

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 10:30 AM – 2 PM Monday, Wednesday and Friday. Father Simeon is available on other days and times by appointment.



Daylight Saving Time begins next week – March 12. Just a reminder to move your clocks ahead one hour.

CHOCOLATE BYZANTINE CROSS SALE

We will have *Chocolate Byzantine Crosses* for sale for Easter. The orders must be **prepaid** and must be **in the office by 26 March 2017**. Envelopes are located at the Church entrances for those interested in purchasing *Dark, Milk or White Chocolate Crosses*. The purchase price is \$5.00 each.

2017 PRAYER INTENTIONS OF POPE FRANCIS: (taken from *The Worldwide Prayer Network*). **March Intention: "Support for Persecuted Christians"**. Let us join our prayer with the prayer of Pope Francis, for the Christians and others suffering persecution in Egypt, elsewhere, and in our own country.

SPIRITUALITY DAY

The Benedictine Sisters of Queen of Heaven Monastery are offering a Day of Spirituality on Saturday, 1 April 2017. It will be held in the Social Hall from 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM. **To register, please call 330-856-1813 or e-mail gohm@netdotcom.com before Monday, 27 March 2017.**

The presenter will be Rev. William Rupp, Director of Spiritual Formation at SS. Cyril and Methodius Byzantine Catholic Seminary in Pittsburgh, PA. His topic is "Lord, Teach Us to Pray."

There will be time for reflection, questions and refreshments, and an opportunity to receive the Mystery of Reconciliation (Confession). This is a good way to help prepare yourself to celebrate the Feast of the Resurrection. You are welcome to pray Vespers with the sisters. There is no charge for the afternoon, but registration is needed.



(PP) Divine Liturgy Attendance weekend of 26 February:

5:00 PM: 60; 11:00 AM: 85

Our return to the Lord for all He has given us: \$3,176.15

(SM) Divine Liturgy Attendance weekend of 26 February:

18 from St. Michael; 6 from St. Peter & Paul

Our return to the Lord for all He has given us: \$368.00



- **Sun. Mar. 5** ECF CLASSES TODAY. 9:30 AM – 10:45 AM.
- **Wed. Mar. 1** St. Vincent de Paul Meals Program – 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM. Your help is appreciated. Hint: This might be a good Lenten service project for you, particularly if you have not donated your time and energy before.
- **Sun. Mar. 12** Meeting of Oblates of St. Benedict – 2:00 to 4:00 PM at the Monastery. Please ring #301.
- **Tues. Mar. 14** Ladies Guild Meeting – 7:00 PM in the Social Hall.
- **Mon. Mar. 20** St. Benedict’s Auxiliary Meeting – 7 PM in the Social Hall.
- **Thurs. & Fri. Mar. 23 & 24** Nut roll baking days. Pick-up is Mar. 25th.
- **Mon. Mar. 27** Church Cleaning Party – 9:00 AM to Noon.



NUTROLL SALE

The Ladies Guild will be baking Rolls for the Feast of the Resurrection. **Advance orders only!** Rolls available are nut, apricot, poppy, apricot-nut, and lekvar (prune). Rolls are \$10 each and will be ready for pick up on the weekend of March 25 & 26. **Order forms are located in the Social Hall or you may call Mary Anne at 330-728-2982. Deadline to place your order is 19 March 2017.**

Please Note: Paska Orders will be taken later.

WANTED . . . PUSSY WILLOWS

It seems a little strange to be asking for pussy willows so early, 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.



CONGRATULATIONS...

...to Victoria Smolak, one of our faithful teens, who was just inducted into the National Honor Society this past week. God bless you, Victoria.

5 MARCH 2017

SCHEDULE OF DIVINE SERVICES

Sunday	5 March	<i>FIRST SUNDAY OF THE GREAT FAST. SUNDAY OF ORTHODOXY. MEMORY OF THE HOLY PROPHETS. The Holy Martyr Conon.</i>
(Vigil Liturgy)	5:00 PM	+Elizabeth Zombar – Millie Syrko
(SM)	8:30 AM	+Dennis Simon – Marjorie, Paul & Cheryl
(PP)	11:00 AM	+Anna Bernard – Vincent Viola
Monday	6 March	<i>The Forty-two Martyrs of Ammorium.</i> No Divine Services
Tuesday	7 March	<i>Holy Martyrs and Bishops of Cherson: Basil, Ephrem, Capiton, Eugene, Etherius, and others.</i> No Divine Services
Wednesday	8 March	<i>Our Venerable Father and Confessor Theophylact.</i> Liturgy of the Pre-sanctified Gifts and Observance of Second All Souls.
Thursday	9 March	<i>Holy Forty Martyrs of Sebaste. Holy Martyr Urpasianus.</i> No Divine Services
Friday	10 March	<i>The Holy Martyr Codratus and His Companions.</i> Liturgy of the Pre-sanctified Gifts.
(PP)	6:00 PM	
Saturday	11 March	<i>Second All Souls Saturday. Our Holy Father Sophronius, Patriarch of Jerusalem.</i>
(PP)	9:00 AM	Liturgy for the Departed with the Reading of Diptyches.
(Vigil Liturgy)	5:00 PM	+Louis Conlan – wife, Mary & family
Sunday	12 March	<i>SECOND SUNDAY OF THE GREAT FAST. Venerable Father and Confessor Theophane of the Sygrian Mountain. Holy Father Gregory, Pope of Rome. Holy Father Symeon, the New Theologian.</i>
(SM)	8:30 AM	+William Surin – Mark & Roseann Carnahan
(PP)	11:00 AM	+Mary Reese – Becky Prest



