

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.

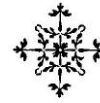
Funerals: Families of the deceased or the funeral director must contact Fr. Andrew before setting and publishing the day and time of the funeral.

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 +**Helen Prokop** who has recently fallen asleep in the Lord. Please remember her and her family in your prayers.

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.**

SIGN OF THE CROSS" — "CROSS AS A SYMBOL"



In the middle of the ninth century, Pope Leo IV, instructed his clergy to hold their fingers in the proper manner when blessing the Sacred Gifts, with two fingers outstretched, and the thumb hidden behind, between them, by which the trinity is symbolized. He instructed that the people of the Faith should imitate the example of the Priests. By means of the Sign of the Cross, express the elements of our Faith. The thumb and first two fingers joined together indicate belief in the Three Divine Persons as One God. The two remaining fingers lying in the palm of the hand to signify the Divine and the Human natures of Christ united in His One Person -*Pope Leo IV*



Divine Liturgy Attendance weekend of 1 March:

5:00 PM: 78; 11:00 AM: 90

Pre-sanctified Liturgy, Friday, 27 February: 35

Our return to the Lord for all He has given us \$3,354.25



- **Sun. Mar. 8** ECF Religion Classes – 9:30 AM to 10:45 AM.
- **Sun. Mar. 8** Bible Study – Session 6 – 4 PM in the Social Hall
- **Tues. Mar. 10** St. Vincent de Paul Pizza Day – 9 AM to 2 PM – We can use your help.
- **Tues. Mar. 10** Ladies Guild Meeting – 7 PM in the Social Hall
- **Thurs. Mar. 12** Bible Study - Session 6 – 10 AM in the Social Hall.
- **Mon. Mar.16** Meeting of St. Benedict Auxiliary – 7PM in the Social Hall
- **Thurs. & Fri. Mar.19 & 20** Ladies Guild Nutroll baking.



WEDDING SOUP SALE THIS WEEKEND

St. Vincent de Paul Deanery of Trumbull County will be selling Wedding Soup at our parish, after both Divine Liturgies on the weekend of 8 March 2015. The cost is \$7.00 a quart. You can pre-order by calling 330-392-4202, 330-369-2301 or 330-652-0074 before March 5th or you can purchase the soup the March 8th weekend. Proceeds will go to help feed those in need at Vincent de Paul Dining Hall in Warren.

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 bulletin’s at the Belvedere side entrance.

8 MARCH 2015

SCHEDULE OF DIVINE SERVICES

Sunday,	8 March	<i>THIRD SUNDAY OF THE GREAT FAST. VNERATION OF THE HOLY CROSS. Venerable Father and Confessor Theophylact.</i>
(Vigil Liturgy)	5:00 PM	+Phyllis Eggens (40 th Day) – Ken & Fran Hanis
(SM)	8:30 AM	+George Simko – wife, Millie
(PP)	11:00 AM	+Michael Vazur (40 th Day) – John & Betty Vazur
Monday,	9 March	Forty Holy Martyrs of Sebaste. Holy Martyr Urpasianus of Nicomedia.
		No Divine Services
Tuesday,	10 March	Holy Martyr Codratus and His Companions.
		No Divine Services
Wednesday,	11 March	Mid-Lent. Holy Father Sophronius, Patriarch of Jerusalem.
(SM)	6:00 PM	Pre-sanctified Liturgy
Thursday,	12 March	Venerable Father and Confessor Theophane of the Sygrian Mountain. Holy Father Gregory, Pope of Rome. Holy Father Symeon, the New Theologian.
		No Divine Services
Friday,	13 March	Translation of the Relics of our Holy Father Nicephor, Patriarch of Constantinople.
(PP)	6:00 PM	Pre-sanctified Liturgy with Fourth All Souls’ Remembrance
Saturday	14 March	Fourth All Souls Saturday. Venerable Father Benedict.
(PP)	10:00 AM	Memorial Liturgy for +Jason Lazor
(Vigil Liturgy)	5:00 PM	+Sandra Slyk – Ron & Norma Rappach
Sunday,	15 March	<i>FOURTH SUNDAY OF THE GREAT FAST. MEMORY OF OUR HOLY FATHER JOHN CLIMACUS. Holy Martyr Agapius and His Companions.</i>
(SM)	8:30 AM	+Fr. Andrew Kolitsos – Mike and Sue Johnson
(PP)	11:00 AM	+Fr. Andrew Chura – Margaret Gnat



