a time early in his ministry when he arrived in a small town to preach a sermon. Wanting to mail a letter, he asked a young boy where the post office was. When the boy told him, Dr. Graham thanked him and said, "Why don't you come to the Baptist Church on Third Street this evening? I'll be preaching about how to get to heaven."

The boy replied, "Thank you anyway, sir, but I don't think I'll be there. You don't even know your way to the post office."

A mother gives her son two quarters when she signs him in at the Children's Ministry room at church. One is for the collection plate, and one is for a donut after the service. He is playing with the two quarters during the lesson, and one drops out of his hand and rolls out of reach under the large stage. "Oh, rats," thinks the little boy. "There goes God's quarter."

One night the church gathered for a special prayer meeting. The evening was a complete blessing, the worship music was sweet, and everyone was glad to have come. The pastor asked one of the ushers to close the meeting with one last prayer. Dave's prayer was so rich, so tender and moving, that the congregation got revved up all over again, and the meeting went on for another two hours. On the way home the pastor said to his wife, "I have known Dave to be a godly man of prayer, a faithful man who studies the Word daily, and a man never to turn down an opportunity to serve the Lord, but today, I learned something new about him."

"What's that, dear?"

"I learned never to ask him to say the closing prayer again."

AUGUST 16, 2020 SCHEDULE OF DIVINE SERVICES

Sunday	16 Aug.	<i>ELEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST. Postfestive Day of the Dormition. Translation of the Icon of our Lord, the icon not made by human hands, from Edessa to Constantinople (944). The Holy Martyr Diomedes.</i>
(Sun. Vigil)	5:00 PM 9:00 AM 11:00 AM	+Wilma Taylor – Larry & Charlotte Adams +John Winland, Sr. – Elsie & Dick Fowler +Helen Sekula – Thomas R. Marco
Monday	17 Aug.	<i>Postfestive Day of the Dormition. The Holy Martyr Myron.</i> No Divine Liturgy
Tuesday	18 Aug.	<i>Postfestive Day of the Dormition. The Holy Martyrs Florus and Laurus.</i>
(SPP)	8:30 AM	+Mary Pipa – daughter, Virginia
Wednesday	19 Aug.	<i>Postfestive Day of the Dormition. The Holy Martyr Andrew the Tribune and His Companions.</i>
(SPP)	8:30 AM	+John Enasko – wife, Stephanie
Thursday	20 Aug.	<i>Postfestive Day of the Dormition. The Holy Prophet Samuel. The Holy King Stephen of Hungary.</i>
(SPP)	8:30 AM	+Beverly MacPherson – O. L. of Guadalupe Cenacle
Friday	21 Aug.	<i>Postfestive Day of the Dormition. The Holy Apostle Thaddeus. The Holy Martyr Bassa.</i> No Divine Liturgy
Saturday	22 Aug.	<i>Postfestive Day of the Dormition. The Holy Martyr Agathonicus and His Companions. The Passing of the Blessed Confessor Simeon Lukac, secret Bishop (1964).</i>
(Vigil Liturgy)	5:00 PM	+Harry & +Ann Bobco – Anna Calderas
Sunday	23 Aug.	<i>TWELFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST. Leave-taking (Otdanije) of the Feast of the Dormition. The Holy Martyr Lupus. The Holy Martyr Irenaeus, Bishop of Lyons.</i>
	9:00 AM 11:00 AM	Int. of John Welch, Seminarian – Jen, Steve & Betty +Dorothy Byers – husband, Wiley



Attentive to the Word

ELEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Tone 2 Matt. 18: 23 - 35

*Troparion from Pg. 130 and the rest
from Feast of the Dormition Pgs. 352 - 355*

WHO ME? FORGIVE WHO?

"Why forgive?" That is a good question, one that has been asked for centuries. It was asked by Peter in this morning's Gospel. If you have not asked the question, wait, you will someday. There is hardly a day goes by that we do not have the opportunity to forgive someone. Peter thought he was being really charitable when he asked Jesus if seven times would be enough. Jewish law only required Peter to forgive his offender three times. I am sure he was really surprised when he was told by Jesus that seven was not enough, but seven times 70. Jesus' point was that there should be no limit on the amount of times we forgive.

In response to Peter's question, Jesus told the parable of a man who was hopelessly in debt to the king. His debt was huge. It was apparently so large that there was never going to be a possibility that the debt could be paid. In those days there was no such thing as filing for bankruptcy. The king's judgment was that the man's wife and children would be sold into slavery and the man would be thrown into prison. Fortunately for the man, the king showed him mercy.

Out of this story, Jesus gives us the three reasons why we must learn to forgive other people.

I. THE REASON I MUST FORGIVE IS BECAUSE I HAVE BEEN FORGIVEN BY GOD.

Notice the king's response in verse 27, "*The servant's master took pity on him, and canceled the debt and let him go.*" Even though this was a large debt forgiven by the king, it does not compare with the forgiveness God has given us. Because of His love, God has chosen to forgive us our sins. He has wiped our slate clean and allowed us to start over, but God expects me to do the same for others that He has done for me.

He has forgiven me of my sins so I am to forgive other people.

Notice the reaction of the servant in verses 28-30, "*But when the servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii. He grabbed him and began to choke him. 'Pay back what you owe me!' he demanded. His fellow servant fell to his knees and begged him, 'Be patient with me, and I will pay you back.' But he refused. Instead, he went off and had the man thrown into prison until he could pay the debt.*" The original servant had just been forgiven a huge debt, but when he was

asked to forgive a debt that amounted to pocket change, he refused.

What is the point? In Ephesians 4:32, "*Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving to each other, just as in Christ, God forgave you.*" Here is the key to forgiveness: Recognize how much God forgives me every day.

II. THE REASON I MUST FORGIVE IS BECAUSE RESENTMENT MAKES ME MISERABLE.

Notice verse 31, "*When the other servants saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed and they went and told their master everything that had happened. Then the master called the servant in. 'You wicked servant,' he said, 'I canceled all that debt of yours because you begged me to. Shouldn't you have had mercy on your fellow servant just as I had on you?' In anger his master turned him over to the jailers to be tortured, until he should pay back all he owed.*"

When resentment infects you, it tortures you. It robs you of all of your joy. What bitter memory is robbing you of happiness? What hurt are you holding on to? You not only need to forgive because God has forgiven you, but also because if you don't, it makes you miserable. You see, when we fail to forgive, God does not have to lock us up in jail. We do it to ourselves. We become imprisoned by holding on to our hurts.

III. THE REASON I MUST FORGIVE IS BECAUSE I'LL NEED FORGIVENESS IN THE FUTURE.

Verse 35 says, "*This is how my heavenly Father will treat each of you unless you forgive your brothers from your heart.*" Forgiveness is a two-way street. I would suggest that you not burn the bridge you must walk over to get to heaven.

When we pray the Lord's Prayer, we pray, "Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us." Do you really want to pray that? We can only receive what we are willing to give to others.

Notice again in verse 35 it says, "*Forgive your brothers from your heart.*" We are not talking about lip service. We have all heard people say "Oh, I will forgive you, but I won't forget." That is not forgiveness. Christian forgiveness is a way of life. Why? There is no doubt you will be hurt in life. And there is no doubt you will hurt others. So we have to live in a constant state of forgiveness. We must accept God's forgiveness and offer God's forgiveness. You have two options for dealing with your hurts. You either rehearse them or release them. You can rehearse them over and over and try to think of ways to get even or you can forgive them and move on with life. You can experience God's forgiveness in your own life for your shortcomings and then you can offer that forgiveness to those who have wronged you. Which will it be?

by Dr. Randall Perry