

## 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.

## **PILGRIM VOCATION ICON**

Today we begin our Pilgrim Vocation Icon Program. This program is beginning today in every Byzantine Catholic Parish in the United States. Everyone in the parish is invited to pray for and encourage others within the Church that they might respond generously to God's call in their lives. We need generous women and men to minister among us as priests, deacons, monastics and sisters. We need people like you to pray for and encourage them. Sign up today to have the Pilgrim Vocation Icon in your home. You will be greatly blessed and so will the Church. Please sign up on the sheet that is posted on the bulletin board by the Belvedere Ave. entrance.

## **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 by the Belvedere Ave. entrance, 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.**

## **ALL SOULS REMEMBRANCE**

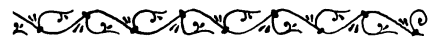
During our Liturgical Year our Byzantine Church remembers its faithful departed in a special way on 5 All Souls Saturdays. The first All Souls Saturday is 11 February 2012. There is an envelope in your offertory box for these All Souls Remembrances. If you wish to have your loved ones remembered on these special days, please submit the names, printed, with an offering in the envelope by **January 29** 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.



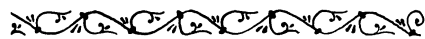
**Our return for the gifts He continues to shower upon us . . . \$3,416.50**



- **Today, Jan. 8** 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.
- **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.
- **Tues. Jan. 10** St. Vincent de Paul Meals Program Pizza Day. 9 AM to 2 PM.
- **Thurs. Jan 12** “Un-decorating” of the church – 10:00AM.
- **Mon. Jan 16** Church Cleaning Party – 9 AM - Noon



**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!



**ETERNAL MEMORY**



Grant, O Lord, eternal rest to the soul of your servants + **Audrey Love** and +**Helen Sekula** who have recently fallen asleep in the Lord. Please remember their families in your prayers.

**NEWLY SANCITIFIED 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 the some water home for your sanctification.

8 JANUARY 2012

SCHEDULE OF DIVINE SERVICES

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>Vigil Liturgy</b>	<b>6:00 PM 8:15 AM 11:00 AM</b>	<b>+ Stephen Popp – wife, Anna Popp Intention of the Parish Family + John Gnat – wife Margaret</b>
Monday,	9 January	<i>Post-festive Day of Theophany. Holy Martyr Polyeuct.</i> <b>No Divine Liturgy</b>
Tuesday,	10 January	<i>Post-festive Day of Theophany. Holy Father Gregory of Nyssa. Venerable Dometian, Bishop of Melitene. Venerable Father Marcion, Priest and Treasurer of the Great Church.</i>
<b>(Chapel)</b>	<b>8:30 AM</b>	<b>+ George, Mary &amp; David Krupsa – Cathy Eddy</b>
Wednesday,	11 January	<i>Post-festive Day of Theophany. Venerable Father Theodosius, founder of the Common Life.</i> <b>No Divine Liturgy</b>
Thursday,	12 January	<i>Post-festive of Theophany. Holy Martyr Tatiana.</i>
<b>(Chapel)</b>	<b>8:30 AM</b>	<b>+ Fr. Andrew Chura – Mindek &amp; Riggs Families</b>
Friday,	13 January	<i>Post-festive of Theophany. Holy Martyrs Hermylaous and Stratonicus. Venerable Father Hilary, Bishop of Poitiers.</i>
<b>(Chapel)</b>	<b>8:30 AM</b>	<b>+ Stella Zarick – Michael and Debra Pawcio</b>
Saturday,	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>Vigil Liturgy</b>	<b>6:00 PM</b>	<b>+ Dan Boyd – Judith Jackson</b>
Sunday,	15 January	<i>THIRTY-FIRST SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST. Venerable Fathers Paul of Thebes and John the Hut-dweller.</i>
	<b>8:15 AM 11:00 AM</b>	<b>Intention of the Parish Family + Brian Koehn – Janice and Mike Clark</b>



## Attentive to the Word

*Sunday after Theophany*

**Pages 146 & 316-318**

*"We have seen the True Light; we have received the heavenly Spirit..."*

(Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom)

When St. John the Baptist preached God's message of reform, it was because the kingdom of God was close at hand. This feeling of anticipation is made clear by the Old Testament reference of the prophecy of Isaiah in Mt 3:3 - "Prepare the way of the Lord..." However, as Christ began to preach his message of reform, it did not carry the overtones of anticipation as in John's proclamation. Rather, Christ made it known that the kingdom of heaven IS at hand. The Old Testament reference is made to the same prophet, Isaiah, but this time the message is not of an event to come, but of an event that has already taken place: "a people living in darkness has seen a great light..." (Mt 4:16)

Especially as Christians, we live in the kingdom of God. It is up to us, however, to look around us and recognize those elements which belong to God's kingdom: those elements of peace which are already in our hearts or in our homes or in the world around us. Those elements which are found in the cooperation of people working together, the warmth of helping someone dry up an unnecessary tear, the joy of people celebrating, the contentment of being alone with God. All of these elements are the presence of God's kingdom at hand and they shine with the great light of Christ.

If we fail to recognize these elements in our hearts, in our homes, and in the world, it does not mean that the kingdom of heaven is not at hand, but rather, we're forgetting the first part of Christ's message: 'reform your lives!' While we may be living in the presence of God's kingdom, we must still work towards eternal life in that kingdom.' We must work at reforming our lives, reforming our homes, and reforming the world around us until we can see that constant light of Christ.

Through faith we receive Christ in the Eucharist and taste his eternal kingdom. Through good deeds and good thoughts we can see the bright light of Christ shining in the world around us and follow it to eternal life. As the people in the region of Galilee saw a great light in Christ, may we also, through the Eucharist and good

deeds, see the great light of Christ and sing out that 'we have seen the True Light and have received the heavenly Spirit.'

*By Msgr. Eugene A. Chromoga*

## **THEOPHANY VERSUS EPIPHANY**

The Eastern Christian Churches use the term Theophany instead of Epiphany for the feast we celebrate on January 6. The term Theophany means, God being made manifest. The term epiphany means, just something being made manifest. Additionally, Epiphany in the Western Church is the celebration of the Magi coming to the child Jesus. On the Feast of Theophany, the Eastern Churches celebrate the baptism of Jesus and it is also the Feast when the Trinity was revealed.



Four year old Jill asked, "God is bigger than us, right?" The mother agreed. Then Jill asked, "God lives in us, right?" Her mom agreed. Jill blurted out, "If God is bigger than us and lives in us, shouldn't He show through?" Jill is a first class theologian.



"... But now you are light in the Lord; walk as children of light." Ephesians 5:8

Read: Matthew 5:14-16

Lamps were among the most valued possessions in Israelite homes. Light was a symbol of life, and a good lamp provided light for every household function. In fact, an Israelite woman checked her lamp all through the night, adding more oil or fixing the wick, to make sure the light stayed strong and sent the message "all is well."

Jesus wants our lives to be like a good lamp, sending out the daily signal that all is well in our relationship with Him. When people see you, they should see the light of Christ and give glory to God. Can those around you see Jesus in the way you behave and the way you talk? Does your life communicate His positive truth, or do you send negative statements of criticism or discouragement? Do your actions make someone want to know more about your Lord? Perhaps the statement your life is making right now is not what it should be. Maybe you are discouraged by inconsistency or feelings of inadequacy. Remember that Jesus gives you the strength and wisdom you need because He is the "light of life." God promises to continue building His truth into your life day by day so that your character and conduct reflect His distinguishing presence.