

## 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.

## PARISH OUTREACH . . .

Part of the Phillip's Fast is "almsgiving." Our Parish Almsgiving has taken many forms over the years. We've had the "Giving Tree" where we have purchased gifts for children of all ages. Last year, we chose ornaments and bought gifts for Senior Citizens from Beatitude House, etc.

Our Outreach Program 2016 will be to collect "Needed Supplies" for the Children's Rehabilitation Center in Howland. The Children's Rehab Center cares for children who have physical or other disabilities. Examples of supplies needed are tissues, bleach, and AA batteries. A complete list of needed supplies is on the fliers that are on the bulletin boards in the church and Social Hall. **Your items may be brought to the Social Hall (Belvedere side) and placed on the brown tables.**

## TUCK POINTING & CANOPY REPLACEMENT

The tuck pointing of our church building has been on the back burner for about ten years. It was at the point of actually being able to see daylight where mortar should have been. We have a beautiful church and we don't want to see it ruined with water leaks, etc. As all of you know, tuck pointing is a very expensive project. This one will cost \$48,100.00.

The canopy's are also in bad shape and need to be replaced. The canopy over the Belvedere Ave. entrance door had to be removed, because of the danger of collapse. The canopy replacements are also a very expensive project. We will do our best to keep the cost down and still have a quality product.

Any contribution towards the funding of these much needed projects will be greatly appreciated.



**(PP) Divine Liturgy Attendance weekend of 4 December:**

5:00 PM: 67 11:00 AM: 131

**Our return to the Lord for all He has given us: . . . . . \$3,466.15**

**(SM) Divine Liturgy Attendance weekend of 4 December:**

23 from St. Michael; 11 from St. Peter & Paul

**Our return to the Lord for all He has given us: . . . . . \$1,044.00**



11 DECEMBER 2016

SCHEDULE OF DIVINE SERVICES

- **Sun. Dec. 11** ECF Classes Today at the regular time – 9:30 to 10:45.
- **Sat. & Sun. Dec. 17 & 18** **Homemade Cookie Sale – Only \$4.50 per dozen** – sponsored by St. Benedict’s Auxiliary. Different size tray arrangements will be sold before and after the week-end Divine Liturgies.
- **Sun. Dec. 18** (PP) Church decorating – 2:00 PM; (SM) after the Liturgy
- **Mon. Dec. 19** Church Cleaning Party – 9:00 AM to Noon. Many hands make light work, so come and lend a helping hand!
- **Tues. Dec. 27** Ladies Guild Christmas Dinner and gift exchange. Save the date! More info to follow!
- **Sun. Jan. 1** Caroling for parishioners who are home bound or in care facilities. Save the date! More info to follow.

**MYSTERY OF DIVINE FORGIVENESS AND RECONCILIATION**

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 . . .

(PP) Confessions: 6:00 PM – 7:00 PM  
Monday Dec. 19 and Tuesday Dec. 20

(SM) Confessions: 7:45 AM Sunday Dec. 18  
 There will be no confessions heard after Wednesday, December 21<sup>st</sup>.

**SCHEDULE OF DIVINE SERVICES FOR THE FEAST OF THE NATIVITY**

- (PP) December 24 – 6:00 PM, *Compline with Divine Liturgy*
- (PP) December 24 – 10:00 PM, *Divine Liturgy*
- (SM) December 25 – 9:00 AM, *Divine Liturgy*
- (PP) December 25 – 11:00 AM, *Divine Liturgy*

