

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.

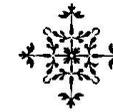
Funerals: Families of the deceased or the funeral director must contact Fr. Simeon before setting and publishing the day and time of the funeral.

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.

ETERNAL MEMORY



Grant, O Lord, eternal rest to the soul of Your servant +**Nicholas Terbovich** who has recently fallen asleep in the Lord. Please remember him and his family in your prayers.

FREE ADULT EDUCATION

Live webinars, free of charge. Register at EasternCatholic.org/Events. **Mondays, November 30 – December 14 @ 8 – 9 PM.** This has already started but you can still join in. The presentation will be “Seven Ages of the Kingdom – *A Study of Salvation History.*”

ST. NICHOLAS CELEBRATION THANKS!!

Many Thanks and God's Blessings on the wonderful women, who gave of their time and talent to prepare and package our delicious St. Nicholas dinner! They even included a holy card and a bag of “chocolate gold coins.” Mm...Mm...Good!

HOMEMADE CHRISTMAS COOKIE SALE

St. Benedict's Auxiliary will sponsor a cookie tray sale to benefit the Benedictine Sisters. The cookie tray sale will be on *Saturday, December 19th, from 10:00 AM until Noon.*

Auxiliary members and other parishioners who like to bake and would like to help are asked to bake at home and **bring their cookies to the Social Hall on Thursday, December 17th, from Noon to 3:00 PM.**

(Hint): The more cookies we have, the more trays we can assemble, and the delicious and beautifully arranged cookies will be ready for your Christmas celebration. We thank you in advance for your help!



Divine Liturgy Attendance weekend of December 5:

5:00 PM: 42; 9:00 AM: 38; 11:00 AM: 45

Maternity of the Holy Anna: 25

Our return to the Lord for all He has given us: \$3,615.32



➤ **Sun. Dec. 13** ECF Classes meet promptly at 10 AM. Try to come a few minutes early so that we can get the temperatures taken in the Social Hall. Parents are asked to remain until after temperatures are taken. Parents may wait for their children in the Social Hall, but they are asked to practice social distancing and to wear a mask.



CHURCH DECORATING ... for the Nativity of Our Lord

We will be decorating our Church for the Feast of the Nativity of Christ on Sunday, December 20th at 2:00 PM. Please come and join us in preparing your Church for Christmas.

MYSTERY OF DIVINE FORGIVENESS AND RECONCILIATION

We cannot appreciate the gift of “God with us” unless we are receptive. Let us make every effort to prepare ourselves for the coming of Christ by coming before Him and asking forgiveness of our sins . . .

Tuesday: December 22: 6:00 PM to 7:00 PM

SCHEDULE OF DIVINE SERVICES FOR THE FEAST OF THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD

December 24 – 6:00 PM, Compline with Divine Liturgy

December 25 – 9:00 AM, Divine Liturgy

December 25 – 11:00 AM, Divine Liturgy

DECEMBER 13, 2020

SCHEDULE OF DIVINE SERVICES

Sunday	13 Dec.	<i>SUNDAY OF THE FOREFATHERS. The Holy Martyrs Eustratius, Auxentius, Eugene, Mardarius and Orestes. The Holy Virgin Martyr Lucy.</i>
(Vigil Liturgy)	5:00 PM 9:00 AM 11:00 AM	+David Mosko – Hosso family Health of Greg Lazor – Ted Falatic family +Doris Mosko – son, Ron
Monday	14 Dec.	<i>The Holy Martyrs Thrysus, Leucas, Philemon, Appolonius and Callinicus. The Blessed Priest and Ascetic Father Nimatulla al-Hardini (Joseph Kassab).</i>
		No Divine Liturgy
Tuesday	15 Dec.	<i>The Holy Martyr Eleutherius. Our Venerable Father Paul of Latra. Our Holy Father Stephen, Archbishop of Surozh.</i>
(SPP)	8:30 AM	+Emory Holowatch – Anne Myers
Wednesday	16 Dec.	<i>The Holy Prophet Haggai.</i>
(SPP)	8:30 AM	Intention of Sr. Barbara Pavlik – Sr. Anna Maria
Thursday	17 Dec.	<i>The Holy Prophet Daniel and the Three Holy Children: Hananiah, Azariah and Mishael.</i>
(SPP)	8:30 AM	+Sr. Mary John Semon – Benedictine Sisters
Friday	18 Dec.	<i>The Holy Martyr Sebastian and His Companions.</i>
		No Divine Liturgy
Saturday	19 Dec.	<i>Saturday before Christmas. The Holy Martyr Boniface.</i>
(Vigil Liturgy)	5:00 PM	+Donald Terbovich – John & Dianna Koza
Sunday	20 Dec.	<i>SUNDAY BEFORE CHRISTMAS, OF THE ANCESTORS. Prefestive Day of Christmas. The Holy Martyr Ignatius the God-bearer.</i>
	9:00 AM 11:00 AM	Prayer Intention of Rosary Society Members +Jim & Kathy Adams – Jim & Mary Elko



