

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.

THANKSGIVING DAY

Thursday, we celebrate Thanksgiving Day. It is an appropriate time for us to reflect on our blessings. It is a day to express our gratitude to Almighty God for His abundant gifts. He is the source of all blessings, as we pray in the Ambo prayer of the Divine Liturgy. "For every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from You, the Father of Lights."

There is no true prayer without thanksgiving. Today we take good things too much for granted. In the hot dry desert when the sun beats down unmercifully, we treasure water more than gold. After being without food for a few days, we know the importance of food. When our pockets are empty, we realize the value of money. When we are ill, we finally acknowledge the wonders of health. We can go on and on to enumerate how we take so many things for granted and it is only when we are deprived of them that we really begin to appreciate them. We do have reason to be thankful, don't we?

SPIRITUALITY DAY

The Benedictine Sisters of Queen of Heaven Monastery are offering a Day of Spirituality, Saturday, December 12, 2015, from 1:00 PM to 4:30 PM. It will be held at SS. Peter and Paul Social Hall. To register, please call 330-856-1813 or email gohm@netdotcom.com by Monday, December 7, 2015. The presenter will be Reverend Thom Dansak, retired Chaplain US Navy. (He has "subbed" often at our Church). His topic will be "Let's Not Forget Joseph." For most of us, Joseph is not in the forefront when we think of Christmas. His topic will spark your curiosity and you will not be disappointed in Father Thom's presentation. There will be time for reflection, questions, refreshments and the Mystery of Reconciliation (Confession). You are welcome to pray Vespers with the sisters. There is no charge for the afternoon. Please avail yourself of the opportunity to further prepare for the glorious Feast of the Nativity.



(PP) Divine Liturgy Attendance weekend of 15 November:

5:00 PM: 77; 11:00 AM: 111

Our return to the Lord for all He has given us: \$3,038.50

(SM) Divine Liturgy Attendance weekend of 15 November:

17 from St. Michael; 16 from St. Peter & Paul

Our return to the Lord for all He has given us: \$323.00



- **Sun. Nov. 22 E.C.F. RELIGION CLASSES HAVE BEGUN FOR OUR CHILDREN. 9:30 AM TO 10:45 AM.** Please try to have your children on time for classes. Thank you for your cooperation.
- **Sun. Nov. 22** Bible Study at 4 PM in (PP) Social Hall – Session 9
- **Nov 21 & 22** Nutroll Sale in (PP) Social Hall, after both Divine Liturgies. (if there are any leftover rolls).
- **Mon. Nov. 23** (PP) Church Cleaning Party – 9 AM to Noon. We can use your help!
- **Thurs. Dec.2** St. Vincent de Paul Meals Program – 9 AM to 2 PM – We can use your help!



INTERFAITH THANKSGIVING SERVICE

The 64th annual Interfaith Thanksgiving Service will be celebrated on **Tuesday, 24 November 2015** at 7:30 PM at Central Christian Church. Please join other members of our Parish Families along with members from Central Christian Church, St. Paul Lutheran Church and Beth Israel Synagogue as we give thanks to God for all the blessings He has bestowed upon us. A social with refreshments will follow the service.

PICK-UP FOR NUTROLLS

If you placed an order, the rolls will be ready for pick-up on Saturday, 21 November 2015, from 3 PM to 6:30 PM. The rolls are \$10.00. If you are paying by check, please make payable to: *St. Benedict's Auxiliary*. Thank you for your support.

ST. NICHOLAS FEAST DAY

On Sunday, December 6th, after the 11:00 AM Divine Liturgy, the parishioners are invited to a dinner in the Social Hall. The dinner will be provided by the parish, but we ask for a donation of at least \$5.00 for each person attending. If you plan to attend the dinner, we ask that you sign your family name on the sign-up sheet, with the number attending, so that we might be better prepared with food and seating arrangements. The sign-up sheets are on the bulletin board on the Belvedere Side entrance and in the Social Hall. **Deadline for sign-up is Sunday, November 29th.** We hope to see all of you there!

ONE BULLETIN: There have been several requests to have one bulletin for both parishes. After discussion, that is what we have decided to do.

