

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 scripton 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.

YEAR-END CONTRIBUTION STATEMENTS FOR 2021

This is the last weekend to pick up your statements in the Social Hall. If you want them after February 28th, you will have to request them from the office - 330-372-1875.

ALL ABOUT MARDI GRAS LET'S CELEBRATE!

**Come join us for a Mardi Gras Celebration after Liturgies
Feb. 26th & 27th in the Social Hall!**

The season of Mardi Gras begins with the Epiphany January 6th and ends on Fat Tuesday as we begin the season of Lent. It represents the biblical story of The 3 Kings who brought gifts to the Baby Jesus.

The King Cake evolved from this event. This cake is baked with a miniature plastic baby inside representing the Baby Jesus. It is decorated in the colors of Mardi Gras – purple for Justice, green for Faith, and gold for Power. Tradition has it that the person who gets the piece of cake with the baby will have Luck and Prosperity the upcoming year.

We will be celebrating Mardi Gras with our own King Cake. An instant lottery ticket will be awarded to everyone finding the baby in their piece of cake.

See how soon your luck begins!

CHOCOLATE BYZANTINE CROSS SALE – 2022

The feast of the Resurrection of Christ will soon be upon us! You will again have an opportunity to order *Chocolate Byzantine Crosses* for your family and/or friends. 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. The orders must be **prepaid**. Just drop your order envelopes in the collection basket. **The crosses will be ready for pick-up Palm Sunday weekend, April 9th and 10th. Last day to order is Sunday, March 20th.** (If paying by check, make check payable to: *Saints Peter and Paul Byzantine Catholic Church*).



LADY BUG BOX

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. 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 Cash, Instant Lottery Tickets and/or Gift Cards would be welcome and greatly appreciated!

This month's drawing will be held on Sunday, February 27th, after the 11:00 AM Divine Liturgy.

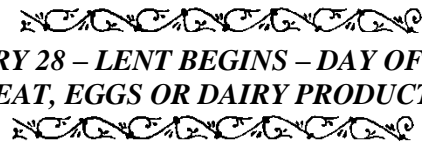
Divine Liturgy Attendance weekend of February 19:

5:00 PM: 46; 9:00 AM: 39; 11:00 AM: 46

Our return to the Lord for all He has given us: \$3,214.25



- **Sun., Feb. 27** ECF Classes today 10 AM to 10:45 AM.
- **Sat. & Sun., Feb. 26 & 27** Mardi Gras Weekend.
- **Wed., March 2** St. Vincent de Paul Meals Program 9 AM – 2 PM.



**MONDAY, FEBRUARY 28 – LENT BEGINS – DAY OF STRICT FAST –
NO MEAT, EGGS OR DAIRY PRODUCTS**



REGULATIONS FOR THE SEASON OF THE GREAT FAST – 2022

The fasts of the liturgical year are to be kept in accordance with the Norms of Particular Law of the Byzantine Metropolitan Church *sui iuris* of Pittsburgh.

simple abstinence

- The law of simple abstinence forbids the use of meat, but permits the use of eggs and dairy products.
- All faithful of the Archeparchy who receive the Eucharist are obliged to observe simple abstinence when prescribed. Abstinence is obligatory on all Wednesdays and Fridays of the Great Fast.

strict abstinence

- The law of strict abstinence (fast) forbids the use and consumption of all meat, eggs and dairy products.
- All faithful of the Archeparchy who receive the Eucharist are obliged to observe strict abstinence when prescribed.
- Strict abstinence (fast) **is to be observed in 2022 on Pure Monday, February 28** (the first day of the Great Fast), **and on Great and Holy Friday, April 15.**

dispensations

- Priests and parents are to ensure that minors are educated in the authentic sense of penance.
- Pastors and administrators, with just cause and taking into account acceptable reasons due to personal circumstances, may grant to the individual faithful as well as to individual families, dispensations, transferals, or commutations of abstinence and strict fast into other pious practices. Superiors of religious houses or clerical institutions enjoy these same faculties relative to their constituents.
- **liturgical services** The Divine Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts takes precedence over all other Lenten Devotions.
- The Divine Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts only is to be celebrated on Wednesdays &/or Friday evenings of the Great Fast and also on Monday, Tuesday, & Wednesday of Holy Week.

FEBRUARY 27, 2022

SCHEDULE OF DIVINE SERVICES

Sunday	27 Feb.	<i>CHEESEFARE SUNDAY. Our Venerable Father and Confessor Procopius the Decapolite.</i>
(Sun. Vigil)	5:00 PM	+Stephen Sernulka, III – mom & dad
	9:00 AM	+Douglas Winland – Marjorie Reynolds
	11:00 AM	+Nancy Sernulka – Mary Anne Karchut
Monday	28 Feb.	<i>FIRST DAY OF THE GREAT FAST. Our Venerable Father and Confessor Basil, Fellow Ascetic of Procopius.</i>
	6:00 PM	Pre-Sanctified Liturgy
Tuesday	1 March	<i>The Venerable Martyr Eudoxia. Our Holy Father David, Enlightener of Wales.</i>
		No Divine Services
Wednesday	2 March	<i>The Holy Martyr Theodotus, Bishop of Cyrene.</i>
	6:00 PM	Pre-Sanctified Liturgy
Thursday	3 March	<i>The Holy Martyr Eutropius and His Companions, Cleonicus and Basiliscus.</i>
		No Divine Services
Friday	4 March	<i>Our Venerable Father Gerasimus of the Jordan.</i>
	6:00 PM	Pre-Sanctified Liturgy
Saturday	5 March	<i>Saturday of the First Week of Lent, on which we commemorate the Miracle of St. Theodore. The Holy Martyr Conon.</i>
(Vigil Liturgy)	5:00 PM	+Steve Zombar – Raiti family
Sunday	6 March	<i>FIRST SUNDAY OF THE GREAT FAST. SUNDAY OF ORTHODOXY. MEMORY OF THE HOLY PROPHETS. The Holy Forty-Two Martyrs of Ammorium.</i>
	9:00 AM	+Bob Blake – Betty Blake
	11:00 AM	Intention of Rosary Society Members



