

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 FOR HELP IN DIFFICULT TIMES

Lord, life's trials sometimes feel as though they are more than I can possibly bear. On those days when I feel completely over-burdened and overwhelmed, give me that added strength I need to get through the day with courage and honor. When I feel as though I am at wit's end, find a way to reassure me so I am able to endure for another day. When loved ones die and crushing trials come my way, show me how to carry on. Send someone to help lighten my heavy burden. When others take advantage of me, whisper some words of encouragement into my ear so I know You are at my side and that I do have the will and power to overcome the most impossible of trials. Lord, please assure me that I will never be given a burden heavier than I can carry. Amen.

CEMETERY RULES AND REGULATIONS:

- Absolutely no shrubbery or bushes of any kind.
- Any shrubbery or bushes will be removed by the cemetery committee.
- Planting of flowers within 12" of front of monument only.
- No fencing or border is to be placed in front of monument or grave.
- All monuments must be approved by the pastor and cemetery committee. Crosses are permitted only until a monument is placed.
- Toys, balloons, stuffed animals, etc. are not permitted.
- General Cemetery Cleanup: May of each year.
At this time, the previous year's décor and Christmas items are to be removed or they will be removed by the cemetery committee.

LAUGHTER IS THE BEST MEDICINE

This virus has done what no woman has been able to do...cancel all sports, shut down all bars, and keep men at home!!!



Divine Liturgy Attendance weekend of May 9:

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: . . . \$1,940.00

THANK YOU FOR SENDING IN OR DROPPING OFF YOUR DONATIONS!



➤ All May events are cancelled at this time.



MANY THANKS

Our heartfelt thanks goes out to all those who keep the lines of communication open among our Parishioners! Special thanks goes out to Tim Byers, who does a terrific job with his weekly emails. He does his homework with his application of the gospel messages to our daily lives. We enjoy his sense of humor, and he has also involved the parishioners to send photos, etc. to share with us.

We also thank Mary Beth Byers, who sends bulletins to our shut-ins and to several parishioners who have requested them, and who do not have access to email transmissions.

Last but not least, we also thank Loretta Greskovich, who purchases and sends cards monthly to our homebound and shut-in parishioners in the name of Saints Peter and Paul Parish. She has been doing this faithfully since 2004. This is very much appreciated by the recipients as well as our office staff.

God Bless You all!

FREE ADULT EDUCATION

Live webinar, free of charge. Register at EasternCatholic.org/Events. **Wednesday evening 8 – 9 PM on May 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.



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

MAY 17, 2020 SCHEDULE OF DIVINE SERVICES

Sunday	17 May	<i>SUNDAY OF THE MAN BORN BLIND. The Holy Apostle Andronicus and His Companions.</i>
(Sun. Vigil)	5:00 PM 9:00 AM 11:00 AM	No Divine Liturgy No Divine Liturgy No Divine Liturgy
Monday	18 May	<i>The Holy Martyr Theodotus of Ancyra. The Holy Martyrs Peter, Dionysius & their Companions. The Holy Seven Virgins.</i>
		No Divine Liturgy
Tuesday	19 May	<i>The Holy Martyr Patrick, Bishop of Prusa & His Companions.</i>
		No Divine Liturgy
Wednesday	20 May	<i>Leave-taking of Pascha. The Holy Martyr Thaleleus.</i>
		No Divine Liturgy
Thursday	21 May	<i>THE ASCENSION OF OUR LORD AND GOD AND SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST.</i>
		No Divine Liturgy
Friday	22 May	<i>Postfestive Day of the Ascension. The Holy Martyr Basiliscus. Commemoration of the Second Ecumenical Council of Constantinople, 381. The Holy Emperor Constantine and his mother Helen, Equals to the Apostles.</i>
		No Divine Liturgy
Saturday	23 May	<i>Postfestive Day of the Ascension. Our Venerable Father and Confessor Michael, Bishop of Synnada.</i>
(Vigil Liturgy)	5:00 PM	No Divine Liturgy
Sunday	24 May	<i>SUNDAY OF THE FATHERS AT THE FIRST NICEAN COUNCIL. Postfestive Day of the Ascension. Our Venerable Father Simeon of the Wondrous Mountain.</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 MAN BORN BLIND

