

## 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.

## RECEPTION OF HOLY COMMUNION

**PLEASE ENTER THE CENTER AISLE ONE ROW AT A TIME FROM EITHER SIDE. USE SOCIAL DISTANCING BY FORMING A SINGLE LINE WHERE THE "X'S" ARE MARKED. SEPARATE AT THE ICON TABLE TO FORM TWO LINES.**



- **Tues., Sept. 14** Exaltation of the Holy Cross. It is a Solemn Holy Day.
- **Mon., Sept. 28** Church Cleaning Party 9:00 AM – Noon. We could use your help.



## MILK CHOCOLATE BYZANTINE CROSS SALE – 2020

Since our church was closed for all of the Easter season, I have about 40 extra milk chocolate Byzantine Crosses for sale @ \$6.00 each. If anyone is interested, please call Sister Barbara @ 330-240-2534.

## LAUGHTER IS THE BEST MEDICINE

The three car crash was more than a fender bender, but thankfully no one was hurt. Maybe it was due to the sign on the church across the street: “God specializes in surprise endings.”

In order to defray the cost of churchyard maintenance, it would be appreciated if those who are willing would clip the grass around their own graves.



## Divine Liturgy Attendance weekend of September 5:

5:00 PM: **36**; 9:00 AM: **44**; 11:00 AM: **37**

**Birth of the Theotokos: 25**

**Our return to the Lord for all He has given us: . . . . . \$2,924.52**

## A NOTE FROM THE BENEDICTINE SISTERS

*Glory to Jesus Christ! Glory Forever!*

The year 2020 has been a year none of us will ever forget! It has brought about many changes in our lives. This pandemic, and mostly the “ageing process,” have also affected the lives of the sisters.

Queen of Heaven Monastery has four members remaining. With the health issues of the sisters and the necessity for assistance, it was time to actively plan for our future.

In August, after discernment and much prayer, and with the blessing of our prioress in Lisle, Illinois, I contacted the Humility of Mary Sisters to inquire about our living with them in their assisted living area at their motherhouse in Villa Maria, PA. Without a moment’s hesitation, their answer was an absolute “yes.” All of our requests were honored and even more was offered to us at the Villa. That was really a blessing from God and His hand is guiding the process.

Sisters Agnes and Mary Martha are in need of the most assistance at this time. They will be moving to the Villa on September 22<sup>nd</sup>. All change has its difficult moments. Their greatest difficulty is to leave their church and the people at SS. Peter and Paul Church, where they have served in a labor of love for over 50 years. They ask that you remember them in your prayers. They would also appreciate hearing from you when you are able. Their new addresses and phone numbers are:

Sister Agnes Knapik, OSB  
P.O. Box 505  
318 Villa Drive  
Villa Maria, PA 16155

Sister Mary Martha Kacmarek, OSB  
P.O. Box 515  
318 Villa Drive  
Villa Maria, PA 16155

Direct Line: 1-724-964-1397  
Cell: 330-240-2532

Direct Line: 1-724-964-8368  
Cell: 330-240-2533

Sister Marion and I will remain at the Monastery at Infant of Prague Manor, continuing in our ministries at the present time.

You are remembered in our prayers daily. Please remember us in your prayers also, especially during this transition. God’s blessings and stay well!

*Sister Barbara Paulik, OSB*  
Administrator

## SEPTEMBER 13, 2020 SCHEDULE OF DIVINE SERVICES

Sunday	13 Sept.	<i>SUNDAY BEFORE THE EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS. The Holy Bishop-Martyr Cornelius.</i>
<b>(Sun. Vigil)</b>	<b>5:00 PM</b> <b>9:00 AM</b> <b>11:00 AM</b>	<b>+Nicholas Karvovsis – John &amp; Dianna Koza</b> <b>+Harry Reynolds – Trudy Vasco</b> <b>+Joan Bernard – Richard &amp; Mary Anne Kilbert</b>
Monday	14 Sept.	<i>FEAST OF THE EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS. The Passing of our Holy Father John Chrysostom, Archbishop of Constantinople. (Pages 253 – 258)</i>
	<b>6:00 PM</b>	<b>+Helen Sekula – Betty &amp; Steve Zombar</b>
Tuesday	15 Sept.	<i>Postfestive Day of the Exaltation of the Cross. The Holy Great Martyr Nicetas. Our Venerable Father Symeon, Archbishop of Thessalonica.</i>
		<b>No Divine Liturgy</b>
Wednesday	16 Sept.	<i>Postfestive Day of the Exaltation of the Cross. The Holy Great Martyr Euphemia.</i>
<b>(SPP)</b>	<b>8:30 AM</b>	<b>+Deceased in the Knapik &amp; Douglas families – Sr. Agnes</b>
Thursday	17 Sept.	<i>Postfestive Day of the Exaltation of the Cross. The Holy Martyr Sophia (Wisdom) and Her Three Children, Faith, Hope and Charity.</i>
<b>(SPP)</b>	<b>8:30 AM</b>	<b>+Sandra Slyk – Dom Marchese Family</b>
Friday	18 Sept.	<i>Postfestive Day of the Exaltation of the Cross. Our Venerable Father Eumenius the Wonder-worker, Bishop of Gortyna.</i>
		<b>No Divine Liturgy</b>
Saturday	19 Sept.	<i>Saturday after the Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross. The Holy Martyrs Trophimus, Sabbatius and Dorymedont.</i>
<b>(Vigil Liturgy)</b>	<b>5:00 PM</b>	<b>+Judy Dinko – Wiley Byers Family</b>
Sunday	20 Sept.	<i>SUNDAY AFTER THE EXALTATION OF THE CROSS. The Holy Martyr Eustace and His Companions.</i>
	<b>9:00 AM</b> <b>11:00 AM</b>	<b>+Dorothy M. Gladd – husband, George E. Gladd</b> <b>+Marialice Verney – John &amp; Kathy Shinosky</b>

