

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.

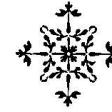
Funerals: Families of the deceased or the funeral director must contact Fr. Andrew before setting and publishing the day and time of the funeral.

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 +**Edward Brienz, Sr.** who has recently fallen asleep in the Lord. Please remember him and his family in your prayers.

A CELEBRATION OF MARRIAGE

Metropolitan William and the Archeparchy of Pittsburgh will honor all those couples celebrating their milestone wedding anniversary of 10, 25, 40, 50, 55, 60, 65 or beyond years during this calendar year of 2015. Please inform the Parish Office by 19 July 2015 if you are celebrating one of these milestone anniversaries, so that your names can be submitted to the Chancery. The Archieparchial celebration will take place at St. Elias Church, Munhall on Sunday, 13 September 2015 at 3 PM. Thank you in advance for your prompt attention to this.

REMEMBERING THE HOMEBOUND

We pray to the Lord, the Giver of Life and all good gifts, for the health and blessings of those who are ill, homebound, in care facilities, and are unable to attend church. In our good fortune and many blessings from God, let us not forget those who are also part of our parish family – remember them with prayers, cards, visits, phone calls, etc. Let us share our blessings!

48th ANNUAL GRECIAN FESTIVAL

July 22 – 26, 2015, St. Demetrios Center, 3223 Atlantic St. NE. Wednesday & Thursday: 4-11; Friday & Saturday: 4 – 12; Sunday: 1 – 10. Free Admission & Free Parking. FUN FOR ALL! Greek Food – Gyros – Loukoumathes – Souvlaki – Greek Pastries – Dining Facilities – Ethnic Music – Ethnic Dancers – Rides and Much More!



Divine Liturgy Attendance weekend of 5 July:

5:00 PM: **56**; 11:00 AM: **103**

Our return to the Lord for all He has given us: \$4,033.70

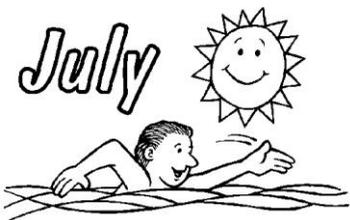


- **Tues. July 14** St. Vincent de Paul Pizza Day – 9AM to 2 PM. People are still hungry, so we still need your help!
- **Mon. July 20** Feast of the Great Prophet Elijah - 9 AM Divine Liturgy followed by Blessing of vehicles.
- **Thurs. July 23** Byzantine Catholic Family Day at Kennywood Park.
- **Mon. July 27** Church Cleaning Party 9AM – Noon



DATES TO REMEMBER:

August 23 – Our Parish Picnic.



SUMMER IS HERE – and a time for Vacations – much needed vacations! A time to re-create and come back to the pilgrimage of life! It is a time of summer breezes, beautiful flowers, and many times – poor church attendance. We still have a need to gather as God’s people and to worship – even if we are on vacation or traveling, there are many opportunities to give time to the Lord! As you leave, have a wonderful, safe and happy time! And when you return, know that you were missed and we are happy to see you back with us – with such renewed life.

FAITH AND FUN DAY – 2015

Altar Servers! Mark your calendar for Thursday, August 20, and get ready for another great day of “Faith and Fun.” Open to all active altar servers (elementary through college), this exciting day, sponsored by the Office of Vocations, is a way to say “Thank You” to active altar servers for volunteering time and service to your Church. From a faith presentation and Divine Liturgy with Archbishop William, to a hearty lunch, Consol Energy Center tour, and Laser Storm tag, and ending with Pirates vs. Giants baseball game and “Faith Night” personal testimony presentation by Pirate players – you will have a memorable day-long experience.

Don’t delay – space is limited, so sign up with Father Andrew ASAP!

