

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.

OUR THANKS TO YOU, FATHER ANDREW!

“For everything there is a season; a time for every purpose under heaven.” (Eccl. 3)

It is time to say goodbye and to wish you well, Father Andrew, in your new assignment and your new endeavors. You have been a “good shepherd” to your “flock” these past five and half years. We thank you for all you have been and done for us to help us to continue to grow in our faith, by providing us with a rich liturgical life; the Divine Liturgy, the celebration of Vespers for big Feast Days, the Pre-sanctified Liturgy, seasonal Molebens & Akathists, and many more. The weekly Bible Studies, the Theosis Booklets and the Sunday bulletin inserts were added areas provided to help us grow in our faith.

Thanks also for the beautiful job on the re-construction of our parking lot and the landscaping of our church property. As one lady recently said, “When I am down, I take a ride to see the flowers at the most beautiful church in Warren. It does my heart good.”

Our bodies were not neglected either! We have all gained a few pounds from feasting on your cooking and baking endeavors; and the Ladies Guild and St. Benedict's Auxiliary will miss the help of their favorite holy-“Roller.” Thank you, Father Andrew and God be with you in your new assignment. You will be in our prayers.

BYZANTINE SPIRITUALITY CONFERENCE - 2015

November 7, 2015 at St. John the Baptist Cathedral, Munhall, PA., sponsored by our Byzantine Catholic Office of Religious Education. \$35.00 includes lunch. Three excellent speakers, to help us to move from knowing “about Jesus” to developing a real relationship to the God who loves us. Call the parish office if you are interested. There is a discounted price for 5 or more reservations sent in together. Deadline is October 28th.

Divine Liturgy Attendance weekend of 11 October:

5:00 PM: 67; 11:00 AM: 132

Our return to the Lord for all He has given us: \$3,102.65



- **Sun. Oct. 18 E.C.F. RELIGION CLASSES HAVE BEGUN FOR OUR CHILDREN. 9:30 AM TO 11:45 AM.** If you have children from Kindergarten to Grade 12, and have not registered, it's not too late. Just show up and we will take good care of you. Please try to have your children on time for classes. Thank you for your cooperation. We hope to have a very good year.
- **Sat. Oct. 17 & Sun. Oct. 18** Farewell Reception for Fr. Andrew
- **Sun. Oct. 18** Bible Study at 4 PM in the Social Hall – Session 4
- **Mon. Oct 26** Church Cleaning Party 9 AM - Noon



Dear Parish Family,

It hardly seems possible that five years and nine months have already passed since I first arrived here at Ss. Peter and Paul Parish. During these years, I had the opportunity to get to know you and the privilege to minister to you. Now I will take with me to my new assignment the fond memories of Ss. Peter and Paul Parish.

I have shared in the events of your lives. Joyfully we celebrated numerous Divine Liturgies for the weekends and Feast Days. During this time 25 baptisms were celebrated; 8 marriages solemnized and 142 people were ushered into eternity. We all have grown in so many ways. I certainly will remember and miss the awesome singing of the Divine Services, and truly your great love and spirituality for the Church.

I would like to extend to you a very heartfelt THANK YOU for everything you have done for me. Thank you for your kindness and the generosity shown towards me. The Parish Family of Ss. Peter and Paul will always have a special place in my heart. Be assured you will be remembered in my daily prayers. Please remember me in yours. May God, through the intercession of our patrons, the Holy Apostles Peter and Paul, continue to bless abundantly this parish and each one of you individually.

FATHER ANDREW'S NEW ADDRESS

St. Elias Church
 4200 Homestead-Duquesne Road
 Munhall, PA 15120
 (412) 461-1712

