

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.



- **Mon. July 25** Church Cleaning Party – 9 AM to Noon.
- **Thurs. July 28** Byzantine Catholic Day – Kennywood Park



MARK YOUR CALENDARS (MORE INFORMATION WILL BE FORTH COMING)

- July 20-24 – St. Demetrius Festival, Atlantic Street, Warren
- August 13-15 – Pilgrimage at Mariapoch
- August 14 – Byzantine Divine Liturgy: Celebrant, Archbishop William Skurla at Our Lady of Lebanon Shrine, North Jackson, OH
- August 21 – Our Parish Picnic – at St. Demetrius Complex – Atlantic Street
- August – Bible Study will begin...dates will be confirmed soon



IF ST. AUGUSTINE COULD “TWEET”.... (He would have “tweeted”...)

“God does not expect us to submit our faith to Him without reason, but the very limits of our reason, make faith a necessity.”



(PP) Divine Liturgy Attendance weekend of 10 July:

5:00 PM: 69 11:00 AM: 85

Our return to the Lord for all He has given us: \$2,912.140

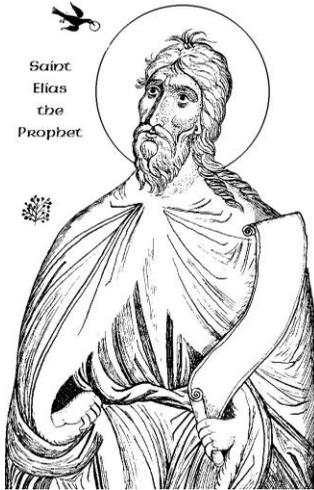
(SM) Divine Liturgy Attendance weekend of 10 July:

23 from St. Michael; 11 from St. Peter & Paul

Our return to the Lord for all He has given us: \$669.00

17 JULY 2016

THE HOLY PROPHET ELIAS:



Elias, also known as Elijah, was one of the greatest and most remarkable prophets of the Old Testament. Of his origin, not much is known, except that he was from the city of Tishba. He appeared on the historical scene during the reign of Ahab (9 cent. B.C.). He delivered to that impious king the message of Yahweh: Israel would be punished by a long drought and Ahab's house would fall. He then lived to see the tragic end of Ahab. Next we hear of Elias in connection with Ochozias, Ahab's son and successor, to whom he predicted that the injuries received in a fall would be fatal. The end of the earthly life of Elias came mysteriously. As he was conversing with Eliseus on the hills of Moah, "a fiery chariot, and fiery horses parted

them both asunder, and Elias went up by a whirlwind into heaven" (Kgs. 2:11). Jews, Christians and Moslems pay high honor to Elias; Carmelite monks cherish the belief that their order was in some sense founded by him. Together with Moses, he appeared at Christ's transfiguration.

The veneration of Elias dates back to apostolic times. In the fourth century, the feast was already generally known. St. John Chrysostom, St. Ambrose and St. Augustine have testified to his greatness, a fact which alone would prove the antiquity of this feast.

In her liturgy, the Church calls the prophet Elias a "pillar of the prophets and second forerunner of the coming of Christ" (Troparion). The Kontakion praises him as the one "who foresaw the mighty acts of our God." During matins, one stichera declares: "Let us believers honor with praises the chief of the prophets, those two all radiant luminaries of the universe, Elias and Eliseus. Let us lift our voices unto Christ with rejoicing, saying: by the intercessions of Your two prophets, O compassionate Lord, grant your people forgiveness of sins and Your great mercy."

SCHEDULE OF DIVINE SERVICES

Sunday	17 July	<i>NINTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST. MEMORY OF THE FATHERS AT THE FIRST SIX ECUMENICAL COUNCILS. Great Martyr Marina. Blessed Confessor Paul Gojdich, Bishop of Presov.</i>
(Vigil Liturgy) (SM) (PP)	5:00 PM 8:30 AM 11:00 AM	+Gregory Ross – M/M Peter Licavoli +George Simko – wife, Millie +Kenny Tisher – Ron Mosko
Monday	18 July	<i>Holy Martyr Hyacinth of Amastris. Holy Martyr Emilian.</i> No Divine Liturgy
Tuesday	19 July	<i>Venerable Mother Macrina, Sister of St. Basil the Great. Venerable Father Dios.</i>
(Chapel)	8:30 AM	+Kay Roscoe – Robert Fejko
Wednesday	20 July	<i>FEAST OF THE HOLY AND GLORIOUS PROPHET ELIAS.</i>
(Chapel)	8:30 AM	+Sylvester Minarish – Leonard Raynish
Thursday	21 July	<i>Venerable Father Simeon, Fool for Christ, and His Fellow Ascetic John. The Holy Prophet Ezekiel.</i>
(Chapel)	8:30 AM	+Patricia Mindek & Julie Riggs – Friends
Friday	22 July	<i>Holy Myrrh-bearer Mary Magdalene, Equal to the Apostles. Translation of the Relics of the Holy Bishop-Martyr Phocas.</i> No Divine Liturgy
Saturday	23 July	<i>Holy Martyrs Trophimus and Theophilus and their Companions. Holy Martyrs Appolinaris and Vitalis, Bishops of Ravenna. Repose of Our Holy Father Basil (Hopko), Bishop of Midila.</i>
(PP)	5:00 PM	+Dorothy Byers – M/M Harry Bobco, Jr.
Sunday	24 July	<i>TENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST. The Holy Great Martyr Christine. The Holy Martyrs Boris and Gleb, baptized Roman and David.</i>
(SM) (PP)	8:30 AM 11:00 AM	Prayer Intentions of the Rosary Society +Anna Bernard – John & Carol Parish



