

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.

OBLATES OF ST. BENEDICT

The Oblates of St. Benedict are comprised of men and women who want to grow spiritually. St. Benedict was a man of great wisdom! The Rule of Benedict contains many "gems" that can be applied to anyone, in any walk of life. The Oblates also study and discuss many aspects of Byzantine Spirituality, all of which help them to grow in their relationship with the Lord. They meet monthly from 2:00 PM to 4:00 PM at the Monastery in Infant of Prague Manor, Apt. 301. **The first meeting is Sunday, September 10, 2017.** You are welcome to come to this year's first meeting to see if this group might help you grow closer to the Lord.

3-TIER CHINESE AUCTION

St. Michael Byzantine Catholic Church, Campbell, OH, is having their annual 3-Tier Chinese Auction on Sunday, September 17, 2017 at St. Michael's Hall, 405 Robinson Road, Campbell. The \$6.00 Admission includes 25 tier-one tickets and a pasta bowl. Doors open at Noon and drawings begin at 2:00 PM. *Great prizes, gift certificates and theme baskets all waiting to be won.*

27th TRUMBULL COUNTY LIFE CHAIN

October 1st the pro-life gathering of local churches will take place along Elm Road between Warren Plaza and Harding High School at 2:30 PM. You are encouraged to take part in this one hour prayer demonstration against abortion.



(PP) Divine Liturgy Attendance weekend of 3 September:

5:00 PM: 84; 11:00 AM: 64

Our return to the Lord for all He has given us: \$3,427.10

Received in memory of Cornell Corsatea, Sr. \$320.00

(SM) Divine Liturgy Attendance weekend of 3 September:

26 from St. Michael; 10 from St. Peter & Paul

Our return to the Lord for all He has given us: \$503.00



- **Sun. Sept. 10** Meeting of Oblates of St. Benedict – 2:00 PM to 4:00 PM at the Monastery. Please ring #301.
- **Tues. Sept. 12** **Important Ladies Guild Meeting** – 7:00 PM in the Social Hall.
- **Thurs. Sept. 14** **A Strict Fast Day! (No meat or dairy products).** Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross.
- **Sat. & Sun. Sept. 16 & 17** Coffee and Donuts in the Social Hall, after both Divine Liturgies.
- **Sun. Sept. 17** Catechist Meeting – 9:30 AM in the Social Hall.
- **Mon. Sept. 18** St. Benedict’s Auxiliary Meeting – 7:00 PM in the Social Hall. We are playing the “Dice Game”...bring a small wrapped gift or two.

ECF REGISTRATIONS – DUE TODAY

Parents & Guardians: You received a mailing concerning registration of your children in our Catechetical program. Registrations are due by September 10th, in order to assist us in the preparations for the beginning of the ECF school year. If you did not receive a mailing, and you have children in grades K thru 12, please call the office or see Sister Barbara for registration forms. The success of the program depends upon the cooperation and support of all of us. Our children are the future of our parish & our Church. Help us to assist you in the spiritual education of your children.

\$200.00 RAFFLE – to benefit the Ladies Guild

1st Prize: Lottery Pumpkin 2nd Prize: \$100.00 Cash

Raffle Tickets will be sold after all the Divine Liturgies, from September 3rd thru October 1, 2017. The drawing will be held at the Ladies Guild Bingo/Card Party, October 1, 2017. **Tickets are \$1.00 each or 6 for \$5.00.** Winner need not be present.

BINGO & CARD PARTY TICKETS

Ladies Guild members will be selling Bingo & Card Party tickets before and after all Liturgies. **Tickets are \$6.00.** Ticket purchase includes eligibility for the door prize, other drawings and a box lunch with beverage. Please support the Ladies Guild activities as they host the various functions for our Parish Family.