Attentive to the Word

SUNDAY OF THE FOREFATHERS

Luke 14: 16 – 24

**Tone 3 Pgs. 135 – 136 and the rest from
Pgs. 281 – 283**



This familiar parable is read in the Church each year just two Sundays before the feast of our Lord's Nativity. In it we are reminded of the great care with which God prepared the way of His incarnation. All of the Law and the Prophets look forward to this moment, the moment when the God/man Jesus Christ comes into the world. He is, in fact, the fulfillment of the Law and the Prophets – the goal towards which they were all aiming. The whole world was prepared by them for this great event.

As the parable tells us the King – that is God – has prepared a great feast for us and has invited us to come and enter into the joy that He has prepared for us.

In the parable, however, there were some who refused this invitation, considering their own affairs to be more important or more desirable than the feast of the King. Although God had chosen them, they did not choose God. Is this not like our first parents Adam and Eve. God had created them so that they might live in His love and in complete harmony with Him. But they chose to follow their own will and not to enter into the joy that God had prepared for them. They too were chosen by God, but they did not choose God and so were cast out of paradise.

But our Creator, not willing to abandon His creation, prepared a way that we might return to Him. This preparation covered centuries and millennia of time; it was defined by the law and prophets; it was lived out time and time again in the history of God's chosen people, the children of Abraham until finally the Way was ready to be revealed in its fullness. The Way that God prepared for us to return to Him is in fact the Person of Jesus Christ, God Himself taking human flesh and becoming incarnate. Just as through Adam all men fell into sin and corruption and death, now through Jesus Christ all men were invited to rise out of that condemnation and live again according to the love and grace of God. The Way back to the Kingdom of God had been restored. We had again been chosen by God but some refused this second choosing, instead choosing to follow their own desires.

Even so, our God, in His great love for us, holds the door open to all mankind that we might enter into this great feast that He has prepared for us. He calls us into His Kingdom even though we are poor and beggars, bringing nothing of our own to Him other than ourselves. He goes into the highways and searches out even those who did not know Him so that they might come and share in His joy. The invitations have been sent out, the doors are thrown open and we are invited to the feast of God's provision for our salvation. No matter who we are, no matter from whence we come, the doors to the Kingdom of God are open to us. We are called to set aside our own desires, our own will, our own worldly pleasures, and instead enter into the Life of the Holy Trinity, conforming our will to the will of Christ, reaping the joys and pleasures of the Kingdom of God in exchange for those of the world. We are called to come to Him.

Today we begin in earnest to move toward the feast of the birth of the God/man Jesus Christ. Today we are called to see the great preparation that has gone into this event, to marvel at the love and care of God for us that He would labor so long and with such great care for us. Today we look back at the whole of the history of the people of God and see that it is the history of God's preparation all leading to the moment when He would take flesh, become incarnate and enter the world as a child. Today you have been given an invitation to come and join the feast, to abandon the world and enter the Kingdom of God, to receive the Life of Christ. Today you have been chosen by God – will you then choose Him?



Never judge an unfinished picture. None of us is finished. Samuel Johnson said, "God Himself does not propose to judge a person until his life is over. Why should you and I?" A young man wore a button on his lapel which said, "PBPGINFWMY." When asked what it meant, he said, "Please be patient – God is not finished with me yet." A good thing to remember when we are tempted to criticize! St. Paul wrote, "Therefore do not pronounce judgment before the time, before the Lord comes, who will bring to light the things now hidden in darkness and will disclose the purposes of his heart. Then everyone will receive his commendation from God" (1Cor: 4:5).

C.S. Lewis said once, "Everyone says forgiveness is a lovely idea until we have someone to forgive." In preparing for the Nativity of Our Lord, it would be good for us to try to rate ourselves from 1 to 10 as objectively as possible (with 1 being low and 10 high) on these two statements: I am a forgiving person. I am quick to forgive offenses against me.

Anthony M. Coniaris