

## 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.

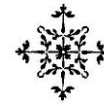
**Funerals:** Families of the deceased or the funeral director must contact Fr. Simeon before setting and publishing the day and time of the funeral.

**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.

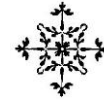
**Godparent/Sponsor Letters:** Must be a registered, active, supporting member of the parish.

**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.

## ETERNAL MEMORY



Grant, O Lord, eternal rest to the souls of your departed servants, +**Pauline J. Karr** and +**Irene Lenno** who fell asleep in the Lord recently. Please remember them and their families in your prayers.



Very Rev. Richard J. Whetstone entered into eternal rest November 29<sup>th</sup>. Father Richard was a member of our parish, taught in our school, and was the assistant at our parish for a short time after he was ordained to the priesthood. Let us remember him and his family in our prayers. **In blessed repose, grant, O Lord, eternal rest to the soul of your servant, the priest, Richard and remember him forever.**

## OUR PHILIP'S FAST OUTREACH – Due Today

Our Parish "Advent" outreach for 2015 is "*BE A SANTA TO A SENIOR*" sponsored by Home Instead Senior Care. Please return your **unwrapped gift with the ornament attached by December 6<sup>th</sup>**, to the area provided in the Social Hall. We thank you for your generous support. The Senior Citizens are often forgotten. They will welcome your remembrance of them.

## A PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Oh, God, when I have food help me to remember the hungry. When I have work, help me to remember the jobless. When I have a warm home, help me to remember the homeless. When I am without pain, help me to remember those who suffer; and remembering, help me to destroy my complacency and stir up my compassion. Make me concerned enough to help, by word and deed, those who cry out for what we take for granted.



**(PP) Divine Liturgy Attendance weekend of 29 November:**

5:00 PM: **81**; 11:00 AM: **84**

Feast of the Presentation of Mary in the Temple: **34**

**Our return to the Lord for all He has given us: . . . . . \$2,548.75**

**(SM) Divine Liturgy Attendance weekend of 29 November:**

**26** from St. Michael; **13** from St. Peter & Paul

**Our return to the Lord for all He has given us: . . . . . \$908.00**



- **Sun. Dec. 6 RELIGION CLASSES MEET AT THE REGULAR TIME – 9:30 to 10:45 AM. WE WILL MEET IN THE CHURCH AT 9:30 FOR OUR ST. NICHOLAS PROGRAM.**
- **Sun. Dec. 6** Bible Study – 4:00 – 6:00 PM in the Social Hall.
- **Sun. Dec. 6** Feast of St. Nicholas – Dinner after 11:00 AM Divine Liturgy – *(Advance reservations were needed.)*
- **St. Dec. 12** Spirituality Day – 1:00 to 4:30 PM – A good opportunity for your Christmas preparation and reconciliation.
- **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!



**YOU ARE INVITED...**

The ECF Students will have a program, honoring St. Nicholas on Sunday, December 6<sup>th</sup>. **It will be held during their regular class time** (from 9:30 AM to approximately 10:35 AM) **in the Church**. These children are the future of our Church. They need your support and they need you to show interest in what they are learning and what they want to share with you. We hope to see all of you there!

**SPIRITUALITY DAY – Final registration day is Dec. 7<sup>th</sup>.**

The Benedictine Sisters of Queen of Heaven Monastery are offering a Day of Spirituality, Saturday, December 12, 2015, 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](mailto:gohm@netdotcom.com) by Monday, December 7, 2015. The presenter will be Reverend Thom Dansak, retired Chaplain US Navy. (He has “subbed” often at our Church). His topic will be “Let’s Not Forget Joseph.” For most of us, Joseph is not in the forefront when we think of Christmas. His topic will spark your curiosity and you will not be disappointed in Father Thom’s presentation. 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.

