

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.

MOTHER'S DAY REMEMBRANCE

Please remember the following at our Parish's Mother Day Remembrance

_____	Living	Deceased
_____	Living	Deceased
_____	Living	Deceased

Please circle Liturgy time: Saturday, 5 PM Sunday, 11 AM

Requested by:

Please print each name and circle the correct notation

Donation for each name is \$5.00

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION IS SUNDAY, 1 MAY 2016



With the emphasis today on creating a "safe environment" in our communities, we must be aware of this in our churches also...we would rather be "safe than sorry". Our complex is unlocked and unsupervised during the times of our Liturgical Services. Just a precautionary reminder to our parents: if your children need to use the restroom during the Divine Liturgy, the children should be accompanied by an adult and should, if possible, use the upstairs washroom.

(PP) Divine Liturgy Attendance weekend of 24 April:

5:00 PM: **62** 11:00 AM: **100**

Our return to the Lord for all He has given us: \$2,721.45

(SM) Divine Liturgy Attendance weekend of 24 April:

22 from St. Michael; 9 from St. Peter & Paul

Our return to the Lord for all He has given us: \$331.00



- **Sun. May 3** ECF Catechists and students are asked to attend the 11:00 AM Divine Liturgy with the children who are making their Solemn Communion today. Rows 2 & 3 on the Blessed Mother's side will be reserved for you.
- **Wed. May 4** St. Vincent de Paul Meals Program – 9 AM to 2 PM. We can use your help.
- **Thurs. May 5** Feast of the Ascension of Our Lord. Major Feast Day (obligation).
- **Sun. May 8** Mother's Day! Be good to your mothers. All Mother's deserve special day of remembrance, whether living or deceased.
- **Tues. May 10** Ladies Guild Meeting – 7:00 PM in the Social Hall.
- **Sat. May 14** Fifth All Souls Saturday...9:00 AM Divine Liturgy w/ reading of Diptyches.
- **Sat. & Sun. May 14 & 15** Coffee & Donuts in the Social Hall, after both Divine Liturgies.
- **Sun. May 15** Pentecost Sunday – Memorial Services at SPP Cemetery – 2:00 PM (weather permitting).

First Reconciliation, Renewal of Baptismal Vows & Solemn Communion

Today our parish family extends its prayerful best wishes to those who have come to the fullness of the Church through the celebration of the renewal of their Baptismal Vows, the Mystery of Reconciliation and their solemn Holy Communion. Our Prayerful best wishes are extended to:

Ryenne Dominique Cain

Sophia Cora Shuster

Christian Samuel Postlethwait

Gabrielle Grace Woodyard



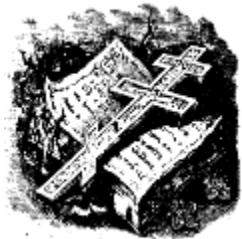
JUST A REMINDER . . .

If you intend to renew your subscription to *THE BYZANTINE CATHOLIC WORLD*, please do so by May 10th. There is a price increase in July, 2016, and we would like to complete the order for 2016.

1 MAY 2016

SCHEDULE OF DIVINE SERVICES

Sunday	1 May	<i>SUNDAY OF THE MAN BORN BLIND. Holy Prophet Jeremiah. Passing of Blessed Clement Sheptyckyj (1951).</i>
(Vigil Liturgy)	5:00 PM	+Irene Brienz (40th day) – Steve & Betty Zombar
(SM)	8:30 AM	+Michael Guinaugh – Michael & Sue Johnson
(PP)	11:00 AM	Intention of the children celebrating 1st Reconciliation
Monday	2 May	<i>Our Holy Father Athanasius the Great.</i>
		No Divine Liturgy
Tuesday	3 May	<i>Holy Martyr Timothy and his wife Maura. Passing of our Venerable Father Theodosius of the Pecherskaya Lavra.</i>
(Chapel)	8:30 AM	Health of William Maddox – Your Friends
Wednesday	4 May	<i>Otdanije (Leave-taking) of Pascha. The Holy Martyr Pelagia. Vigil of the Ascension.</i>
(SM)	6:00 PM	Prayer Intentions of Rosary Society
Thursday	5 May	<i>THE ASCENSION OF OUR LORD AND GOD AND SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST. (Holy Day of Obligation).</i>
(PP)	6:00 PM	+Helen Sekula – M/M Richard McGrath, Sr.
Friday	6 May	<i>Post-festive Day of the Ascension. The Holy and Just Job the Longsuffering.</i>
		No Divine Liturgy
Saturday	7 May	<i>Post-festive Day of the Ascension. The appearance of the Sign of the Cross in the heavens at the third hour of the day in Jerusalem, before the Emperor Constantius. The Holy Martyr Acacius.</i>
(PP)	5:00 PM	Intention of our Living and Deceased Mothers
Sunday	8 May	<i>SUNDAY OF THE FATHERS AT THE FIRST NICEAN COUNCIL. Post-festive Day of the Ascension. Holy Apostle and Evangelist John the Theologian.</i>
(SM)	8:30 AM	Intention of our Living and Deceased Mothers
(PP)	11:00 AM	Intention of our Living and Deceased Mothers