Sunday	11 December	<i>SUNDAY OF THE FOREFATHERS. Our Venerable Father Daniel the Stylite.</i>
(Vigil Liturgy)	5:00 PM	+Gloria Conway – Byers family
(SM)	8:30 AM	Prayer Intention of the Rosary Society
(PP)	11:00 AM	+Anna Sudik – Patricia Sudik & family
Monday	12 December	<i>Our Venerable Father Spiridon the Wonder-worker, Bishop of Tremithus. Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe.</i>
		<b>No Divine Liturgy</b>
Tuesday	13 December	<i>Holy Martyrs Eustatius, Auxentius, Eugene, Mardarius, and Orestes. The Holy Virgin Martyr Lucy.</i>
(Chapel)	8:30 AM	+Lucy Prokop – Bill & Mary Anne Denman
Wednesday	14 December	<i>Holy Martyrs Thrusus, Leucas, Philemon, Appolonius and Callinicus.</i>
(Chapel)	8:30 AM	+John Fedyszak – Fedyszak family
Thursday	15 December	<i>Holy Martyr Eleutherius. Our Venerable Father Paul of Latra. Our Holy Father Stephen, Archbishop of Surozh.</i>
(Chapel)	8:30 AM	+Dorothy Beca – St. Benedict’s Auxiliary
Friday	16 December	<i>The Holy Prophet Haggai.</i>
		<b>No Divine Liturgy</b>
Saturday	17 December	<i>Holy Prophet Daniel and the Three Holy Children: Hananiah, Azariah and Mishael</i>
(PP)	5:00 PM	+Louis Conlan (40 <sup>th</sup> day) – Frank & Sylvia Hoson
Sunday	18 December	<i>SUNDAY BEFORE CHRISTMAS, OF THE HOLY FATHERS. Holy Martyr Sebastian and His Companions.</i>
(SM)	8:30 AM	Health & Blessings for Betty Babyak – Marie Lewis
(PP)	11:00 AM	+Victor Byers – Byers family



**Attentive to the Word**  
**Sunday of the Forefathers**

**Lk. 14: 16 – 24**

**Tone 5 Pg. 146 & 281 - 283**



This familiar parable is read in the Church each year just two Sundays before the feast of our Lord's Nativity. In it we are reminded of the great care with which God prepared the way of His incarnation. All of the Law and the Prophets look forward to this moment, the moment when the God/man Jesus Christ comes into the world. He is, in fact, the fulfillment of the Law and the Prophets – the goal towards which they were all aiming. The whole world was prepared by them for this great event. As the parable tells us, the King – that is God – has prepared a great feast for us and has invited us to come and enter into the joy that He

has prepared for us.

In the parable however, there were some who refused this invitation, considering their own affairs to be more important or more desirable than the feast of the King. Although God had chosen them, they did not choose God. Is this not like our first parents Adam and Eve. God had created them so that they might live in His love and in complete harmony with Him. But they chose to follow their own will and not to enter into the joy that God had prepared for them. They too were chosen by God but they did not choose God and so were cast out of paradise.

But our Creator, not willing to abandon His creation, prepared a way that we might return to Him. This preparation covered centuries and millennia of time; it was defined by the law and prophets; it was lived out time and time again in the

history of God's chosen people, the children of Abraham until finally the Way was ready to be revealed in its fullness. The Way that God prepared for us to return to Him is in fact the Person of Jesus Christ, God Himself taking human flesh and becoming incarnate. Just as through Adam all men fell into sin and corruption and death, now through Jesus Christ all men were invited to rise out of that condemnation and live again according to the love and grace of God. The Way back to the Kingdom of God had been restored. We had again been chosen by God. But some refused this second choosing – instead choosing to follow their own desires.

Even so, our God, in His great love for us, holds the door open to all mankind that we might enter into this great feast that He has prepared for us. He calls us into His Kingdom even though we are poor and beggars, bringing nothing of our own to Him other than ourselves. He goes into the highways and searches out even those who did not know Him so that they might come and share in His joy. The invitations have been sent out, the doors are thrown open and we are invited to the feast of God's provision for our salvation. No matter who we are, no matter from whence we come, the doors to the Kingdom of God are open to us. We are called to set aside our own desires, our own will, our own worldly pleasures – and instead enter into the Life of the Holy Trinity – conforming our will to the will of Christ, reaping the joys and pleasures of the Kingdom of God in exchange for those of the world. We are called to come to Him.

Today we begin in earnest to move toward the feast of the birth of the God/man Jesus Christ. Today we are called to see the great preparation that has gone into this event, to marvel at the love and care of God for us – that He would labor so long and with such great care for us. Today we look back at the whole history of the people of God and see that it is the history of God's preparation – all leading to the moment when He would take flesh, become incarnate, and enter the world as a Child. Today you have been given an invitation to come and join the feast, to abandon the world and enter the Kingdom of God, to leave your own life and receive instead the Life of Christ. Today you have been chosen by God – will you then choose Him?