

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.

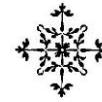
Funerals: Families of the deceased or the funeral director must contact Fr. Andrew before setting and publishing the day and time of the funeral.

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.

ETERNAL MEMORY



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

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 15 March 2015**. 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.

NUTROLLS AND PASKA BREADS

The Ladies Guild will be baking Rolls and Paska Bread for the Feast of the Resurrection. Rolls are \$10 each and will be ready for pick up on the weekend of 21-22 March. Paska Bread is \$6 each and will be available for pick up on the weekend of 28-29 March. They are being offered on an order only basis. Order forms are located at the Belvedere Ave. entrance as well as in the Social Hall. **Deadline to place your order is 15 March 2015.**

SPAGHETTI DINNER

Saturday, 7 March 2015, 4 PM – 7 PM. St. Michael Byzantine Catholic Church Social Center, 2140 Highland Road, Hermitage, PA. Spaghetti with homemade sauce & meatballs, salad, bread, cake & beverage. Adults: \$10, Children 12 & under: \$5, Children 3 & under: free. Tickets available at the door. Take-outs available.

'We are all sinners. We are all called to a conversion of heart.'

Tweet of Pope Francis, 3 February 2015



Divine Liturgy Attendance weekend of 15 February:

5:00 PM: **59**; 11:00 AM: **60**

Pre-sanctified Liturgy, First Day of the Great Fast, Monday, 16 February: **35**

Our return to the Lord for all He has given us \$2,921.50



- **Sun. Feb.22** ECF Religion Classes – 9:30 AM to 10:45 AM.
- **Sun. Feb. 22** Bible Study – Session 4 – 4 PM in the Social Hall.
- **Thurs. Feb. 19** Bible Study - Session 4 – 10 AM in the Social Hall.
- **Sat. Feb. 28** Second All Souls Saturday – Divine Liturgy at 9 AM followed by Panachida with reading of the Diptychs.
- **Sun. Mar. 1** Bible Study – Session 5 – 4 PM in the Social Hall
- **Mon. Mar. 2** Church Cleaning Party – 9 AM to Noon. We can use your help.
- **Wed. Mar. 4** St. Vincent de Paul Meals Program – 9 AM to 2 PM. Your help will be appreciated.
- **Thurs. Mar. 5** Bible Study - Session 5 – 10 AM in the Social Hall.
- **Sat. Mar. 7** Spirituality Day 1:00 – 4 PM in the Social Hall. Registration needed. See more information below.



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.**

SPIRITUALITY DAY

The Benedictine Sisters of Queen of Heaven Monastery are offering a Day of Spirituality on Saturday, 7 March 2015. 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 gohm@netdotcom.com before Monday, 2 March 2015.**

The presenter will be Rev. Robert Pipta, rector of SS. Cyril and Methodius Seminary, Pittsburgh, PA. His topic is “Friendship with God through Worship, Stewardship and Fellowship.” He is an excellent speaker.

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.

22 FEBRUARY 2015

SCHEDULE OF DIVINE SERVICES

Sunday,	22 February	<i>FIRST SUNDAY OF THE GREAT FAST. SUNDAY OF ORTHODOXY. Finding of the Venerable Relics of the Martyrs at Eugenia.</i>
(Vigil Liturgy)	5:00 PM	Sp. Int. of Wiley Byers – children & grandchildren
(SM)	8:30 AM	+Virginia Stempak – Betty Stempak
(PP)	11:00 AM	+Michael Begeny – Dorothy M. Begeny
Monday,	23 February	<i>Holy Martyr Polycarp, Bishop of Smyrna.</i> No Divine Services
Tuesday,	24 February	<i>First and Second Finding of the Head of the Prophet, Forerunner and Baptist John.</i> No Divine Services
Wednesday,	25 February	<i>Holy Father Tarasius, Archbishop of Constantinople.</i>
(SM)	6:00 PM	Pre-sanctified Liturgy
Thursday,	26 February	<i>Holy Father Porphyrius, Bishop of Gaza. Holy Great Martyr Photina the Samaritan.</i> No Divine Services
Friday,	27 February	<i>Venerable Father and Confessor Procopius the Decapolite.</i>
(PP)	6:00 PM	Pre-sanctified Liturgy
Saturday	28 February	<i>Second All Souls Saturday. Venerable Father and Confessor Basil, Fellow Ascetic of Procopius.</i>
(PP)	9:00 AM	Second All Souls’ Remembrance
(Vigil Liturgy)	5:00 PM	+Fr. Joseph Ridella – John & Dianna Koza
Sunday,	1 March	<i>SECOND SUNDAY OF THE GREAT FAST. Venerable Martyr Eudoxia. Holy Father David, Enlightener of Wales.</i>
(SM)	8:30 AM	Prayer Intentions of Rosary Society
(PP)	11:00 AM	+Mary Mosko – John & Vicki Stankewich



