

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.

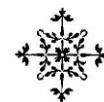
Funerals: Families of the deceased or the funeral director must contact Fr. Simeon before setting and publishing the day and time of the funeral.

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

KNEELING PRAYERS

The joy of Easter has been completed and we again have to wait for the dawn of the Eternal Day. Yet, knowing our weakness, humbling ourselves by kneeling, we also know the joy and the power of the Holy Spirit who has come. We know that God is with us, that in Him is our victory. Thus is completed the feast of Pentecost and we enter "the ordinary time" of the year. Yet, every Sunday now will be called "after Pentecost" — and this means that it is from the power and light of these fifty days that we shall receive our own power, the Divine help in our daily struggle. At Pentecost we decorate our churches with flowers and green branches — for the Church "never grows old, but is always young." It is an evergreen, ever-living Tree of grace and life, of joy and comfort. For the Holy Spirit - "the Treasury of Blessings and Giver of Life - comes and abides in us, and cleanses us from all impurity," and fills our life with meaning, love, faith and hope.



(PP) Divine Liturgy Attendance weekend of 8 May:

5:00 PM: **68** 11:00 AM: **106**

Ascension: 42

Our return to the Lord for all He has given us: \$3,222.00

(SM) Divine Liturgy Attendance weekend of 8 May:

22 from St. Michael; **11** from St. Peter & Paul

Ascension: 10 from St. Michael **5** from St. Peter & Paul

Our return to the Lord for all He has given us: \$744.30



- **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 – 11:00 AM to 7:00 PM. See details below.



MEMORIAL SERVICES

Two traditional days for Eastern Christians to conduct services at a cemetery are Thomas Sunday and Pentecost Sunday. Memorial Services will be at St. Peter and Paul Cemetery on **today, May 15th at 2:00 PM.**



SLAVIC FEST

St. Michael Church, Hermitage, PA is having a Slavic Fest next Sunday, May 22, 2016. It will be held at their Social Center – 2140 Highland Road, next to the church. Available for purchase will be ethnic foods, etc. (*Our ladies along with Newton Falls ladies will have a variety of luscious, mouthwatering baked goods for sale*). There will live entertainment, along with Vendors, a Chinese Auction and a 50/50 Raffle. The Fest will be held indoors and the facility is handicap accessible. A good, safe place to bring the family for dinner and an afternoon of relaxed FUN. Hope to see you there.

15 MAY 2016

SCHEDULE OF DIVINE SERVICES

Sunday (Vigil Liturgy) (SM)	15 May 5:00 PM 8:30 AM	<i>PENTECOST SUNDAY. (Birthday of the Church).</i> +George Syrko – Donald Homa +Virginia Stempak – M/M Michael Johnson Fifth all souls after the 8:30 AM Divine Liturgy +Brian Koehn – Mom & Mike
(PP)	11:00 AM	*THIS IS A FAST FREE WEEK*
Monday (PP)	16 May 6:00 PM	<i>PENTECOST MONDAY</i> +Stefan Karchut – Allen & MaryJo Braden
Tuesday	17 May	<i>Pentecost Tuesday. Holy Apostle Andronicus and his Companions. Passing of Martyr and Priest Ivan Ziatyk. 1952.</i> No Divine Liturgy
Wednesday (Chapel)	18 May 8:30 AM	<i>Pentecost Wednesday. Holy Martyr Theodotus of Ancyra. Holy Martyrs Peter, Dionysius and their Companions. Holy Seven Virgins.</i> +Dorothy Beca – Carpatho Rusyn Society
Thursday (Chapel)	19 May 8:30 AM	<i>Pentecost Thursday. Holy Martyr Patrick, Bishop of Prussia and his Companions.</i> +Joanne Emory – sister, Elizabeth & family
Friday	20 May	<i>Pentecost Friday. Holy Martyr Thaleleus.</i> No Divine Liturgy
Saturday (PP)	21 May 5:00 PM	Otdanije (Leave-taking of Pentecost. Holy Emperor Constantine and his Mother Helen, Equals to the Apostles). +Ann Vukovich – Dolores Golner
Sunday (SM) (PP)	22 May 8:30 AM 11:00 AM	<i>SUNDAY OF ALL SAINTS. Holy Martyr Basiliscus. Holy and Righteous Melchisedek, King of Salem. Commemoration of the Second Ecumenical Council of Constantinople, 381.</i> +George Simko – wife, Millie +Ann Closson – daughter, Sandy



Attentive to the Word
Pentecost Sunday
Birthday of the Church
John 7:37 - 52 & 8 - 12
Pages 203 - 208

Before His Ascension into heaven, our Lord promised to send the Holy Spirit Who would teach His followers all things (John 16: 13). Saint Luke records His words also in the Acts of the Apostles, "You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you, and you will bear witness for Me to the ends of the world" (Acts 1:4).

Today, through the liturgy of the Church, we celebrate the fulfillment of that promise: Christ sends the Holy Spirit to do His work for the Church. We kneel on Pentecost Sunday and sing a special prayer to implore the Holy Spirit, the "Treasury of Blessings," to use the power of His rich gifts on our behalf.

The Holy Spirit works in our souls to guide us in our association with others. But the Spirit is more than a guide; He is the Third Person of the Trinity, God Himself. His work is to strengthen and support us along the pathways of this life. To cultivate a deep spiritual relationship with the "Giver of life" we must place no obstacle to the movement of grace, God's divine energy, within us in order to adhere to the command of the Lord, that is, to love one another (John 15: 12). Saint John tells us in his first epistle, "He who loves 'God must also love his brother'" (21: 22).

Sometimes a great fault in our relationship with others is paying too much attention to living standards but neglecting Christian standards. How often do you hear the lament today that there is an acute shortage of kindness and consideration, and instead selfishness is found among people? Yet, we know it is only in the love of others that we can make visible the invisible Christ, Whose life we share so intimately through holy baptism.

The clearest description of the work of the Spirit is given by Saint Paul in the epistle to the Galatians: "The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control" (Gal. 5:22). This list could be elongated by a description of the whole Christian life-situation: unobtrusive loyalty; self-forgetful kindness (such as in the tender care of the sick); duty done without fuss or bragging

(as by mothers and fathers raising a family); the sinner's unshakeable confidence that God's mercy is unfathomable; steadfastness in temptations (especially in alcoholic or chemical dependency); kindness and sympathy towards another in need; ardent perseverance in silent prayer; patience under suffering; the joy of a good conscience. This and much more is the work of the Spirit today.

If the Holy Spirit were withdrawn from the world, we should realize quite clearly what His presence means. The world would be like a land from which the water has vanished. Water is not very remarkable because it is so common, but once it is gone, everything changes. Green fields wither into desert.

Psalm 104: 29-30, metaphorically describes the life of natural things as the breath or spirit of God. All living beings exist through this spirit: "When You hide Your face, they are dismayed; when You take away their breath, they die and return to their dust. When You send forth Your Spirit, they are created; and You renew the face of the earth."

Today the Church joyously celebrates its' birthday because it receives the supernatural life of the Spirit: "Behold, we celebrate today the Feast of Pentecost, the descent of the Holy Spirit, the fulfillment of the Promise and the realization of Hope. How noble and awesome is this great mystery! Wherefore, O Lord and Creator of All, we cry out: 'Glory to You!' (*From the office of Vespers*)

Pentecost is the beginning of her mission to the world and the beginning of Christian unity within the diversity of nations, languages and cultures. We decorate our churches and homes with greenery as symbols of that new growth and new life. Jesus Christ has kept His promise, and the work of His Church and our salvation will continue and is secure!

By Rev. John T. Sekellick, J.C.L.

