

## 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, 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. 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. 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:** The Parish office is open from 10 AM – 2 PM Monday, Wednesday and Friday. Father Andrew is available on other days and times by appointment.

## MANY YEARS

Our Parish Family extends its prayerful best wishes to **Addison Renee Laprocina** who celebrated the Mysteries of Initiation on Sunday 8 February 2015. We welcome her into our family of faith as she joins her parents, Jason and Nicole Laprocina and brother, Anthony as a member of our parish. *May God grant Addison Renee peace, health and happiness for many years!*

## ETERNAL MEMORY

Grant, O Lord, eternal rest to the soul of your servant **+Sandra Slyk** who has recently fallen asleep in the Lord. Please remember her and her family in your prayers.

## OUT OF THIS FURNACE

*Out of this Furnace* is a historical novel written by American writer Thomas Bell. The novel is based upon Bell's own family of Rusyn and Slovak immigrants from Eastern Europe. The Department of Theater and Dance of YSU will present the play "Out of This Furnace" by Andy Wolk at Ford Theater – Bliss Hall – Wick Avenue, across from the Butler Art Institute. The play refers to the blast furnace and the central role of the steel mill in the immigrant family's life and in the history of the Pittsburgh region. This immigrant experience was also repeated in the Mahoning Valley. Come and experience your ancestors' home and mill life, their struggles, poverty and social conditions. Feb. 26, 27, & 28 performances are at 7:30 PM. Mar. 1<sup>st</sup> performance is at 2:00 PM. For more information or tickets call Jim Basista at 330-544-0107.

## HOWLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

An Amish Dinner Fundraiser will be held Saturday, 21 February 2015 at the Howland Community Church (rear entrance) 198 Niles Cortland Road, Howland, Ohio. Dinner will be served from 4:00 to 6:00 PM. Adults \$18.00 Children (4 to 12) \$8.00. Advance tickets only. Call 330-856-7403 or 330-856-3432. Calls will be returned.



## Divine Liturgy Attendance weekend of 8 February:

5:00 PM: **79**; 11:00 AM: **108**

All Souls' Saturday Commemoration: **19**

**Our return to the Lord for all He has given us ..... \$3,731.22**



- **Sun. Feb.15** ECF Religion Classes – 9:30 AM to 10:45 AM.
- **Sun. Feb. 15** Bible Study – 4 PM in the Social Hall.
- **Weekend of Feb. 14 – 15** Coffee and Donuts in the Social Hall after both Divine Liturgies.
- **Mon. Feb. 16** **Great Lent begins. Strict abstinence. No meat, eggs or dairy products.**
- **Thurs. Feb. 19** Bible Study – 10 AM in the Social Hall.



### LENTEN ALMSGIVING

Once again this Lenten season, we will support the Bella Women’s Center through their “Bella Bear Campaign” for our Lenten Almsgiving. **Donation bottles are available at the Belvedere Ave entrance. Please return all bottles by 22 March 2015.**

### TEN MINUTES WITH GOD ISN’T SO HARD

This Lent why not spend 10 minutes with God everyday. Spend five minutes chatting with God in your own words, then five minutes just listening.

**LOCK-IN RETREAT:** (Sponsored by Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy of Saint Josaphat)

“REJOICE AND BE EXCEEDINGLY GLAD FOR GREAT IS YOUR REWARD IN HEAVEN”

- For Teenagers and Young Adults
- Saturday March 7 to Sunday March 8 (1:30 PM to 12:00 Noon)
- Saint Anne’s, 3055 S. Raccoon Road, Austintown.
- Optional Service Project to be performed Saturday Morning at the Youngstown Pregnancy Help Center.
- \$25.00 (meals & T-shirt included) + optional donation of 1 Pack of baby diapers.
- **Call the parish office if you wish to attend. We have the forms that must be completed, as well as further directives. Registration is due 21 February 2015**

You are encouraged to attend. Father Andrew will be the Key Note Speaker. Other speakers will be Father James Barkett and Julian Hayda. It will be a good experience.

15 FEBRUARY 2015

### SCHEDULE OF DIVINE SERVICES

Sunday,	15 February	<i>CHEESEFARE SUNDAY. Holy Apostle Onesimus.</i>
(Vigil Liturgy)	<b>5:00 PM</b>	<b>+Sandra Bishop – M/M George Grove</b>
(SM)	<b>8:30 AM</b>	<b>+Michael Guinaugh – Robert &amp; Marianne Cabosky</b>
(PP)	<b>11:00 AM</b>	<b>+Fio Nuzzi – Bill &amp; Teresa Massucci</b>
Monday,	16 February	<i>First Day of the Great Fast. Strict Abstinence is to be observed. Holy Matyrs, the Presbyter Pamphilius, Porphyrius and their Companions.</i>
(PP)	<b>6:00 PM</b>	<b>Pre-sanctified Liturgy</b>
Tuesday,	17 February	<i>Holy Great Martyr Theodore the Recruit.</i>
		<b>No Divine Services</b>
Wednesday,	18 February	<i>Holy Father Leo, Pope of Rome.</i>
(SM)	<b>6:00 PM</b>	<b>Pre-sanctified Liturgy</b>
Thursday,	19 February	<i>Holy Apostle Archippus</i>
		<b>No Divine Services</b>
Friday,	20 February	<i>Venerable Father Leo, Bishop of Catania. Holy Father Agathon, Pope of Rome.</i>
(PP)	<b>6:00 PM</b>	<b>Pre-sanctified Liturgy</b>
Saturday	21 February	<i>Saturday of the First Week of the Great Fast, on which we commemorate the Miracle of St. Theodore. Venerable Father Timothy of Symbola. Holy Father Eustathius, Archbishop of Great Antioch.</i>
(Vigil Liturgy)	<b>5:00 PM</b>	<b>Sp. Int. of Wiley Byers – children &amp; grandchildren</b>
Sunday,	22 February	<i>FIRST SUNDAY OF THE GREAT FAST. SUNDAY OF ORTHODOXY. Finding of the Venerable Relics of the Martyrs at Eugenia.</i>
(SM)	<b>8:30 AM</b>	<b>+Virginia Stempak – Betty Stempak</b>
(PP)	<b>11:00 AM</b>	<b>+Michael Begeny – Dorothy M. Begeny</b>



