

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.

MYSTERY OF DIVINE FORGIVENESS AND RECONCILIATION (Confession)

We cannot appreciate the gift of "God with us" unless we are receptive. Let us make every effort to prepare ourselves for the coming of Christ by coming before Him and asking forgiveness of our sins. *Confessions will be heard on Wednesday, 17 December before and after Emmanuel Moleben.*

SPIRITUALITY DAY

The Benedictine Sisters of Queen of Heaven Monastery are offering a Day of Spirituality, Saturday, December 13, 2014, from 1:00 PM to 4:30 PM. It will be held at SS. Peter and Paul Social Hall. To register, please call 330-856-1813 or email gohm@netdotcom.com by Monday, **December 8, 2014**. The presenter will be Reverend Christiaan Kappes, Professor of Liturgy and Patristics at SS Cyril and Methodius Seminary in Pittsburgh, PA. His topic will explain the relationship of the Theotokos to the Holy Eucharist and how this knowledge can transform us. There will be time for reflection, questions, refreshments and the Mystery of Reconciliation (Confession). You are welcome to pray Vespers with the sisters. There is no charge for the afternoon. Please avail yourself of the opportunity to further prepare for the glorious Feast of the Nativity.

OUR PHILIP'S FAST OUT REACH

1. This year our parish will take part in *Be a Santa to a Senior* program which is being sponsored by the Home Instead Senior Care Office. They hope to collect 2,400 gifts to help more than 800 Seniors this Christmas. A tree with "ornaments" listing a senior's name and gift request is in the church on the Belvedere side. Please take an ornament, purchase the gift item and return **unwrapped gifts** to the church by **7 Dec. 2014**. Your gift and the visit that comes with the delivery will make their Christmas memorable and happy.

2. The teens of our ECF program are collecting new and "gently used" books to be distributed to local charities. The book levels can range from those for infants and children to young adults. Collection boxes are in the Social Hall. Deadline is **14 December 2014**.



Divine Liturgy Attendance weekend of 30 November:

5:00 PM: **75**; 11:00 AM: **114**

Moleben to Emmanuel: **15**

Our return to the Lord for all He has given us \$2,635.82



- **Sun. Dec. 7** ECF Religion Classes resume for our children today.
- **Sun. Dec. 7** Bible Study 4 PM in the Social Hall – Session 10
- **Tues. Dec. 9** St. Vincent de Paul Pizza Day – 9 AM to 2 PM
- **Wed. Dec. 10** 6 PM - Moleben to Emmanuel
- **Sat. Dec. 13** Spirituality Day – 1 PM to 4 PM in the Social Hall – Please register by 8 December – call 330-856-1813
- **Mon. Dec. 15** Church Cleaning Party – 9 AM to Noon. We can use your help to do a special cleaning for Christmas
- **Fri. Dec. 19** Church decorating for Christmas – 9:30 AM.
- **Sat. Dec. 20** St. Benedict's Auxiliary Cookie Sale – after both Divine Liturgies. This is your golden opportunity to get delicious homemade cookies for Christmas.
- **Wed. Dec. 24** A day of strict fast and abstinence – No meat or dairy products.



90th ANNIVERSARY OF PARISH FOUNDING

On January 7, 2015 our parish will celebrate the 90th anniversary of its founding. This milestone anniversary will be commemorated on Sunday, **January 11** with a Divine Liturgy celebrated by Metropolitan William followed by a dinner in our Social Hall. Also we are looking for photographs from the life of the parish through the years. If you have any photos from any activities (i.e. Baptism, Wedding, First Communion, Choir, picnics, school, etc.) that you would like to share, please submit them to the Parish Office with your name on the back so that we can return it to you. We are planning to scan the photos into the computer to have a slide presentation through our media equipment in the hall. More information will follow as details are finalized. I hope you make every effort to celebrate this milestone with your parish family.

7 DECEMBER 2014

SCHEDULE OF DIVINE SERVICES

Sunday,	7 December	<i>TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST. Pre-festive Day of the Maternity of the Holy Anna. Holy Father Ambrose, Bishop of Milan.</i>
(Vigil Liturgy)	5:00 PM	+Sylvester Minarish – Bieringer Family
(SM)	8:30 AM	Prayer Intentions of Altar/Rosary Society
(PP)	11:00 AM	+Irene Frankos – Jim and Mary Elko
Monday,	8 December	<i>FEAST OF THE MATERNITY OF THE HOLY ANNA</i>
(PP)	6:00 PM	Liturgy of Thanksgiving – John & Dianna Koza
Tuesday,	9 December	<i>Venerable Father Patapius. Holy Hannah, Mother of the Prophet Samuel</i>
(SM)	6:00 PM	+Virginia Stempak – Mike & Sue Johnson
Wednesday,	10 December	<i>Holy Martyrs Menas, Hermogenes, and Eugephus.</i>
(Chapel)	8:30 AM	+Mary & +Michael Pipa – daughter, Virginia
Thursday,	11 December	<i>Venerable Father Daniel the Stylite.</i>
		No Divine Liturgy
Friday,	12 December	<i>Venerable Father Spiridon the Wonderworker, Bishop of Tremithus.</i>
		No Divine Liturgy
Saturday	13 December	<i>Holy Martyrs Eustratius, Auxentius, Eugene, Mardarius and Orestes. Holy Virgin Martyr Lucy.</i>
(Vigil Liturgy)	5:00 PM	+Jackvelyn Roof – Andrew & Loretta Greskovich
Sunday,	14 December	<i>SUNDAY OF THE FOREFATHERS. Holy Martyrs Thrysis, Leucas, Philemon, Appolonius ans Callinicus. Blessed Priest and Ascetic Father Nimatulla al-Hardini (Joseph Kassab).</i>
(SM)	8:30 AM	+Shirley Purdy Bretsik – Nancy DeAngelo
(PP)	11:00 AM	+Victor Burick – 40th day

