

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, 5:00 PM - 5:30 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.

Godparent/Sponsor Letters: Must be a registered, active, supporting member of the parish.

Rectory Office Hours: Sr. Barbara is in the office from 10 AM – 2 PM Monday, Wednesday and Friday. Father Andrew is available on other days and times by appointment.

PRAYER BEFORE THE IMAGE OF THE NATIVITY

Lord, I pray to You and rejoice at the feast of the birth of Your Holy Son. Call forth the child from within me; cause me to wonder and to rejoice again in this ancient feast. With the shepherds, I come to the birth of Christ seeking a simple celebration, where the greatest gift will be myself given to You, O God and to others. May the star of Bethlehem, which shines brightly over our Savior's birth stand guard over us, filling us and all the earth with light and peace. Amen.

PILGRIM VOCATION ICON

Vocations are the result of the Christian Community actively engaged in prayer that "the master of the harvest will send out laborers for His harvest." Placing faith and hope in this command of the Lord, the entire Byzantine Catholic Church in America will begin a Pilgrim Vocation Icon Program on Sunday, 8 January 2012. Each week the icon is given to a household in the parish. The family or individual accepting the icon for a week agrees to pray during that time for vocations to the presbyterate, diaconate and consecrated life. Everyone in the parish is invited to have this icon in their home for a week of special prayer for vocations. Please sign up on the sheet that is posted on the bulletin board by the Belvedere Ave. entrance.

CONTRIBUTION ENVELOPES AND CALENDARS

The 2012 Church Calendars and Contribution Envelopes are in the Social Hall. Our Parish family would like to thank the Sinchak and Sons Funeral Home for their generosity in providing our calendars again this year. God bless them for their kindness!

Please pick up your contribution envelopes in the Social Hall! If there is any name or address correction, if you are unable to locate your envelopes, or if you wish a set of envelopes, please call the office, or drop a note in the collection basket. If you are a parishioner who was assigned a new envelope number, please discard the unused envelopes for 2011 and any previous years. If you want proper credit for your contributions, you must use the envelopes you were assigned for the year.



Our return for the gifts He continues to shower upon us . . . \$3,310.50



- Sun. Jan 1 Caroling to our Shut-ins, leaving at 1:15 PM. Come and join us.
- Wed. Jan. 4 St. Vincent de Paul Meals Program. Our Parish has been commended for the wonderful food preparation and service to the patrons.
- Fri. Jan. 6 Feast of the Theophany of Our Lord. Divine Liturgy with Blessing of Holy Water at 9:00 AM



Christmas Caroling . . .

All of those interested in spending a worth-while afternoon bringing joy to our shut-ins, **please meet in the Social Hall at 1:00 PM** We would like to leave at 1:15 PM.



God Bless You and Many Thanks... to all of you for your generosity in our Parish's Philip's fast almsgiving item collection. *Someplace Safe*, and the *Warren Family Mission* were each given six boxes of the items collected.



GREETINGS FROM FATHER ANDREW

I would like to wish you and your loved ones a very blessed Christmas season. May the reality of Christ's birth be ever present throughout the New Year. Be assured that you and your intentions will be remembered at each Divine Liturgy I celebrate during this season. With prayers that you will know the love of Jesus this Christmas season, I remain your fellow servant in the Lord,

