

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.

CRACK POT FRIENDS

An elderly Chinese woman had two large pots, each hung on the ends of a pole which she carried across her neck. One of the pots had a crack in it, while the other pot was perfect and always delivered a full portion of water. At the end of the long walk from the stream to the house, the cracked pot arrived only half full.

For a full two years this went on daily, with the woman bringing home only one and a half pots of water. Of course, the perfect pot was proud of its accomplishment; but the poor cracked pot was ashamed of its own imperfection, and was miserable that it only did half of what it was made to do. After two years of what it had perceived a bitter failure, it spoke to the woman one day by the stream, "I am ashamed of myself, because this crack in my side causes water to leak out all the way back to your house." The old woman smiled, "Did you notice that there are flowers on your side of the path, but not on the other pot's side?" "That's because I have always known about your flaw, so I planted flower seeds on your side of the path, and every day while we walk back, you water them." For two years I have been able to pick these beautiful flowers to decorate the table." "Without you being just the way you are, there would not be this beauty to grace the house."

Each of us has our own unique flaw, but it's the cracks and flaws we each have that make our lives together so very interesting and rewarding. You've just got to take each person for what they are and look for the good in them.

So, to all my crack pot friends, have a great day and remember to smell the flowers on your side of the path.

CLARIFICATION OF PROCEDURES TO BE FOLLOWED IN FR. SIMEON'S ABSENCE:

While Fr. Simeon is recuperating, any needs required by parishioners are to be arranged through the church office.

If a priest is needed for emergency anointing of parishioners who are seriously ill, please call the office and we will do our best to take care of your request. If a parishioner is hospitalized at St. Joseph's, St. Elizabeth's or Trumbull Memorial, there is a Catholic Chaplain who is on call for emergency anointing, confession, "last rites," etc., and they will be able to take care of these needs at this time.

In case of the death of a parishioner, the Funeral Home will call the office and we will arrange for a priest to work with the funeral director and the family for the funeral service and burial.

Divine Liturgy Attendance weekend of October 9:

5:00 PM: **46**; 9:00 AM: **40**; 11:00 AM: **47**

Our return to the Lord for all He has given us: \$3,312.05



OCTOBER 17, 2021

- **Sun., Oct. 17** ECF Classes meet promptly at 10:00 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 the temperatures are taken. Parents may wait for their children in the Social Hall, but they are asked to practice social distancing and to wear a mask. *No one is permitted downstairs except teachers and students.*
- **Mon., Oct. 25** Church Cleaning Party 9 AM – Noon. Come lend a helping hand.



HAPPY SWEETEST DAY!

Please pick up a little Sweetest Day Treat after each Liturgy.

LADY BUG BOX 

One of the prizes in the Lady Bug Box this month is 2 raffle tickets for the GCU Seminary Fundraiser! They were donated by 2 parishioners. The winner of the GCU Fundraiser will receive \$2,000 in Holiday Cash.

This month's drawing will be held on Sunday, October 31st, after the 11:00 AM Liturgy.

Will You Be The Next Lucky Winner???????

Stop in the Social Hall and check out the **LADY BUG BOX.**

KOLACHI TIME???

Fall is here and we are quickly approaching the time for our Annual Kolachi Baking. With parishioners aging and Covid concerns, we are not sure if we will have the manpower to have this activity this year. Our younger parishioners who work during the day have commented that they would be glad to help if we baked on the weekend. We really are counting on this younger age group to help us continue this activity; therefore, if we have enough help, we are planning to bake on **Fri. and Sat., Nov. 5 and 6.** *You do not need to know how to bake kolachi.*

This activity will benefit not only our parishioners who traditionally look forward to kolachi for the holidays but also our 100th Anniversary Fund. Please help us keep this activity going. **A sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board in the Social Hall.**

Any questions, please call Pat James at 330-507-6273.