6 DECEMBER 2015

SCHEDULE OF DIVINE SERVICES

Sunday,	6 December	<i>TWENTY-EIGHTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST. OUR HOLY FATHER NICHOLAS, ARCHBISHOP OF MYRA IN LYCIA, THE WONDERWORKER.</i>
(Vigil Liturgy)	<b>5:00 PM</b>	<b>+Elizabeth Zombar – Bender Family</b>
(SM)	<b>8:30 AM</b>	<b>+George Simko – wife, Millie</b>
(PP)	<b>11:00 AM</b>	<b>+Fio Nuzzi – Phil Lucarello</b>
Monday,	7 December	<i>Prefestive Day of the Conception of St. Anna. Our Holy Father Ambrose, Bishop of Milan.</i>
(PP)(Vigil)	<b>6:00 PM</b>	<b>+Ann Sasala – Greg &amp; Cathie Lazor</b>
Tuesday,	8 December	<i>FEAST OF THE MATERNITY OF HOLY ANNA</i>
(SM)	<b>9:00 AM</b>	<b>+Michael Guinaugh – Robert &amp; Marianne Cabosky</b>
Wednesday,	9 December	<i>Our Holy Father Patapius. Holy Hannah, Mother of the Prophet Samuel.</i>
(PP)	<b>10:00 AM</b>	<b>+Irene Lenno Memorial Liturgy</b>
Thursday,	10 December	<i>Holy Martyrs Menas, Hermogenes and Eugephus.</i>
		<b>No Divine Liturgy</b>
Friday,	11 December	<i>Our Venerable Father Daniel the Stylite.</i>
		<b>No Divine Liturgy</b>
Saturday	12 December	<i>Venerable Father Spiridon the Wonderworker, Bishop of Tremithus. Our Lady of Guadalupe.</i>
(PP)	<b>5:00 PM</b>	<b>+Richard Senkowitz – Rose Ferderber</b>
Sunday,	13 December	<i>SUNDAY OF THE FOREFATHERS. Holy Martyrs Eustratius, Auxentius, Eugene, Mardarius, and Orestes, Holy Virgin Martyr Lucy.</i>
(SM)	<b>8:30 AM</b>	<b>Prayer Intention of Altar/Rosary Society</b>
(PP)	<b>11:00 AM</b>	<b>+Terrilyn Petrick – husband, Stan</b>



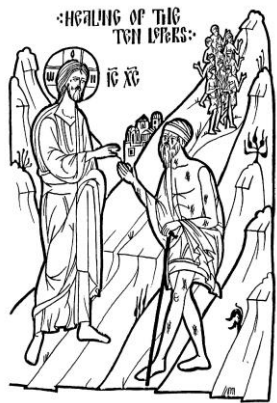
## Attentive to the Word

### *Twenty-eighth Sunday after Pentecost* *Holy Father Nicholas, the Wonder-worker*

*Luke 6:17-23*

*Pages 135 – 136 & 274 - 276*

*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, loved those who came to Him and forgave those who were sorry for their sins. He comforted those who grieved, associated with the rejected and despised, respected the small and insignificant and encouraged those who were seeking to know and serve God.

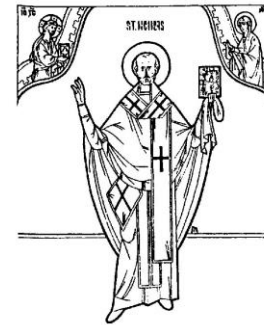
Having heard about Jesus, the ten lepers came to Him confident that He would both receive and heal them. Their faith in Jesus made them whole physically, enabling them to return to the families and communities from which their leprosy had excluded them.

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. 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, He 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 and gives us everything.

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 He bestows upon us His abundant love, healing, life and salvation.

## REFLECTION ON THE ICON OF SAINT NICHOLAS



In icons of St. Nicholas, the Lord Savior is usually depicted on one side with a Gospel in His hands, and the Most-holy Virgin Theotokos is depicted on the other side with an episcopal omophorion in her hands. This has a two-fold historical significance: first, it signifies the calling of Nicholas to the hierarchical office, and second, it signifies his exoneration from the condemnation that followed his confrontation with Arianism was declared heresy at the Council of Nicaea', 'St. Methodius, Patriarch of Constantinople, writes: "One night St. Nicholas saw our Savior in glory, standing by him and extending to him the Gospel, adorned with gold and pearls. On his other side, he saw the Theotokos, who was placing the episcopal pallium on his shoulders." Shortly after this vision, John the Archbishop of Myra died and St. Nicholas was appointed archbishop of that city. That was the first incident. The second incident occurred at the time of the First Ecumenical Council in Nicaea. Unable to stop Arius through reason from espousing the irrational blasphemy against the Son of God and His Most-holy Mother, St. Nicholas struck Arius on the face with his hand. The Holy Fathers at the Council, protesting such an action, banned Nicholas from the Council and deprived him of all emblems of the episcopal rank. That same night, several of the Holy Fathers saw an identical vision: how the Lord Savior and the Most-holy Theotokos were standing around St. Nicholas—on one side the Lord Savior with the Gospel, and on the other side the Most-holy Theotokos with a pallium, presenting the saint with the episcopal emblems that had been removed from him. Seeing this, the fathers were awe struck and quickly returned to Nicholas that which had been removed. They began to respect him as a great chosen one of God, and they interpreted his actions against Arius not as an act of unreasonable anger, but rather an expression of great zeal for God's truth.

from *The Prologue from Ohrid*