22 NOVEMBER 2015

SCHEDULE OF DIVINE SERVICES

Sunday,	22 November	<i>TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST. Postfestive Day of the Entrance. Holy Apostle Phemon and His Companions. Holy Martyrs Cecilia, Valerian, Tiburtius, and Maximus.</i>
(Vigil Liturgy)	5:00 PM	+Tom Vislosky – Harry & Elaine Vislosky & family
(SM)	8:30 AM	+Margaret Kostrub – M/M Jay Lilly
(PP)	11:00 AM	+Anna Bernard – Ronald & Patty Zombar
Monday,	23 November	<i>Postfestive Day of the Entrance. Holy Fathers Amphilochius, Bishop of Iconium and Gregory, Bishop of Agrigento.</i>
		No Divine Liturgy
Tuesday,	24 November	<i>Postfestive Day of the Entrance. Holy Great Martyr Catherine. Holy Great Martyr Mercury.</i>
		No Divine Liturgy
Wednesday,	25 November	<i>Otdanije (Leave-taking of the Feast of the Entrance. Holy Fathers and Martyrs Clement, Pope of Rome and Peter, Bishop of Alexandria.</i>
(Chapel)	8:30 AM	+ Patricia Mindek – St. Benedict's Auxiliary
Thursday,	26 November	<i>THANKSGIVING DAY! Venerable Father Alypius the Stylite. Commemoration of the Dedication of the Church of the Holy Great Martyr George in Kiev.</i>
(PP)	9:00 AM	Thanksgiving Day Divine Liturgy.
Friday,	27 November	<i>Holy Martyr James the Persian. Venerable Father Palladius. Holy Icon of the Theotokos, called "the Sign".</i>
		No Divine Liturgy
Saturday	28 November	<i>Holy Venerable Martyr Stephen the Younger. Holy Martyr Irenarchus.</i>
(PP)	5:00 PM	+Steven Sernulka, III – (40th Day) Richard & Connie Sernulka
Sunday,	29 November	<i>TWENTY-SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST. Holy Martyrs Paramon and Philemon. Venerable Father Acacius, mentioned in the Ladder of St. John Climacus.</i>
(SM)	8:30 AM	+Robert Banky – Marjorie Simon Family
(PP)	11:00 AM	+Patricia Harper – Mercedes Sutyak



Attentive to the Word

Twenty-sixth Sunday after Pentecost

Luke 12:16-21

Tone 1 Pages 125 – 127 and 268 – 271

Or use the papers provided



The secular "holiday season" begins with Thanksgiving parades and the holiday bustle of office parties and shopping frenzy will soon be upon us. Today's Scriptural readings challenge us to stop and think carefully before we dive enthusiastically into the crowds. Can we Byzantine Catholics fit our celebration of the birth of Christ our Savior into the pattern of overindulgence and conspicuous consumption by which America treats itself to the winter "holidays?" Or must we be careful not to get lured into conformity with those around us who do not know Christ and are not interested in His invitation to salvation.

Daring to be different from the neighbors is exactly the message of St. Paul's words to the Ephesians, citizens of a bustling city famous for its pagan "partying" attitude: "Awake sleeper, rise from the dead and Christ will give you light. Watch carefully then how you live, not as fools but as wise men, making the most of the present opportunity for these are evil days. Therefore do not continue in ignorance but try to understand what is the will of the Lord. Do not get drunk on wine, in which lies debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit, addressing one another in Psalms, hymns and spiritual songs, singing and playing to the Lord in your hearts" (Ephesians 5, 14-19).

By the same token, today's Gospel parable of the man whose barns were too small to hold all his goods challenges us to look at our idea of a "merry" Christmas. Is it the sensory overload of too many luxuries under the tree, the overstuffed feeling of self-indulgent living, the self-satisfied attitude that surveys the scene and says, "I've earned all this"? The rich fool represents the shopping mall version of the "holidays." He says to himself, "You have so many good things stored up for many years: take your ease, eat, drink, be merry." Our Savior's response should chill us, even if the yule log is burning bright and chestnuts are roasting on the open fire: "You fool," God says to that rich man,

"this night your life will be demanded of you; to whom will all the things you have stored up go? Thus will it be for the one who stores up treasure for himself, but is not rich in what matters to God" (Luke 12, 19-20).

What matters to God? Jesus gives only two commandments: to look beyond ourselves by loving God in worship and by loving each other through mercy, justice and charity. This much was clear centuries before Jesus: "You have been told, O man, what is good, and what the Lord requires of you: only to do right, to love goodness and to walk humbly with your God" (Micah 6,8).

How should a Christian celebration of Christmas be different from pagan celebrations of the "winter holidays?" First, the celebration should begin on Christmas Eve, not on "Black Friday." Our tradition prescribes a period of fasting (traditionally beginning on November 15th;) by which we prepare an empty place for God to fill with joy, and by which we cleanse our lives of sin and selfishness so as to welcome our Savior. Our Christmas gift giving should be marked by charity, not competition or conspicuous consumption; it should include real charity to the really needy.

Does this mean our celebration of Christmas should be joyless and bare? Hardly! St. Paul commands joy but it is the joy that comes from the Spirit, not the canned laughter of network TV. Our tradition includes and expects a solemn Holy Supper on Christmas Eve and a festive Christmas dinner, but the company and the spirit matter as much as the menu. Our festive season stretches from December 24th to January 6th. By comparison the winter "holiday" wimps out by December 26th when all the gifts get returned.

St. Paul commands us to greet each other piously and to fill our homes with celebrations of spiritual song. Have we Byzantine Catholics become so lazy and so dependent on our electric toys that we can no longer sing our beautiful kol'ady - Christmas carols -- with our own voices? Are TV Christmas specials as much fun as actually performing the traditional Bethlehem play ourselves? Are we so ashamed of the name of our Savior that we camouflage our feast of Christmas behind the generic "Happy Holidays"?

Today's Scripture challenges us to find that real human joy which cannot be bought or induced by alcohol. St. Paul challenges us learn how to celebrate the feast actively, joyfully and as whole persons: body, soul and spirit, not just wallet and belly. Our tradition already includes all the elements for a joyous Christmas celebration and it has been my pleasure to serve parishes that still know how to throw such a real Christmas feast. To join that party we need only summon up the courage to hear the Gospel, ignore the hype, be ourselves and proclaim "Christ is Born - Glorify Him" loud enough to wake the neighbors from their snow and Santa stupor.