

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 Sts. 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: Sister Barbara is in the Parish office from 10 AM – 2 PM Monday, Wednesday and Friday. Father Simeon is available on other days and times by appointment.

THIS IS POWERFUL...

A man on a weekend business trip took Sunday morning off to be with the Lord. He found a nearby church, arrived there early, parked his car, and got out. Another car pulled up along side him and the driver got out and said, "Excuse me, sir, I always park there! -- You took my place!"

The visitor went inside for Sunday School, found an empty seat, and sat down. A young lady from the church approached him and stated, "Sir, That's my seat... You took my place."

He was somewhat miffed by this rude welcome, but said nothing. After Sunday School, the man went into the sanctuary and sat down. Another member walked up to him and said, "That's where I always sit, you must be new here...You're in my place!" Even more disturbed by this treatment, he still said nothing.

Later as the congregation was praying for Christ to dwell among them, the visitor stood up, and his appearance began to change....

Horrible scars were clearly visible on his hands and on his sandaled feet, as his suit changed into a robe. As He walked out someone noticed him and called out, "What happened to you?" As a tear fell from His eye, He looked back and said, "I took your place....." This is powerful.

(PP) Divine Liturgy Attendance weekend of 27 March:

8:00 PM: **116** 11:00 AM: **134**

Holy Week: **Mon. 25; Wed. 40; Holy Thurs. 50**

Good Fri.: Annunciation **26;** Entombment **84;** **Holy Sat.** Jerusalem Matins: **19**

Our return to the Lord for all He has given us: . . Total Easter: \$11,497.00

(SM) Divine Liturgy Attendance weekend of 27 March:

38 from St. Michael; **14** from St. Peter & Paul

Pre-sanctified Liturgy: Holy Tues. **9** from St Michael; **8** from St. Peter & Paul

Good Fri. Entombment Service: **29** from St. Michael; **5** from St. Peter & Paul

Our return to the Lord for all He has given us: \$1,471.00



- **Sun. Apr. 3** ECF Religion Classes Today...beginning at 9:30 AM
- **Sun. Apr. 3** Bible Study – 4 PM in the Social Hall. Session 6
- **Wed. Apr. 6** St. Vincent de Paul Meals Program – 9 AM to 2 PM – We can use your help.
- **Sun. Apr. 10** Bible Study – 5 to 7 PM – in the Social Hall. (Please note the time change) Session 7
- **Sun. Apr. 10** Meeting of Oblates of St. Benedict – 2 to 4 PM at the Monastery – Please ring #3



Truly Christ is Risen!

Our Church lives in the events of Christ's death and resurrection. We certainly felt the presence of God in our celebrations! **Special thanks** go out to all those who helped, in any way, to make our celebration the festive occasion that it was – to the cantors and all who sang together – to the servers, the ushers, the cleaners, the helpers, the children, the catechists – and all who made the spirit possible! Thank you to the Ladies Guild for baking the Paskas and providing the plants that were given to the homebound of our parish as a reminder that they are still very much a part of our parish family. Thank You One and All! Let us continue that kind of participation in all of our Liturgies and Liturgical Services!

THANK YOU

I would like to thank all who remembered me during the celebration of the Feast of Feasts with Paschal greetings and the generous gifts. Your thoughtfulness and generosity were greatly appreciated. May God continue to bless us as we live out the reality of the Resurrection as a family of faith.

ETERNAL MEMORY



Grant, O Lord, eternal rest to the souls of your servants + **Irene Brienz** and +**Steven Zumerling** who have recently fallen asleep in the Lord. Please remember them and their families in your prayers.

