

## 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.

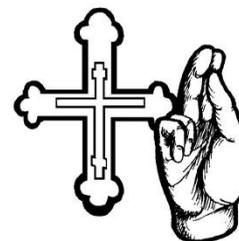
**Godparent/Sponsor Letters:** Must be a registered, active, supporting member of the Parish.

**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.



**DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME** . . . . begins next Sunday, March 14<sup>th</sup>. Don't forget to turn your clocks **ahead** one hour.

## ***SIGN OF THE CROSS" — "CROSS AS A SYMBOL"***



In the middle of the ninth century, Pope Leo IV instructed his clergy to hold their fingers in the proper manner when blessing the Sacred Gifts, with two fingers outstretched, and the thumb hidden behind, between them, by which the trinity is symbolized. He instructed that the people of the Faith should imitate the example of the Priests. By means of the Sign of the Cross, express the elements of our Faith. The thumb and first two fingers joined together indicate belief in the Three Divine Persons as One God. The two remaining fingers lying in the palm of the hand to signify the Divine and the Human natures of Christ united in His One Person.

*Pope Leo IV*



## **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).

**Mondays, February 22, March 1, & March 8 @ 8 – 9 PM.**

The presentation will be "Dying to Sin – *The First Steps In Askesis.*" The presenter is Rev. Deacon Thomas Moses. Are we all called to askesis, or asceticism, or is it only the calling of a select few? Join us this Great Lent as we learn from the great ascetics of the Church, discovering how to apply the practice of askesis in our own lives.



**Divine Liturgy Attendance weekend of February 27:**

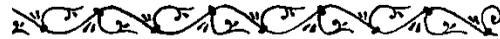
5:00 PM: **38**; 9:00 AM: **38**; 11:00 AM: **46**

**Pre-sanctified Liturgy: Wed. 28 Fri. 30**

**Our return to the Lord for all He has given us: . . . . . \$3,156.80**



- **Sun. March 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.
- **Sat. March 13** Fourth All Souls Saturday – Divine Liturgy 9:00 AM Pg. 428



### PARISH GUILD NUTROLL SALE

We will be selling nut and cranberry-nut in the Social Hall after each Liturgy this weekend – **March 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>**. *The nutrolls are \$12.00 each and are sold first come, first serve.* They freeze well, so you can get an early start for your holiday baking.

### CHOCOLATE BYZANTINE CROSS SALE – 2021



Since Easter is so early this year, we have to have orders for *Chocolate Byzantine Crosses* in by **Friday, March 12<sup>th</sup>**. The orders must be **prepaid**. Envelopes are located at the Church entrances for those interested in purchasing *Dark, Milk or White Chocolate Crosses*. The purchase price is \$6.00 each and will be ready for **pick-up on Palm Sunday, March 28<sup>th</sup>**. *If you know of*

*anyone who usually orders the crosses (and they are not in church), please ask them to call Sister Barbara at 330-240-2534 by Friday AM. Thank you!*

### PUSSYWILLOWS NEEDED

Spring is almost here, (even though it doesn't feel like it), so keep your eyes open for the budding of the pussy willows. Please cut them when they bud (before they turn yellow), and bring them to the Social Hall.

**Do not put them in water.**

## MARCH 7, 2021 SCHEDULE OF DIVINE SERVICES

Sunday	7 March	<i>THIRD SUNDAY OF THE GREAT FAST. VENERATION OF THE HOLY CROSS. The Holy Martyrs and Bishops of Cherson: Basil, Ephrem, Capiton, Eugene, Etherius and others. The Passing of the Martyr the Priest-Exarch Leonid Feodorov (1935).</i>
(Sun. Vigil)	5:00 PM 9:00 AM 11:00 AM	+Michael J. Mosko (40 <sup>th</sup> day) – Ron Mosko +Harry Reynolds – Marjorie Reynolds +Nancy Sernulka – Heather, Matt & Jim Sernulka
Monday	8 March	<i>Our Venerable Father and Confessor Theophylact.</i> <b>No Divine Services</b>
Tuesday	9 March	<i>The Forty Holy Martyrs of Sebaste. The Holy Martyr Urpasianus of Nicomedia.</i> <b>No Divine Services</b>
Wednesday	10 March	<i>Mid-Lent. The Holy Martyr Codratus and His Companions.</i> 6:00 PM <b>Pre-sanctified Liturgy</b>
Thursday	11 March	<i>Our Holy Father Sophronius, Patriarch of Jerusalem.</i> <b>No Divine Services</b>
Friday	12 March	<i>Our Venerable Father and Confessor Theophane of the Sygrian Mountain. Our Holy Father Gregory, Pope of Rome. Our Holy Father Symeon, the New Theologian.</i> 6:00 PM <b>Pre-sanctified Liturgy</b>
Saturday	13 March	<i>Fourth All Souls' Saturday. The Translation of the Relics of our Holy Father Nicephor, Patriarch of Constantinople.</i> 9:00 AM <b>Fourth All Souls Divine Liturgy with reading of Diptychs.</b> 5:00 PM +Andrew Greskovich, Sr. – Buddy & Mary K. Greskovich
(Vigil Liturgy)		
Sunday	14 March	<i>FOURTH SUNDAY OF THE GREAT FAST. MEMORY OF OUR HOLY FATHER JOHN CLIMACUS. Our Venerable Father Benedict.</i> 9:00 AM +Donald Sutyak – Emil Kostraba Family 11:00 AM +Helen Sekula – Mr. & Mrs. Michael Rubesich