## Attentive to the Word

### *Sunday of Cheese-fare* *Matthew 6: 14 – 21*

*Pages 135 and 218 - 219*

Our Epistle and Gospel readings go hand in hand this morning, offering us great words of wisdom and preparation as we begin Great Lent this evening. Over the course of our pre-Lenten preparation, we've been instructed in the perspective with which we are to enter the fast. Starting with Zacchaeus Sunday, we've been presented with a series of questions through the parables of Christ—is our hearts' desire to see the Lord? Are we prepared to humble ourselves before the Lord? Are we ready to return to Him in repentance and brokenness of heart? And finally, we were presented with the Last Judgment, to ensure that we consider the question of our salvation with all seriousness and sobriety.

Great Lent is all about returning to Christ...and we struggle with fasting and repentance and prayers and almsgiving and spiritual readings to do just that. The most prominent feature of Great Lent is our fasting. And today, we hear from Christ and St. Paul exactly how it is we are to undertake our fast.

Christ warns us; when you fast, don't fast like the hypocrites. They say the fast is for God, but it's really to obtain the praise of others. And when they receive this praise, Christ says, that is their reward. We are not to call attention to our fasting. The only one who should see and know our labors is God, and He'll reward us as He sees fit. Our fasting is to be solely for God, as an offering of our lives and our wills and as an offering of love to our Savior.

This point is very much related to something St. Paul said in the Epistle reading as well. As we are fasting, we are not to worry about what other people are doing. St. Paul writes, "Let him who eats, despise not him who does not eat; and let him who does not eat, not judge him who eats: for God has received him. We are not to let others know what we are doing, and we are not to worry about how others are keeping the fast.

St. Paul then goes on to remind us that the day of our salvation is close at hand; the day we are to stand before the Throne of the Lord of Glory is closer now than it has ever been. And so we offer a fast of repentance, according to the words of Christ. And to our fast from food, we join a fast from all sin. We put off the works of darkness, and clothe ourselves in the armor of light.

The Fathers of the Church warn us that our fasting can easily be for nothing—if we fast for the praise of men, then it's worthless. And if we don't fast from works of wickedness, then our fasting from food is for nothing. This evening we will begin our Lenten journey to that great and holy day of our Lord's Resurrection. But we must keep in mind that our Lenten journey will be of no use if it's simply a dietary modification for the course of 40+ days. We're called by our Lord to lay aside all sin and to focus all of our energies on being with Christ.

To set the tone for our fast let us meditate on this quote from St. John Chrysostom—"Do you fast? Give me proof of it by your works. If you see a poor man, take pity on him. If you see a friend being honored, do not envy him. Do not let only your mouth fast, but also the eye and the ear and the feet and the hands and all the members of our bodies. Let the hands fast, by being free of avarice (greed). Let the feet fast, by ceasing to run after sin. Let the eyes fast, by disciplining them not to glare at that which is sinful. Let the ear fast, by not listening to evil talk and gossip. Let the mouth fast from foul words and unjust criticism. For what good is it if we abstain from eating birds and fishes, but bite and devour our brothers?"

### **"FORGIVE US AS WE FORGIVE"...very scary words**

*In Mt 6:14-21* Jesus, once again insists' on mutual forgiveness between people as a precondition of God's forgiveness. Those who do not forgive are not forgiven. This teaching is repeated by Jesus in the parable of the unforgiving servant which concludes with virtually the same words. The opinion that even unforgiving Christians are forgiven by God is contradicted by Christ Himself. The moral action of the faithful, when they forgive others their trespasses, is bound with the love of God: not to forgive others is willfully to alienate ourselves from the forgiveness of God.

Keeping a sad countenance while fasting, so that everyone can see how one is suffering, is mere external display. Jesus rejects such hypocrisy. Thus; during seasons of fasting, the hymns of our Byzantine Church call the faithful to *wash and anoint their faces*. There is no "Ash Wednesday" to display that we are in a penitential season. And fasting is not merely abstaining from eating. Physical fasting works together with spiritual fasting, or self-denial. Fasting is for the glory of God, not to impress people around us.

By attaching themselves to treasures on earth people cut themselves off from heavenly treasures. They become slaves, not free in Christ. The heart of discipleship lies in (1) disentangling ourselves from the chains of earthly things, and (2) attaching ourselves to God, the true treasure. We have need for certain material things, but we use them according to God's will and purposes.