

## 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.

## ETERNAL MEMORY



Grant, O Lord, eternal rest to the soul of your servant +**Ronald Ferance** of St. Michael's Parish who has recently fallen asleep in the Lord. Please remember him and his family in your prayers.

## MANY THANKS

Our heart-felt thanks go out to our dedicated Catechists, to the Parents, who so faithfully brought their children to classes, and to the children, themselves. We have a wonderful group of children who have formed their own "community" and who have been very regular in their attendance. *It was a wonderful year!* We hope to see you in September. Enjoy your "summer vacation", but remember to attend the Divine Liturgy every Sunday. God bless you all!

## SAFETY FIRST

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.

## JUST A REMINDER . . .

If you intend to renew your subscription to *THE BYZANTINE CATHOLIC WORLD*, please do so by TODAY, May 10<sup>th</sup>. There is a price increase in July, 2016, and we would like to complete the order for 2016. *If you are unable to pay for your subscription today, please call the office on Monday so that your name is not removed from the BCW mailing list.*



**(PP) Divine Liturgy Attendance weekend of 1 May:**

5:00 PM: 75 11:00 AM: 158

**Our return to the Lord for all He has given us: . . . . . \$3,507.75**

**(SM) Divine Liturgy Attendance weekend of 1 May:**

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

**Our return to the Lord for all He has given us: . . . . . \$913.00**



- **Sun. May 8** Happy Mother's Day! Our Mothers, both living and deceased will be remembered at both Divine Liturgies today!
- **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).
- **Sun. May 22** Slavic Festival – St. Michael's, Hermitage.



### Nicea I.

On this day, the Church commemorates the memory of the 318 Fathers who participated in the First Ecumenical Council of Nicea (325). At this council, the doctrine of the Holy Trinity was defined. Arius (280-336), an archpriest of Alexandria, had taught the heresy that the Son was not equal to the Father, being neither of the same essence nor eternal; consequently, Mary, His mother, could not be the Mother of God (Theotokos). Arius also taught that the Holy Spirit was a creature, the most perfect creature of God, but not God. Athanasius, Archbishop of Alexandria, opposed these errors with all his might. He eloquently upheld the true teaching, that the Word of God was indeed God in reality, and that through the Incarnation He became a real man. Athanasius also reaffirmed that the Holy Spirit was true God.

The controversy had raged throughout the Roman empire, throwing it into a state of turmoil. Emperor Constantine decided to submit the matter to the judgement of the universal Church, and so he called for an Ecumenical Council that convened in Nicea; The council, in response to Arius' teaching, upheld orthodox doctrine in the following words:

*"I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, the only-begotten, born of the Father before all ages. Light of Light, true God of true God, begotten, not made, of one substance (essence or being) with the Father through whom all things were made!"*

8 MAY 2016

### SCHEDULE OF DIVINE SERVICES

|                 |                 |  |
|-----------------|-----------------|--|
| 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>  |
| (Vigil Liturgy) | <b>5:00 PM</b>  | <b>Intention of our Living and Deceased Mothers</b>  |
| (SM)            | <b>8:30 AM</b>  | <b>Intention of our Living and Deceased Mothers</b>  |
| (PP)            | <b>11:00 AM</b> | <b>Intention of our Living and Deceased Mothers</b>  |
| Monday          | 9 May           | <i>Post-festive Day of the Ascension. Holy Prophet Isaiah. Holy Martyr Christopher. Translation of the Relics of our Holy Father Nicholas of Bari.</i><br><b>No Divine Liturgy</b>                         |
| Tuesday         | 10 May          | <i>Post-festive Day of the Ascension. Holy Apostle Simon the Zealot.</i><br><b>No Divine Liturgy</b>   |
| Wednesday       | 11 May          | <i>Post-festive Day of the Ascension. Foundation of Constantinople. Holy Priest-Martyr Mocius. Holy Fathers Cyril and Methodius, Apostles of the Slavs. Our Holy Father Basil Hopko, Bishop of Midila.</i> |
| (Chapel)        | <b>8:30 AM</b>  | <b>+Violet Novak – St. Benedict's Auxiliary</b>  |
| Thursday        | 12 May          | <i>Post-festive Day of the Ascension. Holy Fathers Epiphanius, Bishop of Cyprus and Germanus, Patriarch of Constantinople.</i>   |
| (Chapel)        | <b>8:30 AM</b>  | <b>+Sylvester Minarish – Bieringer Family</b>  |
| Friday          | 13 May          | <i>Otdanije (Leave-taking) of Ascension. Holy Martyr Glyceria.</i><br><b>No Divine Liturgy</b>   |
| Saturday        | 14 May          | <i>Fifth All Souls Saturday. Memory of all the Faithful Departed. Holy Martyr Isidore.</i>   |
| (PP)            | <b>9:00 AM</b>  | <b>Fifth All Souls Divine Liturgy with reading of Diptyches.</b>   |
| (PP)            | <b>5:00 PM</b>  | <b>+George Syrko – Donald Homa</b>   |
| Sunday          | 15 May          | <i>PENTECOST SUNDAY. (Birthday of the Church).</i>   |
| (SM)            | <b>8:30 AM</b>  | <b>+Virginia Stempak – M/M Michael Johnson</b>   |
| (PP)            | <b>11:00 AM</b> | <b>Fifth all souls after the 8:30 AM Divine Liturgy</b><br><b>+Brian Koehn – Mom &amp; Mike</b>  |



