

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.

SEPTEMBER 1

Do you know why the first day of September marks the beginning of the Church year? We are accustomed to think of January 1st as the beginning of the year. But the tradition of computing the start of a new year with autumn was common to the lands of the Bible and to all the lands around the Mediterranean. The summer harvest was at an end, the crops were stored, and people prepared for a new agricultural cycle. It was an appropriate time to begin a new year.

The prayers and hymns of the Byzantine Church not only recite the wonderful works of God in creation and history for our salvation but also frequently offer guidance about how to make each year a year of grace, a year of the Lord

E.C.F. BEGINNING CLASSES ...

...are just around the corner. Letters and registration forms have been sent to parents of the children who have attended classes in the past years. If you have not received a registration form for your child or are in need of one, please call the office. We ask that you return the forms by September 4, 2016, so that we can order and receive the text books before the start of classes.

82nd ANNUAL PILGRIMAGE TO MOUNT SAINT MACRINA

The Annual Pilgrimage in honor of our Lady of Perpetual Help will be held on Saturday, 3 September and Sunday 4 September, 2016 at Mount St. Macrina, 500 W. Main Street, Uniontown, PA 15401. We encourage you to attend this pilgrimage. The Mount is a beautiful and holy place where you can encounter both God and old friends.



(PP) Divine Liturgy Attendance weekend of 21 August:

5:00 PM: 74 11:00 AM: 73

Our return to the Lord for all He has given us: \$3,362.90

(SM) Divine Liturgy Attendance weekend of 21 August:

18 from St. Michael; 17 from St. Peter & Paul

Our return to the Lord for all He has given us: \$325.00



- **Sat. & Sun. Sept. 3 & 4** Pilgrimage, Mt. St. Macrina, Uniontown, PA
- **Wed. Sept. 7** St. Vincent de Paul Meals Program – 9 AM to 2 PM. We can use your help.
- **Sat. Sept. 10** CRS Vatra Picnic – Infant of Prague Church, Boardman
- **Tues. Sept. 13** Ladies Guild Meeting in the social hall - 7:00 PM
- **Sat. & Sun. Sept. 17 & 18** Coffee & Donuts in the social hall after both Devine Liturgies
- **Sun. Sept. 18** ECF classes begin – get your registrations in ASAP
- **Mon. Sept. 19** 7:00 PM meeting St Benedict’s Auxiliary – bring a friend & your gift for the dice game



MANY THANKS



A Very Big “Thank-You” to the members of the Ladies Guild and to all those who helped to makes our Parish Picnic a huge success – those responsible for coordination of the picnic, the “haulers”, the cooks, the set-up and clean-up crews, the fun games, and those who brought their “specialty” to share. There truly was something for everyone! Thanks to all who came and enjoyed the afternoon of fun, food and camaraderie. We look forward to next year! P.S. The facilities were wonderful!

BIBLE STUDY CLASSES

Once again we will be offering a Bible Study Class on Sunday afternoon at 4 PM. In these sessions, we will be studying *Walking Toward Eternity: Daring to Walk the Walk*. This is an 8 week course, and **will begin Sunday, 11 September 2016. It introduces you to 7 key virtues & practical steps to living them out in your daily lives.** If you are interested, please call 330-372-1875 or email sppbyzchurch@gmail.com to register. Registrations are necessary so that we can order the number of books needed for the sessions. **Deadline for registration is August 28.** The cost for the materials is \$14.

28 AUGUST 2016

SCHEDULE OF DIVINE SERVICES

Sunday	28 August	<i>FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST. Venerable Father Moses the Ethiopian. Holy Father Augustine, Bishop of Hippo.</i>
(Vigil Liturgy)	5:00 PM	+ Elizabeth Zombar – John & Eleanor Fetsko.
(SM)	8:30 AM	+Ronald Ferrance – M/M Harry Reynolds
(PP)	11:00 AM	+Victor Burick – Rocky & Joanne Altobelli
Monday	29 August	<i>THE BEHEADING OF THE HOLY PROPHET, FORERUNNER AND BAPTIST JOHN</i>
(Chapel)	8:30 AM	+ George, + Mary & + David Krupsa – Cathy Eddy
Tuesday	30 August	<i>Postfestive Day of the Beheading of St. John the Baptist. Our Holy Fathers Alexander, John and Paul the Younger, Patriarchs of Constantinople.</i>
		No Devine Liturgy
Wednesday	31 August	<i>The Deposition of the Venerable Belt of the Holy Theotokos.</i>
(Chapel)	8:30 AM	+Donald Sutyak – Henry Family
Thursday	1 September	<i>Beginning of the Church Year. Our Venerable Father Simeon the Stylite and his mother. The Holy Martyr Callista and her two Brothers, Evod and Hermogenes.</i>
(Chapel)	8:30 AM	+Victor Byers – Gail & Shirley
Friday	2 September	<i>The Holy Martyr Mammias. Our Venerable Father John the Faster, Patriarch of Constantinople.</i>
		No Divine Liturgy
Saturday	3 September	<i>The Holy Martyr Anthimus, Bishop of Nicomedia. Our Venerable Father Theoctist, Companion of St. Euthymius.</i>
(PP)	5:00 PM	+Edward Brienz, Sr. – John & Dianna Koza
Sunday	4 Septmber	<i>SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST. The Holy Martyr Babylas, Bishop of Antioch. The Holy Prophet Moses, who saw God.</i>
(SM)	8:30 AM	Prayer Intention of the Rosary Society
(PP)	11:00 AM	H/W of Parishioners of Bl. Basil Hopko Mission – Ted F.



