

## 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:** Lisa Mosko is 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.

## MANY THANKS!

A Very Big “Thank You” to the Parish Guild and volunteers who helped with the nutroll and paska baking! We also thank the parishioners who brought pussywillows and those who put the palms and pussywillows together!



## INSPIRATIONAL WISDOM

**Life can only be understood by  
looking backward, but it must be  
lived by looking forward.**

**And Jesus said unto him, “No man, having put his hand to the  
plough, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God.”  
Luke 9:62**

## FREE ADULT EDUCATION

Live webinars, free of charge. An excellent opportunity for adult education in our Byzantine Church. Register at [EasternCatholic.org/Events](http://EasternCatholic.org/Events).

**Wednesdays, April 14 – June 16 @ 8 – 9:30 PM.**

This 10-part series, “**I BELIEVE**” will allow us to dive deeply into the mysteries of our faith, so that we can rejoice in it always! Let the Creed be like a mirror for you. Look at yourself in it to see whether you really believe all that you claim to believe. Rejoice every day in your faith.

Presenter - Rev. David Anderson.



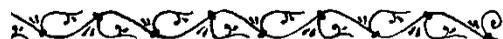
**Divine Liturgy Attendance weekend of April 17:**

5:00 PM: 50; 9:00 AM: 43; 11:00 AM: 39

**Our return to the Lord for all He has given us: . . . . . \$6,977.00**

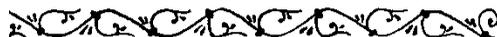


- **Mon., April 26** Church Cleaning Party 9:00 AM – Noon.
- **Sat., May 1** First Reconciliation and First Solemn Communion 11:00 AM.
- **Wed., May 5** St. Vincent de Paul Meals Program – 9:00 AM – 2:00 PM.



**SPECIAL NOTICE:**

**The 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration for Father Simeon on April 25, 2021 is cancelled at this time. Please keep Father in your thoughts and prayers.**



**ATTENTION:**

Anthony Sanders, a young man from Saints Peter and Paul Church, will be making his First Reconciliation and First Solemn Communion on Saturday, May 1st. Father Kevin Marks will celebrate a special Divine Liturgy at 11:00 AM for the family, ECF students, catechists and any other parishioners who would like to attend. There will also be a pizza party in the social hall after the Divine Liturgy for Anthony and those attending.

Please note: This Saturday, May 1<sup>st</sup>, 11:00 AM Divine Liturgy **does not** fulfill your Sunday obligation to attend the Divine Liturgy.

Thank you for your anticipated support of our very few young children!

Sister Barbara, OSB

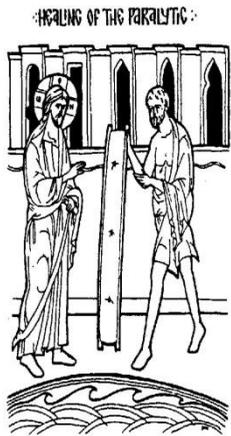
APRIL 25, 2021  
SCHEDULE OF DIVINE SERVICES

Sunday	25 April	<i>SUNDAY OF THE PARALYTIC MAN. The Holy Apostle and Evangelist Mark.</i>
<b>(Sun. Vigil)</b>	<b>5:00 PM</b>	<b>Intention of Sr. M. Martha Kacmarek – Benedictine Srs.</b>
	<b>9:00 AM</b>	<b>+Andrew Greskovich – wife, Loretta</b>
	<b>11:00 AM</b>	<b>+Michael J. Mosko (90<sup>th</sup> Birthday) – son, Ron</b>
Monday	26 April	<i>The Holy Martyr Basil, Bishop of Amasea.</i> <b>No Divine Liturgy</b>
Tuesday	27 April	<i>The Holy Bishop-Martyr Symeon, Cousin of our Lord. Our Venerable Father Stephen, Bishop of Vladimir in Volhynia.</i> <b>No Divine Liturgy</b>
Wednesday	28 April	<i>MID-PENTECOST. The Holy Apostles Jason and Sosipater. The Holy Martyrs Dadas, Maximus and Quintillianus. Our Holy Father Cyril, Bishop of Turov.</i> <b>No Divine Liturgy</b>
Thursday	29 April	<i>Post-festive Day of Mid-Pentecost. The Nine Holy Martyrs Of Cyzice. Our Venerable Father Memnon the Wonderworker.</i> <b>No Divine Liturgy</b>
Friday	30 April	<i>Post-festive Day of Mid-Pentecost. The Holy Apostle James, Brother of John the Theologian.</i> <b>No Divine Liturgy</b>
Saturday	1 May	<i>Post-festive Day of Mid-Pentecost. The Holy Prophet Jeremiah. The Passing of Blessed Clement Sheptyckyj (1951).</i>
<b>(Vigil Liturgy)</b>	<b>11:00 AM</b>	<b>Intention of Anthony Sanders – First Solemn Communion</b>
	<b>5:00 PM</b>	<b>+Chelsea Morganstern – Dianna Koza</b>
Sunday	2 May	<i>SUNDAY OF THE SAMARITAN WOMAN. POST-FESTIVE DAY OF MID-PENTECOST. OUR HOLY FATHER ATHANASIUS THE GREAT.</i> <b>9:00 AM Intention of Rosary Society Members</b> <b>11:00 AM Health &amp; Welfare of Mrs. Bonita Orfin – Wiley Byers</b>



