

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.

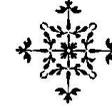
Funerals: Families of the deceased or the funeral director must contact Fr. Simeon before setting and publishing the day and time of the funeral.

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.

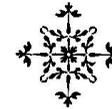
Rectory Office Hours: Sister Barbara and Lisa Mosko are in the Parish office from 11:30 AM – 2:30 PM on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. Father Simeon is available on other days and times by appointment.

ETERNAL MEMORY



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

ETERNAL MEMORY



Grant, O Lord, eternal rest to the soul of Your servant +**Nancy Sernulka** who has recently fallen asleep in the Lord. Please remember her and her family in your prayers.

CONTRIBUTION ENVELOPES AND CALENDARS

*The 2021 Church Calendars and Contribution Envelopes are ready for pick-up in the Social Hall. If there is any name or address correction, if you are unable to locate your envelopes, or if you wish a set of envelopes, please call the office, or drop a note in the collection basket. **This year all envelope numbers were reassigned due to the number of deaths and relocation of former parishioners. Please discard your old envelopes at the end of 2020. If you want proper credit for your contributions, you must use the envelopes you were assigned for the year 2021.***

*Our Parish family would like to thank the **Peter Rossi & Son Memorial Chapel** for their generosity in providing our calendars this year. God bless them for their kindness and generosity!*

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!



Divine Liturgy Attendance weekend of January 2:

5:00 PM: **37**; 9:00 AM: **30**; 11:00 AM: **35**

Our return to the Lord for all He has given us: \$8,018.50



- **Sun. Jan. 10** 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.
- **Sun. Jan. 10** “Un-decorate” the Church – 1:00 PM.

NEWLY SANCTIFIED JORDAN WATER

On the Feast of Theophany we celebrated the Great Sanctification of Water. The dispenser containing the newly sanctified water is located by the Belvedere Ave. entrance. You are encouraged to take some water home for your sanctification. Small holy water bottles are available.

THE RATTLESNAKE CURE

Once upon a time there was a rancher who wanted nothing to do with God. He had always looked out for himself, and he figured religion was for wimps and weaklings. He made sure his sons, Tom, Dick, and Harry felt the same way.

One day, though, the local preacher got an urgent phone call. Could he please come out to the ranch right away? A rattlesnake had bitten Tom, and there was nothing more the doctor could do. Could the preacher please come and pray for him?

The preacher went. Amazingly, the rancher took his hat off when the preacher came in. He even knocked the hats off Dick and Harry. Then he led the preacher into a dark bedroom. “Will you pray for Tom?” he pleaded.

The preacher began, “O Lord our God, we thank You for sending this rattlesnake to bite Tom, for it is the first time in his life that he has admitted that he needs You. And, Lord, we pray for two more rattlesnakes to bite Dick and Harry, so that they, too, may receive this blessing. And, Lord, we pray for an especially big and ornery cuss of a rattlesnake to come and bite the old man, so that he too will know what it means to need You.”

The story is not true, but the point it makes is relevant. As long as life runs smoothly we ignore God. Often trouble is just about the only thing that makes us listen to God and seek Him.

Anthony M. Coniaris

**“Endure hardship as discipline; God is treating you as sons....
God disciplines us for our good that we may share in His holiness.”**

Hebrews 12:7,10

JANUARY 10, 2021 SCHEDULE OF DIVINE SERVICES

| | | |
|------------------------------------|---|--|
| Sunday | 10 Jan. | <i>SUNDAY AFTER THEOPHANY. Post-festive Day of Theophany. Our Holy Father Gregory of Nyssa. The Venerable Dometian, Bishop of Melitene. Our Venerable Father Marcion, Priest and Treasurer of the Great Church.</i> |
| (Vigil Liturgy) | 5:00 PM 9:00 AM 11:00 AM | +Gloria Sipes – Terry Taylor Health/Blessings on Paul Simon – Marjorie & Cheryl +Gerald Lickwar - family |
| Monday | 11 Jan. | <i>Postfestive Day of Theophany. Our Venerable Father Theodosius, founder of the Common Life.</i> No Divine Liturgy |
| Tuesday (SPP) | 12 Jan. 8:30 AM | <i>Postfestive Day of Theophany. The Holy Martyr Tatiana.</i> Health of Father Simeon – Ron Mosko |
| Wednesday | 13 Jan. | <i>The Holy Martyrs Hermylaous and Stratonicus. Our Venerable Father Hilary, Bishop of Poitiers.</i> No Divine Liturgy |
| Thursday (SPP) | 14 Jan. 8:30 AM | <i>Leave-taking (Otdanije) of Theophany. Our Venerable Fathers killed by the Arabs in Sinai and Raitho in 312. Commemoration of the Passing of the holy Equal-to-the-apostles Nina, Enlightener of the Georgians.</i> Health of Mary Manwell – Ron Mosko |
| Friday | 15 Jan. | <i>Our Venerable Fathers Paul of Thebes and John the Hut-dweller. Repose of the Blessed Bishop-Martyr Tit Liviu Chinczu.</i> No Divine Liturgy |
| Saturday (Vigil Liturgy) | 16 Jan. 5:00 PM | <i>Veneration of the Chains of the Holy, Glorious and Illustrious Apostle Peter.</i> +Betty Vazur – Patricia Sudik & family |
| Sunday | 17 Jan. | <i>THIRTY-THIRD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST. SUNDAY OF ZACCHAEUS. Our Venerable Father Anthony the Great.</i> |
| | 9:00 AM 11:00 AM | +Emory Holowatch – Anne Myers Health of Betty A. Bednarik – Wiley Byers |