10 SEPTEMBER 2017

SCHEDULE OF DIVINE SERVICES

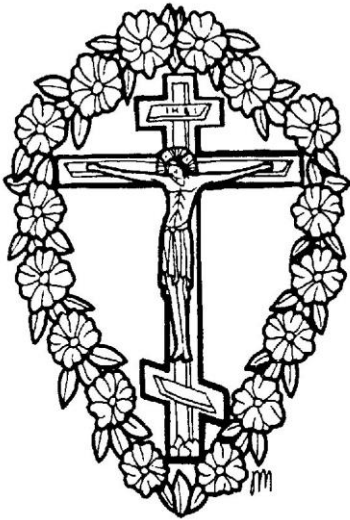
Sunday,	10 September	<i>SUNDAY BEFORE THE EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS. Postfestive Day of the Feast of the Birth of the Theotokos. Martyrs Menodora, Mitrodora & Nymphodora.</i>
	(Vigil Liturgy) 5:00 PM	+Craig McKnight – John & Dianna Koza
	(SM) 8:30 AM	+Mike Babyak – Marie Lewis
	(PP) 11:00 AM	+John Fedyszak – Ron Mosko
Monday,	11 September	<i>Postfestive Day of the Birth of the Theotokos. Venerable Mother Theodora of Alexandria.</i>
		No Divine Liturgy
Tuesday,	12 September	<i>Otdanije (leave-taking) of the Feast of the Birth of the Theotokos. Holy Bishop-Martyr Autonomos.</i>
	(Chapel) 8:30 AM	+John Fedyszak – Fedyszak family
Wednesday,	13 September	<i>Prefestive Day of the Exaltation of the Cross. Commemoration of the Dedication of the Church of the Resurrection of Our Lord in Jerusalem. Holy Bishop-Martyr Cornelius.</i>
	(PP) 6:00 PM	+Helena Smith
Thursday	14 September	<i>FEAST OF THE EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS. Passing of our Holy Father John Chrysostom.</i>
	(SM) 6:00 PM	++Michael Uhlin – Evelyn & Gabe
Friday,	15 September	<i>Postfestive Day of the Exaltation of the Cross. Holy Great Martyr Nicetas. Venerable Father Symeon, Archbishop of Thessalonica.</i>
		No Divine Liturgy
Saturday,	16 September	<i>Saturday After the Exaltation of the Cross. Holy Great Martyr Euphemia.</i>
	(PP) 5:00 PM	+Margaret & +Joseph Lisak – Donna Green
Sunday,	17 September	<i>SUNDAY AFTER THE EXALTATION OF THE CROSS. Holy Martyr Sophia and her three Children, Faith, Hope and Charity.</i>
	(SM) 8:30 AM	+Harry Reynolds – Rick & Karen Reynolds
	(PP) 11:00 AM	+Todd Zumerling – M/M Steve Wareham



Attentive to the Word
Sunday Before the Exaltation of the Cross

Jn. 3: 13 – 17

***Tone 5 page 146 Troparion only; follow directions on Pages
248 & 249 (under heading Sept. 8 to 12)***



On the Sunday which precedes the great and important feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross (September 14), our Church prescribes a portion of Saint Paul's letter to the Galatians (6:11-18) and a few short verses from Saint John's Gospel (3: 13-17) for our reflection and spiritual consideration.

Saint Paul tells his readers that the cross of Christ is what gives his life focus and perspective. At the time Saint Paul wrote to the Galatians there were individuals in the community forcing pagan converts to follow the old Jewish practices which they then bragged about having the converts observe. Saint Paul corrects these individuals and tells them that what really matters is having been made new all over again in Christ through His cross. The Cross opened again the gates of Paradise closed by Adam's sin when he ate

the forbidden fruit. The tree of the cross stands forever as the sign of God's great love for fallen mankind.

The text taken from Saint John's Gospel emphasizes that great love. Saint John writes, "God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him may not perish but may have everlasting life." This short verse (3:16) is often quoted. Sometimes you may see it on T-shirts, in sports arenas and other public places. It is a stirring reminder that our Creator did not abandon us to perdition but kept His promise to send a Redeemer Who came in the Person of His own Son, Jesus – our Lord.

Verse 16, however, must be linked with the dramatic and challenging words of our Lord recorded further on in Saint John's Gospel (15:13):

"There is no greater love than this - to lay down one's life for one's friends." Here Jesus talks about what He would do for us when He was nailed to His cross – there to give His life that we might have life.

The feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross marks the occasion of its discovery by Saint Helen, mother of Emperor Constantine in the early fourth century. In our churches, a cross, after solemn ceremony, is prominently displayed on the tetrapod, decorated with arrangements of beautiful flowers, to remind us, as Saint Paul did the Galatians, of the proper focus we must keep as we walk behind our Lord bearing the burdens, the hurts, the disappointments, the suffering and sadness which can be and is sometimes part of our human condition.

Our Church also reminds us that behind the darkness of the Cross shines a bright promise and hope of the new life gained by it because Jesus gave His life for us: "Come, O people, let us contemplate the marvelous wonder; let us bow before the power of the Cross. For the tree of Paradise gave rise to the reign of death, and now a Tree has made our life blossom forth when the sinless Savior was nailed upon it. And now, all the nations that are nourished by this incorruptible food sing praises: You destroyed death by Your cross and set us free. O Lord, glory to You." (Veneration hymn at Matins)

The cross is venerated for eight days during which the troparion, "We bow to Your Cross, O Lord, and we glorify Your holy resurrection" is sung at all Services. Cross and Resurrection are never separated. Although the cross meant death, by His death Jesus brought and bought us unending life. May we live our lives to merit and gain life eternal.

(By Msgr. John T. Sekellick)

VENERATION OF THE HOLY CROSS

The Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross is celebrated on September 14. Veneration of the Holy Cross became public with the discovery of the true Cross of Christ about the year 326. It was discovered during excavation operations under Archbishop Macarius of Jerusalem (314-335). Tradition credits St. Helena with the discovery of the true cross of Christ. St. Helena sent a large portion of the Holy Wood to her son, Emperor Constantine the Great, in Constantinople. Another portion was sent to Rome which was later deposited in the Basilica of the Holy Cross of Jerusalem.

The first public veneration of the Holy Cross took place in Jerusalem on September 14, 335. The annual observance of the veneration of the Holy Cross attracted a great multitude of pilgrims. To enable the many pilgrims to view and venerate the Holy Cross, the Bishop elevated the relics of the Cross. This was the beginning of the feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross. "We bow to Your cross, O Lord, and we glorify Your holy resurrection."