

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 scription 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 +**Sister Mary Martha Kacmarek**, who has recently fallen asleep in the Lord. Please remember her and her family in your prayers.



FREE ADULT EDUCATION

Live webinar, free of charge. An excellent opportunity for adult education in our Byzantine Church. Register at EasternCatholic.org/Events.

Monday, September 20 @ 8 – 9 PM.

The first webinar will be “**Rethinking Sunday School: The Problem and Practical Solutions.**” The presenter is Father Francois Beyrouti, Ph.D./D.Th. Explore the importance of holding onto a discipleship model in teaching the faith, and practical ways to accomplish this in our current situations.

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.

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 September 4:

5:00 PM: **50**; 9:00 AM: **35**; 11:00 AM: **39**

Our return to the Lord for all He has given us: \$2,876.00



- **Mon., Sept. 13** Vigil Liturgy for Exaltation of the Holy Cross at 6:00 PM.
- **Tues. Sept. 14** No meat on Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross.
- **Tues., Sept. 14** Parish Guild Meeting at 7 PM in Social Hall. All Parishioners are invited.

RUMMAGE SALE

Friday and Saturday, September 24 & 25 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM in Social Hall.

Donations may be dropped off after Liturgies. No donations will be accepted after September 19. No furniture or large appliances. Only new or nearly new clothing please. We will also have a Bake Sale.

Come and buy a **LUCKY LOTTERY GRAB BAG** with an instant lottery ticket attached. We are accepting donations of \$1 instant tickets to be put in the bags.

Please call Elaine at 330-770-1100 if you have any questions.

LADY BUG BOX

This month's drawing will be held on Sunday, September 26th, after the 11:00 AM Liturgy.

One of the prizes in the Lady Bug Box this month is a chance to win big bucks in the Knights of Columbus Football CRAZR Sweepstakes. This is a \$20 Ticket that is good for a sweepstakes going on from November 7th through January 9th. They are giving away \$2500 per week for ten weeks.

Tickets are being sold in the Social Hall for chances to win the contents of the **Lady Bug Box**. This box contains Instant Lottery Tickets and/or Gift Cards. Tickets are \$1.00 each or 6 for \$5.00, and can be purchased after each Liturgy. Proceeds from this fundraiser will be going towards our 100th Anniversary Celebration. We would like to continue this fundraiser monthly with your support. Any donations of Instant Lottery Tickets and/or Gift Cards would be welcome and appreciated.

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

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



SEPTEMBER 12, 2021 SCHEDULE OF DIVINE SERVICES

Sunday	12 Sept.	<i>SUNDAY BEFORE THE EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS. Leave-taking (Otdanije) of the Feast of the Birth of the Theotokos. The Holy Bishop-Martyr Autonomous.</i>
(Sun. Vigil)	5:00 PM 9:00 AM 11:00 AM	+Steve Zombar – Raiti family +Mary Ann Johnson (40th day) – Leon & J. Johnson families +Betty Vazur – Patricia Sudik & family
Monday	13 Sept.	<i>Pre-festive Day of the Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross. The Commemoration of the Dedication of the Church of the Resurrection of our Lord in Jerusalem. The Holy Bishop-Martyr Cornelius.</i>
(Vigil Liturgy)	6:00 PM	+Joanne Emory – Elizabeth Cantelmo
Tuesday	14 Sept.	<i>FEAST OF THE EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS. The Passing of our Holy Father John Chrysostom, Archbishop of Constantinople. (pgs. 253 – 258).</i> No Divine Liturgy
Wednesday	15 Sept.	<i>Post-festive Day of the Exaltation of the Cross. The Holy Great Martyr Nicetas. Our Venerable Father Symeon, Archbishop of Thessalonica.</i> No Divine Liturgy
Thursday	16 Sept.	<i>Post-festive Day of the Exaltation of the Cross. The Holy Great Martyr Euphemia.</i> No Divine Liturgy
Friday	17 Sept.	<i>Post-festive Day of the Exaltation of the Cross. The Holy Martyr Sophia (Wisdom) and Her Three Children, Faith, Hope and Charity.</i> No Divine Liturgy
Saturday	18 Sept.	<i>Saturday after the Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross. Our Venerable Father Eumenius the Wonder-worker, Bishop of Gortyna.</i>
(Vigil Liturgy)	5:00 PM	+Frank Hoson, Jr. – Josephine Massaro
Sunday	19 Sept.	<i>SUNDAY AFTER THE EXALTATION OF THE CROSS. The Holy Martyrs Trophimus, Sabbatius and Dorymedont.</i>
	9:00 AM 11:00 AM	+Carol King – Aunt Marjie and Cousins Paul & Cheryl +Sister Agnes Knapik – Oblates of St. Benedict



Attentive to the Word

SUNDAY BEFORE THE EXALTATION OF THE CROSS

John 3: 13 – 17

*Tone 7 Troparion only Pg. 156; follow directions
on Pgs. 248 & 249 (under heading Sept. 8 – 12)*



On the Sunday which precedes the great and important feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross (September 14), our Church prescribes a portion of Saint Paul's letter to the Galatians (6:11-18) and a few short verses from Saint John's Gospel (3: 13-17) for our reflection and spiritual consideration.