## Attentive to the Word SUNDAY OF THE PARALYTIC MAN

*John 5: 1 – 15*  
*Pages 181 – 183*



### THE PARALYTIC MAN

The man who had been ill for 38 years went to the Bethesda pool in hope of being healed. But after 38 years of infirmity, of prayer, of medical treatments, of waiting for a miracle, his hope had gradually turned to hopelessness. He still went to the pool (what else was there to do?) but he no longer expected to be among those healed.

When Jesus asked him, 'Do you want to be well?' the obvious answer should have been "Of course I do! Why else would I come here?" But that was not his answer. Instead of saying yes to Jesus' question, he gave an explanation for why he was not healed – a justification for his sorry condition (verse 7).

We can empathize with him. Thirty-eight years of disappointment and suffering would wear almost anyone down. But does his example also have a message for us? Have we become worn down by our chronic problems and sins, so that we despair of things ever getting better? If so, Jesus' healing of this man has a message for us. Jesus took the initiative to enter his life (verse 6) and heal him despite his despairing response (verses 7-8). Jesus even healed him although he had no idea of who Jesus was, much less faith in him (verses 12-13), and even though Jesus would bring grief on his own head by this healing (verse 16). Jesus is likewise concerned to rescue us from our infirmities and despair, no matter how long they have lasted and how weak our faith may be.

*For reflection:* Do my thoughts dwell more on hopes that I will be healed from my sins and infirmities, or on reasons why my situation is hopeless?

### MID-PENTECOST

On most feasts of our Church year we display an icon which depicts the event commemorated and explains its theological meaning. This is not the case on the Feast of Mid-Pentecost which is observed this week. This feast is observed on the 25th day of our 50 day Paschal season: the actual mid-point of this observance. It serves to turn our minds towards the climax of these fifty days, the outpouring of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. As the highpoint of the Lord's presence in our midst was His death and resurrection, its climax was the event which brought us to share in His resurrection life: the coming of the Spirit upon mankind in the Church.

The icon of this feast depicts the Gospel scene of the adult Christ teaching in the temple during the Jewish festival. Often, however, the icon venerated on Mid-Pentecost depicts the twelve year old Jesus "in the midst of the teachers, both listening to them and asking them questions" (Lk 2:46), indicating that at all times and in every way Christ is the Source of wisdom, the Illuminator of our souls.

We have no documented witness to the origins of this feast, but it was widely known by the fifth century. Today this feast is only observed in Byzantine Churches, but this was not always so. Peter Chrysologus was a Western bishop who said that the feast was observed in the Ambrosian rite and other Western usages.

St. Theophan the Recluse wrote about this Feast:

"On Mid-Pentecost we hear the call of the Lord: 'Whosoever is thirsty, let him come to Me and drink' (John 7:37). If this is so, then let us all run to Him. Whatever you thirst for – so long as it is not contrary to the spirit of the Lord – you will find relief in Him. If you thirst for knowledge, run to the Lord, for He is the one and only Light, enlightening every man. If you thirst for cleansing from sin and quenching of the flames of your conscience, run to the Lord, for He tore asunder the handwriting of our sins upon the Cross. If you thirst for peace in your heart, run to the Lord, for He is the treasury of all good, whose abundance will teach you to forget all deprivations and despise all earthly good, so as to be filled with Him alone. If you need strength, He is almighty. If you need glory, His glory surpasses the world. If you desire freedom, He gives true freedom. He will resolve all of our doubts, loose the bonds of our passions, dispel all our troubles and difficulties, will enable us to overcome all obstacles, temptations and intrigues of the enemy, and will make smooth the path of our spiritual life. Let us all run to the Lord!"

*Christ is Risen!*

*Indeed He is Risen!*