

## 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 scripture 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.

## 100<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY HOMEMADE COOKIE SALE

Coming up on Saturday & Sunday, December 18 & 19, after all Liturgies.

Parishioners are all welcome to bake 3 – 5 dozen of their favorite holiday cookies.

**Drop off dates:** **Friday, December 17<sup>th</sup> from Noon – 2 PM and 5 PM – 7 PM;**  
**Saturday, December 18<sup>th</sup> from 9 AM – 10 AM.**

**Traying cookies:** **10 AM on Saturday.**

Proceeds will benefit our 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration.

If you have any questions, please call Marge Basista at 330-544-0107.

## CHRISTMAS ALMSGIVING

In addition to the white envelopes at the church entrances for monetary donations to **AKRON CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL IN HOWLAND**, a table will be set up in the Social Hall for material contributions. A list of needed items will be posted in the Social Hall, which includes a variety of gift cards. If donating gift cards, please place them in the white envelopes and drop them in the collection baskets. Please do not put names on the envelopes.

Any checks should be made payable to: Saints Peter and Paul Church.

**The deadline to donate is January 1, 2022.**

Thank you for your generosity!

## KOLACHI SALE

**We will continue selling kolachi after the Liturgies until they are all sold. We only have Nut and Apricot Nut left. They are \$12 each and freeze well for the holidays.** Proceeds will benefit our 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration.

If you have any questions, please call Pat James at 330-507-6273.

## FREE BOOKS AND TAPES

Please call Sister Barbara at 330-240-2534 for an appointment.

## LITURGY STIPENDS

The Divine Liturgy Stipend has been increased to \$20 by the Archeparchy of Pittsburgh effective July 1, 2021.

**Divine Liturgy Attendance weekend of December 4:**

5:00 PM: **42**; 9:00 AM: **36**; 11:00 AM: **49**

**Our return to the Lord for all He has given us: . . . . . \$4,908.20**



- **Sun., Dec. 12** ECF Classes today 10 AM TO 10:45 AM.
- **Sun., Dec. 12** St. Nicholas Feast Day Celebration at DiLucia’s Banquet Hall following the 11 AM Divine Liturgy for those who signed up. Doors open at noon.
- **Mon., Dec. 20** Church Cleaning Party 9 AM – Noon. Come lend a helping hand.



**PARISH GUILD MEETINGS**

There will be no Parish Guild Meetings in December and January.

**CHURCH DECORATING ... for the Nativity of Our Lord**

We will be decorating our Church for the Feast of the Nativity of Christ on **Sunday, December 19<sup>th</sup> at Noon**. Please come and join us in preparing your Church for Christmas.

**MYSTERY OF DIVINE FORGIVENESS AND RECONCILIATION**

We cannot appreciate the gift of “God with us” unless we are receptive. Let us make every effort to prepare ourselves for the coming of Christ by coming before Him and asking forgiveness of our sins . . .

**Tuesday: December 21: 6:00 PM to 7:00 PM**

**SCHEDULE OF DIVINE SERVICES FOR THE FEAST OF THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD**

December 24 – 6:00 PM, *Compline with Divine Liturgy*

December 25 – 10:00 AM, *Divine Liturgy*

DECEMBER 12, 2021

SCHEDULE OF DIVINE SERVICES

Sunday	12 Dec.	<i>SUNDAY OF THE FOREFATHERS. Our Venerable Father Spiridon the Wonder-worker, Bishop of Tremithus. Feast of the Mother of God of Guadalupe.</i>
<b>(Sun. Vigil)</b>	<b>5:00 PM</b>	<b>+Stephen Zombar – Betty, Jen &amp; John</b>
	<b>9:00 AM</b>	<b>+Millie Simko – Mr. &amp; Mrs. Clarence Reich</b>
	<b>11:00 AM</b>	<b>+Patricia &amp; +Theodore Falatic – son, Ted, &amp; family</b>
Monday	13 Dec.	<i>The Holy Martyrs Eustratius, Auxentius, Eugene, Mardarius and Orestes. The Holy Virgin Martyr Lucy.</i>
		<b>No Divine Liturgy</b>
Tuesday	14 Dec.	<i>The Holy Martyrs Thrysus, Leucas, Philemon, Appolonius and Callinicus. The Blessed Priest and Ascetic Father Nimatulla al-Hardini (Joseph Kassab).</i>
<b>(SPP)</b>	<b>8:30 AM</b>	<b>+Gloria Sipes – Richard &amp; Sandra Fetsko</b>
Wednesday	15 Dec.	<i>The Holy Martyr Eleutherius. Our Venerable Father Paul of Latra. Our Holy Father Stephen, Archbishop of Surozh.</i>
		<b>No Divine Liturgy</b>
Thursday	16 Dec.	<i>The Holy Prophet Haggai.</i>
<b>(SPP)</b>	<b>8:30 AM</b>	<b>Sr. Marion Dobos – Benedictine Sisters</b>
Friday	17 Dec.	<i>The Holy Prophet Daniel and the Three Holy Children: Hananiah, Azariah and Mishael.</i>
		<b>No Divine Liturgy</b>
Saturday	18 Dec.	<i>Saturday before Christmas. The Holy Martyr Sebastian and His Companions.</i>
<b>(Vigil Liturgy)</b>	<b>5:00 PM</b>	<b>+Eugenia Vesa – Anna Calderas</b>
Sunday	19 Dec.	<i>SUNDAY BEFORE CHRISTMAS, OF THE ANCESTORS. The Holy Martyr Boniface.</i>
	<b>9:00 AM</b>	<b>+Carol King – Mr. &amp; Mrs. Robert Cabosky</b>
	<b>11:00 AM</b>	<b>+Frank &amp; +Vicky Secola – Jim &amp; Mary Elko</b>