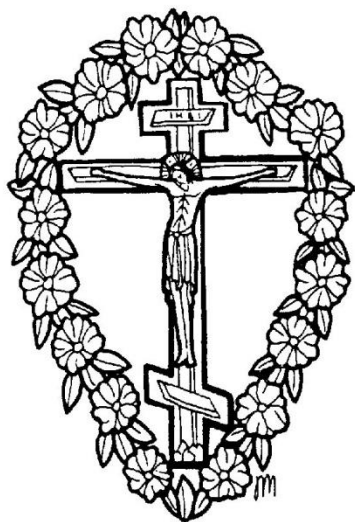
Saint Paul tells his readers that the cross of Christ is what gives his life focus and perspective. At the time Saint Paul wrote to the Galatians, there were individuals in the community forcing pagan converts to follow the old Jewish practices which they then bragged about having the converts observe. Saint Paul corrects these individuals and tells them that what really matters is having been made new all over again in Christ through His cross. The Cross opened again the gates of Paradise

closed by Adam's sin when he ate the forbidden fruit. The tree of the cross stands forever as the sign of God's great love for fallen mankind.

The text taken from Saint John's Gospel emphasizes that great love. Saint John writes, "God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him may not perish but may have everlasting life." This short verse (3:16) is often quoted. Sometimes you may see it on T-shirts, in sports arenas and other public places. It is a stirring reminder that our Creator did not abandon us to perdition but kept His promise to send a Redeemer Who came in the Person of His own Son, Jesus – our Lord.

Verse 16, however, must be linked with the dramatic and challenging words of our Lord recorded further on in Saint John's Gospel (15:13):

"There is no greater love than this - to lay down one's life for one's friends." Here Jesus talks about what He would do for us when He was nailed to His cross – there to give His life that we might have life.



The feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross marks the occasion of its discovery by Saint Helen, mother of Emperor Constantine in the early fourth century. In our churches, a cross, after solemn ceremony, is prominently displayed on the tetrapod, decorated with arrangements of beautiful flowers, to remind us, as Saint Paul did the Galatians, of the proper focus we must keep as we walk behind our Lord bearing the burdens, the hurts, the disappointments, the suffering and sadness which can be and is sometimes part of our human condition.

Our Church also reminds us that behind the darkness of the Cross shines a bright promise and hope of the new life gained by it because Jesus gave His life for us: "Come, O people, let us contemplate the marvelous wonder; let us bow before the power of the Cross. For the tree of Paradise gave rise to the reign of death, and now a Tree has made our life blossom forth when the sinless Savior was nailed upon it. And now, all the nations that are nourished by this incorruptible food sing praises: You destroyed death by Your cross and set us free. O Lord, glory to You." (Veneration hymn at Matins)

The cross is venerated for eight days during which the troparion, "We bow to Your Cross, O Lord, and we glorify Your holy resurrection" is sung at all Services. Cross and Resurrection are never separated. Although the cross meant death, by His death Jesus brought and bought us unending life. May we live our lives to merit and gain life eternal.

(By Msgr. John T. Sekellick)

VENERATION OF THE HOLY CROSS

The Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross is celebrated on September 14. Veneration of the Holy Cross became public with the discovery of the true Cross of Christ about the year 326. It was discovered during excavation operations under Archbishop Macarius of Jerusalem (314-335). Tradition credits St. Helena with the discovery of the true cross of Christ. St. Helena sent a large portion of the Holy Wood to her son, Emperor Constantine the Great, in Constantinople. Another portion was sent to Rome which was later deposited in the Basilica of the Holy Cross of Jerusalem.

The first public veneration of the Holy Cross took place in Jerusalem on September 14, 335. The annual observance of the veneration of the Holy Cross attracted a great multitude of pilgrims. To enable the many pilgrims to view and venerate the Holy Cross, the Bishop elevated the relics of the Cross. This was the beginning of the feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross. "We bow to Your cross, O Lord, and we glorify Your holy resurrection."