

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.

THE HALF-WAY MARK

Have you looked at the calendar lately? Have you noticed that we are already past the halfway point of the Holy Forty Days Fast? What have you done to prepare for the upcoming days in which we celebrate the Cross and Resurrection of the Savior? If you're still looking to get started, it's not too late! Get started now!

RECONCILIATION FOR PASCHA

According to the Precepts of the Church, the faithful are to confess their sins during the Easter Season. Father is available for Confessions on Saturdays from 4:00 – 4:30 PM and before the Presanctified Liturgy on Fridays from 5:00 – 5:45 PM. and after the Presanctified Liturgies – to assist us in being spiritually prepared to celebrate Pascha. **Please Note** that confessions for Easter will not be heard beyond Wednesday of Holy Week.

PUSSYWILLOWS NEEDED

Spring is almost here, (even though it doesn't feel like it), so keep your eyes open for the budding of the pussy willows. Please cut them when they bud (before they turn yellow), and bring them to church. **Do not put them in water.**

CHOCOLATE BYZANTINE CROSS SALE

We will have *Chocolate Byzantine Crosses* for sale for Easter. The orders must be **prepaid** and must be **in the office by 15 March 2015**. Envelopes are located at the Church entrances for those interested in purchasing *Dark, Milk or White Chocolate Crosses*. The purchase price is \$5.00 each.

NUTROLLS AND PASKA BREADS

The Ladies Guild will be baking Rolls and Paska Bread for the Feast of the Resurrection. Rolls are \$10 each and will be ready for pick up on the weekend of 21-22 March. Paska Bread is \$6 each and will be available for pick up on the weekend of 28-29 March. They are being offered on an order only basis. Order forms are located at the Belvedere Ave. entrance as well as in the Social Hall. **Deadline to place your order is 15 March 2015.**



Divine Liturgy Attendance weekend of 8 March:

5:00 PM: **91**; 11:00 AM: **88**

3rd All Souls' Liturgy: **19** - Pre-sanctified Liturgy, Friday, 6 March: **35**

Our return to the Lord for all He has given us \$3,935.85



- **Sun. Mar. 15** ECF Religion Classes – 9:30 AM to 10:45 AM.
- **Sun. Mar. 15** Bible Study – Session 7 – 4 PM in the Social Hall.
- **Mon. Mar.16** Meeting of St. Benedict Auxiliary – 7PM in the Social Hall.
- **Tues. Mar. 17** Bible Study - Session 7 – 10 AM in the Social Hall.
- **Thurs. & Fri. Mar.19 & 20** Ladies Guild Nutroll baking.
- **Sun. Mar. 22** Bible Study – Session 8 – 4 PM in the Social Hall.
- **Thurs. Mar. 26** Bible Study – Session 8 – 10 AM in the Social Hall.
- **Fri. Mar. 27** Ladies Guild Paska Baking.



LENTEN ALMSGIVING

Once again this Lenten season, we will support the Bella Women’s Center. through their “Bella Bear Campaign” for our Lenten Almsgiving. **Donation bottles are available at the Belvedere Ave entrance. Please return all bottles by 22 March 2015.**

THE MOSAIC OF FAMILIES – A DAY FOR WOMEN

This *Twelfth Annual Day of Reflection for Women* is sponsored by the Office of Religious Education for our Pittsburgh Archeparchy. The Women’s Day is being held at St. Elias Byzantine Catholic Church, Munhall, PA. (Directions are on the brochure) – 9:30 AM to 2:30 PM, Saturday, April 11, 2015. The Topics being presented are: “Women-The Heart of the Family,” “Family-An Image of the Trinity,” and “Healthy Mentors from Scriptures.” Deadline for registration is March 31, 2015. (This would be a wonderful “Get-away” for the ladies.) Brochures are beside the bulletins at the Belvedere side entrance.

DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI CIRCLE AWARD

Fr. Andrew is one of eleven nominees selected to be inducted into the La Roche College Distinguished Alumni Circle. La Roche College is a small Catholic College founded by the Sisters of Divine Providence in the North Hills of Pittsburgh. Fr. Andrew graduated from there in 1992. The induction ceremony will take place on Friday, 17 April 2015.

