

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.

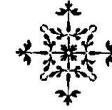
Funerals: Families of the deceased or the funeral director must contact Fr. Simeon before setting and publishing the day and time of the funeral.

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.

ETERNAL MEMORY



Grant, O Lord, eternal rest to the soul of Your servant **+John Koza, III** who has recently fallen asleep in the Lord. Please remember him and his family in your prayers.



YEAR-END CONTRIBUTION STATEMENTS FOR 2020

... are ready for pick-up in the Social Hall. They are in alphabetical order to make it easier for you to find. Please, do not pick up anyone else's statement unless they have specifically asked you to do so.

CONTRIBUTION ENVELOPES

*If you haven't picked up your contribution envelopes for 2021, they are in the parish office. **You will need to call the office at 330-372-1875.** Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.*

WHY MEATFARE?

This Sunday is the final day of Meatfare week and the beginning of Cheesefare week. Traditionally this is the final day an Eastern Christian would eat meat until Holy Pascha, but one can still consume animal products such as cheese and dairy until Cheesefare or Forgiveness Sunday. So, just as a runner is not able to run a race without training and preparation, so too are Christians unable to physically and spiritually fast without preparation. It is not until this third week of the pre-Lenten period that the Church begins to actually make greater demands on us by inspiring us to bid farewell to meat on this Sunday of the Final Judgment. Today, our laws are not as strict, but the principle is the same. Self-discipline is necessary! Fasting helps us with self-discipline! Let us do the best that we are physically able, to make this our best preparation for Pascha.

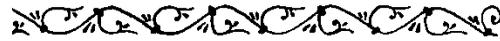
Divine Liturgy Attendance weekend of January 31:

5:00 PM: **48**; 9:00 AM: **28**; 11:00 AM: **23**

Our return to the Lord for all He has given us: \$2,208.00



➤ **Sun. Feb. 7** ECF Classes meet promptly at 10 AM. Try to come a few minutes early so that we can get the temperatures taken in the Social Hall. Parents are asked to remain until after temperatures are taken.



THANK YOU SISTER BARBARA



We appreciate all of your hard work and dedication as Parish Secretary over the past 15 years. You will be missed in the office. . . especially by Gomez!

A beautiful throw with an embroidered Byzantine Cross on it was presented to Sister Barbara from the Parish after Saturday’s Liturgy. May God grant you many years of Peace, Health, and Happiness!

God Bless You!
Father Simeon



Thank you so much for the surprise acknowledgment of my “retirement” from the parish secretarial position. Your gift of the beautiful Bourina Throw Blanket, embroidered with a gold Byzantine Cross, will be put to good use...it is so soft and cuddly and is just the “right size.” Thank you again for allowing me to serve you!

Sr. Barbara Paulik, OSB

FREE ADULT EDUCATION – FEBRUARY

Live webinars, free of charge. Register at Eastern Catholic.org/Events.

Monday or Wednesday evening 8:00 – 9:00 PM

New programs are on the website! Try it...you’ll like it!

JUST A REMINDER

With Covid-19 still on the scene, please do not congregate or visit in the Social Hall before and after the Divine Liturgies. Thank you for your cooperation!

FEBRUARY 7, 2021
SCHEDULE OF DIVINE SERVICES

Sunday	7 Feb.	<i>MEATFARE SUNDAY. Our Venerable Father Parthenius. Bishop of Lampsacus.</i>
(Vigil Liturgy)	5:00 PM	+Jeff Griggs – John & Dianna Koza
	9:00 AM	+James Johnson, Sr. – Michael & Sue Johnson
	11:00 AM	+Bill Shuttic – Friends
Monday	8 Feb.	<i>Cheesefare Monday. The Holy Great Martyr Theodore. The Holy Prophet Zechariah.</i>
		No Divine Liturgy
Tuesday	9 Feb.	<i>Cheesefare Tuesday. The Holy Martyr Nicephor.</i>
(SPP)	8:30 AM	+Steve Zumerling – Anthony & Lucy Marino
Wednesday	10 Feb.	<i>Cheesefare Wednesday. The Holy Martyr Charalampas.</i>
		No Divine Liturgy
Thursday	11 Feb.	<i>Cheesefare Thursday. The Holy Martyr Blaise, Bishop of Sebaste.</i>
(SPP)	8:30 AM	+Sister Miriam Konkus – Benedictine Sisters
Friday	12 Feb.	<i>Cheesefare Friday. Our Holy Father Melitius, Archbishop of Antioch.</i>
		No Divine Liturgy
Saturday	13 Feb.	<i>Cheesefare Saturday. Memory of all Holy Ascetics. Our Venerable Father Martinian.</i>
(Vigil Liturgy)	5:00 PM	+Frank Hoso, Jr. – Monica Shaker
Sunday	14 Feb.	<i>CHEESEFARE SUNDAY. Our Venerable Father Auxentius. The Venerable Maron, Hermit and Wonderworker. The Passing of our Venerable Father Constantine, whose monastic name is Cyril, the Apostle of the Slavs.</i>
	9:00 AM	Prayer Intention of Rosary Society Members
	11:00 AM	+Charles “Buddy” Hite, Jr. – wife, Luanne & family



