

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 Father Simeon to schedule.

Mystery of Crowning: Must be a registered, active, supporting member of the Parish Family. Must meet with Father Simeon before setting date and reserving your banquet hall. Pre-Cana program is required and three sessions with Father 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 Father Simeon is notified. It especially is important that a family member contact Father Simeon whenever a loved one is hospitalized.

Funerals: Families of the deceased or the funeral director must contact Father 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.

THE PARENTS WHO DRUGGED US!!!

A friend asked me, "Why didn't we have a drug problem when we were growing up?" I replied that I had a drug problem when I was young:

- I was drug to church on Sunday mornings.
- I was drug to church for weddings and funerals.
- I was drug to family reunions and community socials no matter the weather.
- I was drug by my ears when I was disrespectful to adults.
- I was also drug to the woodshed when I disobeyed my parents, told a lie, brought home a bad report card, did not speak with respect, spoke ill of the teacher or the pastor, or if I didn't put forth my best effort in everything that was asked of me.
- I was drug to the kitchen sink to have my mouth washed out with soap if I uttered a profanity.
- I was drug out to pull weeds in mom's garden and flower beds.
- I was drug to the homes of neighbors to help mow the yard, repair the clothesline, and if my mother had ever known that I took a single dime as a tip for this kindness, my dad would have drug me back to the woodshed.

Those drugs are still in my veins and they affect my behavior in everything I do, say, or think. They are stronger than cocaine, crack, or heroin, and if today's children had this kind of drug problem, this world would be a better place. God bless the parents who drugged us!!



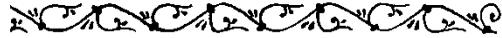
Divine Liturgy Attendance weekend of July 16:

5:00 PM: 47; 10:00 AM: 76

Our return to the Lord for all He has given us: \$2,680.00



- **Mon., July 25** Church Cleaning Party 9 AM – Noon. Come lend a helping hand.
- **Wed., Aug. 3** St. Vincent de Paul Meals Program 9 AM – 2 PM.
- **Tues., Aug. 9** Parish Guild Meeting 6 PM. All are welcome to attend.
- **Sat., Aug. 13** Workshop for Catechists & Others – SS. Cyril and Methodius Seminary, Pittsburgh, PA – 9:15 AM – 3:00 PM – See brochure on bulletin board in Social Hall for more information.

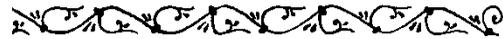


CHRISTMAS IN JULY!

Fun in the Social Hall after Liturgies in July!

Pick a Christmas Gift for \$5.00. Win a Prize!

Prizes include Gift Cards, Lottery Tickets & Mystery Gifts.



**PRAYER TO ENTRUST THE UNITED STATES
TO GOD'S PROTECTION**

God our Father, giver of life, we entrust the United States of America to Your loving care. You are the rock on which this nation was founded. You alone are the true source of our cherished rights to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. Reclaim this land for Your glory and dwell among Your people. Send Your Holy Spirit to touch the hearts of our nation's leaders. Open their minds to the great worth of human life and the responsibilities that accompany human freedom. Remind Your people that true happiness is rooted in seeking and doing Your Holy Will. Through the intercession of Mary Immaculate, patroness of our land, grant us the courage to reject the "culture of death". Lead us to a new era of life. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

JULY 24, 2022

SCHEDULE OF DIVINE SERVICES

Sunday	24 July	<i>SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST. The Holy Great Martyr Christine. The Holy Martyrs Boris and Gleb, baptized Roman and David.</i>
(Sun. Vigil)	5:00 PM 10:00 AM	+Frank Hoson, Jr. – Hoson family +Linda Mendenhall – sister, Lisa, & John Mosko
Monday	25 July	<i>Dormition of the Holy Anna, Mother of the Mother of God. Memory of the Holy Women Olympiada and Euphrasia. Commemoration of the Fifth Ecumenical Council. The Holy Women are commemorated at Compline.</i> No Divine Services
Tuesday	26 July	<i>The Holy Priest-Martyr Hermolaus and His Companions. The Holy Venerable Martyr Paraskevia. Our Venerable Father Moses the Carpathian of the Monastery of the Caves.</i> No Divine Services
Wednesday	27 July	<i>The Holy Great-Martyr Panteleimon. Memory of our Holy Father Clement, the Wonder-worker, Archbishop of Ohrid.</i> No Divine Services
Thursday	28 July	<i>The Holy Apostles and Deacons Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon and Parmenas. Our Blessed Mother Alphonsa Muttathupadathu of Kerala.</i> No Divine Services
Friday	29 July	<i>The Holy Martyr Callinicus .</i> No Divine Services
Saturday (Vigil Lit.)	30 July 5:00 PM	<i>The Holy Apostles Silas and Silvanus and Their Companions.</i> +Sr. M. Martha Kacmarek – Benedictine Sisters
Sunday	31 July	<i>EIGHTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST. Pre-festive Day of the Procession of the Venerable and Life-creating Cross. The Holy and Righteous Eudocimus. The Holy Joseph of Arimathea.</i> 10:00 AM Health of Fr. Simeon – Marjorie, Paul & Cheryl Simon



