

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. Andrew to schedule.

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

Funerals: Families of the deceased or the funeral director must contact Fr. Andrew 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: The Parish office is open from 10 AM – 2 PM Monday, Wednesday and Friday. Father Andrew is available on other days and times by appointment.

FIFTEENTH ANNUAL SAINTS CYRIL AND METHODIUS LECTURE...

...Sponsored by the Byzantine Catholic Seminary of Saints Cyril and Methodius, Pittsburgh, PA. Thursday, 7 May 2015, 7 PM at St. John Cathedral Center, 210 Greentree Road, Munhall, PA 15120. Guest Speaker is Dr. Scott Hahn and his topic is :*The Our Father as a Synthesis of the Pattern of Scripture*. The event is FREE but due to space limitations, registration is required by 30 April. Register by calling (412) 321-8383 or email office@bcs.edu.

LENTEN ALMSGIVING

The staff and Board of Directors of Bella Women's Center send a HUGE THANK YOU to all who participated in the Bella Bear Lenten Almsgiving project. 100 bears were sent to be distributed between both parishes for the campaign. 23 bears were sent back empty. 22 bears are still outstanding to parishioners. You can still return them full. Sts. Peter and Paul Parish returned 42 bears with money in them for a total of \$1,650.11. Thanks again for your generosity during our Lenten Almsgiving.

SCHOLARSHIPS FOR CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

The Monsignor Sylvester Hladky Memorial Foundation will continue to offer scholarships toward tuition for students of all grade levels who wish to attend a Catholic elementary school, junior high or high school. Applications are now available for students for the 2015-2016 school year who are in need of financial assistance.

Parents may request an application after April 7, 2015 and before May 31, 2015 by calling (330)847-8257 or by writing to the following address:

Monsignor Sylvester Hladky Memorial Foundation
PO Box 184
Warren, OH 44482

All applications must be returned to the above address by June 6, 2015.



Divine Liturgy Attendance weekend of 5 April:

8:00 PM: 123; 11:00 AM: 176

Bright Monday: 18

Our return to the Lord for all He has given us:

Easter Contribution	\$12,492.00
Good Friday Contribution	\$813.00



- **Sun. Apr. 12** Classes resume today at 9:30 AM. We only have 3 classes remaining in the catechetical year, so we ask your cooperation in bringing your children for these classes.
- **Sat. & Sun. Apr. 11 & 12** Coffee & Donuts after both Divine Liturgies.
- **Sun. Apr. 12** Meeting of Oblates of St. Benedict – 2 PM to 4 PM at the monastery. Ring #301.
- **Tues. Apr. 14** St. Vincent de Paul Pizza Day – 9 AM to 2 PM. We can use your help.
- **Tues. April 14** Ladies Guild Meeting – 7 PM in the Social Hall.
- **Mon. Apr. 20** St. Benedict’s Auxiliary Meeting – 7 PM in the Social Hall. Lucy Falatic, Patient Advocate at St. Joseph Hospital will be the Guest Speaker for the evening. She will give us the latest information on “Health Care Power of Attorney.” This is valuable information for all of us. **We invite all parishioners and friends to avail themselves of this opportunity for an enlightening experience.**
- **Wed. April 22** St. Vincent de Paul Meals Program – 9 AM to 2 PM. We can use your help.



JUST A REMINDER: IT IS PROPER TO STAND DURING THE SINGING OF “CHRIST IS RISEN”, REGARDLESS IF WHICH MELODY IS USED.

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 flowers that were given to the homebound of our parish as a reminder that they are still very much a part of our parish family and we remember them daily in prayer. Thank You One and All! Let us continue that kind of participation in all of our Liturgies and Liturgical Services!

12 APRIL 2015

SCHEDULE OF DIVINE SERVICES

Sunday, (Vigil Liturgy) (SM) (PP)	12 April 5:00 PM 8:30 AM 11:00 AM	<i>THOMAS SUNDAY</i> +Anna R. Koza – John & Dianna Koza Prayer Intention of the Rosary Society +Michael Kuhar – wife, Helen
Monday, (Chapel)	13 April 8:30 AM	<i>Thomas Week. Holy Priest-Martyr Artemon and His Companions</i> +John & +Josephine Wargo – daughter, Elizabeth
Tuesday,	14 April	<i>Thomas Week. Holy Father and Confessor Martin, Pope of Rome. Holy New Martyrs Anthony, John and Eustathius.</i> Chancery
Wednesday, (Chapel)	15 April 8:30 AM	<i>Thomas Week. Holy Apostles Aristarchus, Pudens and Trophimus.</i> +Helen Prokop (40th day) – Friends of Ss. Peter & Paul Ch
Thursday,	16 April	<i>Thomas Week. Holy Martyrs Agape, Irene and Chionia.</i> No Divine Liturgy
Friday,	17 April	<i>Thomas Week. Venerable Father Simeon of Persia. Venerable Acacius, Bishop of Melitene.</i> No Divine Liturgy
Saturday (PP)	18 April 5:00 PM	<i>Venerable Father John, Disciple of the Holy Gregory the Decapolite.</i> +Andrew Susko, Jr. – Ed & Annabelle Mink
Sunday, (SM) (PP)	19 April 8:30 AM 11:00 AM	<i>SUNDAY OF THE OINTMENT-BEARING WOMEN.</i> <i>Venerable Father John of the Ancient Cave.</i> +Sally Johnson – Mike & Sue Johnson +Margaret Seman – Juanita Pregibon