12 JULY 2015

SCHEDULE OF DIVINE SERVICES

Sunday,	12 July	<i>SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST. Holy Martyrs Proclus and Hilarion. Venerable Father Michael of Malein.</i>
(Vigil Liturgy)	5:00 PM	+John & Pauline Kostraba & Pat Harper – J. Mirabelli
(SM)	8:30 AM	+Michael Guinaugh – Nancy DeAngelo
(PP)	11:00 AM	+Gregory Alex – Margaret Gnat
Monday,	13 July	<i>Synaxis of the Archangel Gabriel. Venerable Father Stephen of the Monastery of St. Sabbas. Holy Father Julian, Bishop of Kenoman</i>
		No Divine Liturgy
Tuesday,	14 July	<i>Holy Apostle Aquila.</i>
		PA Catholic Conference – Harrisburg, PA
Wednesday,	15 July	<i>Holy Martyrs Cyricus and Julitta. Holy Great Prince Vladimir, Equal to the Apostles, who was baptized Basil.</i>
		PA Catholic Conference – Harrisburg, PA
Thursday,	16 July	<i>Holy Martyrs Athenogenes, Bishop of Sebaste and His Ten Disciples.</i>
		No Divine Liturgy
Friday,	17 July	<i>Holy Great Martyr Marina. Blessed Confessor Paul Gojdich, Bishop of Presov.</i>
(Chapel)	8:30 AM	+Mary Zentkovich – Betty Zombar
Saturday	18 July	<i>Holy Martyr Hyacinth of Amastris. Holy Martyr Emilian. Passing of the Venerable Martyr Tarsykia Matskiv.</i>
(PP)	5:00 PM	+Betty Jane Ross – Al & Madeline DeBonis
Sunday,	19 July	<i>EIGHTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST. MEMORY OF THE FATHERS AT THE FIRST SIX ECUMENICAL COUNCILS. Venerable Mother Macrina, Sister of St. Basil the Great. Venerable Father Dios.</i>
(SM)	8:30 AM	+Fr. Andrew Kolitsos – Mike & Sue Johnson
(PP)	11:00 AM	+Betty Sasala – John & Kathy Shinosky



Attentive to the Word

Seventh Sunday After Pentecost

Matthew 9: 27 – 35

Tone 6 Pages 152 - 153



There is a title to a very old song which is beautiful both as a song and in its meaning. The title is “*Try A Little Tenderness.*” I’ve tried to find the composer’s name but couldn’t find it so whoever it is, I give him or her credit for a nice song. The song is about a poor over-worked housewife who is tired, in a rut and sort of at wit’s end; who doesn’t need harsh words nor reprimands from her husband. She needs words of TENDERNESS.

We are not here to preach about the song but it has some very good scriptural advice. Many people look all too often to the world in vain for comfort, solace and encouragement. Yes – we are looking for tenderness.

One of Jesus’ outstanding qualities was gentleness. He used reprimands where the occasion needed it but compassion was one of His greatest traits. This explains the eagerness of common people to follow him. Many of them had never heard words of kindness. Here was a man not only talking about love, but *personifying* kindness, tenderness and love.

In his book “*Pocket of Pebbles,*” Charles Hembry so aptly says, “God deals with a person in the direction he is going. Those who are blatantly sinful and do not want to reform will be banished forever from His presence; while sincere seekers will be saved and rewarded in His *compassion.*” Ah! There is that word again.

Jesus came into the world to reveal what God is like. Since Jesus is God, He revealed Himself as God of tenderness and love.

Many people when reading the Bible think that God in the Old Testament was stern, angry and a mighty ruler sort of personality. They cite the stories of Sodom and

Gomorrah or Noah’s ark as showing God as mean and vengeful. However, there are even more stories which show His loving care for his people. Read Isaiah 40:11 “He shall feed his flock like a shepherd. He shall gather lambs under His arms and carry them in His bosom and he shall *gently* lead them....” That’s tenderness.

Even in the book of Psalms the accent is on gentleness and tenderness. Most of these psalms in Byzantine tradition are attributed to King David. Listen to Psalm 18:35, “Your *gentleness,* O God has made me great.” Of all the things God did for David the thing he remembered most, was God’s tenderness. What a lesson that is for all of us.

Did you know that by the Bible’s standard if we are not gentle and compassionate we are not spiritual? Oh yes. Priests and religious have to watch this too. I know one priest who is a brilliant man, a sound theologian and a good administrator but when the husband of a young wife died he told her harshly, “Stop sniffing and feeling sorry for yourself. Where is your faith?” That was very cold and unfeeling. It’s not a matter of faith but a very human emotion. This woman just lost her husband – the man she loved and committed her life to. She had every right to cry and be upset. There is no cruelty that exceeds callousness in the presence of grief, at the time of the death of a loved one.

Scripture says in Ephesians 4:32, “And be kind to one another; *tender-hearted,* forgiving one another as God, for Christ’s sake has forgiven you.”

There was an incident in the life of the Communist revolutionary leader, Lenin which gives us an insight into this man’s hardness of heart when he became a confirmed atheist. He lost all capacity for empathy and compassion.

When his wife was keeping constant vigil for many nights by the bed of her dying mother she was thoroughly exhausted. She asked her husband, who was busy writing at a table nearby, to wake her up if she was needed. He agreed and his wife fell asleep almost instantly in the chair because of her great fatigue. The next morning Lenin’s wife awoke to find her mother dead. When she confronted her husband about this and his broken promise he very coldly said, “You told me to wake you up if your mother needed you. She died so she doesn’t need you – so what!”

Can you imagine Christ acting that way? I certainly can’t. I would hope that any of us who claim to be His followers would act that way either.

In today’s Gospel we see an example of Christ’s tenderness in healing the blind. Christ personified love and tenderness. We should ask ourselves individually – do I?