

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.

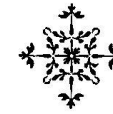
Funerals: Families of the deceased or the funeral director must contact Fr. Simeon before setting and publishing the day and time of the funeral.

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 +**Eugenia Vesa** who has recently fallen asleep in the Lord. Please remember her and her family in your prayers.

CONTRIBUTION ENVELOPES AND CALENDARS

The 2021 Church Calendars and Contribution Envelopes are ready for pick-up in the Social Hall. *If there is any name or address correction, if you are unable to locate your envelopes, or if you wish a set of envelopes, please call the office, or drop a note in the collection basket. **This year all envelope numbers were reassigned due to the number of deaths and relocation of former parishioners. Please discard your old envelopes at the end of 2020. If you want proper credit for your contributions, you must use the envelopes you were assigned for the year 2021.***

*Our Parish family would like to thank the **Peter Rossi & Son Memorial Chapel** for their generosity in providing our calendars this year. God bless them for their kindness and generosity!*

A PRAYER FOR THE NEW YEAR

O God of new beginnings and wonderful surprises
thank You for the gift of a new year.

May it be a time of grace for me,
a time to grow in faith and love,
a time to renew my commitment to following Your Son, Jesus.

May it be a year of blessing for me,
a time to cherish my family and friends,
a time to renew my efforts at work,
a time to embrace my faith more fully.

Walk with me, please, in every day and every hour of this new year,
That the light of Christ might shine through me,
In spite of my weaknesses and failings.

Above all, may I remember this year
That I am a pilgrim on the sacred path to You. Amen.



Divine Liturgy Attendance weekend of December 19:

5:00 PM: **36**; 9:00 AM: **40**; 11:00 AM: **37**

Our return to the Lord for all He has given us: \$3,829.00



- **Sun. Dec. 27** No ECF Classes today – Christmas Vacation! Classes resume on Jan. 3.
- **Fri. Jan. 1** Circumcision of our Lord – Solemn Holy Day.

NO FASTING FROM DECEMBER 25 THROUGH JANUARY 4.



THANK YOU

I would like to thank all who remembered me during this Holy Season of Christ’s birth with Christmas greetings and the generous gifts. Your thoughtfulness and generosity were greatly appreciated. May God continue to bless us throughout the New Year as we journey together as a family of faith.

Father Simeon

THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

Thanks to all who helped to make the St. Benedict’s Auxiliary Cookie Sale a huge success. This wonderful group of men and women who comprise the Auxiliary (as well as other friends) have this annual baking and other fundraisers to benefit the Benedictine Sisters. The Sisters are grateful to them and to all of you for your love, support and prayers. You are remembered daily in the prayers of the Sisters. Again, thank you and God Bless You!

Sister Barbara Paulik, OSB

MANY THANKS!

Thanks to all the faithful volunteers who gave of their time to decorate our Church for the Feast of the Nativity of our Lord. You did a beautiful job, and you will be blessed in abundance!

JUST A REMINDER

With Covid-19 still on the scene, please do not congregate or visit in the Social Hall before and after the Divine Liturgies. Thank you for your cooperation!

DECEMBER 27, 2020
SCHEDULE OF DIVINE SERVICES

Sunday	27 Dec.	<i>SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS. MEMORY OF THE HOLY JOSEPH, HUSBAND OF MARY; OF DAVID, PROPHET AND KING; AND OF THE HOLY APOSTLE JAMES, BROTHER OF THE LORD. THE HOLY APOSTLE, FIRST MARTYR AND ARCHDEACON STEPHEN.</i>
(Vigil Liturgy)	5:00 PM 9:00 AM 11:00 AM	+Albert & +Alice Koza – John & Dianna Koza Health of Ken Ferrance – Marjorie, Paul & Cheryl +Gail Byers – Wiley Byers
Monday	28 Dec.	<i>Post-festive Day of Christmas. The Holy 20,000 Martyrs of Nicomedia. Martyr Gregory Khomyshyn, Bishop of Stanislaviv.</i> No Divine Liturgy
Tuesday	29 Dec.	<i>Post-festive Day of Christmas. The Holy Innocents killed by Herod in Bethlehem. Our Venerable Father Marcellus, Hegumen of the Akimetes.</i>
(SPP)	8:30 AM	Liturgy of Thanksgiving – Virginia Pipa
Wednesday	30 Dec.	<i>Post-festive Day of Christmas. The Holy Martyr Anysia. The Venerable Zoticus, Priest and Protector of Orphans.</i> No Divine Liturgy
Thursday	31 Dec.	<i>Leave-taking of Christmas. Our Venerable Mother Melany of Rome.</i> No Divine Liturgy
Friday	1 Jan.	<i>CIRCUMCISION OF OUR LORD, GOD AND SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST. OUR HOLY FATHER BASIL THE GREAT, ARCHBISHOP OF CAESAREA IN CAPPADOCIA.</i> No Divine Liturgy
Saturday	2 Jan.	<i>Saturday before Theophany. Pre-festive Day of Theophany. Our Holy Father Sylvester, Pope of Rome.</i>
(Vigil Liturgy)	5:00 PM	+Charles Hite – Elizabeth Miller
Sunday	3 Jan.	<i>SUNDAY BEFORE THEOPHANY. Pre-festive Day of Theophany. The Holy Prophet Malachi. The Holy Martyr Gordius. Venerable Genevieve of Paris.</i>
	9:00 AM 11:00 AM	+Joan Kacenga – Mike & Sue Johnson +Helen Sekula – Helen M. Falatic



