

## 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.

There are ample parishes that “live stream” and radio broadcast Byzantine Divine Services. You are encouraged to tune in to one of them. The times are listed below:

Cathedral of Saint John: Saturday 5 PM; Sunday 9 AM;  
Wednesday and Friday, Pre-Sanctified 7 PM  
[www.stjohnbyzantinecathedral.com](http://www.stjohnbyzantinecathedral.com)

Holy Ghost, McKees Rocks: Sunday 9 AM; Wednesday and Friday, Pre-Sanctified 7 PM  
[www.holyghost-byzantinecatholic.org](http://www.holyghost-byzantinecatholic.org)  
WEDO Radio 810 AM

Saint John Chrysostom : Sunday 10:30 AM  
[www.sjbcc.com](http://www.sjbcc.com)

Saint Gregory Upper St Clair: Sunday 9:30 AM; Wednesday Pre-Sanctified 6 PM  
[www.facebook.com/stgregoryusc](http://www.facebook.com/stgregoryusc)

Saint Michael Campbell, OH: Saturday 6 PM; Sunday 11 AM  
[www.facebook.com/st.michaelbyz.campbell](http://www.facebook.com/st.michaelbyz.campbell)

We commend all the faithful of the Archeparchy of Pittsburgh to the Protection of the Theotokos as we continue to pray for a speedy end to this outbreak.



**Divine Liturgy Attendance weekend of March 22:**

5:00 PM: 0; 9:00 AM: 0; 11:00 AM: 0

**Pre-sanctified Liturgy: Wed. 0 Fri. 0**

***Church closed due to virus.***

**Our return to the Lord for all He has given us: . . . . \$0.00**



- **ECF Classes cancelled.**
- **Wed. April 1 St. Vincent de Paul Meals Program 9 AM – 2 PM.**



**CHOCOLATE BYZANTINE CROSS SALE – 2020**

We have received a few orders for the chocolate crosses. These orders will be filled, hopefully by Palm Sunday. In addition, we will order more crosses to be sold when the churches are reopened for services.

**FREE ADULT EDUCATION**

Live webinars, free of charge. Register at [EasternCatholic.org/Events](http://EasternCatholic.org/Events). **Wednesday evenings 8 – 9 PM on April 1, May 6, 13, and 20.** See brochures (by bulletins) for dates and presenters. An excellent opportunity for adult education in our Byzantine Church.



**PRAYERS FIFTH SUNDAY OF GREAT LENT**

You have given us time of the Fast, so that we might be converted and live and not perish. O Word of God, grant that we may do your will at all times and serve You in fervent compunction, as did the wise and holy harlot long ago; in exchange for the myrrh and her tears, she received from You the forgiveness of sins.

O Lord, You grant us to come to this day in the expectation of that sacred week when we shall see Lazarus raised from the dead. Now grant that your servants may continue in fear and awe before You, as they journey through this period of the Fast.

MARCH 29, 2020

SCHEDULE OF DIVINE SERVICES

Sunday	29 March	<i>FIFTH SUNDAY OF THE GREAT FAST. MEMORY OF OUR HOLY MOTHER MARY OF EGYPT. Deacon Cyril and others who suffered martyrdom under Julian the Apostate.</i>
(Sun.Vigil)	<b>5:00 PM</b>	<b>No Divine Services</b>
.	<b>9:00 AM</b>	<b>No Divine Services</b>
.	<b>11:00 AM</b>	<b>No Divine Services</b>
Monday	30 March	<i>Our Venerable Father John Climacus, Author of "The Ladder."</i> <b>No Divine Services</b>
Tuesday	31 March	<i>Our Venerable Father Hypatius, Bishop of Gangra.</i> <b>No Divine Services</b>
Wednesday	1 April	<i>Our Holy Mother Mary of Egypt.</i> <b>No Divine Services</b>
Thursday	2 April	<i>Our Venerable Father Titus the Wonderworker.</i> <b>No Divine Services</b>
Friday	3 April	<i>Our Venerable Father and Confessor Nicetas, Hegumen of Medikion. The Death of our Holy Father Methodius, Teacher of the Slavs.</i> <b>No Divine Services</b>
Saturday	4 April	<i>LAZARUS SATURDAY.</i>
(Vigil Liturgy)	<b>5:00 PM</b>	<b>No Divine Services</b>
Sunday	5 April	<i>PALM (FLOWERY) SUNDAY.</i>
.	<b>9:00 AM</b>	<b>No Divine Services</b>
.	<b>11:00 AM</b>	<b>No Divine Services</b>



