

## 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.

## MAINTENANCE HELP NEEDED

Bill Maddox has been experiencing some back issues and is unable, at this time, to do maintenance work around the church and manor. I am in need of help, especially with snow removal from the sidewalks and entrances into the buildings. If anyone is able and willing to help, please contact Fr. Andrew.

## PROPER RECEPTION OF HOLY COMMUNION

The cold and flu season is upon us. I would like to take this opportunity to remind you of the proper way to receive Holy Communion. Please tilt your head back, open your mouth widely, without extending your tongue and wait for Father to drop the Body and Blood of our Lord into your mouth. **Please do not close your mouth upon the spoon.** Also, please assist with the distribution by holding the Red Communion Cloth under your chin, in the case that the Eucharist would drop and not fall to the floor.

## BIBLE STUDY CLASSES

Once again we will be offering a Bible Study Class on Sunday afternoon at 4 PM and Thursday at 10 AM. In these sessions, we will be studying the *Book of Galatians*. **This is a 8 session course and will begin Sunday, 1 February 2015 and Thursday, 5 February 2015.** If you are interested, please call the office to register. Registrations are necessary so that we can order the number of books needed for the sessions. The cost for the materials is \$20.00.

## CONTRIBUTION ENVELOPES AND CALENDARS

**Please pick up your contribution envelopes in the Church, on the Belvedere side!** *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 2014. If you want proper credit for your contributions, you must use the envelopes you were assigned for the 2015 year.*



**Divine Liturgy Attendance weekend of 4 January:**

5:00 PM: **68**; 11:00 AM: **109**

Royal Hours for Theophany: **13**; Feast of Theophany: **49**

**Our return to the Lord for all He has given us ..... \$4,654.75**  
**Christmas Offertory ..... \$17,612.00**



- **Sun. Jan. 11** ECF Religion Classes Resume – 9:30 AM to 10:45 AM
- **Sun. Jan. 11** Celebration Divine Liturgy of the 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Ss. Peter and Paul Parish – 11:00 AM.
- **Mon. Jan. 12** “Undecorate” the church beginning at 9:30 AM. We can use your help.
- **Tues. Jan. 13** St. Vincent de Paul Pizza Day – 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM.
- **Sun. Jan. 18** Meeting of Oblates of St. Benedict – 2:00 to 4:00 PM at the Monastery. Ring #301.



### NEWLY SANCTIFIED JORDAN WATER

On the Feast of Theophany we celebrated the Great Sanctification of Water. The dispenser containing the newly sanctified water is located by the Belvedere Ave. entrance. You are encouraged to take some water home for your sanctification.

### MOLEBEN FOR PRO-LIFE

On January 22, 2015 our nation will remember the 42<sup>nd</sup> anniversary of *Roe v. Wade*. Since that tragic decision, more than 55 million children's lives have been lost to abortion, and the lives of millions of their parents have been shattered. Pope Francis and the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops have called upon all Catholics to join them in prayer to end abortion. A **Moleben for Pro-life** will be celebrated at our parish on **Thursday, 22 January 2015 at 6 PM**. All are invited and encouraged to participate and bring a friend or two.

### ALL SOULS REMEMBRANCE

During our Liturgical Year our Byzantine Church remembers its faithful departed in a special way on 5 All Souls Saturdays. The first All Souls Saturday is 7 February 2015. There is an envelope in your offertory box for these All Souls Remembrances. If you wish to have your loved ones remembered on these special days, please submit the names, printed, with an offering in the envelope by **February 1** so that the names can be organized. Previously submitted names do not need to be resubmitted, only additional names. Thank you for your prompt attention.

11 JANUARY 2015

### SCHEDULE OF DIVINE SERVICES

|                 |                 |  |
|-----------------|-----------------|--|
| Sunday,         | 11 January      | <i>SUNDAY AFTER THEOPHANY. Venerable Father Theodosius, founder of the Common Life..</i>   |
| (Vigil Liturgy) | <b>5:00 PM</b>  | <b>+George, +Mary &amp; +David Krupsa – Cathy Eddy</b>   |
| (SM)            | <b>8:30 AM</b>  | <b>+Virginia Stempak – Mary Ann Moneypenny</b>   |
| (PP)            | <b>11:00 AM</b> | <b>Intention of our Parish Family</b>  |
| Monday,         | 12 January      | <i>Post-festive Day of Theophany. Holy Martyr Tatiana.</i>   |
|                 |                 | <b>No Divine Liturgy</b>   |
| Tuesday,        | 13 January      | <i>Post-festive Day of Theophany. Holy Martyrs Hermylaous and Stratonikus. Venerable Father Hilary, Bishop of Poitiers.</i>  |
|                 |                 | <b>No Divine Liturgy</b>   |
| Wednesday,      | 14 January      | <i>Leave-taking of Theophany. Venerable Fathers killed by the Arabs in Sinai and Raitho in 312. Commemoration of the Passing of the holy Equal-to-the-Apostles Nina, Enlightener of the Georgians.</i> |
|                 |                 | <b>No Divine Liturgy</b>   |
| Thursday,       | 15 January      | <i>Venerable Fathers Paul of Thebes and John the Hut-dweller.</i>  |
| (Chapel)        | <b>8:30 AM</b>  | <b>+William Paczak – Donna McCreanor</b>   |
| Friday,         | 16 January      | <i>Veneration of the Chains of the Holy, Glorious and Illustrious Apostle Peter.</i>   |
| (Chapel)        | <b>8:30 AM</b>  | <b>+Tom James – Mark &amp; Florence Sedlak, Marian Snyder</b>  |
| Saturday        | 17 January      | <i>Venerable Father Anthony the Great.</i>   |
| (Vigil Liturgy) | <b>5:00 PM</b>  | <b>+John &amp; +Pauline Kostraba – Andy &amp; Pat Kostraba</b>   |
| Sunday,         | 18 January      | <i>THIRTY-SECOND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST. SUNDAY OF ZACCHAEUS. Holy Fathers Athanasius and Cyril of Alexandria.</i>   |
| (SM)            | <b>8:30 AM</b>  | <b>+George Simko – wife, Millie</b>  |
| (PP)            | <b>11:00 AM</b> | <b>+Doris Mosko – Fedyszak Family</b>  |