## Attentive to the Word

### THIRD SUNDAY OF THE GREAT FAST

#### VENERATION OF THE CROSS

*Mark 8: 34 – 9:1*

*Tone 7 Pg. 156 and Pgs. 223 – 225*

Liturgy of St. Basil during Great Lent:

(In place of Antiphons) Pages 16 & 17 Typical Psalms

Beatitudes Pgs. 23-24; (Instead of “It is truly proper,”) Pg. 225 – Magnification

The third Sunday of Lent is dedicated to the veneration of the Holy Cross. For this reason you will see the Cross decorated with a garland of flowers upon the Tetrapod and the faithful will come forward to kiss the Cross in veneration.



It is interesting to note that the theme of the Cross which dominates the hymnology for this Sunday is developed in terms not of suffering but of victory and joy. More than that, the theme *songs* (Irmosi) of the Sunday Canon are taken from the Paschal Service ... “The Day of the Resurrection,” and the Canon is a paraphrase of the Easter Canon.

The meaning of all this is clear. We are in “mid-lent.” On the one hand, the physical and spiritual effort, if it is serious and consistent, begins to be felt; its burden becomes more burdensome, our fatigue is more evident. We need help and encouragement. On the other hand, having endured this fatigue, having climbed the mountain up to the point – we begin to see the end of our pilgrimage and the rays of Easter grow in their Intensity.

Lent is our self-crucifixion, our experience, limited as it is, of Christ’s commandment heard in the Gospel lesson of this Sunday: “It any man would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me.” (Mark 8:34). But we can neither take up our cross and follow Christ unless we have His Cross which He took up in order to save us. It is His Cross that gives not only meaning but also power to others.

At the Divine Liturgy, the Trisagion Hymn (“Holy God, Holy and Mighty...”) is not sung, but it is replaced with “We bow to your Cross O Lord, and we glorify Your holy resurrection.” After singing each verse of the hymn, the faithful make a profound bow. After the Liturgy, every one present will come forward to kiss the Cross.

## PRAYERS THIRD WEEK OF GREAT LENT

In this third week of the Fast, O thrice-holy Lord, watch over those who are fasting. Make us worthy to persevere in the observance of your commandments, so that, in all purity, we may contemplate and celebrate your glorious Resurrection.

Let us love the fast of the spirit, which by the help of the Spirit weakens the most violent passions; it gives us the strength to do holy deeds, raises our spirit towards heaven, and obtains pardon for our sins. God will grant us this in his goodness. Amen.

## KONTAKION

No longer does the flaming sword guard the gates of Eden; for on them one finds the most glorious seal, the Tree of the Cross. By it the sorrow of death and the victory of the abyss have been conquered. For You, O my Savior, stood and called out to those in the abyss: Enter again into Paradise.

## IKOS

Pilate set up three crosses on Golgotha, two for the thieves and one for the Lord of life. Seeing this, Hades asked its servants: Who has driven this spear into my heart? A wooden lance has pierced me, and I am torn apart. What pain has penetrated my womb and my heart, what sorrow stabs my spirit? I am forced to give up Adam and his children, those whom I had received from the forbidden Tree; for a new Tree leads them to enter again into Paradise.

## “GIVE-UP’S” THAT ARE GOOD FOR OUR SOULS...

*Give up hatred* – return good for evil. *Give up being negative* – be positive.

*Give up jealousy* – congratulate someone for a good job well done.

*Give up complaining* – be grateful. *Give up worry* – instead, trust God.

*Give up gossiping* – control your thoughts and your tongue.

*Give up discouragement* – be full of hope. *Give up anger* – be more patient.

*Give up gloom* – enjoy beauty around you. *Give up being a pessimist* – be optimistic.

*Give up harsh judgments* – think kindly thoughts of others.

*Give up pettiness* – be more mature.

St. Paul tells us to fill our minds with everything that is good, true and pure. He knew it wouldn’t be easy, but he knew there is also God’s help to see us through tough times.