

## 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.

## APOSTLE'S FAST VS. HUMAN WEAKNESS

There is a fast in the Byzantine Church prior to the Holy Day of SS Peter and Paul. This fast begins after the Sunday of All Saints and continues until June 28. The purpose of fasting is to discipline ourselves and this requires hard work and sacrifices. The discipline can open us to God's Spirit and to better understand His Word. Fasting is never easy but giving in to human weakness is. Free avoidance of certain foods along with prayer can give us strength and insights to see some of the weaknesses and contradictions we have in our lives.

SS Peter and Paul for whom this fast is sometimes named, were two of the strongest personages in the New Testament and two of its greatest saints. They also showed a great deal of human weaknesses and contradictions in their lives. St. Peter was a great one for contradicting himself. He proclaimed great devotion to the Lord, but when asked if he knew Him after His arrest, he denied any association. St. Paul spent years persecuting the early Christians around Jerusalem, only to be converted and spend the rest of his life proclaiming the life of the Risen Lord to all the then known world.

The contradictions in the lives of these two apostles should give us comfort and courage. For if they teach us anything, they teach us that we can overcome our weaknesses and the contradictions in our lives. We can be helped in this by observing the Apostles' Fast and so hope that we can gain spiritual wisdom which will help us build our character and make us holier in the sight of God. *Although the fast is not obligatory, each of us should try to at least abstain from meat on Wednesdays and Fridays during this time.*



**(PP) Divine Liturgy Attendance weekend of 15 May:**

5:00 PM: **69** 11:00 AM: **98**

**Pentecost Monday: 11**

**Our return to the Lord for all He has given us: . . . . . \$3,133.35**

**(SM) Divine Liturgy Attendance weekend of 15 May:**

**20** from St. Michael; **8** from St. Peter & Paul

**Our return to the Lord for all He has given us: . . . . . \$363.00**



- **Sun. May 22** Slavic Festival – St. Michael’s, Hermitage – 11:00 AM to 7:00 PM. See details below.
- **Mon. May 23** Church Cleaning Party – 9:00 AM to Noon. We can use your help!
- **Mon. May 30** Memorial Services at St. Michael’s Cemetery, Newton Falls at 10:00 AM.
- **Wed. June 1** St. Vincent de Paul Meals Program – 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM.



### SLAVIC FEST

St. Michael Church, Hermitage, PA is having a Slavic Fest today. 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 from St. Benedict’s Auxiliary 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.

### ETERNAL MEMORY



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

### SAINTS AND SINNERS

“When some fellow yields to temptation and breaks a conventional law,  
 We look for no “good” in his makeup, but, Lord, how we look for the flaw.  
 No one asks; ‘Who did the tempting?’ nor allows for the battles he’s fought,  
 His name becomes food for the jackals, the saints who have never been caught.  
 I’m a sinner, O Lord, and I know it, I am weak, and I blunder and fail  
 I am tossed on life’s stormy ocean like a ship that is caught in a gale.  
 I am willing to trust in Your mercy, to keep the commandments You taught,  
 But deliver me, Lord, from the judgment, of the saints who have never been caught.”

22 MAY 2016

### SCHEDULE OF DIVINE SERVICES

Sunday	22 May	<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>
(Vigil Liturgy) (SM) (PP)	5:00 PM 8:30 AM 11:00 AM	+Ann Vukovich – Dolores Golner +George Simko – wife, Millie +Ann Closson – daughter, Sandy
Monday	23 May	<i>Venerable Father and Confessor Michael, Bishop of Synnada. Venerable Euphosyne, Hegumena of the Monastery of our Holy Savior in Polotsk.</i> <b>No Divine Liturgy</b>
Tuesday	24 May	<i>Venerable Father Simeon of the Wondrous Mountain. Venerable Father Nicetas the Stylite, Wonder-worker of Perejaslav.</i>
(Chapel)	8:30 AM	+Sister Helen Labosh – Benedictine Sisters
Wednesday	25 May	<i>Feast of the Third Finding of the Head of John the Baptist.</i> <b>No Divine Liturgy – Funeral of Fr. Anselm Orlosky</b>
Thursday	26 May	<i>Holy Apostle Carpus, One of the Seventy. Our Holy Father Augustine of Canterbury, Enlightener of England.</i>
(Chapel)	8:30 AM	+John and +Josephine Wargo – daughter, Elizabeth
Friday	27 May	<i>Holy Bishop-Martyr Therapont.</i>
(Chapel)	8:30 AM	+Hazuda Family – Byers Family
Saturday	28 May	<i>Our Venerable Father Nicetas, Bishop of Chalcedon.</i>
(PP)	5:00 PM	+John Enasko – Marie Sammartino
Sunday	29 May	<i>SECOND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST. The Holy Venerable Martyr and Virgin Theodosia.</i>
(SM) (PP)	8:30 AM 11:00 AM	+Gordon and Reva Verity – Michael & Sue Johnson +Ann Tisher – Ron Mosko