18 OCTOBER 2015

SCHEDULE OF DIVINE SERVICES

Sunday,	18 October	<i>TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST. Holy Apostle and Evangelist Luke..</i>
(Vigil Liturgy)	5:00 PM	+Msgr. Sylvester Hladky – Hoso Family
(SM)	8:30 AM	Intention of St. Michael Parish Family
(PP)	11:00 AM	Intention of SS. Peter & Paul Parish Family
Monday,	19 October	<i>Holy Prophet Joel. Holy Martyr Varus Venerable Father John Rilsky.</i>
		PA Catholic Conference – Harrisburg, PA
Tuesday,	20 October	<i>Holy Great Martyr Artemius.</i>
		PA Catholic Conference – Harrisburg, PA
Wednesday,	21 October	<i>Venerable Father Hilary the Great</i>
		PA Catholic Conference – Harrisburg, PA
Thursday,	22 October	<i>Holy Bishop Abercius, Equal to the Apostles, Wonderworker. Holy Seven Children of Ephesus. Holy Father John Paul II, Pope of Rome.</i>
		No Divine Liturgy
Friday,	23 October	<i>Holy Apostle James, Brother of the Lord.</i>
		No Divine Liturgy
Saturday	24 October	<i>Holy Martyr Arethas and His Companions.</i>
(PP)	5:00 PM	Sp. Int. of Fr. Robert Karl – Zombar & Raiti Families
Sunday,	25 October	<i>TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST. Holy Martyrs and Notaries Marcian and Martyrius. Holy and Just Tabitha the Merciful.</i>
(SM)	8:30 AM	+Jim Holowatch – Ben & Zee Williams
(PP)	11:00 AM	+Estella Susko – daughter, Suzanne



Attentive to the Word

Twenty-first Sunday after Pentecost

Luke 8:5-15

Tone 4 Pages 141 - 142



One of the most fertile areas in Galilee is the Plain of Gennesaret. It lies on the northwest shore of the sea of Galilee, near Capernaum. Jesus often spoke to large crowds in these fields, and the plain's abundance inspired many of His stories about the nature of God's kingdom. In this setting, such a parable was related in today's Gospel (Luke 8: 5-15) about a Sower. It is quite likely that Jesus may have been looking at some sower sowing his seed as He spoke, using a familiar scene from Palestinian life.

Farming methods in the Near East were and still are crude and primitive. Having broken the soil by surface plowing, the sower simply walked through the field scattering seed on either side of him by the handful. He did not expect all of it to take root. Some would inevitable fall on the beaten path instead of the plowed area and thus remain on the surface to be trampled on by passerby or eaten by birds. Some would be scattered in areas where there is only a thin layer of soil over bedrock: this is the geological condition of much of the land of Palestine. In such ground the rain does not seep away quickly into the ground so that the excess moisture would cause the seed to germinate immediately and begin to grow. But it would be a premature growth that could not last; the sun and the plant's lack of roots would soon finish it off. Still other seed would fall among thorns, which rob the soil of its nourishment and choke off the growth of the grain. Finally the rest of the seed – the bulk of it – would fall where the sower wanted it to fall, in his good ground where it would germinate successfully in good measure.

This parable was a riddle to the disciples and the Jews. Jesus developed His teaching by solving the riddle. The fate of the word of God depends on the disposition of its receptor.

The hardened pathway represents the closed mind which shuts out God's instruction. The shallow, rocky ground represents those who accept the word but who never reflect on it, who fail to realize its consequences and who, therefore, collapse (wither) when challenged.

The thorny ground stands for those whose lives are so busy that the things of God are crowded out by cares, responsibilities, selfish pleasures, human projects – a whole multiplicity of occupation which an individual may allow to stifle God's voice.

The good ground is a fertile disposition in the hearer to do three things. First, to listen attentively. Second, to keep what he heard in his mind and heart and think it over until he discovers its meaning for himself. Third, he puts what he has heard into action.

Jesus' exclamation, "Listen, anyone who has ears to hear" (Vs. 8), is a fitting invitation to respond to the message of the parable, positively or negatively: either spiritual fruitfulness or barrenness; spiritual abundance or poverty; eternal salvation or reprobation. The fascinating parable of the Sower is an exhortation to perseverance and an encouragement to banish any thought of despair in the conviction that no setback, disappointment or loss can trouble us when our faith is well-rooted in God's word.

The word as seed invites the hearer to examine self and test self in terms of the seeds' bearing fruit.

How well do we LISTEN as the entire Divine Liturgy – not only the Epistle and Gospel – speak to us of the mysteries that should be the substance of our living in Christ Jesus?

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