Attentive to the Word

SUNDAY OF MEATFARE

Matthew 25: 31 – 46

Tone 3 Pg. 135 and Pgs. 217 - 218

THE AWESOME JUDGMENT

A couple vacationing in Maine visited the harbor to watch the boats return from fishing and trapping lobsters. One lobster boat docked near where they sat and unloaded buckets of freshly trapped lobsters. The wife became intrigued as she watched the lobsters scurry about in a bucket. She noticed that as soon as one lobster began to climb its way out of the pail, the other lobsters would pull it back down. It seemed to her that it would have been fairly easy for each lobster to escape from the bucket, except that they always were being pulled back down by the others.

Lobsters certainly can teach us about human nature as well. Doesn't it seem that as soon as one person decides to climb out of the "bucket," there are so many others trying to pull him or her back down? Rather, shouldn't we try to support and push the other person farther along.

Let us look at the icon on the cover of the bulletin. The icon depicts people traveling from earth to heaven on a ladder. Can we see ourselves on the ladder? Let us ask ourselves: do we push our neighbor further up the ladder to Heaven, or do we pull him down?

In the Gospel reading today, Jesus speaks of our obligation to assist other people in every need. Moreover, Our Lord tells us that whatever we do to others we do to Him. Conversely, if we neglect others, we neglect Our Lord. "Whatever you do to the least of My brothers, you do to me." (Matthew 25:40)



Glory-to-Jesus-Christ! We believe that Jesus will come in Glory to judge the living and the dead! This is a part of our creed – what we believe as Christians.

This morning's gospel reading gives us a description, a vision of that last judgment. Awesome! Terrifying! A time of reward and punishment. A time of separation and eternal loss. A time of judgment.

How are we going to be judged? On the way we treat others! We either have an open heart or a closed heart. We know a lot about hearts today. They get clogged and then they don't work right. They race, they lose their timing, and then they no longer give life. We get very serious about taking care of our hearts.

The heart is the center of love. We give our heart to those we love. And Jesus' judgment is based on how we have had an open heart or a closed heart to others. It is easy to love those who love us. It is easy to love those from whom we expect a reward. I was hungry. I was thirsty. I was a stranger. I was naked. I was ill. I was in prison. How open was our heart? How closed was our heart?

Don't be afraid to fill your heart and to reach out in love. Love makes us vulnerable. We may be taken advantage of. We may be used. We may not be appreciated. We may be misjudged. It is so easy to find an excuse not to love. But St. John rightly says in his epistle, *He Himself made us a promise, and the promise is no less than this: eternal life.* That's what Jesus brings and gives. *Let no one deceive you; the man who acts in holiness is holy indeed, even as the Son is holy. The man who sins belongs to the devil because the devil is a sinner from the beginning. It was to destroy the devil's works, that the Son of God revealed himself. . . No one whose actions are unholy belongs to God, nor anyone who fails to love his brother.* Don't be afraid to fill your heart with people and things you love, for the love of God won't occupy space in your heart any more than a singer's voice occupies space in a concert hall.

Love is not like a loaf of bread. If I give a chunk of the loaf to you I have less to offer others. Love is like Eucharistic Bread: I receive the whole Christ. You receive the whole Christ too; and so does the next and the next.

You can love your mother with your whole heart, and your husband or wife, and each of your children. The wonder is that giving the whole of it to one person does not force you to give less to another. On the contrary, each one of us now gets more. For if you love only your friend and no one else, it is a feeble heart that you offer. Your friend would stand to gain if you also gave it to others.

Certainly, we are limited. We are constrained by time, energy, and talent. But we can all do something. Maybe we can't do everything for everyone all the time. But we can do something. And it's those little things that we do that open up our heart, that love becomes visible, and that lets Christ become present and visible to others.

Come, to me! Come and receive my blessings. Come and be filled with God's love.

(Father John Zeyack)