**Attentive to the Word**  
**SUNDAY OF THE FOREFATHERS**

*Luke 14: 16 - 24*

*Tone 4 Trop. of Resurrection - Pg. 141*  
*and the rest from Pgs. 281 - 283*



This familiar parable is read in the Church each year just two Sundays before the feast of our Lord's Nativity. In it we are reminded of the great care with which God prepared the way of His incarnation. All of the Law and the Prophets look forward to this moment, the moment when the God/man Jesus Christ comes into the world. He is, in fact, the fulfillment of the Law and the Prophets – the goal towards which they were all aiming. The whole world was prepared by them for this great event. As the parable tells us the King – that is God – has prepared a great feast for us and has invited us to come and enter into the joy that He has prepared for us.

In the parable however, there were some who refused this invitation, considering their own affairs to be more important or more desirable than the feast of the King. Although God had chosen them, they did not choose God. Is this not unlike our first parents Adam and Eve. God had created them so that they might live in His love and in complete harmony with Him. But they chose to follow their own will and not to enter into the joy that God had prepared for them. They too were chosen by God but they did not choose God and so were cast out of paradise. The Way that God prepared for us to return to Him is in fact the Person of Jesus Christ, God Himself taking human flesh and becoming incarnate. Just as through Adam all men fell into sin and corruption and death, now through Jesus Christ all men were invited to rise out of that condemnation and live again according to the love and grace of God. The Way back to the Kingdom of God had been restored. We had again been chosen by God. But some refused this second choosing, instead choosing to follow their own desires.

Even so, our God, in His great love for us, holds the door open to all mankind that we might enter into this great feast that He has prepared for us. He goes into the highways and searches out even those who did not know Him so that they might come and share in His joy. No matter who we are, no matter from whence we come, the doors to the Kingdom of God are open to us. We are called to set aside our own

desires, our own will, our own worldly pleasures, to reap the joys and pleasures of the Kingdom of God in exchange for those of the world. We are called to come to Him.

Today we begin in earnest to move toward the feast of the birth of the God/man Jesus Christ. Today we are called to see the great preparation that has gone into this event, and the love and care of God for us. Today we look back at the whole of the history of the people of God and see that it is the history of God's preparation, all leading to the moment when He would take flesh, and become incarnate, entering the world as a child. Today you have been given an invitation to come and join the feast, to abandon the world and enter the Kingdom of God. Today you have been chosen by God – will you then choose Him?



**NO TIME FOR GOD?!**

When God came into the world, people didn't have time. They were too busy. There was no room for Him in the inn. "He came unto his own, and they that were his own people received him not." And it seems that still today we have no room. We crowd Him out with so many things, especially with our busyness.

In Luke 14:16-24, the Lord tells a parable about busy people. A man – He said – gave a banquet and sent out invitations. One by one those who were invited to the banquet offered their excuses for not being able to come. They were all too busy; one with his farm, one with his wife, and another with his oxen. What Jesus is saying here is that man can become so busy making a living that he can neglect to make a life. God can be crowded out so easily by the trivial and the frivolous. The things that matter most are at the mercy of the things that matter least. Jesus is telling us also that important duties that keep us from God are not duties at all, but sins.

Listen to these words of a pastor: "One Friday night, a man boasted to me that he hadn't taken a vacation in twenty-five years. He was too busy selling insurance. The following Monday I conducted his funeral. He died of a heart attack."

Fast living. Fast dying. And the tragedy of it all is that we miss the banquet. We miss the greatest gift of all – eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.