Attentive to the Word
Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Mt. 22: 35 – 46

Tone 6 Pp. 152 & 153

Jesus silenced the Sadducees when they taunted him over a hypothetical problem. A woman married the brother of her dead husband, and then when he died, she married another brother, going through seven brothers. Whose wife would she be in heaven? Jesus demolished their argument, based on equating this lifetime with eternity. Surely they should know that heaven is not a continuation of life as we know it. Life in the beyond is not to be compared with this world.

What is religion all about? This is what Jesus is explaining. One theologian quite popular in the last century, Paul Tillich, trying to widen the definition of religion said it is a person's "ultimate concern." The artist's religion is his painting, the composer's his music, the architect's his building. This is using the term religion beyond the boundaries of theology. Jesus makes clear the true meaning of religion: Ultimate love of God, and love for all humanity. And He places them in proper perspective.

You must love God with everything that is within you. St. Augustine wrote, "Love God; then do as you please." If a person does just that and thinks through the implications, he cannot make an error, for he will thereby love everything else that God has created. Some, however, find a way to base their beliefs on God, and then appoint themselves His defense attorney. They make a lifetime of hating what they perceive as variation from their definition of God. The infamous Inquisition of the Middle Ages was such a distortion of faith. We all know the type who has enough religion to hate what God hates, but cannot find it within their hearts to love what He loves.

Another opposite extreme is to reject a deity who would allow suffering on earth. The famous Dostoevsky novel *Brothers Karamazov* takes up this theme. Ivan is an atheist. He cannot make himself believe in a God who would permit innocent suffering to happen. Why does God permit men to torture others, or to bring agony to children? Such a God is either impotent or unconcerned. Suffering is indeed a deep mystery. Jesus Himself does not offer any explanation other than to share the suffering of mankind on the Cross. Love is always an ongoing challenge. Obstacles arise on the journey through life that cause us to pause at times and measure the love we say we have for others.

The Sadducees based their religion on ritual observances, formulas of prayer and sacrifices they felt pleased the Lord. But David's prayer reminds us: "You do not desire sacrifice, else I would give it; You do not delight in burnt offerings. The sacrifices to God are a broken spirit; a broken and a contrite heart You will not despise (Psa. 51:16). The Pharisees built their faith on observance of laws. They made a religion of legalism, following rules that they imposed on others, harnessing God's freedom into a system. Jesus offers a faith that transcends all human limits to His grace and glory.

By Fr. Vladimir Berzonsky



BEHEADING OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST

At John's birth his father Zechariah greeted him with a song: "You, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High, for you will... give knowledge of salvation to his people by the forgiveness of their sins" (Luke 1:76-77). From his earliest days, John was set apart to proclaim the coming salvation of God. At his appearance in the wilderness of Judea, he began to sing his song of salvation for everyone to hear: "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near" (Matthew 3:2).

John's song was no peaceful, soothing lullaby intended to bring comfort to his hearers. Like Jeremiah, he was commissioned to herald the uprooting of sin and God's judgment against the waywardness of his people John did not sing of prosperity and joy, but of judgment and destruction. His lyrics were burnished in the fire of righteousness, his melody was a battle cry that foretold disturbance and conflict. It was only a matter of time before his voice would be silenced.

But John's message still rings. From age to age, his voice cries out in the wilderness of sin and separation: "Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight" (Mark 1:3)

Who induced John to sing in this way? Why did he persist, even when his very life was endangered by his song? John saw the saving love of God. He heard God calling his people to turn away from the darkness of sin and to embrace the light of Christ. The Spirit of God had revealed to him the mercy and love of the Father. When Jesus came to be baptized, John recognized the one who "takes away the sin of the world" (John 1:29). How else could he respond but to announce that the reign of sin was coming to an end and that those who turned from it would be saved?

Listen to John's voice today and seek the mercy and forgiveness of Christ. Let us, with John, prepare the way for the Lord. Let us sing of God's salvation.