Attentive to the Word Sunday of the Man Born Blind

John 9:1 – 38
Pages 189 - 191

BLINDNESS OF THE HEART

A Fellow by the name of Tim Bruster tells a powerful story about a mom who took her children to a crowded restaurant one day. Her six-year-old son asked if he could say the grace. He prayed: “God is great and God is good, Let us thank him for the food, and God I would thank you even more if Mom gets us ice cream for dessert. And liberty and justice for all! Amen!” Along with the laughter from the other customers nearby, the woman at the very next table growled loudly: “That’s what’s wrong with this country. Kids today don’t even know how to pray. The very idea... asking God for ice cream! Why I never.”

Hearing this, the little six-year-old boy burst into tears and he asked his mother: “Did I do it wrong? I’m sorry. Is God mad at me?” The little boy’s mother pulled him over into her lap. She hugged him tightly and assured him that he had done a terrific job with his prayer and God was certainly not mad at him. Just then an elderly gentleman walked over to the table. He winked at the little boy and he said: “I know God really well. We visit every day and I happen to know that God loved your prayer. It may have been the best one He has heard all day.” “Really?” the little boy asked.. “Cross my heart,” said the man. Then he leaned over and whispered into the little boy’s ear. Pointing at the woman at the next table who had made the remark that started the whole thing, he said: “Too bad she never asks God for ice cream. A little ice cream is good for the soul sometimes.”

Naturally, the mom ordered ice cream for her kids at the end of the meal. The little six-year-old boy stared at his for a moment and then he did something that no one in that restaurant that day will ever forget. He picked up his sundae and without a word walked over and placed it in front of the woman at the next table. With a big smile he said to her: “Here, this

is for you. Ice cream is good for the soul sometimes and my soul is good already!’ The people in the restaurant applauded and somewhere in heaven Jesus was smiling... because that little boy had already learned how to look at others with the eyes of sacrificial love. *Sight (true sight) is always a matter of the heart... not the eyes.*

Jesus cured the man of his blindness...He can cure us of the “blindness” of our hearts, if we let Him.



ASCENSION THURSDAY



This holy day is celebrated on the fortieth day after the Resurrection of Christ, on the Thursday of the sixth week of Pascha.

The Church's celebration of the ascension, as all such festal celebrations, is not merely the remembrance of an event in Christ's life. Indeed, the ascension itself is not to be understood as though it were simply the supernatural event of a man floating up and away into the skies. The Holy Scripture stresses Christ's *physical departure* and His *glorification with God the Father*, together with the great joy which His disciples had as they received the *promise of the Holy Spirit* who was to come to assure the Lord's presence with them, enabling them to be His witnesses to the ends of the earth. (Luke 24:48-53; Acts 1:8-11; Matthew 28:16-20; Mark 16:16-19)

In the Church the believers in Christ celebrate these very same realities with the conviction that it is for them and for all people that Christ's departure from this world has taken place. The Lord leaves in order to be glorified with God the Father and to glorify us with himself. He goes in order to "prepare a place" for us, and to take us also into the blessedness of God's presence. He goes in order to send the Holy Spirit, who proceeds from the Father, to bear witness to Him and His gospel in the world, by making Him powerfully present in the lives of His disciples.