Attentive to the Word
SUNDAY OF CHEESEFARE

Matthew 6: 14 – 21

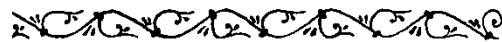
Tone 7 Pg. 156 and Pgs. 218 – 219

Following Each Divine Liturgy we will pray the prayer of Mutual Forgiveness, which you will find in the pews.

WHY WE DO WHAT WE DO

The purpose of fasting is to prepare us spiritually for God's work in our lives. When we eliminate whatever distracts us and give Him our undivided attention, we begin to see things from His perspective. With the Spirit's help, we will be able to identify the areas of our being that call for change – ungodly thought patterns, habits that need to be broken, misplaced priorities, and our daily schedule. The Lord uses fasting to do some "housecleaning," and that is a good thing.

When our mind's filter is clogged with ungodly thinking, we are unable to take in deep scriptural truth. Among the benefits of fasting are a clear mind and greater understanding of Scripture. An additional advantage is increased spiritual discernment about ourselves and others. We will have insight to see things that we may have overlooked before. Following our spiritual "bath," God's power will be released into our lives, and we will break free from the ungodliness that has restricted us. Greater intimacy with the Lord will also result. With our minds freed of clutter and our priorities straightened out, we will be in a position for God to pour out His fullness into us. Greater confidence and courage to do the Father's will become ours as well. Scripture warns us not to turn fasting into a public display or religious ritual as the Pharisees were in the habit of doing. It is to be a private experience – one that strengthens our relationship with God. When was the last time you let the Lord "clean house"? He has the time, if you are willing.



CHEESEFARE SUNDAY

On all occasions Jesus maintained the habit of being forgiving toward those who mistreated him. This was supremely demonstrated by his words from the cross in which he offered forgiveness and prayed for the forgiveness of those who were crucifying him. This prayer for forgiveness was not the impulse of the moment; it was the expression of a permanent principle by which Jesus lived. If you and I would be true followers of Jesus, we must adopt his fundamental attitudes and then engage in the same kinds of activities in which he participated. *Jesus taught that we should seek forgiveness and also grant forgiveness (Matt. 6:8).*

It is significant that in the Lord's Prayer Jesus taught his disciples to be forgiving in the same breath in which he taught them to pray for forgiveness. Our Lord taught that if we would experience forgiveness, we must be forgiving. Forgiving others is not a *price* we pay in order to receive forgiveness; it is a *condition* we must meet in order to obtain forgiveness. There is a difference between paying a price and meeting a condition. *Jesus taught that we must be forgiving (Matt. 18:21 -22).*

In Jesus' day it was common practice to grant forgiveness three times. When Peter inquired about forgiving seven times, he was being very generous. Jesus shocked his disciples by telling them that they must not place restrictions on forgiveness: "I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times" (v 22).

Behind our Lord's command to practice unlimited forgiveness is his divine desire to deliver us from self-destructive attitudes and actions. He recognized that to harbor hate in the heart is to create an acid that will destroy our capacity to be loving and helpful. Our Lord recognized that all of us will experience mistreatment and injustice in one form or another. In his own experience, he developed the habit of always practicing forgiveness rather than responding with hate, bitterness, and hostility. He never resorted to retaliation. Retaliation of evil for evil will destroy our homes, our families, and our fellowship. The apostle Paul says that Satan seeks to prevent us from practicing forgiveness so that he might gain an advantage over us (2 Cor. 2:10-11). The most expensive luxury anyone can have is a grudge against a Christian brother or sister.

A forgiving spirit prevents the Devil from establishing a beachhead in our minds and thought processes. *A forgiving spirit* delivers us from becoming involved in a vicious cycle of self-destructiveness. *A forgiving spirit* prevents the acid of hate from collecting in our hearts. *A forgiving spirit* brings healing to broken hearts and injured spirits. *A forgiving spirit* permits us to reveal God's love as we have experienced it through Jesus Christ. *A forgiving spirit* enables us to experience God's continuing miracle of forgiveness.

Let each of us develop the habit of being forgiving rather than being vindictive and retaliatory toward those who mistreat us.

PRAYERS OF MONDAY – CHEESEFARE WEEK

The doors of divine repentance open before us; let us enter with joy and purify our bodies. Let us fast from food as well as from our sinful desires, conducting ourselves as servants of Christ, who calls the world to the kingdom of heaven. Let us offer this tithe of the whole year to the King of the universe, so that with love, we may contemplate his holy Resurrection. (Matins Sessional Hymn II)

At all times fasting permits us to overcome the tricks and boldness of the demons; and the angels, the guardians of our life, increase their vigilance over us if we are purified by fasting. (Matins Aposticha)

By fasting, let us strive to purify ourselves from the stain of our sins. By mercy and the love of our neighbor, by our zeal to help the needy, we shall be able to enter the bridal chamber of Christ who grants us his great mercy. (Vespers Aposticha)