## Attentive to the Word

### FIFTH SUNDAY OF THE GREAT FAST

#### ST. MARY OF EGYPT

*Mark 10: 32 - 45*

*Tone 1 - Pg. 125 and Pgs. 230 - 232*

Liturgy of St. Basil during Great Lent:

(In place of Antiphons) Pages 16 & 17 Typical Psalms

Beatitudes Pgs. 23-24; (Instead of "It is truly proper,") Pg. 231 - Magnification

### FIFTH SUNDAY OF GREAT LENT

In the gospel story, we see that the apostles, James and John, asked a favor of Jesus. They said to Him: "Allow us to sit one at your right hand and the other at your left in your glory." Jesus rebuked them by saying: "*You* do not know what you are asking." The other apostles became indignant toward James and John. They were angry towards them because, in the ambitious request, they were not included. Jesus teaches that we must not be solely concerned with our personal desires, but to be of service to one another.

Just as Jesus was a servant to mankind, we should also be a servant to one another. Offer yourselves and be generous toward one another. The words of Jesus should be the motto of our lives "For the Son of Man himself did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many." Do we practice and live up to these words? Or do we imitate the actions of James and John who were concerned with their own personal glories.

### MARY OF EGYPT

On the fifth Sunday, the Church encourages and strengthens the faithful with the reminder that they have already passed the greater part of Lent. The end is at hand. Let us persevere until the end. Let us work now, "while it is day." Procrastination is the thief of time. Let us use our time well for the benefit of our soul. Let us occupy ourselves with love and with a humble attention to our own self and our tasks, conscious of God and our difficulties. Let us do this not feverishly but diligently. Fever and excitement harass, but diligence comforts us.

On this Sunday, the Church recalls the example of a great penitent, Mary of Egypt (c. 450 A.D.). An Egyptian by birth, Mary was a frivolous actress and lived in

Alexandria, leading a sinful life. After her conversion she went into the desert near the River Jordan where she spent the remainder of her life doing penance for her past sins. She reached a high degree of perfection and became a model for all penitent sinners. The Church singles her out as an example, showing that we too can become saints in spite of our past sins and human weaknesses. The troparion expressed this very thought.

### THE SATURDAY OF LAZARUS

When we open the texts of the Liturgical Office for the week preceding Flowery / Palm Sunday, our Church reflects on our Lord's daily preoccupation and concern for His dear friend Lazarus who He is told is seriously ill and eventually dies. On Monday of the sixth week of the Great Fast, the morning Office (Matins) declares, "Today the illness of Lazarus is made known to Christ Who is lingering beyond the Jordan; however, in His foreknowledge, He declares: This sickness does not lead to death." It takes Jesus then, the rest of the week to travel to Bethany where Lazarus was living with his two sisters, Martha and Mary.

On Tuesday at Vespers, we are told, "Today Lazarus gives up his spirit. Bethany laments and cries for the one whom You, O Savior, shall raise from the dead, to strengthen, by Your friend, the belief in Your divine resurrection...."

On Wednesday, at Matins, we are informed, "On this day the dead Lazarus is buried, and his relatives weep over him....the friend of Christ is placed in the earth...."

On Thursday, again at Matins, we pray, "Death begins to be frightened as it sees You draw near, O Christ; for You are Life, and the ends of the earth will know that Death has lost its power." Throughout this sixth week the liturgical texts keep contrasting Life and Death in the context of Jesus' friendship with Lazarus. It is a very powerful and compelling reflection on the relationship Jesus had with one human being - His friend, Lazarus. Being human, Christ himself was profoundly overcome with grief, knowing that Lazarus was dead. Jesus openly wept at Lazarus' tomb as we would and do when someone dear to us had died. In the person of Lazarus, we can see ourselves, because Christ as God has that same deep, abiding love for all His friends.

Of this holy Lenten season a few weeks remain just as a short time still remains until Jesus calls His friend Lazarus from the tomb. Friendship is not just one-sided; it is reciprocal. Jesus truly calls us friends not in the sense of a playmate or companion, rather in the uniqueness of the relationship we have with Him as our Redeemer and Savior Who laid down His very life for us. The unique challenge of friendship with Jesus echoes in His own words, "You are My friends if you do what I command you....that you love one another." (John 15: 14, 17)