15 MARCH 2015

SCHEDULE OF DIVINE SERVICES

Sunday,	15 March	<i>FOURTH SUNDAY OF THE GREAT FAST. MEMORY OF OUR HOLY FATHER JOHN CLIMACUS. Holy Martyr Agapius and His Companions.</i>
(Vigil Liturgy)	5:00 PM	+Sandra Slyk (40th Day) – Ron & Norma Rappach
(SM)	8:30 AM	+Fr. Andrew Kolitsos – Mike and Sue Johnson
(PP)	11:00 AM	+Fr. Andrew Chura – Margaret Gnat
Monday,	16 March	Holy Martyrs Sabinus and Papas. No Divine Services
Tuesday,	17 March	<i>Venerable Father Alexis, Man of God. Holy Father Patrick, Enlightener of Ireland.</i> No Divine Services
Wednesday,	18 March	<i>Holy Father Cyril, Archbishop of Jerusalem.</i>
(SM)	6:00 PM	Pre-sanctified Liturgy
Thursday,	19 March	<i>THE GREAT CANON OF OUR HOLY FATHER ANDREW OF CRETE. Holy Martyrs Chrysanthus and Daria.</i> No Divine Services
Friday,	20 March	<i>Venerable Fathers of the St. Sabbas Monastery, killed by the Saracens.</i>
(PP)	6:00 PM	Pre-sanctified Liturgy
Saturday	21 March	<i>Akathistos Saturday. Venerable Father and Confessor James, Bishop of Catania.</i>
(Vigil Liturgy)	5:00 PM	+John J. Koza, Jr. – John & Dianna Koza
Sunday,	22 March	<i>FIFTH SUNDAY OF THE GREAT FAST. MEMORY OF OUR HOLY MOTHER MARY OF EGYPT. Holy Martyr Basilides, Priest of Ancyra.</i>
(SM)	8:30 AM	+Mary Ellen Poptic
(PP)	11:00 AM	+Joseph Sarsany – Sarsany Family



Attentive to the Word

Fourth Sunday of Great Lent

Mark 9:17 - 31

Pages 156 - 158 and 226 - 227

"I believe, Lord, help my unbelief"

There is an elusive quality to hope. It is easy to say that we have hope when we least need to hope; it is the most difficult to hope when hope and hope alone is all we have to fall back on. To use an analogy, if you ask me whether I believe that parachutes work, I will answer yes, I do. But if you invite me to put on a parachute and jump out of an airplane I will begin to have all sorts of worries about whether this particular parachute will open or not, and I will end up deciding to stay on the ground where it is much easier to have trust that parachutes work.

So too in our Christian lives, if everything is under our control it is easy to say that we hope in God. But when things spin out of control—when we desperately need something that is beyond our reach, when the future looks absolutely bleak—then it is precisely that we need to have hope. In short, hope is most a virtue in hopeless situations.

Things certainly were bleak for the father and his son that we read about today. The father had tried everything for his son, but nothing worked; and the more things that failed, the harder it was to have any hope for his son. So when he stood before Jesus, his hope was thin indeed and struggling to preserve itself. His cry is sometimes also the anguished cry of our own hearts: "I believe; help my unbelief! I put all my hope in you; heal my despair! I trust in you, my God; do not forsake me!"

- For reflection: Meditate on the image of this parent bringing his child before Jesus in desperate need. What does it say to you about your bringing your own needs before Jesus?
- Prayer starter: Lord Jesus, you know that my faith is far smaller than a mustard seed and sometimes very fragile. Do not let me be tempted beyond my strength. Increase my hope and trust.

ST. JOHN CLIMACUS

Lent is a time of repentance, a time when our heart of stone must be made by the power of God into a heart of flesh, from insensitive to become perceptive, from cold and hard to become warm and open to others, and indeed, to God Himself.

Lent is a time of renewal when like spring, everything become new again; It is a time of reconciliation, and reconciliation is a joy: it is God's joy, and it is our joy; it's a new beginning.

The fourth Sunday of The Great Fast is the day of Saint John of the Ladder, also known as St. John Climacus. I want to read to you a few phrases of his which are relevant to the particular time of the year in which we live:

“Repentance, that is our return to God, is renewal of our baptism; it is our effort to renew our covenant with God, our promise to change our life. It is a time when we can acquire humility, that is peace; peace with God, peace with ourselves, peace with all the created world. Repentance is born of hope and rejection of despair. Repentance is our peace with God. Repentance is cleansing of our conscience. Repentance implies carrying off all sadness and pain.”

If we ask ourselves how we can respond to God Who receives us as the father received the prodigal son, a God Who has waited for us, longingly? Here is what St. John of the Ladder said about prayer:

“Don't use in prayer falsely wise words; because it is often the simple and uncomplicated whispering of children that rejoices our heavenly Father. Don't try to say much when you speak to God, because otherwise your mind in search of words will be lost in them. One word spoken by the publican brought Divine mercy upon him; one word filled with faith saved the thief on the cross. The use of the multiplicity of words when we pray disperses our mind and fill it with imaginations. One word spoken to God collects the mind in His presence.”

Let us remember these words of St. John Climacus because he was a man who knew what it means to turn to God, to stay with God, to be God's joy and to rejoice in Him. He is offered us in this time, when we are ascending towards the days of the Passion, he is offered us as an example of what grace Divine can do to transform an ordinary, simple human being into a light to the world.

By Metropolitan Anthony of Sourozh