SCHEDULE OF DIVINE SERVICES FOR THE FEAST OF THE NATIVITY

December 24 – **6:00 PM**, Compline with Divine Liturgy (*Warren*)
10:00 PM, Divine Liturgy (*Warren*)

December 25 – **9:00 AM**, Divine Liturgy (*Newton Falls*)
11:00 AM, Divine Liturgy (*Warren*)



Attentive to the Word

Twenty-sixth Sunday after Pentecost

Luke 17: 12-19

Pages 125 – 127 and 277

or use the papers provided



Jesus revealed His godly nature and manifested His divine authority by healing the sick and setting people free from demonic oppression. He offered compassion and mercy to all who approached Him (Luke 17:13; John 8:11), loved those who came to Him (Mark 10:21; John 15:12) and forgave those who were sorry for their sins (Luke 7:48). He comforted those who grieved (Luke 7:13-15), associated with the rejected and despised (Luke 5:12-13; John 4:7-9), respected the small and insignificant (Mark 12:4-44) and encouraged those who were seeking to know and serve God (Mark 12:34).

Having heard about Jesus, the ten lepers came to Him confident that He would both receive and heal them. Their faith in Jesus made them whole physically (Luke 17:14), enabling them to return to the families and communities from which their leprosy had excluded them.

One leper fully understood the magnitude of what Jesus had done for him; he alone came back to thank Him. Thus, he received yet more from Jesus – his full healing and *salvation* (Luke 17:19). Often we fail to recognize who God is and all that He had done for us. More often we fail to thank Him. Created to have union and life with God, we reject His authority and refuse to live for Him. Estranged from God by our sins, we live only for ourselves.

In mercy and love, God sent his Son to restore us to His friendship. God's totally innocent and sinless Son gave His life freely for the sinful and the guilty. Alone, Jesus bore the punishment which we deserved and took away our sins by shedding His blood for us. The gates of heaven were opened so we could enter in, and – cleansed of our sin, shame, and guilt – stand before the Father. In Christ, the Father fully accepts us as His sons and daughters (Galatians 4:6-7) and gives us everything (Ephesians 1:3).

To be truly grateful for all God has done for us, we have to put aside our everyday concerns and focus on who God is, who Jesus is, and what the Father has done for us in Christ. This will touch our hearts and fill them with gratitude for God's compassion, love and kindness. Prayer is always a divine exchange. By lifting up our minds to God in praise and thanksgiving for His greatness, mercy and kindness, we open our hearts to Him. Then God bestows upon us His abundant love, healing, life and salvation.

CONCEPTION OF ST. ANN

There are few observances that contrast Eastern and Western approaches to the mystery of salvation than this feast. In every conception we may emphasize the one who conceives or the one who is conceiving. Thus, the conception of St. John the Baptist (June 23) is observed as a feast of the Saint who was conceived, while the conception of Christ (the Annunciation, March 25) is kept as a Marian feast, emphasizing the one who conceived. The Byzantine Churches, which have celebrated Mary's conception since the 7th century, emphasize the one who conceived, St Ann, mother of the Theotokos.

The icon of the feast, of course, does not show Mary at all. It depicts her parents Joachim and Ann embracing. It shows the human dimension of this moment, a moment shared by so many couples when their first child is conceived. Inset into many depictions of this icon we find angels who announce to each parent separately the divine destiny their child will assume.

Both East and West emphasize Mary's part in the incarnation on this day. The East does so by stressing the One to whom Mary in turn will give birth. The hymns of the feast stress the end of Ann's childlessness. Ann "has produced the most beautiful fruit, who will bring forth the Bread of Immortality for the world, which in turn will bring all barrenness to an end." (Kathisma Hymn at Matins). The childlessness of Ann is compared to the barrenness of the world, which cannot produce its own salvation. This must come from God.

In the East the feast celebrates Mary's identity with the human race, of which she is the summit: "In you, O sovereign Lady, human nature finds its highest point, its joy and its pride. Proclaiming the strange wonder of your purity and singing to you with joy, it glorifies you as the Bride of God." (First Ode, Matins)

By Fr. Fred Saato