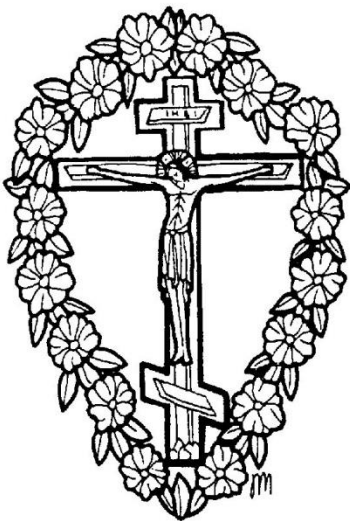


## Attentive to the Word

### SUNDAY BEFORE THE EXALTATION OF THE CROSS

**Tone 6 John 3: 13 – 17**

**Pages 249 - 251**



On the Sunday which precedes the great and important feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross (September 14), our Church prescribes a portion of Saint Paul's letter to the Galatians (6:11-18) and a few short verses from Saint John's Gospel (3: 13-17) for our reflection and spiritual consideration.

Saint Paul tells his readers that the cross of Christ is what gives his life focus and perspective. At the time Saint Paul wrote to the Galatians there were individuals in the community forcing pagan converts to follow the old Jewish practices which they then bragged about having the converts observe. Saint Paul corrects these individuals and tells them that what really matters is having been made new all over again in Christ through His cross. The Cross opened again

the gates of Paradise closed by Adam's sin when he ate the forbidden fruit. The tree of the cross stands forever as the sign of God's great love for fallen mankind.

The text taken from Saint John's Gospel emphasizes that great love. Saint John writes, "God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him may not perish but may have everlasting life." This short verse (3:16) is often quoted. Sometimes you may see it on T-shirts, in sports arenas and other public places. It is a stirring reminder that our Creator did not abandon us to perdition but kept His promise to send a Redeemer Who came in the Person of His own Son, Jesus – our Lord.

Verse 16, however, must be linked with the dramatic and challenging words of our Lord recorded further on in Saint John's Gospel (15:13):

"There is no greater love than this - to lay down one's life for one's friends." Here Jesus talks about what He would do for us when He was nailed to His cross – there to give His life that we might have life.

The feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross marks the occasion of its discovery by Saint Helen, mother of Emperor Constantine in the early fourth century. In our churches, a cross, after solemn ceremony, is prominently displayed on the tetrapod, decorated with arrangements of beautiful flowers, to remind us, as Saint Paul did the Galatians, of the proper focus we must keep as we walk behind our Lord bearing the burdens, the hurts, the disappointments, the suffering and sadness which can be and is sometimes part of our human condition.

Our Church also reminds us that behind the darkness of the Cross shines a bright promise and hope of the new life gained by it because Jesus gave His life for us: "Come, O people, let us contemplate the marvelous wonder; let us bow before the power of the Cross. For the tree of Paradise gave rise to the reign of death, and now a Tree has made our life blossom forth when the sinless Savior was nailed upon it. And now, all the nations that are nourished by this incorruptible food sing praises: You destroyed death by Your cross and set us free. O Lord, glory to You." (Veneration hymn at Matins)

The cross is venerated for eight days during which the troparion, "We bow to Your Cross, O Lord, and we glorify Your holy resurrection" is sung at all Services. Cross and Resurrection are never separated. Although the cross meant death, by His death Jesus brought and bought us unending life. May we live our lives to merit and gain life eternal.

*(By Msgr. John T. Sekellick)*

### **VENERATION OF THE HOLY CROSS**

The Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross is celebrated on September 14. Veneration of the Holy Cross became public with the discovery of the true Cross of Christ about the year 326. It was discovered during excavation operations under Archbishop Macarius of Jerusalem (314-335). Tradition credits St. Helena with the discovery of the true cross of Christ. St. Helena sent a large portion of the Holy Wood to her son, Emperor Constantine the Great, in Constantinople. Another portion was sent to Rome which was later deposited in the Basilica of the Holy Cross of Jerusalem.

The first public veneration of the Holy Cross took place in Jerusalem on September 14, 335. The annual observance of the veneration of the Holy Cross attracted a great multitude of pilgrims. To enable the many pilgrims to view and venerate the Holy Cross, the Bishop elevated the relics of the Cross. This was the beginning of the feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross. "We bow to Your cross, O Lord, and we glorify Your holy resurrection."