

## 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, 5:00 PM - 5:30 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.

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

**Rectory Office Hours:** Sr. Barbara is in the office from 10 AM – 2 PM Monday, Wednesday and Friday. Father Andrew is available on other days and times by appointment.

## THANK YOU

I would like to thank all who remembered me during this Holy Season of Christ's birth with Christmas greetings and the generous gifts. Your thoughtfulness and generosity were greatly appreciated. May God continue to bless us throughout the New Year as we journey together as a family of faith.

## PILGRIM VOCATION ICON

*“The harvest is truly plentiful but the laborers are few. Pray, therefore, the Lord of the harvest that He send laborers into His harvest.”* (Matthew 9: 37-38) We all have a responsibility to foster future leaders of the Church, priests, sisters, deacons and laity alike, dedicated to serve God's people. One way we can all be involved in vocation ministry is through prayer. Next Sunday begins a special effort of Prayer for Vocations in the entire Byzantine Catholic Church in the United States. This effort will begin with a special program of prayer on that day, the Pilgrim Vocation Icon. Everyone of the parish is invited and encouraged to have this icon in their home for a week of special prayer for vocations. Please sign up on the sheet that is posted on the bulletin board at the Belvedere Ave. entrance.

## ETERNAL MEMORY



Grant, O Lord, eternal rest to the soul of your servant + **Mary Hlynny** who has recently fallen asleep in the Lord.

## CONTRIBUTION ENVELOPES AND CALENDARS

**Please remember to pick up your donation envelopes for 2012, if you have not as yet done so. You will find them at the back of the social hall, along with the 2012 church calendar. *If you are a parishioner who was assigned a new envelope number, please discard the unused envelopes for 2011 and any previous years. If you want proper credit for your contributions, you must use the envelopes you were assigned for the year.***



**Our return for the gifts He continues to shower upon us . . .**

**Christmas = \$20,292.00**

**Sunday = 275.00**



- Sun. Jan 1 Caroling to our Shut-ins, leaving at 1:15 PM. Come and join us.
- Wed. Jan. 4 St. Vincent de Paul Meals Program. 9 AM to 2 PM.
- Fri. Jan. 6 Major Feast of the Theophany of Our Lord. Divine Liturgy with Blessing of Water – Vigil, 5 Jan. at 6 PM & 6 Jan. at 9:00 AM.
- Sat. & Sun. Jan. 7 & 8 Coffee & Donuts after all Divine Liturgies.
- Sun. Jan. 8 Oblates of St. Benedict Meeting – 2 to 4PM at the Monastery. Ring #301 in the Manor.

### Christmas Caroling . . .



All of those interested in spending a worth-while afternoon bringing joy to our shut-ins, **please meet in the Social Hall at 1:00 PM** We would like to leave at 1:15 PM.



### **2011 - A LOOK BACK**

As we begin the Year 2012, we should reflect on this past year to see where we were, where we are now, and where we are going. Not only should we do this individually, but we should do this as a parish family. As a community of faith, our existence is made possible through the efforts of many people. We should take the time to recognize all those who make Saints Peter and Paul Parish what it is today:

*God the Father, God the Son & God the Holy Spirit; our Holy Father, Pope Benedict; the Council of Hierarchs and Fr. Eugene, our Archieparchial Administrator; the clergy and religious sisters and brothers of the Metropolitan Province; all of the parishioners of Saints Peter and Paul Parish; our Parish secretary; our Maintenance; our Parish Advisory Board; our Cantors; our Catechists; our Altar Servers; our Ushers; our Collection Counters; our Grounds Crew; our Cemetery Caretaker; all our volunteers.*

Thank you for your continued support and generosity toward the growth of your faith community of Saints Peter and Paul. I look forward to working with you in 2012 as we journey together toward eternal salvation.

1 JANUARY 2012

### SCHEDULE OF DIVINE SERVICES

Sunday,	1 January	<i>Sunday before Theophany. Circumcision of Our Lord, God and Savior Jesus Christ. Our Holy Father Basil the Great.</i>
<b>Vigil Liturgy</b>	<b>6:00 PM</b> <b>8:15 AM</b> <b>11:00 AM</b>	<b>+ John &amp; Audrey Raiti – Betty, Steve, &amp; Jen Zombar</b> <b>+ Helen Chamer – Joseph Hudak family</b> <b>Intention of the Parish Family</b>
Monday,	2 January	<i>Pre-festive Day of Theophany. Holy Father Sylvester, Pope of Rome.</i> <b>No Divine Liturgy</b>
Tuesday,	3 January	<i>Pre-festive Day of Theophany. Holy Prophet Malachi. Holy Martyr Gordius. Venerable Genevieve of Paris.</i>
<b>(Chapel)</b>	<b>8:30 AM</b>	<b>+ Audrey Kavulik – John &amp; Dianna Koza</b>
Wednesday,	4 January	<i>Pre-festive Day of Theophany. Synaxis of the Holy 70 Apostles. Venerable Father Theoctist, Hegumen at Cuomo in Sicily.</i>
<b>(Chapel)</b>	<b>8:30 AM</b>	<b>+ Bishop Andrew Pataki – Benedictine Sisters</b>
Thursday,	5 January	<i>Vigil of Theophany. Holy Martyrs Theopempt and Theona. Venerable Mother Syncletica. Holy Prophet Micah.</i>
	<b>6:00 PM</b>	<b>+ Betty Sasala – Helen Sekula</b>
Friday,	6 January	<b><i>THEOPHANY OF OUR LORD, GOD AND SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST.</i></b>
	<b>9:00 AM</b>	<b>Intention of the Parish Family</b>
Saturday,	7 January	<i>Saturday after Theophany. Synaxis of the Holy Forerunner, Prophet and Baptist John.</i>
<b>Vigil Liturgy</b>	<b>6:00 PM</b>	<b>+ Stephen Popp – wife, Anna Popp</b>
Sunday,	8 January	<i>SUNDAY AFTER THEOPHANY. Post-festive Day of Theophany. Venerable Father George the Chozebite. Venerable Mother Dominica. Holy Father and Confessor Emilian.</i>
	<b>8:15 AM</b> <b>11:00 AM</b>	<b>Intention of the Parish Family</b> <b>+ John Gnat – wife Margaret</b>