John 9: 1 - 38

Follow Directions on Pages 189 - 190

SUNDAY OF THE MAN BORN BLIND

If a healing miracle were to happen to us or to some member of our family, we would certainly be excited about it and quite proud of the fact that God *has* touched our life and the life of our family. Yet, in the Gospel story of the man born blind, we hear of a mother and father who experienced such a miracle in their blind son, but they refused to acknowledge any such event except for the fact that their son was blind from birth. The man's parents were devout worshipers and their reluctance to defend their son was not because they were weak in faith, but because of their fear of the Jews and their neighbors. As the Gospel clearly points out, the Pharisees threatened to expel anyone from the synagogue who acknowledged Jesus as the Messiah.

Miracles may not always be as obvious such as suddenly being able to physically see or hear or talk, but more importantly they take place in our hearts and in the lives of those around us. A miracle takes place in our heart when we are suddenly able to see God active in our life. A miracle takes place when we are suddenly able to hear or to accept a particular instruction or teaching about God, which we were taught all of our life but were unable to understand. A miracle takes place when we take an opportunity to use our ability to speak and explain to someone a particular teaching about God, or encourage someone to follow God's Commandments.

At the beginning of the Gospel, Christ states that there is no sin involved that the man should be born blind. Rather, it was to let God's works show forth through His Son, Jesus, the Messiah. Sin is not found in physical blindness but rather in our refusal to allow ourselves to open up to God's ways, such as in the spiritual blindness of the Pharisees. As religious authorities, the Pharisees can no longer threaten us with expulsion, but their threats of loneliness may be felt, when the "peer-pressure" of our classmates, co-workers and neighbors pressure us into silencing our own Christian values, and following them in their own spiritual blindness.

Miracles take place in the lives of each of us regardless of our age. We do not necessarily have to be parents, such as the parents in the Gospel, to be afraid to acknowledge miracles in our lives. We may be senior citizens or teenagers and be afraid to acknowledge the miracles which happen to us every day.

ASCENSION THURSDAY

Ascension is a feast which should raise us up above the smallness of and the narrowness of earthly cares. Christ has made our Ascension possible, too. We will one day, please God, be lifted up away from all the troubles and the annoyances that seem so overpowering and so numerous now.

Imagine for a moment the thoughts of our divine Lord as He rose slowly from the Mount of Olives: He could see Bethlehem where no one had welcomed Him when He was born, Nazareth where He had lived a life of poverty and hardships for thirty years, Jerusalem where He had been reviled and tortured and crucified. Having triumphed, and won the day, how did these scenes of His sufferings appear to Him now?

Our day will come, too, when we can look down with joy on the battlefields of life where we were sore, tired and wounded, but persevered through God's grace, and won. How small will our effort seem then, compared with the greatness of the reward! How short-lived our battles, compared with the eternity of the heavenly peace we have won!

The Apostles returned from the Mount of Olives not with heavy hearts, but with souls full of confidence and trust. There was work to be done for the Master and for souls. That work would take them they knew not where, that apostolate would bring on them they cared not what. Their lives were now in their Master's hands. How well-placed their confidence was subsequent history proves; their names are inscribed forever in the Book of Life.

YOU AND I can also return from the Mount of Olives today with a greater confidence and a surer trust in our loving Savior. He has gone, as He Himself said, to prepare a place for us. He has asked us to carry on, for a short while more, with the task He has given us to do here. He will be back, sooner than we realize, and if He finds us struggling on, doing nothing world-shaking, but putting our heart and soul into the trivial daily tasks, we will hear not the voice of the stern Judge, but the welcome call of the beloved Shepherd: "Come ye blessed of my Father, take possession of the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world."

Father Kevin O'Sullivan F. M.