25 DECEMBER 2011

SCHEDULE OF DIVINE SERVICES

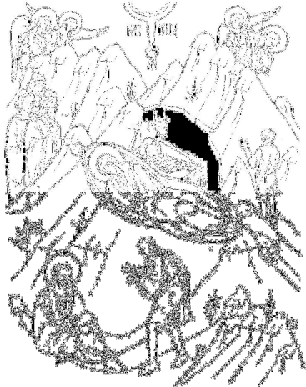
Sunday,	25 December	<i>BIRTH OF OUR LORD, GOD AND SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST.</i> Compline with Divine Liturgy for the Intention of Parish Family
	Vigil Liturgy 6:00 PM	Intention of the Parish Family
	Vigil Liturgy 10:00 PM	Intention of the Parish Family
	10:00 AM	
Monday,	26 December	<i>Synaxis of the Theotokos. Memory of the Holy and Just Joseph Husband of Mary; of David, Prophet and King; and of the Holy Apostle James, Brother of the Lord. Holy Martyr Euthymius, Bishop of Sardis.</i> No Divine Liturgy
Tuesday,	27 December	<i>Holy Apostle, First Martyr and Archdeacon Stephen. Venerable Father and Confessor Theodore, Brother of Thophane the Hymnographer.</i> No Divine Liturgy
Wednesday,	28 December	<i>Post-festive of the Nativity. Holy 20,000 Martyrs of Nicomedia. Blessed Martyr Gregory Khomyshyn, Bishop of Stanislaviv.</i> No Divine Liturgy
Thursday,	29 December	<i>Post-festive of the Nativity. Holy Innocents killed by Herod in Bethlehem. Venerable Father Marcellus, Hegumen of the Akimetes.</i> No Divine Liturgy
Friday,	30 December	<i>Post-festive of the Nativity. Holy Martyr Anysia. Venerable Zoticus, Priest and Protector of Orphans.</i> No Divine Liturgy
Saturday,	31 December	<i>Leave-taking of the Nativity. Saturday after the Nativity. Venerable Mother Melany of Rome.</i> + John & Audrey Raiti – Betty, Steve, & Jen Zombar
Sunday,	1 January	<i>Sunday before Theophany. Circumcision of Our Lord, God and Savior Jesus Christ. Our Holy Father Basil the Great.</i> + Helen Chamer – Joseph Hudak family Intention of the Parish Family
	8:15 AM	
	11:00 AM	



Attentive to the Word

*Feast of the Nativity of our
Lord, God and Savior, Jesus
Christ*

Pages 289 – 294



The Icon of the Nativity of Christ tells us the whole story of Christmas. In the Center of the Icon, Jesus is wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger. This manger which holds Jesus is in a dark cave. The dark cave represents the world before Jesus came. Jesus is the New Light Who came to lead us out of darkness into the New Life.

Next to Jesus is the Mother of God, and at the bottom right side of the Icon is St. Joseph, the foster father of Jesus. The man standing next to Joseph is the Devil, tempting Joseph to doubt that Jesus is God, the Messiah - the PROMISED ONE. The Angels are shown telling the shepherds the good news that Jesus Christ is born!



PEACE ON EARTH

When people attend church services weekly as they do other activities; when people do more praying than shopping; when there are longer lines at confessionals than at State Stores; when folks gather with family and friends than at night clubs; then we shall have “Christ in Christmas and Peace on earth.”

THE CHRISTMAS GREETING

It is certainly commendable to wish someone a “*Merry Christmas.*” But how powerful a message is given by the traditional Byzantine Christmas greeting: “*Christ is Born!*” and the response: “*Glorify Him!*”

HYMNS ON THE NATIVITY BY ST. EPHREM THE SYRIAN

This is the night of reconciliation; let us be neither wrathful nor gloomy on it.

On this all-peaceful night let us be neither menacing nor boisterous

This is the night of the Sweet One, let us be on it neither bitter nor harsh.

On this night of the Humble One, let us be neither proud nor haughty.

On this day of forgiveness, let us not avenge offenses.

On this day of rejoicings, let us not share sorrows.

On this sweet day, let us not be vehement.

On this calm day, let us not be quick-tempered.

On this day on which God came into the presence of sinners, let not the just exalt themselves in their minds over the sinner.

On this day on which the Lord of all came among servants, let the lords also bow down to their servants lovingly.

On this day when the Rich One was made poor for our sake, let the rich also make the poor a sharer at their table.

On this day a gift came out to us without our asking for it; let us then give alms to those who cry out and beg from us.

This is the day when the high gate opened to us for our prayers; let us also open the gates to the seekers who have stayed but sought forgiveness.

This Lord of natures today was transformed contrary to His nature; it is not too difficult for us also to overthrow our evil will.

Bound is the body by its nature for it cannot grow larger or smaller; but powerful is the will for it may grow to all sizes.

Today the deity imprinted itself on humanity, so that humanity might also be cut into the seal of the Deity.