Attentive to the Word
Sunday of the Fathers of the Six
Ecumenical Councils

Mt. 14:22 - 34

Page 161 (Troparion) & Pages 343 - 344



On the Sunday that falls from the 13th to the 19th of July, our Church remembers the bishops who gathered in collegial assembly under the grace of the Holy Spirit to take common and definitive action for the doctrinal and pastoral good of the Christian faithful. They are called "ecumenical," *meaning universal, involving the entire Church.* This observance holds in common the first six such councils, while the seventh is observed by itself between October 11th and 17th on our liturgical calendar. Ecumenical Councils have their prototype in the

Council of Jerusalem in A.D. 51, at which the Apostles under the leadership of Saint Peter decided that converts to the Christian faith were not obliged to observe all the prescriptions of the Mosaic Law (Acts 15). These Councils claim for themselves an immunity from error in their doctrinal and moral teaching, resting such claim upon the promise of the presence and guidance of the Holy Spirit. The Councils do not reveal any new truth but do set forth the Faith once and for all delivered to the People of God. Therefore, their decisions are "ecumenical" as being an expression of the mind of the universal body of the faithful.

Through the history of the Church, only the first seven Councils are universally recognized and undisputed among Christian Churches, although the Catholic Church numbers twenty-one such Councils down to Vatican II (1962-1965). An ecumenical council differs from a general meeting or council of bishops in that a *synod* is concerned with local or regional issues and does not involve the Church as a whole. The first six ecumenical councils, then, are: Nicea I in the year 325 which condemned Arius. Arius taught that Jesus was only human and not divine. It also gave us the beginning of the Nicene Creed. Constantinople I in 381 condemned Macedonius, Patriarch of Constantinople, who denied the divinity of the Holy Spirit. This Council also contributed to the later formulation of the Nicene Creed. Ephesus in 431 condemned Nestorius, also Patriarch of Constantinople, who denied the unity of the divine and human natures of Christ; accordingly, Mary would not be the Mother of God only the mother of the man - Jesus. Chalcedon in 451 condemned Eutyches who taught that there was only one nature,

the divine, in Christ, denying His being human. Constantinople II in 535 condemned the Nestorian-tainted writings of Theodore of Mopsuestia. Constantinople III in 680 condemned the Monothelite heresy which taught that in Christ there is but one will, the divine.

These Councils decided definitively what we are to believe about Christ. Today, these issues seem almost irrelevant in the face of modern-day concerns; however, without the clear teachings of the Fathers, our Faith would be foundationally weakened.

At Matins for this Sunday, our Church proclaims, "When the holy preachers of Christ fully received the light from the Holy Spirit, they spoke with divine insight, with few but deeply meaningful words inspired from above, bringing to the front the evangelical doctrines and traditions of true worship. When these were clearly revealed to them from on high, they were enlightened and thus established the faith received from God." (Matins at the Praises)



STARING AT THE CROSS

Alexander Solzhenitsyn said that only once during his long imprisonment in a labor camp in the Soviet Union did he become so discouraged that he thought about suicide. He was outdoors, on a work detail, and he had reached a point where he no longer cared whether he lived or died. When he had a break, he sat down, and a stranger sat beside him, someone he had never seen before and would never see again. For no apparent reason, this stranger took a stick and drew a cross on the ground. Solzhenitsyn sat and stared at that cross for a long while. He later wrote, "Staring at that cross, I realized that therein lies freedom." At that point - in the midst of a storm - he received new courage and the will to live. The storm didn't end that day, but through Jesus, Solzhenitsyn found the strength to ride it out.

I don't know what storm of life will come your way this week, or what storm you may be enduring at this very moment. But I know this: even as the storm rages around you, if you will listen very carefully with your heart, you will hear a gentle voice calling to you, "Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid." And in time the storm will pass. And Jesus will still be there.

"Oh Me of Little Faith," by Johnny Dean