Attentive to the Word

SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

Matthew 2: 13 – 23

**Tone 5 Pg. 146 and follow directions
on Pgs. 302 - 305**

Tragedies should wait until January, because they don't fit our ideas about Christmas. That's why King Herod doesn't fit the Christmas story. The horrifying sequence of events in Matthew's Gospel doesn't feel like it belongs in the Christmas story. No Christmas card has this verse from Matthew on the front: "A voice was heard in Ramah, wailing and loud lamentation" (Matthew 2:18). This part of the story may not seem to fit, but we need to hear it. Every true story admits that even in the midst of blinking decorations and flickering candles, darkness threatens the light. Ignoring the darkness is ignoring reality. We leave King Herod out of the Christmas story because we think we're supposed to keep the hardships of the real world away from Christmas. Matthew says that Christmas came in the days of King Herod. He executed his favorite wife, his brother-in-law, and three of his sons because he thought they wanted his crown.

We usually imagine angels speaking in soft, reassuring tones. The angel in Joseph's dream shouted: "Wake up! Hurry! Run!" They escaped to Egypt. They were far from home, but the baby was safe. Tragically, not everyone was safe. Herod's order was the death of every boy in Bethlehem two years old and younger. Matthew can't find words terrifying enough to describe the horror, so he borrows words from the prophet Jeremiah: "wailing and loud lamentation, / Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be consoled, because they are no more" (v. 18).

The first Christmas was soldiers with swords in the streets; mothers clutching their babies, hiding in the closet, trying not to breathe too loudly, and begging their infants not to cry. There aren't many questions more impossible to answer than, "Why couldn't the angel have warned them too?" Even the birth of the new King didn't stop the suffering. It's not surprising that we want to skip this part of the story.

Regardless of the tragedies and sorrows we suffer, we need to remember the hope that comes with the Birth of our Savior. The part of this story that we're used to

leaving out – the sadness, suffering, and death – is most important. God comes to the worst places and the most painful circumstances to share our suffering, to care for us in the midst of tragedy. Christ has come to bear our sorrows. We have not been left alone. This holy season is the promise that God's joy is deeper than our sadness, that ultimately life is more powerful than death, and that the light shines even in the darkness.



FEAST OF THE CIRCUMCISION: "When the eighth day arrived for His circumcision, the name Jesus was given the Child, the name the angel had given Him before He was conceived." Our Lord submitted to the law even though He was the Creator of all mankind and of the entire universe. We would do well to follow His example by also submitting to the law – His law: "Love God with all your heart and soul, with all your strength and mind. Love your neighbor as yourself." What a world this would be if we all did that. Maybe we can't expect all the people of the world to submit to His law – but we can begin with ourselves – here and now!

FEAST OF ST. BASIL: We also remember St. Basil the Great on this day, who was the Archbishop of Caesarea. He reformed the Liturgy, defied the Emperor in defense of the Faith, and worked for unity of the Church. He also was responsible for organizing monastic life in his time. He was known as "St. Basil the Great." In him we can see the power of faith in Christ to change and transform our lives.

THE CHRISTMAS GREETING

It is certainly commendable to wish someone a "Merry Christmas." But how powerful a message is given by the traditional Byzantine Christmas greeting:

"Christ is Born!" and the response: ***"Glorify Him!"***

CHRIST IS BORN!

GLORIFY HIM!

CHRISTOS RAZDAJETSJA!

SLAVITE JEHO!