

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.

CONTRIBUTION ENVELOPES AND CALENDARS

The 2016 Church Calendars and Contribution Envelopes are ready for pick-up by the Belvedere Ave. entrance. Our Parish family would like to thank the Sinchak and Sons Funeral Home for their generosity in providing our calendars again this year. God bless them for their kindness and generosity!

Please pick up your contribution envelopes by the Belvedere Ave. entrance! 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. Please discard all envelopes from 2015 and earlier.

MANY THANKS . . . to all those who brought joy and the spirit of Christ's birth to our shut-ins with their caroling. God bless you!

NEWLY SANCITIFIED JORDAN WATER

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



(PP) Divine Liturgy Attendance weekend of 27 December:

5:00 PM: 71; 11:00 AM: 84

Our return to the Lord for all He has given us: \$2,609.31

(SM) Divine Liturgy Attendance weekend of 27 December:

16 from St. Michael; 8 from St. Peter & Paul

Our return to the Lord for all He has given us:

Sunday Offering & Christmas \$2,297.25



3 JANUARY 2016

SCHEDULE OF DIVINE SERVICES

- **Sun. Jan. 3** ECF Religion Classes resume today – Jan 3rd at 9:30 AM ECF Classes resume for our children. Parents, coming back following a break is always difficult. However, please continue your responsibility in getting your children to religious education classes and to the Divine Liturgy. Remember, they need to grow up knowing one another and feeling that they are a part of our parish family. They are our precious gifts – new life in the community of God’s worshippers
- **Tues. Jan. 5** *Day of strict fast. No meat, eggs or dairy products.* **The Feast of Theophany is a Major Feast (Obligation) of our Church. The Vigil Liturgy is 6 PM at (PP) with the blessing or sanctification of Water.**
- **Wed. Jan. 6** Feast of Theophany – Liturgy at (SM) 9 AM with the blessing of Water.
- **(SM) Jan. 9** Un-decorate St. Michael Church – 9 AM. We can use your help!
- **Tues. Jan. 12** St. Vincent de Paul Meals Program – 9 AM to 2 PM
- **(PP) Thurs. Jan 14** “Un-decorating” of the church – 10:00AM
- **(SM) Ladies** Tentative dates for baking – Feb. 12 or 13 – Mark your calendars.

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 30 January 2016. 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 **January 17** 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.

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.

Sunday	3 January	<i>SUNDAY BEFORE THEOPHANY. Holy Prophet Malachi. Holy Martyr Gordius. Venerable Genevieve of Paris.</i> +Edward Brienz, Sr. – John & Kathy Shinosky +Helen Gurlea – Harry & Marge Reynolds +John Gnat – wife, Margaret
(Vigil Liturgy)	5:00 PM	
(SM)	8:30 AM	
(PP)	11:00 AM	
Monday	4 January	<i>Prefestive Day of Theophany. Synaxis of the Holy 70 Apostles. Venerable Father Theoctist, Hegumen at Cuomo in Sicily.</i> No Divine Liturgy
Tuesday	5 January	<i>Vigil of Theophany. Holy Martyrs Theopempt and Theona. Venerable Mother Syncretica. Holy Prophet Micah.</i> +Rose Anne Fetsko – Michael & Pamela Joseph
(PP) (Vigil)	6:00 PM	
Wednesday	6 January	<i>THE THEOPHANY OF OUR LORD, GOD AND SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST.</i> Prayer intention of the Altar/Rosary Society
(SM)	9:00 AM	
Thursday	7 January	<i>SYNAXIS OF THE HOLY FORERUNNER, PROPHET AND BAPTIST JOHN.</i> +Sr. Julia Rohaly – Theresa Polovischak
(Capel)	8:30 PM	
Friday	8 January	<i>Postfestive Day of Theophany. Venerable Father George the Chozebite. Venerable Mother Dominica. Holy Father and Confessor Emilian.</i> No Divine Liturgy
Saturday	9 January	<i>Saturday after Theophany. Holy Martyr Polyeuctus.</i> +Stefan Karchut – Ellen Roby
(PP)	5:00 PM	
Sunday	10 January	<i>SUNDAY AFTER THEOPHANY. Holy Father Gregory of Nyssa. Venerable Dometian, Bishop of Melitene. Venerable Father Marcion, Priest and Treasurer of the Great Church.</i> +Virginia Stempak – M/M Michael Johnson +Brian Koehn – Mom & Mike
(SM)	8:30 AM	
(PP)	11:00 AM	



Attentive to the Word Sunday Before Theophany

Mk. 1:1 – 8

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Follow Directions on pp. 309 - 311

FEAST OF THEOPHANY

“You have revealed Yourself to the world today, and Your Light, O Lord, has shined upon us . . . We recognize You and exclaim to You: You have come and revealed Yourself, O inaccessible Light.” (Kontakion – Theophany)

The Sixth of January is the Feast of the Theophany. Originally it was the one Christian feast of the “Shining Forth” of God to the world in human form as Jesus. It included the celebration of Christ’s birth, the adoration of the Magi and all the childhood events such as the Circumcision, Presentation in the Temple, as well as His baptism by John in the Jordan.

Epiphany means “shining forth” or “manifestation”. The Feast, in our church, is more often and correctly called “Theophany”, which means the “manifestation of God”. Theophany is – after Easter and Pentecost – the greatest Feast of the Eastern Church: greater even than the Feast of the Nativity of Christ. It commemorates the baptism of Our Lord by John, the Baptist and the public manifestation of the incarnate Word to the world. At the River Jordan, God reveals Himself in the person of Jesus. He is the Word of God incarnate; on Him rests the Holy Spirit from all eternity; the Father witnesses to the divinity of Christ and proclaims Him to be His only Son . . . “This is my beloved Son in whom I am well pleased . . .” On this is day of Theophany, God reveals Himself fully: He is one in three Persons. This is the mystery which allows us to call on the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit as one God. Nothing can be added to this vision or manifestation. We celebrate the baptism of Jesus Christ as a Theophany because the Holy Trinity was made manifest for the first time.

The blessing of the water on the feast shows that Jesus was baptized for us in the Jordan River, and has transformed and changed the waters and **ALL CREATION** by His Presence. It is **NOW** the Kingdom of God presented and manifested to **us**. And

as the water and all creation are transformed by Christ’s presence, so too, we are blessed to show that our entire lives have been transformed and brought into the presence of God through Christ!



THE LORD’S THEOPHANY IN THE JORDAN



Come, O faithful,
Having enjoyed the Master’s hospitality,
The Banquet of Immortality in the lowly manger,
Let us run to the Jordan,
There to see a strange mystery,
Revealing the Light from on high.

The feast of Christ’s Birth has passed;
It shone more brightly than the sun.
The day of His Epiphany is coming;
That day will be even more radiant.

There the shepherds gave glory with the angels,
Worshipping God made man.
Here John’s right hand will touch the Master
As he cries out in fear:
Sanctify both me and the waters,
O Only Merciful One!

The feast which passed was radiant,
But the coming one is even more glorious!
There the Magi worshipped the Savior;
Here the servant baptizes the Master.
There the shepherds saw the Child and were amazed;
Here the voice of the Father proclaims
the only-begotten Son!