

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.

REMEMBERING THE HOMEBOUND

We pray to the Lord, the Giver of Life and all good gifts, for the health and blessings of those who are ill, homebound, in care facilities, and are unable to attend church. In our good fortune and many blessings from God, let us not forget those who are also part of our Parish family – remember them with prayers, cards, visits, phone calls, etc. Let us share our blessings!

PHILIP'S FAST OUTREACH 2020

As we all know, Philip's Fast begins our preparation for the celebration of the Nativity of Christ on the 25th of December. Every fast is a special time of prayer, fasting and almsgiving. In the past we have used the "Angel tree" to purchase the items requested by a child or a nursing home resident, etc. Our "Outreach" for this year, literally "fell into our laps."

St. Vincent de Paul Meals Program is in dire need of desserts that can easily be bagged or boxed. Before this pandemic and the loss of jobs, etc., they used to feed approximately 120 people 5 days per week. Presently, they are serving about 300 to 330 people 6 days per week. Since March, they have served only carry-out meals. The containers needed to provide these meals have really depleted their funds, so they had to "rob Peter to pay Paul" and the dessert budget got cut.

Since St. Vincent de Paul Meals Program is in dire need of desserts that can easily be bagged or boxed, this will be our Parish Outreach for 2020. There will be a sign-up sheet in the Social Hall to bake cookies, brownies, etc. (anything that does not have icing or is not messy, and that can be put into a baggy.) Your baked goods can be brought to the social hall and will be delivered to St. Vincent de Paul for their Meals Program.

There are 33 "food distribution" days between November 16th and December 23rd. That is going to require a lot of cookies...so much more than one family can sign up for the same day. Make it a fun family Christmas preparation project! Also, if you cannot bake, donations will be accepted. You have always come through for those in need. Jesus said, "Whatever you do to the least of my brothers, you do to Me." We are counting on you to do whatever you are able, to help feed our brothers and sisters in Christ! Call Elaine at 330-770-1100 if you have any questions! God bless us all!



Divine Liturgy Attendance weekend of November 21:

5:00 PM: 38; 9:00 AM: 36; 11:00 AM: 35

Our return to the Lord for all He has given us: \$3,474.51



- **Sun. Nov. 29** No ECF Classes today – Thanksgiving Vacation!
Classes resume on Dec. 6.
- **Wed. Dec. 2** St. Vincent de Paul Meals Program 9 AM – 2 PM.
- **Sat. & Sun. Dec. 5 & 6** St. Nicholas Parish Celebration.

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!

PRAYER FOR LIFE

Lord, help us to value all human life, from the elderly
and those with disabilities to the unborn,
the unwanted and the outcast.
We are all Your children, with Your indelible image
imprinted upon our souls.
May we grow in respect for the miracle of life and
be open to creating the sacred bonds of family.
Forgive us for every offense that we have committed
against the dignity of the human person.
Guide us in our efforts to defend the sanctity of human life,
so that we might not sit in judgment upon others
but rather invite all people to partake more fully
in the beautiful way You intend for us to treat one another.
We ask this with confidence in Your divine providence,
knowing that every sorrow, every pain,
every wrong, can work towards
Your purpose of bringing us
all into a deeper appreciation
for the gifts of life and love. Amen.

NOVEMBER 29, 2020

SCHEDULE OF DIVINE SERVICES

Sunday	29 Nov.	<i>TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST. The Holy Martyr Paramon. The Holy Martyr Philemon. Our Venerable Father Acacius..</i>
(Vigil Liturgy)	5:00 PM 9:00 AM 11:00 AM	+Craig McKnight – John & Dianna Koza +Susan Welch – Jen & John Welch Health of Greg Lazor – Ted Falatic family
Monday	30 Nov.	<i>The Holy and Glorious Apostle Andrew the First-called.</i> No Divine Liturgy
Tuesday (SPP)	1 Dec. 8:30 AM	<i>The Holy Prophet Nahum.</i> +Mary & +Michael Pipa – daughter, Virginia
Wednesday	2 Dec.	<i>The Holy Prophet Habakkuk. The Passing of the Blessed Confessor Ivan Slezyuk, Bishop of Ivano-Frankivsk (1973).</i> No Divine Liturgy
Thursday (SPP)	3 Dec. 8:30 AM	<i>The Holy Prophet Zephaniah.</i> Intention of Sr. Barbara Pavlik – Benedictine Sisters
Friday	4 Dec.	<i>The Holy Great Martyr Barbara. Our Venerable Father John of Damascus.</i> No Divine Liturgy
Saturday (Vigil Liturgy)	5 Dec. 5:00 PM	<i>Our Venerable and God-bearing Father Sabbas the Sanctified.</i> +Marialice Verney – Paul & Nancy Danko
Sunday	6 Dec.	<i>TWENTY-SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST. OUR HOLY FATHER NICHOLAS, ARCHBISHOP OF MYRA IN LYCIA, THE WONDERWORKER.</i>
	9:00 AM 11:00 AM	Health & Blessings for Marjorie Simon – Paul & Cheryl +Steve Zumerling – Mr. & Mrs. Steve Wareham