LITURGY STIPENDS

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

SCHEDULE OF DIVINE SERVICES

Sunday	17 Oct.	<i>TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST. MEMORY OF THE FATHERS AT THE SEVENTH ECUMENICAL COUNCIL. The Holy Prophet Hosea (Osee). The Holy Venerable Martyr Andrew of Crete.</i>
(Sun. Vigil)	5:00 PM	+Charles “Buddy” Hite – Mary Anne Karchut
	9:00 AM	+Jim Johnson, Sr. – Connie Reed
	11:00 AM	+Stella Susko – family
Monday	18 Oct.	<i>The Holy Apostle and Evangelist Luke.</i> No Divine Liturgy
Tuesday	19 Oct.	<i>The Holy Prophet Joel. The Holy Martyr Varus. Our Venerable Father John of Rila.</i> No Divine Liturgy
Wednesday	20 Oct.	<i>The Holy Great Martyr Artemius.</i> No Divine Liturgy
Thursday	21 Oct.	<i>Our Venerable Father Hilary the Great.</i> No Divine Liturgy
Friday	22 Oct.	<i>The Holy Bishop Abercius, Equal to the Apostles, Wonder-Worker. The Holy Seven Children of Ephesus. Our Holy Father John Paul II, Pope of Rome.</i> No Divine Liturgy
Saturday	23 Oct.	<i>The Holy Apostle James, the Brother of God.</i> (Vigil Liturgy) 5:00 PM +Joan Bernard – Betty Zombar
Sunday	24 Oct.	<i>TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST. The Holy Martyr Arethas and His Companions.</i> 9:00 AM +Sr. Mary Martha Kacmarek (40th day) – St. Benedict’s Auxiliary 11:00 AM +Mary Prest (40th day) – Msgr. Mahalik



Attentive to the Word
21st SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
Fathers of the 7th Ecumenical Council
Luke 8: 5 – 15 or John 17: 1 – 13
Tone 4 Pg. 141 & then Pgs. 263 – 264



AN UNEXPECTED HARVEST

A retired priest sat enjoying the afternoon sun. He looked up suddenly to see the newly-ordained bishop of the diocese walking towards him.

“Father, may I sit with you a while?”

The old priest, delighted, struggled to get up and welcome his visitor.

“Father, forgive my intrusion, but I must tell you a story: Some years ago, a group of college students who had spent an afternoon drinking were walking past a little church. Confessions were being heard inside. One of them had an idea: Let’s make a list of the worst sins we can think of and then flip to see who should go in and confess them. It’ll be a riot to see how the old priest reacts! But one of them said, Well, seeing it’s your idea, put up or shut up. I bet you \$20 you haven’t the guts to do it. The first guy took up the challenge. A list of sins was drawn up and he went inside.

He came out of the church a few minutes later brandishing a piece of paper. Pay me, he said. Here’s the proof that I’ve been to confession. His friends asked what the paper was. It’s my penance, he said. Didn’t the priest say anything? Nothing, he just handed me the paper. Well, have you done the penance? Don’t be silly – I’m not going to do any penance. Uh-uh, his buddies said, we don’t pay off until you do the penance.

So he went into the church reading the note: ‘Kneel before the crucifix at the altar and repeat 10 times: All this you did for me and I don’t give a damn.’ No problem he thought, and knelt before the altar. But he couldn’t do it. He saw the nailed hands and feet and the infinite sadness in the Crucified’s eyes. A half hour later, his friends wondered what had happened to him and went inside. They found their friend crying like a baby at the altar rail.

Well, Father, that’s the story. Except for two things – I was that young guy and you were the priest.”

We may never know what good will be realized from the smallest “seed” of kindness, of hope, of faith we plant. If we don’t allow ourselves to be discouraged or intimidated from what is right or good because it might be misinterpreted, misunderstood or ridiculed, we can bring forth a rich harvest in very unexpected places.



NICEA 2

At the insistence of the Byzantine Empress Irene, a council met for the second time in the city of Nicaea (in modern day Turkey) from September 24th until October 23, 787. Called the *Seventh Ecumenical Council*, it met to deal with a second, fresh outburst of iconoclasm (the idea that the use of sacred art and images violates the commandment against graven images).

The Council repeated the famous dictum of St. Basil the Great that "honor paid to an image passes to the one depicted." The Council went further and clarified what is meant by veneration, worship, etc. It said that true worship is reserved for God alone. Veneration may be paid to the saints, and their images. Beyond that, the Council also ruled that sacred art – because it proclaimed the dogma and teaching of the Church – had to be under the supervision and governance of the Church leaders. It was this prescription which would give to Byzantine iconography its tradition and continuity.

This Council moved against those who said any use of images was a violation of God's law. The Old Testament Law forbade the use of “graven images”. The Fathers of the 7th Ecumenical Council "were unwilling to separate image and word, regarding them as two sides of one thing."

Saint Gregory of Nyssa (brother of St. Basil the Great) explained what was meant by “graven images” this way. The commandment against graven images forbids us to trust our own understanding of God as adequate and final! He said that the image of God we carry in our minds and hearts is the real purpose of the commandment, and God wants us to be open to further development and growth. When we "fix" our understanding of God and make it "concrete," we can no longer adjust it to reflect the new interventions of God in our lives. The Seventh Ecumenical Council taught us that we need, and may have, ideas about God which we express in word and image – but these images are only human approximations which must remain open to adjustment.