Attentive to the Word

First Sunday of Great Lent

Sunday of Orthodoxy

John 1: 43 - 51

Pages 141 and 220 - 222

The Gospel reading prescribed for the first Sunday of the Great and Holy Fast (John 1:43-51) describes the apostle Philip bringing Nathaniel, who will also become a follower of Jesus, to Him. Jesus says to Nathaniel, "Before Philip called you, when you were under the fig tree, I saw you." Surprised by this revelation, Nathaniel declares, "Rabbi, You are the Son of God." Jesus replies that Nathaniel will see "greater things" than any powers of long-distance sight. He promises Nathaniel that he shall see heaven itself open and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of man.

This episode in the life of our Lord opens up a vast field for consideration. We cannot know what Nathaniel was doing or thinking under that fig tree. Was it a moment of temptation, or perplexity, of grace, or simply one of relaxation or rest? Whatever Nathaniel's disposition at the time, it would seem our Lord would not have mentioned it if it had not been a decisive moment, a turning point in this young man's life.

In the life of each of us, there has been or will be a moment or perhaps moments in which Jesus, Himself invisible, saw us and intervened. Was it at a time when we were in questionable company or circumstances? Was it in a moment of spiritual weakness, of temptation - and the temptation failed? Was there a certain crisis we faced, perhaps unemployment, poor health or trying family circumstances? Perhaps, unexpectedly, these were resolved in a surprising way that only divine Providence could offer even if our own expectation were not actually met.

Now during this holy, penitential, season we should use some of our time with due consideration to reflect on those moments in our lives, especially those critical times when out of human weakness we might have questioned the events and circumstances of our lives such as the loss of a loved one, the experience of tragedy, the challenge of the great enticements all around us today. Such are the moments when, as it were, Jesus sees us "under the fig tree." Those are the times of special grace to keep us aware that God always sees us, that we are loved and that beyond the experiences, however challenging,

of this life lies the promise of a vision far greater than anything we could formulate with our limited human mind: the promise of heaven, in the company of angels, in the abiding and loving Presence of our Creator.

By Msgr. John Sekellick



SUNDAY OF ORTHODOXY

A sense of joy and thanksgiving is expressed on this First Sunday of the Great Fast when we celebrate the triumph of the True Faith. On this day the Church commemorates the final ending of the Iconoclast controversy and the definitive restoration of holy icons to the churches by the Byzantine Empress Theodora, acting as regent for her young son Michael III. This took place in Constantinople on the First Sunday of Lent, March 11th, 843.

There is, however, not only an historical link between the First Sunday and the restoration of icons, but also a spiritual affinity. If the True Faith triumphed during the time of the iconoclast controversy, it was because so many of the faithful were prepared to undergo exile, torture, and even death, for the sake of the truth about holy icons. This feast is a celebration in honor of the martyrs and confessors of the Church who struggled and suffered for the faith.

We also remember the martyrs of Eastern Europe who suffered for their faith earlier in this century. It is appropriate for beginning the season of Lent, when we are striving to imitate the martyrs by means of our ascetic self-denial. This commemoration of the triumph over Iconoclasm also celebrates the victory of the True Faith over all heresies and errors of religious teachings.

This Sunday can be especially celebrated with a procession of icons before the Liturgy. Before the Iconoclast period, this Sunday was the commemoration of Moses, Aaron, Samuel and the prophets. Traces of this more ancient observance can still be seen in the choice of the Epistle reading at the Divine Liturgy (Hebrews 11:24-6, 32-40) and in the Alleluia verse before the Gospel: "Moses and Aaron were among His priests, and Samuel among them that call upon His Name."