

## 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.

## YEAR-END CONTRIBUTION STATEMENTS

The year-end contribution statements are ready to be picked up. They are in alphabetical order, on tables in the Social Hall. The statements will be there until February 10<sup>th</sup>. If you want them after that date, you will have to request them from the office. Also contribution envelopes that were not picked up are also in the church office.

## WANTED . . . PUSSY WILLOWS

It seems a little strange to be asking for pussy willows in the month of January, but with the spring-like weather that we have been experiencing, some plants and pussy willows have already emerged from their winter nap. Please . . . when your pussy willows **begin to bloom**, please cut them and bring them to the Social Hall. We will store them here until Palm Sunday. **DO NOT PUT THEM IN WATER.**

## ALL SOULS REMEMBRANCE ... (submission clarification)

During our Liturgical Year our Byzantine Church remembers its faithful departed in a special way on 5 All Souls Saturdays. The first All Souls Saturday is *18 February 2017*. There is an envelope in your offertory box for these All Souls Remembrances. If you wish to have your loved ones remembered by name on these special days, please submit the names, **printed**, with an offering in the envelope by **February 5<sup>th</sup>** so that the names can be organized. *If you have submitted the names of your deceased family members previously, you do not need to resubmit them...just submit any additional names. If there are no additions, and you want your loved ones to be remembered by name, just write "NO CHANGES" on your envelope, put your offering in the envelope, and drop the envelope in the collection basket. Please help me by putting your name on the envelope.* Thank you for your prompt attention.



**(PP) Divine Liturgy Attendance weekend of 22 January:**

5:00 PM: 65; 11:00 AM: 78

**Our return to the Lord for all He has given us: . . . . . \$3,145.75**

**(SM) Divine Liturgy Attendance weekend of 22 January:**

19 from St. Michael; 12 from St. Peter & Paul

**Our return to the Lord for all He has given us: . . . . . \$365.00**



- **Sun. Jan. 22** ECF CLASSES TODAY. 9:30 AM – 10:45 AM.
- **Wed. Feb. 1** St. Vincent de Paul Meals Program. 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM – We can use your help!
- **Mon. Feb. 6** Ladies Guild Anniversary Dinner Meeting – 5:30 PM at Buena Vista Restaurant. Come and enjoy the camaraderie.
- **Sun. Feb. 12** Meeting of Oblates of St. Benedict – 2:00 PM at the Monastery. Please ring #301.
- **Sat. Feb. 18** First All Souls Saturday. You are reminded to return your All Souls Envelope by February 5<sup>th</sup>.



**THE THREE HOLY HIERARCHS ... continued:**

The role of any leader is to help his people. Many times, there is no simple solution to problems that arise. What is good for one party may hurt another, but when you are a leader you must make decisions. The leader must be faithful to his people as he makes these decisions. He must not forget about the group that he serves. All of his decisions must be responsible ones.

In the Church there are men whose responsibility it is to see that we remain faithful to the truth as Christ left it to us in the Gospel. They are the bishops and in their ministry they have the special gift of the Holy Spirit to "faithfully teach and impart the word of truth."



**2017 PRAYER INTENTIONS OF POPE FRANCIS:** (taken from *The Worldwide Prayer Network*). **February Intention: "Comfort for the Afflicted"**. Let us join our prayer with the prayer of Pope Francis, that those afflicted with disease, drugs, fear, etc. may receive the help and comfort they need and deserve.

29 JANUARY 2017

SCHEDULE OF DIVINE SERVICES

Sunday	29 January	<i>THIRTY-SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST. THE SUNDAY OF ZACCHAEUS. Translation of the relics of the Bishop and Martyr Ignatius of Antioch.</i>
(Vigil Liturgy)	5:00 PM	+Michael Hoso – Hoso family
(SM)	8:30 AM	+Ronald Ferrance – Trudy Vasco
(PP)	11:00 AM	+Phyllis Eggens – Phil & Chris Vargo
Monday	30 January	<i>FEAST OF THE THREE HOLY BISHOPS: BASIL THE GREAT, GREGORY THE THEOLOGIAN AND JOHN CHRYSOSTOM. Holy bishop-Martyr Hippolytus.</i>
(Chapel)	8:30 AM	+Margaret Panyko – Kalina Braun
Tuesday	31 January	<i>Holy Wonder-workers and Unmercenary Healers Cyrus and John. Holy Father the Priest Don Bosco.</i>
(Chapel)	8:30 AM	+Marion Wolfert - Friends
Wednesday	1 February	<i>Pre-festive Day of the Encounter. Holy Martyr Tryphon</i> <b>No Divine Liturgy</b>
Thursday	2 February	<i>THE ENCOUNTER OF OUR LORD, GOD AND SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST WITH SIMEON AND ANNA.</i>
(PP)	9:00 AM	<b>Intention of Father Simeon – Benedictine Sisters</b>
Friday	3 February	<i>Postfestive Day of the Encounter. Synaxis of the Holy Prophet Simeon and the Prophetess Anna.</i> <b>No Divine Liturgy</b>
Saturday	4 February	<i>Postfestive Day of the Encounter. Venerable Father Isidore of Pelusium.</i>
(Vigil Liturgy)	5:00 PM	+John Slovinsky, Sr. – Patricia James
Sunday	5 February	<i>THE SUNDAY OF THE PUBLICAN AND THE PHARISEE. Postfestive Day of the Encounter. Holy Martyr Agatha.</i>
(SM)	8:30 AM	+Neal Verity – Sue & Mick Johnson
(PP)	11:00 AM	+Michael Vazur – John & Betty Vazur