3 APRIL 2016

SCHEDULE OF DIVINE SERVICES

Sunday (Vigil Liturgy) (SM) (PP)	3 April 5:00 PM 8:30 AM 11:00 AM	<i>THOMAS SUNDAY</i> Special Intention of Stephen & Theresa Sernulka Prayer Intention of Rosary Society +Phyllis Eggens – Ken & Fran Hanis
Monday	4 April	<i>Thomas Week. Venerable Fathers, Joseph the Hymnographer and George of Maleon</i> No Divine Liturgy
Tuesday (Chapel)	5 April 8:30 AM	<i>Thomas Week. Holy Martyrs Theodulus and Agathopodes and their Companions.</i> +Irene Frankos – Peter & Vikki Cicero
Wednesday	6 April	<i>Thomas Week. Our Holy Father Euthyches, Archbishop of Constantinople. The death of our Holy Father Methodius. Teacher of the Slavs.</i> No Divine Liturgy
Thursday (Chapel)	7 April 8:30 AM	<i>Thomas Week. Our Venerable Father George, Bishop of Mitylene.</i> +Kay Roscoe – Jessica Sacco
Friday (Chapel)	8 April 8:30 AM	<i>Thomas Week. Holy Apostles Herodian, Agabus, Rufus, Asyneritus, Phlegon, and Hermes.</i> +John Lacusky – Michael & Patty Paznick
Saturday (PP)	9 April 5:00 PM	<i>Thomas Week. Holy Martyr Eupsychius.</i> +Anna Sudik - Friends
Sunday (SM) (PP)	10 April 8:30 AM 11:00 AM	<i>SUNDAY OF THE MYRRH-BEARERS. Holy Martyrs Terence, Pompey and their Companions.</i> +Scott Graber – M/M Michael Johnson +Dorothy Byers – Bob, Betty & Macala Blake



Attentive to the Word *St. Thomas Sunday*

John 20:19 – 31

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Today is the Sunday of Thomas. Usually we speak of the apostle Thomas as doubting – as the one who did not believe. “Thomas, called Didymus, one of the Twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples said to him, ‘We have seen the Lord.’ But he said to them, ‘Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands and put my finger into the nail marks and put my hand into his side, I will not believe’” (Jn: 20:24-25). His lack of faith, however, is not the whole story.

We learn that Thomas did not remain in his state of unbelief. He returned to the community of the Apostles and it was there that he found the risen Christ and believed. “Now a week later his disciples were again inside and Thomas was with them. Jesus came, although the doors were locked and stood in their midst and said, ‘Peace be with you.’ Then he said to Thomas, ‘Put your finger here and see my hands, and bring your hand and put it into my side and do not be unbelieving but believe.’ Thomas answered and said to him, ‘My Lord and my God!’” (Jn 20:26-28).

How is it that Thomas, chosen by Jesus to be a disciple, chosen to be a witness to miracles, chosen to be a hearer of the words and teaching of the Sermon on the Mount, chosen to be a participant in the Last Supper, could not believe? It was as though the following, witnessing, hearing and participating were in vain.

Thomas was hurt and angry. He had missed the first appearance of the risen Christ to the Apostles. His lack of belief had more to do with his anger and hurt than with the Apostles. He felt and reacted like an outsider. Hurt and anger distanced him from the other Apostles and indeed Christ. It was only when he returned to the community and received the truth – the presence of the risen Christ – that he was able to believe. He was

no longer an outsider but was united with the community. His following, witnessing, hearing and participating needed to be supported in faith with others.

Today, there are many of us who also have difficulty believing. We are like Thomas. We are called to be disciples and followers of Christ, we hear the word of God in the Scriptures and we participate in the holy mysteries of the church. Still unbelief can often remain. Like Thomas we are hurt by many things in our church, our families and our own lives. It is this hurt and pain that keeps us from believing, and not Jesus Christ. We can feel betrayed, unloved, unsupported by those from whom we expect the opposite. Hurt and pain can deeply touch us all – clergy, religious and laity. Indeed, at times, we can feel like Thomas. We can stand alone in disbelief or walk in faith with the community.

THE CHOICE IS OURS! .

The mystery of returning can be very difficult for most, if not seemingly impossible for some. The process is individual, deeply personal and desperately needs the support and help of others – the church, our families and our friends. We often try to do it alone. We turn inward in unhealthy and destructive manners. There is no darkness like that of feeling all alone, but we do not have to stand alone. St. John Chrysostom encourages us, “the work of faith is not ours; it is the gift of God” (*Homilies on the Epistle to the Ephesians*).

We have received the gift of faith in baptism. It is in the community of the church that it will be nurtured and developed.

Let us pray to St. Thomas to help us in our belief. “The disbelief of Thomas has done more for our faith than the faith of the other disciples” (Gregory the Great, *Homilies on Ezekiel*). “It is precisely our faith in Christ which gives us the strength to look trustingly to the future” (John Paul II -*Holy Thursday 2002*).

By Metropolitan. Basil Schott

Christ is Risen!

Indeed He is Risen!