

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.

THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU!

...To our Ladies Guild members who prepared the St. Nicholas Treat Bags for our ECF Students, set up and decorated the Social Hall for our St. Nicholas Dinner, prepared the center pieces, "served" the dinner and did all the clean up afterwards. The Ladies Guild also sponsored our Philip's Fast Outreach – "Be a Santa to a Senior" Program. Our parish response was wonderful, but there were about 10 or 12 ornaments left on the tree. Our ladies took the ornaments and bought gifts for those people. May God Bless them abundantly with good health and happiness now and for many years to come. They are truly doing God's work.

CHRISTMAS CAROLING . . .

We will be caroling for our Parishioners who are in Nursing homes or who are home-bound on **December 27**. We want them to know they are loved and missed. More information will be forth-coming. **Mark your calendars** and set aside an afternoon to join us for this important event.

JUBILEE YEAR OF MERCY

The Jubilee Year of Mercy began on 8 December 2015 and will conclude 20 November 2016, as announced by Pope Francis. To begin the celebration of the Year of Mercy, a Moleben to Emmanuel will be celebrated at our Cathedral in Munhall, PA at 3:00 PM, **today**, 13 December 2015. Archbishop William will be the homilist. You are all invited to attend and participate in this time of prayer to begin this special year which urges us to be mindful of God's mercy to us and of the mercy we should show toward others. You may pick up a special commemorative holy cards at the church entrances.



(PP) Divine Liturgy Attendance weekend of 6 December:

5:00 PM: **71**; 11:00 AM: **110**

Maternity of St. Anna: **21**

Our return to the Lord for all He has given us: \$3,286.05

(SM) Divine Liturgy Attendance weekend of 6 December:

15 from St. Michael; **6** from St. Peter & Paul

Maternity of St. Anna: (SM): **9** (PP): **2**

Our return to the Lord for all He has given us: \$701.00



- **Sun. Dec. 13** ECF Religion Classes for our students – **9:30 to 10:45 AM.**
- **Wed. Dec. 16** (SM) **St. Michael Church Decorating** – 10:00 AM. Come to help prepare your church for the Nativity of Christ
- **Sat. & Sun. Dec.19 & 20.** St. Benedict Auxiliary Homemade Cookie Sale after both Divine Liturgies, (just in time to help with your Christmas baking).
- **Mon. Dec. 21** (PP) **Church Decorating** – 9:00 AM. We can use your help. Many hands make light work. Come and join us!



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. 21 and Tuesday Dec. 22
Regular Saturday – December 19 – 4:00 to 4:30 PM.

(SM) Confessions: 7:45 AM Sunday, Dec. 20
There will be no confessions heard after Wednesday, December 23rd.

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*

13 DECEMBER 2015

SCHEDULE OF DIVINE SERVICES

Sunday	13 December	<i>SUNDAY OF THE FOREFATHERS. Holy Martyrs Eustratius, Auxentius, Eugene, Mardarius, and Orestes, Holy Virgin Martyr Lucy.</i> (Vigil Liturgy) 5:00 PM (SM) 8:30 AM (PP) 11:00 AM +Richard Senkowitz – Rose Ferderber Prayer Intention of Altar/Rosary Society +Terrilyn Petrick – husband, Stan
Monday	14 December	<i>Holy Martyrs Thrysus, Leucas, Philemon, Appolonius and Callinicus.</i> No Divine Liturgy
Tuesday	15 December	<i>Holy Martyr Eleutherius. Venerable Paul of Latra. Holy Father Stephen, Archbishop of Surozh.</i> (Chapel) 8:30 AM Int. of Sr. Barbara Pavlik – Benedictine Sisters
Wednesday	16 December	<i>Holy Prophet Haggai.</i> (Chapel) 8:30 AM Int. of Sr. Margaret Mary Schima – Benedictine Sisters
Thursday	17 December	<i>Holy Prophet Daniel and the three holy Children: Hananiah, Azariah and Mishael.</i> (Chapel) 8:30 AM +Andrew Susko, Jr. – Ed & Annabelle Mink
Friday	18 December	<i>Holy Martyr Sebastian and his Companions.</i> No Divine Liturgy
Saturday	19 December	<i>Saturday before Christmas. The Holy Martyr Boniface.</i> (PP) 5:00 PM +Anna Koza & +Dorothy Byers – John & Dianna Koza
Sunday	20 December	<i>SUNDAY BEFORE CHRISTMAS, OF THE ANCESTORS. The Holy Martyr Ignatius the God-bearer.</i> (SM) 8:30 AM (PP) 11:00 AM +Robert Banky – Marsha DiGirolamo +Sister Mary John Semon – Benedictine Sisters



Attentive to the Word
Sunday of the Forefathers

Luke 14:16-24

Troparion: Tone 4 p. 141

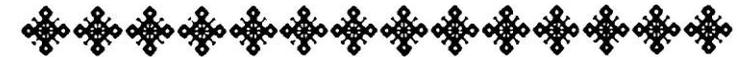
Rest of Propers: pp. 281 - 283

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 unlike 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. 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 goes into the highways and searches out even those who did not know Him so that they might come and share in His joy. 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, to reap 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, and the love and care of God for us. Today we look back at the whole of the 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, and become incarnate, entering 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. Today you have been chosen by God – will you then choose Him?



NO TIME FOR GOD ? !

When God came into the world people didn't have time. They were too busy. There was no room for Him in the inn. "He came unto his own, and they that were his own people received him not." And it seems that still today we have no room. We crowd Him out with so many things, especially with our busyness.

In Luke 14:16-24, the Lord tells a parable about busy people. A man – He said – gave a banquet and sent out invitations. One by one those who were invited to the banquet offered their excuses for not being able to come. They were all too busy; one with his farm, one with his wife, and another with his oxen. What Jesus is saying here is that man can become so busy making a living that he can neglect to make a life. God can be crowded out so easily by the trivial and the frivolous. The things that matter most are at the mercy of the things that matter least. Jesus is telling us also that important duties that keep us from God are not duties at all, but sins.

Listen to these words of a pastor: "On Friday night, a man boasted to me that he had taken a vacation in twenty-five years. He was too busy selling insurance. The following Monday I conducted his funeral. He died of a heart attack."

Fast living. Fast dying. And the tragedy of it all is that we miss the banquet. We miss the greatest gift of all – eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.