## Attentive to the Word

### *Sunday of Zacchaeus*

**Lk. 19: 1 – 10**

**Tone 4 Pages 141 - 142**



Although Great Lent is five weeks away, the Church begins to prepare us for the time of introspection and preparation for the Feast of the Resurrection by providing a period of gradual development, leading to a proper use the Lenten time. If we think of Lent as “the journey to the Resurrection,” we must prepare for the journey. These five weeks before Great Lent allow us to do just that; they give us time to think of the meaning and significance of Lent and why it precedes the Feast of the Resurrection.

The celebration of the Sunday of Zacchaeus is the first of the five Pre- Lenten Sundays. Each of the five consecutive Sundays is dedicated to some fundamental aspect of repentance. In the Gospel passages on Zacchaeus, we are given the very attitude of heart, mind and soul that must be found in every Christian – the desire of the human heart to truly know God.

Zacchaeus was such a man. He wanted a new perspective of God. When Jesus came through his little town, Zacchaeus wanted to see Him. Being a short man, however, he couldn't see over the crowd, so he climbed a tree to get a new perspective – to get the whole picture. And from the tree, he was able to see Jesus clearly.

Jesus saw Zacchaeus, and told him that He was to stay at his house. Zacchaeus opens his door with delight. Meeting Christ, his life was changed and he gained a new perspective: experiencing the love that only Christ can give, he became generous with his wealth, giving half of what he had to the poor, and vowing to repay anyone he had cheated four times over. By climbing a tree to stand above the crowds and by opening his door to Christ, Zacchaeus gained a new perspective, and found new meaning and purpose in his life.

A new perspective can do that. But it can also feel threatening. Look at some of the people in that scene: they could only criticize and condemn Jesus for His words and actions. They complained, “He has gone to stay at a sinner's house.” They didn't want to see the larger picture; they didn't want a new perspective; they preferred the familiarity of their narrow and self-interested ways of thinking. How often do we find ourselves so

self-assured – so defensive that we are not open to a new perspective? How often are we satisfied with being lost among the faces of the crowd, rather than climbing to a vantage point that would give us a larger view? Reality is usually more complex than our limited view. The immensity and transcendence of God is certainly a reminder of how finite our perceptions and abilities are. Rigid ways of thinking tend to narrow our perspective. And the narrower the view, the less reflective it is of reality. Like the Pharisees, we resist a new perspective – and miss what God may be trying to teach us.



## FEAST OF THE THREE HOLY HIERARCHS

“We have seen the true light, we have received the heavenly Spirit, we have found the true faith and we worship the undivided Trinity, for the Trinity has saved us.” These words are so familiar to us. We have sung them many times upon the reception of the Body and Blood of our Lord. The joy that these words contain and the belief that they utter are sometimes passed over in a matter-of-fact manner. But many years of struggle and suffering by those that preceded us in the Church have given us the true and unchangeable doctrine of the Trinity.

This is our inheritance — that we believe in Jesus Christ as the Son of God and the Son of Man and that this Jesus Christ gave us the knowledge of God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit. This belief was attacked by heretics but it was preserved by the Church in the power of the Holy Spirit. The Church is not a building or a social organization. Its authority does not boast of the wisdom of men, but of the wisdom of God. This wisdom of God was found in the lives of the Three Holy Bishops: St. Basil the Great, St. Gregory the Theologian and St. John Chrysostom whose combined feast we celebrate on January 30th. They are credited with being responsible for many of our present liturgical services and hymns.

The origin of this feast we might say is by divine intervention into the foolish quibbling of men. Since they all have separate feast days in January (St. Basil on January 1, St. Gregory on January 25 and St. John Chrysostom on January 27), we might ask, why do we celebrate another feast for all three of the saints? At the end of the 11th century, an argument arose among Christians of Constantinople as to which of these three was the greatest. Local pride and hard feelings began to develop among the people so that the unity that was fought for and sought after by these three saints was developing into a real separation among the people. All three saints went to Bishop Euchaïta to tell him that they were equal before God. The faithful accepted this solution and began to honor all three saints together on the same day to emphasize equality.

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