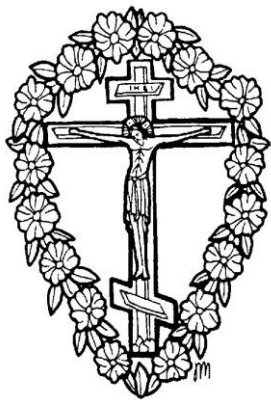
Attentive to the Word

Third Sunday of Great Lent

Veneration of the Cross

Mark 8:34 - 9:1

Pages 152 - 153 and 223 - 225



How many times I have heard – I wish it was me. Not my son or my daughter who is sick. Not my wife or husband. Not my closest friend. Let the burden fall on me. Let me carry the burden instead of them. I am willing to give myself rather than to see them suffer. We see that kind of love that just overwhelms us. That puts us in the place of the other. That doesn't measure the cost.

That's why the Church puts the cross in front of us today! Reflect on the kontakion of the feast and listen carefully to the words:

No longer does the flaming sword guard the gates of Eden; for on them one finds the most glorious seal, the Tree of the Cross. By it the sorrow of death and the victory of the Abyss have been conquered. For You, O Savior, stood and called out to those in the Abyss, "Enter again into paradise."

One of the exports of our country that has affected the whole world is brand name advertising and recognition. Even children from the youngest age demand a certain brand or style. We are so permeated with advertising that we automatically pick up a certain brand and will only settle for this or that maker. We find ourselves in a society that elevates a great number of symbols, often times without much thought or discernment. Our Clothing, our cars, our coffee-mugs, to one degree or another, all denote a brand of which we are often proud to affiliate ourselves. Yet, which of these elevated symbols displaying wealth, fashion, and/or fad affords much more than one's envy, compliment or criticism?

Our Church elevates before us the Cross! Our sign, our symbol, our hope and our joy! For on it our Lord offered himself for us! For on it, He conquered our human failure and

sinfulness. For through it he overcame the effects of evil in our lives and won for us what was lost!

God gave His Son for us. Jesus gave Himself for us on the Cross. This is our brand of religion, of our faith, of our hope and trust in God. In the Cross, we see how much God loves us. Jesus died a real death, a horrible death on the cross. In the middle of Lent our Church places the cross before us so that we focus on Jesus and watch every step that he makes in our behalf, knowing that it is for us and for our salvation.

Too many of us come to the resurrection without first coming to the Cross and so we never get the real power of the cross. We don't accept our own cross because we don't see ourselves in relation to Jesus who lovingly and obediently accepts the cross and offers Himself. We run and hide because we forget to trust this loving God who is with us on our journey and wants to lead us to Paradise.

I often think of the story of the man who was angry at God. He had this cross – and it bothered him. He wanted something different. One day he had a dream and in it was a whole room full of crosses. He could put away his cross and choose one of his own. He reached out for a beautiful marble cross – it was shiny and looked good. He took it but soon realized how heavy it was and how hard to carry. He went back and exchanged it.

He picked out another. It was metal and had beautiful designs on it. He choose it and began to carry it but found out it had sharp edges that dug into his skin as he carried it. He soon took that one back and exchanged it.

He picked out a third. It truly was beautiful. It had jewels all over it. And yet as he began to carry it, the jewels rubbed up against his back and started to make his skin bleed.

He went back again. This time he found a small wooden cross in the corner. This one is for me. He said. The angel told him that it was the same one he came in with!

Maybe we need to look at the cross of Jesus. Know that our cross isn't nearly as heavy as his. He bore our cross and calls us to walk with Him in our life's journey. Let His cross be our sign and symbol of our trust in God.

By Fr John Zeyack