

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.

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR ECF STUDENTS...

Many of our ECF students submitted entries in the St. Nicholas Contest which was held in conjunction with the Metropolitan St. Nicholas Celebration on December 6th in Munhall, PA. Our students had a very good showing: **Winners were: Michaela Douglas, Gr. 8; Katarina Rodriques, Gr. 10; Gabrielle Woodyard, Gr. 2.** **First Runners up were: Evan Bisel, Gr. 10 and Macala Blake, Gr. 9.** **Second Runners Up were: Caydance Golias – Gr. 5; Victoria Smolak, Gr. 10 and Landon Turner, Gr. 4.** Congratulations to all of you! We are very proud of ALL of our students.

2015 in RETROSPECT

As we begin the Year 2016, we should reflect on this past year to see where we were, where we are now, and where we are going. We should do this both individually, and as a parish family. As a community of faith, our existence is made possible through the efforts of many people. We should take the time to recognize all those who make our Parishes what they are today:

Our Metropolitan William; the clergy and religious sisters and brothers of the Metropolitan Province; all of the parishioners of Saints Peter and Paul Parish and St. Michael Parish; our Parish secretary; our Maintenance; our Parish Advisory Board; our Cantors; our Catechists; our Altar Servers; our Ushers; our Collection Counters; our Grounds Crew; our Cemetery Caretaker; all our volunteers.

Thank you for your continued support and generosity toward the growth of your faith communities. I look forward to working with you in 2016 as we journey together toward eternal salvation.



(PP) Divine Liturgy Attendance weekend of 20 December:

5:00 PM: **81**; 11:00 AM: **100**

Christmas Eve: 6 PM: **125** 10 PM: **71** Christmas Day: 11 AM: **50**

Our return to the Lord for all He has given us: \$3,018.55

(SM) Divine Liturgy Attendance weekend of 20 December:

28 from St. Michael; **11** from St. Peter & Paul

Christmas Day: **19** from St. Michael; **10** from St. Peter & Paul

Our return to the Lord for all He has given us: \$561.00



- **Sun. Dec. 27** No ECF Religion Classes today...Christmas Vacation. Classes resume next week – Jan 3rd at 9:30 AM
- **(SM) Ladies** - Tentative dates for baking – Feb. 12 or 13 – Mark your calendars.

NO FASTING FROM DECEMBER 25 THROUGH JANUARY 4



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. **We will meet at 12:45 PM in the Social Hall and hopefully leave at 1:00 PM.** We hope to be back by 4:00 PM. In this Year of Mercy, everyone is invited to join us in bringing joy to our Shut-ins.

CONTRIBUTION ENVELOPES AND CALENDARS

The 2016 Church Calendars and Contribution Envelopes are ready for pick-up in the **Social Hall**. 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. **This year all envelope numbers were reassigned due to the number of deaths and relocation of former parishioners. Please discard your old envelopes at the end of 2015. If you want proper credit for your contributions, you must use the envelopes you were assigned for the year 2016.**

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!**”

27 DECEMBER 2015

SCHEDULE OF DIVINE SERVICES

Sunday	27 December	<i>SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS, 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 APOSTLE, FIRST MARTYR AND ARCHDEACON STEPHEN. Venerable Father and Confessor Theodore.</i>
(Vigil Liturgy)	5:00 PM	+Sandra Bishop – Lauren & Sam Postlethwait Family
(SM)	8:30 AM	+Sally Johnson – St. Michael Altar/Rosary Society
(PP)	11:00 AM	+Mike Yurtin – Bob Karl
Monday	28 December	<i>Postfestive Day of Christmas. Holy 20,000 Martyrs of Nicomedia.</i>
		No Divine Liturgy
Tuesday	29 December	<i>Postfestive Day of Christmas. Holy Innocents killed by Herod in Bethlehem. Venerable Father Marcellus.</i>
(Chapel)	8:30 AM	+John Lacusky – Robert Fejko
Wednesday	30 December	<i>Postfestive Day of Christmas. Holy Martyr Anysia. Venerable Zoticus, Priest and Protector of Orphans.</i>
(Chapel)	8:30 AM	+Sandra Slyk – Milich Family
Thursday	31 December	<i>Otdanije (Leave-taking) of Christmas. Venerable Mother Melany of Rome.</i>
(PP)(Vigil)	6:00 PM	+Helen Sekula – Frank & Sylvia Hoso
Friday	1 January	<i>CIRCUMCISION OF OUR LORD, GOD AND SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST. OUR HOLY FATHER BASIL THE GREAT, ARCHBISHOP OF CAESAREA.</i>
		No Divine Liturgy
Saturday	2 January	<i>Saturday before Theophany. Prefestive Day of Theophany. Holy Father Sylvester, Pope of Rome.</i>
(PP)	5:00 PM	+Edward Brienz, Sr. – John & Kathy Shinosky
Sunday	3 January	<i>SUNDAY BEFORE THEOPHANY. Holy Prophet Malachi. Holy Martyr Gordius. Venerable Genevieve of Paris.</i>
(SM)	8:30 AM	+Helen Gurlea – Harry & Marge Reynolds
(PP)	11:00 AM	+John Gnat – wife, Margaret



