

## 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.

## CHOCOLATE BYZANTINE CROSS SALE

We will have *Chocolate Byzantine Crosses* for sale for Easter. The orders must be **prepaid** and must be **in the office by 6 March 2016**. Envelopes are located at the Church entrances for those interested in purchasing *Dark, Milk or White Chocolate Crosses*. The purchase price is \$5.00 each.

## YEAR-END CONTRIBUTION STATEMENTS

The year-end contribution statements have been moved to the office. If you want or need them please call the office.

## SPIRITUALITY DAY

The Benedictine Sisters of Queen of Heaven Monastery are offering a Day of Spirituality on Saturday, 27 February 2016. It will be held in the Social Hall from 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM. **To register, please call 330-856-1813 or e-mail [qohm@netdotcom.com](mailto:qohm@netdotcom.com) before Monday, 22 February 2016.**

The presenter will be Rev. Mykhalo Farynets, pastor of Infant of Prague Byzantine Catholic Church, Boardman, OH and St. Nicholas Byzantine Catholic Church, Youngstown, OH. His topic is "The Great Fast – Tradition or Necessity?"

There will be time for reflection, questions and refreshments, and an opportunity to receive the Mystery of Reconciliation (Confession). This is a good way to help prepare yourself to celebrate the Feast of the Resurrection. You are welcome to pray Vespers with the sisters. There is no charge for the afternoon, but registration is needed.



**(PP) Divine Liturgy Attendance weekend of 7 February:**

5:00 PM: 64 ; 11:00 AM: 98

**Our return to the Lord for all He has given us: . . . . . \$3,704.85**

**(SM) Divine Liturgy Attendance weekend of 31 January:**

18 from St. Michael; 10 from St. Peter & Paul

**Our return to the Lord for all He has given us: . . . . . \$1,063.00**



- **Sun. Feb. 14** ECF Religion Classes - 9:30 to 10:45 AM. Meeting of parents of Grade 2 students will meet downstairs at the same time.
- **Sun. Feb. 14** Pick-up Baked Goods after the Divine Liturgy
- **Sun. Feb. 14** Meeting of Oblates of St. Benedict – 2 to 4 PM at the Monastery. Ring #301.
- **Sun. Feb. 14** Bible Study 4 PM in the Social Hall – Session 1
- **Mon. Feb. 15** Meeting of St. Benedict’s Auxiliary – 7 PM in the Social Hall. Bring your dimes & quarters.
- **Sat. Feb. 20** Second All Souls Saturday – 9 AM Divine Liturgy with reading of Diptychs.



### VALENTINE BAKE SALE PICK-UP

Orders are ready for pick-up on Sunday, February 14<sup>th</sup> at (PP) for parishioners of PP and at (SM) for St. Michael parishioners.

### NUTROLLS AND PASKA BREADS

The Ladies Guild will be baking Rolls and Paska Bread for the Feast of the Resurrection. **Advance orders only!** Rolls available are nut, apricot, poppy, apricot-nut, and lekvar (prune). Rolls are \$10 each and will be ready for pick up on the weekend of 12 & 13 March. Both regular paska bread and paska bread with raisins are available for \$6 each. Paska bread will be ready for pick up on the weekend of 19 & 20 March. **Order forms are located in the Social Hall. Deadline to place your order is 6 March 2016.**

### WANTED . . . PUSSYWILLOWS

It seems a little strange to be asking for pussywillows in the month of February, but with the spring-like weather that we have been experiencing, some plants and pussywillows have already emerged from their winter nap. Please . . . when your pussywillows **begin** to blossom, please cut them and bring them to church. We will store them here until Palm Sunday. DO NOT PUT THEM IN WATER.

14 FEBRUARY 2016

### SCHEDULE OF DIVINE SERVICES

Sunday	14 February	<i>FIRST SUNDAY OF THE GREAT FAST. SUNDAY OF ORTHODOXY. MEMORY OF THE HOLY PROPHETS. Our Venerable Father Auxentius.. Passing of Venerable Father Constantine (Cyril, Apostle of the Slavs).</i>
(Vigil Liturgy)	<b>5:00 PM</b>	<b>+Mararet Temar – George &amp; Patricia Teringo</b>
(SM)	<b>8:30 AM</b>	<b>+Robert Banky – Linda Guinaugh</b>
(PP)	<b>11:00 AM</b>	<b>+Anna Sudik – John &amp; Betty Vazur</b>
Monday	15 February	<i>The Holy Apostle Onesimus.</i> <b>No Divine Services</b>
Tuesday	16 February	<i>The Holy Martyrs, the Presbyter Pamphilius, Porphyrius and their Companions.</i> <b>No Divine Services</b>
Wednesday	17 February	<i>The Holy Great Martyr Theodore the Recruit.</i> <b>Pre-Sanctified Liturgy with observance of 2<sup>nd</sup> All Souls.</b>
(SM)	<b>6:00 PM</b>	
Thursday	18 February	<i>Our Holy Father Leo, Pope of Rome.</i> <b>No Divine Services</b>
Friday	19 February	<i>The Holy Apostle Archippus.</i> <b>Pre-Sanctified Liturgy</b>
(PP)	<b>6:00 PM</b>	
Saturday	20 February	<i>Second All Souls Saturday. Venerable Father Leo, Bishop of Catania. Holy Father Agathon, Pope of Rome.</i> <b>Second All Souls Divine Liturgy with reading of Diptychs.</b>
(PP)	<b>9:00 AM</b>	<b>+Elizabeth Zombar – Stephen &amp; Betty Zombar</b>
(PP)	<b>5:00 PM</b>	
Sunday	21 February	<i>SECOND SUNDAY OF THE GREAT FAST. Our Venerable Father Timothy of Symbola Our Holy Father Eustathius, Archbishop of Great Antioch.</i>
(SM)	<b>8:30 AM</b>	<b>+George Simko – wife, Millie</b>
(PP)	<b>11:00 AM</b>	<b>+Leonard Markovich – Don Yocum, Jr.</b>