Attentive to the Word

Thomas Sunday
John 20:19 - 31
Pages 175 - 177



One of the most remarkable features of the Gospels is the absolute honesty with which the Evangelists portray their own shortcomings as Apostles. These presentations of Christ's chosen followers, warts and all, offer valuable lessons and encouragement for our own struggle to grow closer to Christ.

On the Sunday dedicated to him, let us have a closer look at the character of St. Thomas. Thomas strikes us as practical, impatient with flighty spiritualities and abstract concepts. Thomas trusts his eyes and his wits, checks the bottom line and calculates his risks. If anyone in the Gospels represents the contemporary American male, it is Thomas.

In the Gospel of St. John, Thomas speaks only three lines and all of them have an edge of harsh "realist." All three times, he objects to the way things are unfolding around him. Yet each time, his impatient objection is met by the revelation of a deeper truth.

In John 11, when Jesus announces his intention to cross the Jordan to raise Lazarus from the dead, the Apostles balk. The Jews have only recently tried to stone them. Jesus insists however and Thomas's reaction (11:16) is pure sarcasm: "Let us go and die with him!" Thomas is not being a hero; he is questioning Jesus' wisdom and pointing out a life-threatening danger. Yet, by accompanying Jesus anyway, he will come to see Jesus' power over life and death. He will hear Jesus say to Martha and Mary, "I am the Resurrection and the Life" (11:24). His decision to cross the Jordan with Jesus will lead him to witness Christ's passion.

Thomas' second recorded line occurs during the Last Supper (John 14:1-7). In the Gospel of John, the Last Supper or Mystical Supper is a feast of words, as Jesus explains his passion, his union with the Father, his plan for his disciples, the new commandment of

love and the promise of the Holy Spirit/the Paraclete. The style of Jesus' words, however, is veiled, circular and quite unlike ordinary clear speech. In (13:31) Jesus says, "Where I am going you cannot come." A few verses later (14:2-4) he continues, "in my Father's house there are many dwelling places. If there were not, would I have told you that I am going to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back again and take you to myself, so that where I am you also may be. Where I am going you know the way."

We can sympathize with Thomas' exasperation at what appears to be illogical and contradictory. He wants plain speech. Like many a person in the pew on a Sunday, he gets fed up with too much verbiage and too many abstract curls to the preacher's sermon. He objects, "Master, we do not know where you are going; how can we know the way?" (16:5). Jesus' reply is so central to our faith in the Holy Trinity that icons of Christ often hold this text written across an open book Jesus said to him, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you know me, then you will also know my Father" (14:6-7). Nothing in the Gospel suggests that Thomas was ready to understand what he heard.

Thomas' last and best known speech is the subject of today's Gospel (John 20:19-29). For Thomas, wounds and scars and death are the stuff of reality. What he can touch and explore is true. Abstract notions like resurrection inspire doubt and suspicion and it's dangerous to pin your hopes on such ideas. By his words and by his absence, it appears that Thomas abandoned the Apostles after Jesus' Crucifixion; for Thomas especially Jesus' death must have killed any hopes he had for his Lord. He was back to reality.

The Gospel tells us that Jesus offered Thomas His wounds but we are not told that Thomas dared to go through with his experiment. Something inside Thomas cracked when he encountered the Risen Christ. His definition of reality was turned upside down. Like St. Paul knocked off his horse, Thomas experienced a real conversion. This time, it is not Jesus who expresses the deeper truth. It is rather Thomas himself who makes a perfect confession of faith (20:28): "My Lord and my God!" And we have every reason to believe that Thomas did surrender to Jesus as Lord. He gave up his jaundiced view of reality and accepted the Good News of the resurrection. He brought that Good News as an Apostle to Syria and even to India. In his martyrdom, even Thomas' original sarcasm, "Let us die with him," was itself converted into a profound and life-giving truth.

adapted by Fr. Michael Hayduk