**Attentive to the Word**  
**Sunday of the Holy Fathers of**  
**the First Ecumenical Council**

**John 17:1 – 13**  
**Pages 196 - 202**

**HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY !**

For those of us who are mothers, have lost mothers or who are fortunate enough to still have mothers . . . think of your mom!

The young mother set her foot on the path of life. "Is this the long way?" she asked. And the guide said: "Yes, and the way is hard. And you will be old before you reach the end of it. But the end will be better than the beginning."

But the young mother was happy, and she could not believe that anything could be better than these years. So she played with her children, and gathered flowers for them along the way, and bathed them in the clear streams; and the sun shone on them, and the young mother cried, "Nothing will ever be lovelier than this."

Then the night came, and the storm, and the path became dark, and the children shook with fear and cold, and the mother drew them close and covered them with her mantle, and the children said, "Mother, we are not afraid, for you are near, and no harm can come."

And the morning came, and there was a hill ahead, and the children climbed and grew weary, and the mother was weary. But at all times she said to the children, "A little patience and we are there." So the children climbed, and when they reached the top they said, "Mother, we would not have done it without you."

And the mother, when she lay down at night looked up at the stars and said, "This is a better day than the last, for my children have learned fortitude in the face of hardness. Yesterday I gave them courage. Today, I have given them strength."

And the next day came strange clouds which darkened the earth – clouds of war and hate and evil, and the children groped and stumbled, and the mother said: "Look up. Lift your eyes to the Light." And the children looked and saw above the clouds an everlasting glory – and it guided them beyond the darkness. And that night the Mother said, "This is the best day of all, for I have shown my children God."

And the days went on, and the weeks and the months and the years, and the mother grew old and she was little and bent. But her children were tall and strong, and walked with courage. And when the way was rough, they lifted her, for she was light as

a feather; and at last they came to a hill, and beyond they could see a shining road and golden gates flung wide.

And mother said: "I have reached the end of my journey. And now I know the end is better than the beginning, for my children can walk alone, and their children after them."

And the children said, "You will always walk with us, Mother, even when you have gone through the gates." And they stood and watched her as she went on alone, and the gates closed after her. And they said: "We cannot see her, but she is with us still. A Mother like ours is more than a memory. She is a living presence."

Your Mother is always with you. She's the whisper of the leaves as you walk down the street; she's the smell of bleach in your freshly laundered socks; she's the cool hand on your brow when you're not well. Your Mother lives inside your laughter. And she's crystallized in every teardrop. She's the place you came from, your first home; and she's the map you follow with every step you take. She's your first love and your first heartbreak; and nothing on earth can separate you – not time, not space – not even death! Happy Mother's Day!

**"MEAN" MOMS**

We had the meanest mother in the whole world. While other kids ate candy for breakfast, we had to have cereal, eggs and toast. When others had Pepsi and a Twinkie for lunch, we had to eat sandwiches. As you can guess, our mother fixed us a dinner that was different from what other kids had too. Our Mother insisted on knowing where we were at all times. You'd think we were convicts in prison. She had to know who our friends were, and what we were doing with them.

We were ashamed to admit it, but she had the nerve to break the **Child Labor Laws** by making us work. We had to wash the dishes, make beds, learn to cook, vacuum the floor, do laundry, and all sorts of cruel jobs. I think she would lie awake at night thinking of more things for us to do.

She always insisted on us telling the whole truth and nothing but the truth. By the time we were teenagers, she could read our minds. Then life really got tough! Mother would not let our friends just honk the horn when they drove up. They had to come to the door so she could meet them. Then while everyone else could date when they were 12 or 13, we had to wait until we were 16. Because of our mother we missed out on lots of things other kids experienced. None of us have ever been caught shoplifting, vandalizing other's property, or arrested for any crime. It was all her fault!

Now that we have left home, we are all God-fearing, educated, honest adults. We are doing our best to be mean parents just like Mom was. **"I think that's what's wrong with the world today; it just doesn't have enough Mean Moms anymore."**

Say a prayer of thanksgiving for our "mean moms." By an anonymous writer