**Attentive to the Word**  
**First Sunday of the Great Fast**

**Jn. 1:43 – 51**

**Tone 5 p. 146 and p. 220 - 222**

**SUNDAY OF ORTHODOXY**

One of the words that has been popularized by the computer age is the word ICON. That's a word I hear every day and has become a word everybody knows today.

An Icon on a computer is a picture that launches a program, it represents something beyond itself: a program, a file or a trashcan. It represents a document. It points to and leads to something beyond itself. It has a power to unlock what is inside.

People today are called ICONS. Movie Stars are referred to as icons of our age. Movies are so powerful to communicate our deepest truths and also can be used to show the greatest decadence of human beings. Models are icons of beauty. Icons again reveal where our society is, where our culture is moving. They represent an image of the pieces of our culture and hopefully help us understand it a little more.

Our Church has Icons. These holy images do exactly what and icon does on a computer or what people mean when they say a person is an icon. They point beyond themselves to a deeper reality, to a deeper truth, to a revelation of divine presence and purpose in our lives.

Let us look at this icon of our Lord Jesus Christ. In our Scriptures, the holy Word of God, Jesus comes into the world to fulfill the Father's Plan of Salvation. He is revealed as the Son of God. He teaches and works miracles. He announces the kingdom of God. He is rejected by the religious leaders. He is betrayed by Judas. He receives an unjust trial and is sentenced to die on the cross. He is raised on the third day. He appears to His disciples and commands them to go forward to all nations and preach, to baptize in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. He sends down upon the Apostles the gift of the Holy Spirit and inaugurates the New Age in our relationship with God – grace and truth are revealed in Jesus Christ.

Our Creed summarizes our belief in Jesus Christ. It summarizes all the truth we know about Jesus from the Scriptures. And I believe *in one Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, the only begotten, born of the Father before all ages. Light of light, true God of true God, begotten, not made, of one substance with the Father through Whom all things were made. Who for us men and for our salvation, came down from heaven, and was incarnate from the Holy Spirit and Mary the Virgin and became man. He was also*

*crucified for us under Pontius Pilate, and suffered, and was buried. And He rose again on the third day, according to the Scriptures. And He ascended into heaven, and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge the living and the dead, and of His kingdom there will be no end.*

We have all seen the icon of Jesus that looks as though it was written on a "napkin". It is an icon of Veronica's veil. It shows Jesus to us and points out all we believe and know about Him from the Scriptures. He is God and Man. He is the Son of God. He is our Savior. He died for our salvation. He calls us to Himself and to the Father.

God and Man

Fully Human and Fully Divine

He has a Halo – divine being

Letters give his name

The cross is part of his Halo

The colors show divinity and humanity.

Every detail points to and opens us to the faith of the Church.

That's why the Icons have such a great power in our lives. They tell us God is with us. That God saves us. That God blesses us through His Son Jesus, through the prayers of the Holy Mother of God, and of all the saints.

Some people in the early church wanted to get rid of all icons – they thought that people were worshipping the icons themselves and for themselves. They didn't realize that the Icons point to and lead us to the person of Jesus who is present among us and in our midst; who is still calling us and saving us.

The troparion summarizes the attitude of our Church toward icons and shows us how it leads us to deep faith and worship.

*We bow to Your sacred image, O gracious Lord, and beg forgiveness for our offenses, o Christ our God; for You, of Your own will, deigned to ascend the Cross in Your human nature to deliver from the bondage under the enemy, those whom You created. Therefore, we gratefully cry out to You: "Through You coming to save the world, O Savior, You have filled all with joy."*

I hope that we can all stand before Christ, Our Lord and Savior and see Him present in our lives. I hope that the Icons in your home and in our Church help you to come to know Him better and through them lead you to greater faith and love.

By Fr. John Zeyack