**Attentive to the Word**  
***Sunday of All Saints***

***Mt. 10:32 – 38 & 19:27 – 30***

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The doctrine of the Church comes alive in the lives of the true believers, the saints. The saints are those who literally share the holiness of God. "Be holy, for I your God am holy" (Lev 11:44; 1 Pet 1:16). The lives of the saints bear witness to the authenticity and truth of the Christian gospel, the sure gift of God's holiness to men.

In the Church there are different classifications of saints. In addition to the holy fathers who are quite specifically glorified for their teaching, there are a number of classifications of the various types of holy people according to the particular aspects of their holiness.

Thus, there are the apostles who are sent to proclaim the Christian faith, the evangelists who specifically announce and even write down the gospels, the prophets who are directly inspired to speak God's word to men. There are the confessors who suffer for the faith and the martyrs who die for it. There are the so-called "holy ones", the saints from among the monks and nuns; and the "righteous" those from among the lay people.

In addition, the church service books have a special title for saints from among the ordained clergy and another special title for the holy rulers and statesmen. Also there is the strange classification of the fools for Christ's sake. These are they who through their total disregard for the things that people consider so necessary -- clothes, food, money, houses, security, public reputation, etc. -- have been able to witness without compromise to the Christian Gospel of the Kingdom of Heaven. They take their name from the sentence Of the Apostle Paul: "We are fools for Christ's sake" (1 Cor 4:10; 3:18).

There are volumes on lives of the saints in the *Eastern* tradition. They may be used very fruitfully for the discovery of the meaning of the Christian faith and life. In these "lives" the Christian vision of God, man, and the world stands out very clearly. Because these volumes were written down in times quite different from our own, it is necessary to read them carefully to distinguish the essential points from the artificial and sometimes even fanciful embellishments which are often contained in them. In the

Middle Ages, for instance, it was customary to pattern the lives of saints after literary works of previous times and even to dress up the lives of the lesser known saints after the manner of earlier saints of the same type. It also was the custom to add many elements, particularly supernatural and miraculous events of the most extraordinary sort, to confirm the true holiness of the saint, to gain strength for his spiritual goodness and truth, and to foster imitation of his virtues in the lives of the hearers and readers. In many cases the miraculous is added to stress the ethical righteousness and innocence of the saint in the face of his detractors.

Generally speaking, it does not take much effort to distinguish the sound kernel of truth in the lives of the saints from the additions made in the spirit of piety and enthusiasm of the later periods; and the effort should be made to see the essential truth which the lives contain. Also, the fact that elements of a miraculous nature were added to the lives of saints during medieval times for the purposes of edification, entertainment, and even amusement should not lead to the conclusion that all things miraculous in the lives of the saints are invented for literary or moralizing purposes. Again, a careful reading of the lives of the saints will almost always reveal what is authentic and true in the realm of the miraculous. Also, the point has been rightly made that men can learn almost as much about the real meaning of Christianity from the legends of the saints produced within the tradition of the Church as from the authentic lives themselves.

*By Fr. Thomas Hopko*



As each of us, young and old alike, is unique in our character, so too are the Saints of the Church. Among the multitude of Saints whom we call to mind today, we remember scholars, physicians, priests, monastics, hymnographers, iconographers, cooks, gardeners, architects, rulers, parents, and children. The list goes on and on. Yet, even as unique as their stewardship may have been, their commonality that led them to sainthood was their selfless commitment to Christ and His Church.

The commemoration of Saints is one of the most beautiful aspects of our tradition. We look to them as examples, we pray to them for their intercessions, and we gather with them during Divine services to worship God. In fact, even when it appears that our pews are far from full, the Church is still bursting at the seams on account of the Saints that gather with us to praise and glorify God (please note: this shouldn't be used as an excuse not to attend Divine services. The Saints are always willing to make room).

Each of us possesses the Grace of God and the ability to live a saintly life. The diversity of the Saints and their experiences attests to this. The question that we must ask ourselves though is whether we will choose to offer our stewardship to His Church and His Creation.