

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.

APOSTLE'S FAST

There is a fast in the Byzantine Church prior to the Holy Day of Saints Peter and Paul. This fast begins after the Sunday of All Saints and continues until the Holy Day itself. Since the celebration of All Saints depends on when Pascha is observed, the fast for Saints Peter and Paul varies from a couple of days to a month or more. This year the fast begins on June 1.

Many people do not observe this fast. They say it is not easy to fast at the beginning of summer or that they have just finished with the Great Lenten Fast. Fasting is never easy but giving in to human weakness is. 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. We look for consolation to today's problems and difficulties and we seek answers in many places. The only lasting place to find meaning to crises and troubles and weaknesses is to return to God. The 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.

Saints 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. He told Jesus that he would follow Him anywhere, then objected when the Lord said he would have to go the way of suffering. He said he believed, but sank under the waves when his faith failed.

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 their 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.

Divine Liturgy Attendance weekend of 24 May:

5:00 PM: 81; 11:00 AM: 85

Pentecost Monday: 19

Our return to the Lord for all He has given us: \$3,185.43



- **Wed. June 3** St. Vincent de Paul Meals Program – 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM. We can use your help.
- **Tues. June 9** St. Vincent de Paul Pizza Day – 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM
- **Tues. June 9** Ladies Guild Meeting in the Social Hall – 7 PM
- **Sat. June 13** St. Vincent de Paul Meals Program – 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM. We can use your help.



FATHER'S DAY BREAKFAST

The Father's Day Breakfast will be held after the 11:00 Liturgy on June 21. The cost of the breakfast will still be \$8, but the menu items will be different from what was served on Mother's Day. The youth would appreciate your continued support and generosity.

FATHER'S DAY REMEMBRANCE		
<i>Please remember following at our Parish's Father Day Remembrance</i>		
	Living	Deceased
	Living	Deceased
	Living	Deceased
Circle Liturgy time: Saturday, 5 PM Sunday, 11 AM		
<i>Requested by:</i>		
Please print each name and circle the correct notation Donation for each name is \$5.00		
DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION IS SUNDAY, 14 JUNE 2015		

31 MAY 2015

SCHEDULE OF DIVINE SERVICES

Sunday,	31 May	<i>SUNDAY OF ALL SAINTS. Holy Apostle Hermes. Holy Martyr Hermeas.</i>
	Vigil Liturgy)	+John, +Mary & +Paul Fejko – Robert Fejko
	(SM)	+Michael Guinaugh – Rosary Society
	(PP)	Special Intention of Margaret Gnat
	5:00 PM	
	8:30 AM	
	11:00 AM	
Monday,	1 June	<i>Holy Martyr Justin and His Companions.</i> No Divine Liturgy
Tuesday,	2 June	<i>Venerable Father Nicephor the Confessor</i> No Divine Liturgy
Wednesday,	3 June	<i>Holy Martyr Lucillian and His Companions.</i> No Divine Liturgy
Thursday,	4 June	<i>Venerable Father Metrophanes, Patriarch of Constantinople. Holy Myrrh-bearers Martha and Mary.</i>
(Chapel)	8:30 AM	+Sr. Judith Konkus – Benedictine Sisters
Friday,	5 June	<i>Holy Martyr Dorotheus, Bishop of Tyre. Holy Martyr Cosmas, an Armenian Priest.</i> No Divine Liturgy
Saturday	6 June	<i>Venerable Father Bessarion the Wonder-worker. Venerable Father and Confessor Hilarion the Younger, Hegumen of the Dalmatian Monastery.</i>
(PP)	5:00 PM	+Sophia Barran – Frank & Sylvia Hoson
Sunday,	7 June	<i>SECOND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST. Holy Martyr Theodotus, Bishop of Ancyra. Holy Martyrs Cyriaca, Valeria and Maria.</i>
(SM)	8:30 AM	Prayer Intention of Rosary Society
(PP)	11:00 AM	+Ann Tisher – Carmen & Ann DiDomenico



Attentive to the Word

Sunday of All Saints
Mt. 10: 32-33, 37-38 & 19:27-30
Pages 211 - 213



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.

REMEMBERING THE HOMEBOUND

We pray to the Lord, the Giver of Life and all good gifts, for the health and blessings of those who are ill, homebound, in care facilities, and are unable to attend church. In our good fortune and many blessings from God, let us not forget those who are also part of our parish family – remember them with prayers, cards, visits, phone calls, etc. Let us share our blessings!

A SWEET LESSON IN HUMANITY AND HUMILITY

Years ago, a 10 year-old boy approached the counter of a soda shop and climbed onto a stool. “What does an ice cream soda cost?” he asked the waitress. “Fifty cents,” she answered. The youngster reached deep in his pockets and pulled out an assortment of change, counting it carefully as the waitress grew impatient. After all, she had “bigger” customers to wait on.

“Well, how much would just *plain* ice cream be?” the boy asked. The waitress responded with noticeable irritation in her voice, “Thirty-five cents.” Again, the boy slowly counted his money. “May I have some plain ice cream then, please?” He gave the waitress the correct amount and she brought him the ice cream.

Later, the waitress returned to clear the boy’s dish and when she picked it up, she felt a lump in her throat. There on the counter the boy had left two nickels and five pennies. She realized that he had had enough money for the sundae, but he sacrificed it so that he could leave her a tip.

The Moral: *Before passing judgment, first treat others with courtesy, dignity, and respect.*

Adapted from A Lifetime of Success by Pat Williams