Attentive to the Word Sunday After the Nativity

Mt. 2:13 – 23

Follow Directions on pp. 302 - 305

Omitting Sunday Troparion & Prokimen

Today is the last Sunday of the year. Christmas marks the beginning of a new relationship with our God, because His Son entered into human life. He became what we are, so that we can become what He is by nature, so that we can share in the very life of God. It's a time to celebrate God's eternal beginning into our lives and to hope and to be restored to grace. It's always a new beginning for all mankind.

New Year's marks the beginning of our yearly calendar. It's an end to an old year and the beginning of a new. A time to celebrate, to hope, to be renewed and to look back and also and more important to look ahead, to make a new start.

Theophany is after next week. Jesus baptism marks the beginning of his ministry. Repent, change, make your life over, because the Kingdom of God is at hand. In the Gospel story of Jesus birth, Jesus was born in a cave and placed in a manger because there was no room for Him in the inn. Jesus began His life on earth being crowded out. Much of ourselves could be reflected in that inn. Are not our lives sometimes so busy and preoccupied with so many things, albeit good, that Jesus Christ gets crowded out. There is just so much room in any person's life. Sometimes our busyness and much good activity crowds out time for Jesus Christ Himself.

The same is true for Herod's Castle. He doesn't have room for another king. He must destroy him before he has to face any competition. He can't accept Jesus birth as good news. It's a threat to his way of life. A lot of people today don't accept Jesus because then they would have to surrender their own lives to Christ. They would have to change their lifestyle. They would have to seek justice and truth. And these can carry a heavy price. They would just rather get rid of Jesus.

What are we called to do? What's the birth of Jesus calling for in my life? What's New Year's crying out for me to begin anew or to restore. How is Jesus' call to change, that begins His preaching after His baptism, calling me to change?

To begin anew we have to make some quiet time, some time for reflection. As we struggle with our own personal shortcomings, let us ask God's help in our own forgiving and loving. This is where we begin anew.

Try to seek after the things that matter, to not be afraid to admit mistakes, and to not be afraid to change and grow. There is hope for us and for our world. It has to begin with us - in our homes - in our families. It has to begin with a lot of love and acceptance of our everyday humanness and weakness. It has to begin with faith that God will give us the strength to make the changes needed.

Act today to show love to your family and friends. Act today to reach out in compassion to the stranger in need. Act today to forgive and to ask for forgiveness.

Commit yourself today to daily prayer and to reflection on the Holy Scriptures - do not wait for a better day, or a calmer time. This outpouring of love and compassion, forgiveness and prayer is the most powerful action we can undertake to counteract hatred and evil, fear and anxiety, death and destruction.

With the love of Jesus in our hearts may we enter into the New Year of God's grace.

By Fr. John Zeyack



FEAST OF THE CIRCUMCISION: “When the eighth day arrived for His circumcision the name Jesus was given the Child, the name the angel had given Him before He was conceived.” Our Lord submitted to the law even though He was the Creator of all mankind and of the entire universe. We would do well to follow His example by also submitting to the law – His law: “Love God with all your heart and soul, with all your strength and mind. Love your neighbor as yourself.” What a world this would be if we all did that. Maybe we can't expect all the people of the world to submit to His law – but we can begin with ourselves – here and now!

FEAST OF ST BASIL: We also remember St. Basil the Great on this day, who was the Archbishop of Caesarea. He reformed the Liturgy, defied the Emperor in defense of the Faith, and worked for unity of the Church. He also was responsible for organizing monastic life in his time. He was known as “St. Basil the Great”. In him we can see the power of faith in Christ to change and transform our lives.

CHRIST IS BORN!

GLORIFY HIM!