Attentive to the Word
SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Matt. 9: 27 - 35

Tone 6 Pages 152 - 153

Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf shall be unstopped. Then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the dumb sing. (from the Prophecy of Isaiah - 35:5-6)

These were the *unmistakable* signs of the Messiah, the signs which every Jew would have been anticipating, awaiting, and recognizing. The One Who could do these signs could be none other than the Savior of Israel.

Jesus made it plain Who He was in a conversation with the disciples of St. John the Baptist. When St. John sent his disciples to Jesus to ask Him *"Are you the Coming One, or do we look for another?"*, Jesus answered and said to them, *"Go and tell John the things which you hear and see: The blind see and the lame walk; the lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear; the dead are raised up and the poor have the gospel preached to them."* -- St. Matthew 11:3-5

How did the people react to the appearance of the Messiah, this event they had been awaiting and looking for since the days of Moses? They couldn't stop talking about Him, even when he commanded them to be silent. "And the multitudes marveled, saying 'It was never seen like this in Israel!'" (Mt. 9:33)

And they all lived happily ever after...? Not everyone, it seems. The grumbling began with the Pharisees: "He casts out demons by the ruler of the demons." (Mt. 9:34) And the same people who brought their sick to Him for healing, and invited Him into their homes and synagogues, when Pilate asked them, *"What then shall I do with Jesus who is called Christ (Messiah)?"* They all said to him, *"Let Him be crucified!"* Then the governor said, *"Why, what evil has He done?"* But they cried out all the more, saying *"Let Him be crucified!"* When Pilate saw that he could not prevail at all, but rather that a tumult was rising, he took water and washed his hands before the multitude, saying *"I am innocent of the blood of this just Person. You see to it."* And all the people answered and said, *"His blood be on us and on our children."*

What happened? Why did they all turn so bitterly against Jesus? On the part of the people, He was not the Messiah they wanted. He made no attempt to lead the people in a revolt against their Roman overlords. As Jesus said to Pilate in St. John's Gospel, *"My kingdom is not of this world. If My kingdom were of this world, My servants would fight, so that I should not be delivered to the Jews; but now My kingdom is not from here."* Pilate therefore said to Him, *"Are You a king then?"* Jesus answered, *"You say rightly that I am a king. For this cause I was born, and for this cause I have come into the world, that I should bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth hears My voice."* -- St. John 18:36-37

They didn't want a Messiah bringing *His* kingdom--they wanted one who would bring *theirs*. And they certainly didn't want one who bore witness to the truth; after all, the truth is not often a comforting thing. As for the Pharisees, they already had a Messiah – themselves. The *status quo* worked for them. They liked being in charge – and they certainly didn't like *this* Man calling them false prophets, an evil and adulterous generation, transgressors of the commandments of God, hypocrites, blind guides, fools, serpents, a brood of vipers. This certainly didn't jive with the way *they* saw themselves, and the role which they enjoyed in society.

What does all of this have to do with us? We are very quick to recognize Jesus as the Messiah, the Christ – but is He the Messiah *we* want, any more than He was the one the Jews were looking for? He's our friend when He does what we want Him to do: we beg Him for everything from performing the greatest of miracles to forgiving the greatest of sins – and when He does, we love Him; we can't get enough of Him. But when He reminds us that His kingdom is not of this world, that the objectives are different, the values are different, and that our constant aim must not be to please ourselves, but to lay down our lives for our neighbors, do we still embrace Him? Is the kiss we give Him one of love, or is it a Judas kiss? Do we cry out in His praise, or is there a voice in us, a voice of the people calling out "Let Him be crucified!?" I want it *my* way. And do we, like the Pharisees, cling to the *status quo*? We pride ourselves on being the masters of our own destiny; we seek to be empowered, and liberated; we foster our own self-esteem and pride: "You are your own dog!" Are we our own Messiahs? And if we are, how do we react when the true Messiah asserts His kingdom over the one we've built up for ourselves?

THAT IS SOMETHING TO HONESTLY THINK ABOUT!!!