## Attentive to the Word

### Sunday After Theophany

Matthew 4: 12-17

Pages 152 and 316 - 318

It is striking to me that the first words that come out of our Lord's mouth as He begins His ministry after His Baptism are: "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand." Those words are the very same words that John the Baptist spoke at the advent of his ministry. John came preaching a baptism of repentance, and the crowds flocked to him from Jerusalem, Judea, Galilee, and Samaria. John said to them the very same words that Jesus said: "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand" (Matt. 3:2).

The word *repent* has deep meaning. But at its most basic, the word *repent* is a clarion call to change. It is striking that Jesus – as He is publicly revealed, as He has been shown to be the Son of God at His Baptism – comes forth and begins His ministry by saying, "You must change, the kingdom of heaven is at hand."

Our Lord's message demands of us change. Throughout the Gospels Jesus makes it very clear that those who will follow Him are going to have to change the way they live; He will not let them follow Him and remain as they were. He is very clear that He is God, and as God He intends to make demands on His followers. They cannot follow Him and merely add Him to their life as it already is; in following Him the very structure and fabric of their life will be challenged and changed.

We see this in many ways in the Gospel. The multitudes came to Jesus and He said, "Follow Me." They said, "Where do You live?" He said, "Foxes have holes and birds of the air have their nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay His head. Follow Me." One said to Him, "First I will bury my dead and then I will follow You," and Jesus said, "That doesn't cut it. Let the dead bury the dead, but you follow Me. I have come to radically restructure your life, I have come to change."

Others said to Him, "Lord, we will follow You, but let us finish our business engagements." Jesus said, "That doesn't cut it. Whoever puts his hand to the plow and looks back is not worthy of being My disciple" (cf. Matt. 8:19-22; Luke 9:57-62).

Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand. Jesus comes to us today, after we have celebrated His Baptism. He stands before us today and says the very same thing John said: "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand. I have come not to make your life comfortable. I have come to radically restructure your life. I have come to make demands on you. I have come to change you. Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."

The great tragedy of being a Christian in the twenty-first century-indeed, the great tragedy of following Christ throughout the years is that we can begin with great

enthusiasm. But something happens. It's hard to follow Christ with commitment. It's easy for us to lose that enthusiasm and to fall back into the patterns of our old life. It's easy for us to be tired and to skip our prayers. It's easy for us on Saturday evenings, because we're tired, to say, "Let's stay home tonight." It's easy for us to look at the clock on Sunday morning, when it rings early enough for us to come to church, and say that we're tired and we've had a long week. We'll hit the snooze button once, or twice, or three times, saying to ourselves, "what is one weekend to miss?"

Our Lord comes this morning and stands before us in His glory. He says, "Repent." You remember that our Lord comes to the church of Ephesus in the Book of Revelation (2:4, 5) and says, "You have lost your first love. Remember therefore from where you have fallen. Remember the zeal that you once had; remember the enthusiasm you once had, and repent, change, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."

Our Lord will not allow us to become complacent. He will not allow us to make Him a *part* of our lives. He demands one hundred percent commitment from us. He demands that He *be* our life. He demands of us that we be willing to let go of anything that takes us from Him. "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."

We need to love God more than anything or anyone. The love of God must consume our souls, so that we can say with the psalmist, "Whom have I in heaven *but You? And there* is none upon earth *that I* desire besides You. My flesh and my heart fail; But God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever" (Ps. 73:25, 26).

Our hearts need to be on fire for God, to love Him with a passion that is so strong that all other loves seem to us to be hatred Jesus said, "If anyone comes to Me and does not hate his father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and his own life also, he cannot be My disciple" (Luke 14:26). Our love for God is to be so strong that in comparison everything else seems to be hatred.

God comes to us today and says, "Repent. You have allowed other loves to creep into your heart. You have allowed yourself to be distracted and to forget what is important. You have allowed the mantra of this world, which says, 'Do not be a fanatic, do not be too zealous for your faith,' to take you away from your zeal for God." God comes at this time of renewal, and He says to us, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."

Someday soon, all of this will be gone. This world will be consumed by fire, and all that we have lived for and worked for will be destroyed. The only thing that will remain is our heart. The only thing that will endure that fire is God, and what we have done for God. Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand. Change now, before it is too late. Change now, before our Lord returns. Change now, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.

By Fr. John Mack