## Attentive to the Word

*Sunday Before Theophany*  
*Circumcision of Our Lord*  
*St. Basil the Great, Archbishop of*  
*Caesarea*  
**Pages 141–142 & 305–309**

### **Sunday Before Theophany: Two Forces at Work**

"What's frightening about listening to John preach is that he puts you in the presence of God. And that's what everybody wants, and that's what everybody doesn't want – because the light at the altar is different from every other light in the world. In the dim lamps of this world, we can compare ourselves with each other, and all of us come off looking good. We convince ourselves that God grades on the curve, and what's the difference? We're all okay. And then you come in the presence of God, and you're at the altar, and it's all different. For if our hearts condemn us, think of this - - God is greater than our hearts and knows everything. There's no way to modulate the human voice to make a whine acceptable. The whining is over! The excuses are over! It's the school – It's the church – It's the board – It's the government! It isn't! All that's over! It just stops – like waking from a dream of palaces and patios to find the roof leaks and the rent's due. That's just the fact of it! In my *mind*, I serve God. But there's another force in my life, and I say, 'I'm going to do that.' I don't do it. I say, 'I'll never do that.' I do it. Crucified between the sky of what I *intend* and the earth of what I *perform*. That's the truth."

(from Fred B. Craddock, "*Have You Ever Heard John Preach?*")

### **St. Basil the Great**

Saint Basil the Great, born 329, died Jan. 1, 379, was one of the Cappadocian Fathers, the other two being his brother, Gregory of Nyssa, and his friend, Gregory of Nazianzus. The son of devout parents, Basil was born at Caesarea in Cappadocia. He received his higher education in Constantinople and Athens but renounced a promising career to become a monk. Impressed by the ascetic life, he settled as a hermit near Neo-Caesarea by the Iris River, where he was joined by Gregory of Nazianzus. In 364 the bishop of Caesarea, Eusebius, persuaded Basil to accept ordination. Basil agreed and became an able defender of orthodoxy among the churches of Anatolia, which had suffered from divisions caused by the Arian controversy. In 370 he succeeded Eusebius as bishop. A leader who had brilliant organizational gifts, Basil established hospitals, fostered monasticism, and

reformed the liturgy. His Rule, a code for monastic life, became the basis of eastern monasticism, and the liturgy of Saint Basil, probably compiled by him though later revised, is still used on certain Sundays in our churches.

Basil wrote numerous letters and treatises and is known mainly for the treatise *On the Holy Spirit* (375) and three books entitled *Against Eunomius* (363-65), who was an Arian protagonist. Feast day: Jan. 1

### **The Circumcision of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ**

On the eighth day after His Nativity, our Lord Jesus Christ, in accordance with the Old Testament Law, was circumcised, as were all male infants as a sign of the Covenant of God with the Forefather Abraham and his descendants (Gen 17:10-14, Lev 12:3).

After this ritual the Divine Infant was given the name Jesus, as the Archangel Gabriel declared on the day of the Annunciation to the Most Holy Theotokos (Luke 1:31-33, 2:21). The Fathers of the Church explain that the Lord, the Creator of the Law, underwent circumcision in order to give people an example how faithfully the divine ordinances ought to be fulfilled. The Lord was circumcised so that later no one would doubt that He had truly assumed human flesh, and that His Incarnation was not merely an illusion, as certain heretics taught.

In the New Testament, the ritual of circumcision gave way to the Mystery of Baptism, which it prefigured (Col 2:11-12). Accounts of the Feast of the Circumcision of the Lord continue in the Eastern Church right up through the fourth century.

The two events, the Lord's Circumcision and Naming, remind Christians that they have entered into a New Covenant with God and "are circumcised with a circumcision made without hands, in putting off the body of the sins of the flesh by the circumcision of Christ" (Col 2:11). The very name "Christian" is a sign of mankind's entrance into a New Covenant with God.



### **THE CHRISTMAS GREETING**

It is certainly commendable to wish someone a "*Merry Christmas.*" But how powerful a message is given by the traditional Byzantine Christmas greeting: "*Christ is Born!*" and the response: "*Glorify Him!*"