Attentive to the Word

SUNDAY AFTER THEOPHANY

Matthew 4: 12 – 17

Troparion – Tone 7 – Pg. 156

then follow directions on Pages 316 - 318

"Repent! For the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand!" We hear these stirring words of our Lord proclaimed at the end of the Holy Gospel reading prescribed for the Sunday after Holy Theophany (Matthew 4:12-17). Jesus is beginning His public ministry, and like all the prophets of old, He is inviting people to reform their lives, but He adds one new element: belief in His Gospel.

The "reform of life" of which Jesus speaks is not a suspended moment in time, a once-for-all effort. Rather, it is a continuing process which is operative through life. Perhaps we may object - claiming that we have, in fact, reformed our lives. More exactly, however, the truth may be that once this has begun, we may never relax the effort. Continuing reform brings us new dimensions of faith in and love of God and of one another.

In times past, in certain parts of the world and with the early settlers of our country, it was a civic duty to be a Christian, a practicing Christian. The whole atmosphere of society promoted this. In our own times, we are challenged by an entirely different atmosphere - the insidious spirit of secularism which effectively eliminates any mention or hint of God in our lives.

We need only look at what has happened to the celebration of our Lord's holy birth (Christmas) and His holy Resurrection (Pascha). In many communities, no longer is there a Nativity scene on public display, no religious music may be used in public schools, and the birth of Christ is treated like any other civic holiday such as Independence Day (July 4th), Memorial or Labor Day. Holiday "gift giving" has replaced the example of the presentation of gifts by the Wise Men from the East at the crib in Bethlehem, God's Gift to us in the Person of His own Son, for the exchange of seasonal gratification and self-satisfaction.

Pascha finds people buying and wearing new outfits of clothes, not truly cognizant of the "putting on" of Christ with the robe of new life imparted at baptism, which formed a

major part of the Resurrection ceremonies in more ancient times. An "Easter Bunny" puts eggs in children's baskets, but few remember that the egg is a dramatic symbol of life contained in the tomb, the very tomb from which Christ rose - alive after death and giving as the promise of our own resurrection and of life forever.

This attitude has posed keen problems for the authentic Christian in a world more and more framed in a secularist context. In the face of such challenges, we must call to mind more readily how our religious faith is rooted in Christ, as He calls us to repentance. Our Church, in fact, will soon place us again in the preparatory period preceding the Great Fast (Lent) to remind us that our spiritual lives have a direction different from the direction the secular world would have us move, and in which it sometimes does move us. The clarion call of our Savior "Repent! For the Kingdom of God is at hand!" is a keen reminder to keep our lives on that straight course leading us, in hope, to heaven.

By Msgr. John T. Sekellick, JCL



"You are the light of the world...
No one after lighting a lamp
puts it under
the basket...
let your light shine
before others..."
-Matthew 5:14-16-



"... But now you are light in the Lord; walk as children of light."

Ephesians 5:8

Read: Matthew 5:14-16

Lamps were among the most valued possessions in Israelite homes. Light was a symbol of life, and a good lamp provided light for every household function. In fact, an Israelite woman checked her lamp all through the night, adding more oil or fixing the wick, to make sure the light stayed strong and sent the message "all is well."

Jesus wants our lives to be like a good lamp, sending out the daily signal that all is well in our relationship with Him. When people see you, they should see the light of Christ and give glory to God. Can those around you see Jesus in the way you behave and the way you talk? Does your life communicate His positive truth, or do you send negative statements of criticism or discouragement? Do your actions make someone want to know more about your Lord?

Perhaps the statement your life is making right now is not what it should be. Maybe you are discouraged by inconsistency or feelings of inadequacy. Remember that Jesus gives you the strength and wisdom you need because He is the "light of life." God promises to continue building His truth into your life day by day, so that your character and conduct reflect His distinguishing presence.