Attentive to the Word

First Sun. of the Great Fast: Sun. of Orthodoxy

Jn. 1: 43 – 51

Tone 1 Pages 125

1st Sun. of Great Lent – Pages 220– 222

In today's Gospel, Philip and Nathaniel are called to be Apostles. Both made a decision for Christ. Pontius Pilate, the Roman governor, also made a decision at the trial of Jesus Christ. Fearing the anger of the people, he decided against Jesus. He ordered Him to be crucified. We make decisions everyday of our life. But there is no more important decision than the one to live our commitment to Christ. The decision for Christ was made for us for the first time by our godparents at baptism. Now it must be our personal decision.

We live in difficult times. Our worldly society downgrades religion and moral values. It promotes pornography, abortion, divorce, and sexual permissiveness, among other evils. Does this mean we are to lower our standards and confirm to the easy norms of the world? By no means! We must be witnesses for Christ! It is not easy to live a good Christian life today. It was even more difficult in the early history of the Church. To be a Christian in those days meant to embrace a life of ridicule and even death. The world was pagan. Slavery, immorality and every vice and perversion under the sun were prevalent. In St. Paul's first letter to the Corinthians, he writes: "We have become a spectacle to the universe. We are fools on Christ's account. Ah, but in Christ you are wise! We go hungry and thirsty, poorly clad, roughly treated, wandering about homeless.... Persecution comes our way; we bear it patiently ... We have become the world's refuse, the scum of all; that is the present state of affairs.'

Paul did not advise his converts to go to the way of the world. He urged them to be the leaven that should change the world. This they did. Now is the hour of our decision. Mark your decision for Christ.

Icons and the Icon Screen

In the Eastern Church the icons bear witness to the reality of God's presence with us in the mystery of faith. The icons are not just human pictures or visual aids to contemplation and prayer. They are the witnesses of the presence of the Kingdom of God to us, and so of our own presence to the Kingdom of God in the Church.

The iconostasis or icon screen in the Eastern Church exists to show our unity with Christ, his mother and all the angels and saints. It exists to show our unity with God. The altar table, which stands for the Banquet Table of the Kingdom of God, is placed behind the royal doors, between the icons of the Theotokos and Child and the glorified Christ, showing that everything which happens to us in the Church happens in history between those "two comings" of Christ: between his coming as the Savior born of Mary and his coming at the end of the age as the King and the Judge.

The icons on the royal doors witness to the presence of Christ's good news, the gospel of salvation. The four evangelists who recorded the gospels appear, and also an icon of the Annunciation, the first proclamation of the gospel in the world. Over the doors we have the icon of Christ's Mystical Supper with his disciples – the icon of the central mystery of the Christian faith and the unity of the Church in the world. It is the visual witness that we too are partakers in the "marriage supper of the lamb" (Revelation 19:9), that we too are blessed by Christ "to eat and drink at my table in my kingdom" (Luke 22:30), blessed to "eat bread in the Kingdom of God." (Luke 14:15)

Over and around the central gates are icons of the saints. The deacon's doors (for the servants of the altar) usually have icons depicting deacons or angels. The first row also has an icon of the person or event in whose honor the given building is dedicated, along with other prominent saints or events. Depending on the size of the iconostasis, there may be rows of icons of the apostles, the major feasts of the Church, (*ours are on the wall on either side of the icon screen*), the prophets and other holy people blessed by God – all crowned on the top by the cross of Christ.

FASTING

St. John Chrysostom compared prayer and fasting to the two wings of a bird. They are both needed if that bird is to fly. It simply cannot fly on one wing. And so the Christian in his flight through this earthly life cannot go on either prayer or fasting alone. He must make use of both of these means for the purification of his soul.

We call ourselves Christian and so we should imitate Christ. He gave us good example of both prayer and fasting. He fasted for forty days and forty nights in the desert before beginning His public life, and we saw the intensity of His prayer in the Garden of Gethesmane.

Great Lent is the time to intensify our own prayer and fasting. Attend the special services during Lent and keep the fast. Pray and fast for ourselves, our families, for our country, for peace in our hearts, etc.