Attentive to the Word
26TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
Luke 13: 10 – 17
Tone 1 Pages 125 - 127

For eighteen years this woman came to church bent over. Crippled. She had been faithful, loved the Lord, a “daughter of Abraham.” I guess you could say she was “saved.” Eighteen years is a long time. Everybody had accepted her condition. I suppose in a way, she had learned to live with it. I’m sure she wished every day that she could stand straight, but had realized that nothing could be done. But this was no ordinary crippling. She had been crippled “by a spirit.” It doesn’t say it was an “evil spirit,” it was just a “spirit.”

Most of us would assume that eighteen years previous she was just walking along one day and this “spirit” just came upon her and jumped on her to afflict her. She was just an innocent woman, minding her own business when this “spirit” comes along and bends her over. But that’s not the way it happens. Spirits just don’t attack us unawares. But spirits cannot go where they are not invited.

Somewhere along the line, we are confronted with decisions about an attitude, or a principle of faith that we just cannot accept. God usually is trying to teach us something about living our lives for Him and draw us closer to Him. But what happens is we have a pre-set line of thought about this particular subject, and we just can’t give it up. Maybe it is something we have been taught all our lives, and we have taken it for the gospel truth, but the problem is that it doesn’t square with scripture, and we just can’t adjust to the new light that God is showing us. Or maybe it is a preconceived set of notions about life, or the church, or view of ourselves that we cherish, but has no basis in the truth. God is trying to take us to a new plane of living, but we refuse to go. So we stay where we are, trying to stop change and live on a plane of unreality that leaves us open to “spirits.” And these “spirits” can cripple us. They limit our effectiveness. This daughter of Abraham continued to love the Lord, but by allowing this spirit to coexist with her, she limited her ability to function in life, and limited her effectiveness in the Kingdom. Here are some of the spirits that can cripple us.

A LEGALISTIC SPIRIT

Jesus said: “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.” This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: “Love your neighbor as yourself.” All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.” (Matt. 22:37-40). But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. (Gal. 5:22-23).

The basis of our Christian experience is love. Out of love comes the commandments. But the tendency is, as time passes, to grow cold in our relationship with God. Love fades, but the commandments remain. Every action of ourselves and others is not interpreted in the light of love, but in the light of the law. And that is exactly what Jesus preached against. This spirit of legalism is a crippling spirit, for it saps us of the love, tenderness, patience and gentleness that we need, not only to get along with others but to minister to them.

AN UNFORGIVING SPIRIT

How many times have we heard the phrase, “That person just makes me sick!” Our unwillingness to forgive someone who has hurt us can actually make us sick! I have had people tell me, “When I get around so and so, I get a headache!” That’s a spirit that can really cripple us! Studies have shown that people who carry grudges (admitted or not) have significantly reduced life spans and greater incidences of disease. The Scripture tells us that this woman was physically bent over.

Human relationships are very hard to maintain. Our method of communication is faulty at best. No spoken language can completely express our thoughts and feelings. It’s like two ships sailing together in a storm. Sometimes we bump up against each other. It is natural that we are going to get hurt along the way. When we refuse to forgive, the person that is hurt the most is us. By forgiving those who have hurt us, we get rid of the spirit that can cripple us.

THE CARNAL SPIRIT

The most damaging spirit in this world is the one we are born with - the carnal spirit. This is the spirit that puts “self” on the throne of our hearts. We are then in a constant struggle with God over the control of our lives. We understand what St. Paul meant in Romans 7:15-18 when he said, “What I want to do I do not do, but what I hate, I do.”

Unless we ask God to sanctify us and to remove this law of sin from our being, we will remain truly crippled. We cannot maintain our Christian experience for long without the cleansing power of the Holy Spirit in our lives. The spirits that cripple us are just like a disease. We need to be healed. Jesus called this woman forward and said, “Woman, you are set free from your infirmity.” For eighteen years she has been bent over, not being able to see the sky, or look someone in the eye. Every Sabbath she had come, looking for hope. Our Church gives us hope, and asks for God’s presence and His Holy Spirit to invade our lives, to cleanse us, and to lift us up to a new plane of living. When we respond, it’s amazing how our crippling spirits seem to disappear!

