

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.

LOCK-IN RETREAT: (Sponsored by Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy of St.Josaphat)

“BE ON YOUR GUARD, STAND FIRM IN THE FAITH, BE COURAGEOUS, BE STRONG”

- For Teenagers and Young Adults
- Saturday March 3 to Sunday March 4 (1:00 PM to 1:00 PM)
- Saint Anne's, 3055 S. Raccoon Road, Austintown.
- Optional Service Project to be performed Saturday Morning at the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, 252 E. Wood St., Youngstown, OH
- \$30.00 (meals & T-shirt included) +can of green beans, corn or fruit cocktail.
- **Call the parish office if you wish to attend. We have the forms that must be completed, as well as further directives. Registration is due 25 February 2018.** (Parish pays for ECF teenage students & chaperone).

PUSSYWILLOWS NEEDED

Spring is almost here, (even though it doesn't feel like it), so keep your eyes open for the budding of the pussy willows. Please cut them when they bud (before they turn yellow), and bring them to the Social Hall. **Do not put them in water.**

JUST A FEW REMINDERS:

1. Please refrain from unnecessary and loud talking before, during and especially after the Divine Liturgy. Be considerate of those wishing to spend a little more time with God. Thank you for your cooperation by doing your visiting in the Social Hall or in the Narthex (Vestibule) of the Church or outside.

2. **E.C.F. CLASS ATTENDANCE ...** Parents and Guardians, it is important to understand that any good Christian Education in Faith & Life in Christ begins with and depends on you. All children are expected to attend one of the Divine Liturgies on the Weekend, as well as class attendance in order to grow in their faith. They cannot do this on their own. We have adjusted class time to accommodate those families wishing to attend the 9:00 AM Divine Liturgy.

Attendance, since Christmas has been very poor! Please teach your children by your practice and example. God bless you!



(PP) Divine Liturgy Attendance weekend of 11 February:

5:00 PM: **53**; 9:00 AM: **38** 11:00 AM: **72**

Pre-sanctified: Mon. First Day of the Great Fast: **49**

Our return to the Lord for all He has given us: \$2,553.50



- **Sun. Feb. 18** ECF Classes– 9:45 AM to 10:45 AM
- **Mon. Feb. 9** Meeting of St. Benedict’s Auxiliary - 7:00 PM in the Social Hall – LCR Game – Bring your Quarters and bring a friend.
- **Wed. & Fri.** 6:00 PM – Pre- Sanctified Liturgy during Great Lent. Come and pray these beautiful Lenten prayers with your fellow parishioners.
- **Mon. Feb. 26** Church Cleaning Party – 9:00 AM to Noon. We can use your help!



PROPER RECEPTION OF HOLY COMMUNION

The cold and flu season is upon us. I would like to take this opportunity to remind you of the proper way to receive Holy Communion. Please come close, tilt your head back, open your mouth wide, without extending your tongue and wait for Father to drop the Body and Blood of our Lord into your mouth. **Please do not close your mouth upon the spoon.** Also, please assist with the distribution by holding the Red Communion Cloth under your chin, in the case that the Eucharist would drop and not fall to the floor.

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 9 March 2018**. 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.

FUND-RAISING FAMILY FUN DAY!

The Teens, along with their Catechists and the Ladies Guild are planning a Family Fun Day for our parishioners. The proceeds will benefit the Teens, who are raising money to attend the ByzanTEEN Youth Rally this summer.

- WHEN? Sunday, 25 February 2018 after the 11:00 AM Divine Liturgy
- WHERE? SS. Peter & Paul Social Hall. (12 Noon to 4:00 PM).
- WHO? ALL OF YOU!
- WHAT? **FOOD, FUN & GAMES for ALL AGES.**

Chili, Hotdogs, Chips & Pastries will be available for purchasing! For Games of Chance – quarters will be needed. All other games are Free. Come & support our Youth and have an enjoyable afternoon!

18 FEBRUARY 2018

SCHEDULE OF DIVINE SERVICES

Sunday	18 February	<i>FIRST SUNDAY OF THE GREAT FAST. SUNDAY OF ORTHODOXY. MEMORY OF THE HOLY PROPHETS. Our Holy Father Leo, Pope of Rome.</i>
(Sunday Vigil)	5:00 PM 9:00 AM 11:00 AM	+Mary Minarish – Marina Starr +Andrew Greskovich, Sr. (40 th Day) – wife, Loretta +Margaret Gnat (40 th Day) – Ron Mosko
Monday	19 February	<i>The Holy Apostle Archippus.</i> No Divine Services
Tuesday	20 February	<i>Our Venerable Father Leo, Bishop of Catania. Our Holy Father Agathon, Pope of Rome.</i> No Divine Services
Wednesday	21 February	<i>Our Venerable Father Timothy of Symbola. Our Holy Father Eustathius, Archbishop of Great Antioch.</i> 6:00 PM Pre-sanctified Liturgy
Thursday	22 February	<i>Finding of the Venerable Relics of the Martyrs at Eugenia.</i> No Divine Services
Friday	23 February	<i>The Holy Martyr Polycarp, Bishop of Smyrna.</i> 6:00 PM Pre-sanctified Liturgy
Saturday	24 February	<i>The First and Second Finding of the Head of the Prophet, Forerunner and Baptist John.</i>
(Sunday Vigil)	5:00 PM	+Louis Conlan – wife, Mary & family
Sunday	25 February	<i>SECOND SUNDAY OF THE GREAT FAST. Our Holy Father Tarasius, Archbishop of Constantinople.</i> 9:00 AM +Health of David Rapczak – Mike & Sue Johnson 11:00 AM +John Hrop, Jr. – Lisa Clark & Jim Begalla



Attentive to the Word
First Sunday of the Great Fast
Sunday of Orthodoxy

Jn: 1: 43 - 51

Tone 4 Pgs. 141 - 142 and 220 - 222

The Gospel reading prescribed for the first Sunday of the Great and Holy Fast (John 1:43-51) describes the apostle Philip bringing Nathaniel, who will also become a follower of Jesus, to Him. Jesus says to Nathaniel, "Before Philip called you, when you were under the fig tree, I saw you." Surprised by this revelation, Nathaniel declares, "Rabbi, You are the Son of God." Jesus replies that Nathaniel will see "greater things" than any powers of long-distance sight. He promises Nathaniel that he shall see heaven itself open and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of man.

This episode in the life of our Lord opens up a vast field for consideration. We cannot know what Nathaniel was doing or thinking under that fig tree. Was it a moment of temptation, or perplexity, of grace, or simply one of relaxation or rest? Whatever Nathaniel's disposition at the time, it would seem our Lord would not have mentioned it if it had not been a decisive moment, a turning point in this young man's life.

In the life of each of us, there has been or will be a moment or perhaps moments in which Jesus, Himself invisible, saw us and intervened. Was it at a time when we were in questionable company or circumstances? Was it in a moment of spiritual weakness, of temptation - and the temptation failed? Was there a certain crisis we faced, perhaps unemployment, poor health or trying family circumstances? Perhaps, unexpectedly, these were resolved in a surprising way that only divine Providence could offer even if our own expectation were not actually met.

Now during this holy, penitential, season we should use some of our time with due consideration to reflect on those moments in our lives, especially those critical times when out of human weakness we might have questioned the events and circumstances of our lives such as the loss of a loved one, the experience of tragedy, the challenge of the great enticements all around us today. Such are the moments when, as it were, Jesus sees us "under the fig tree." Those are the times of special

grace to keep us aware that God always sees us, that we are loved and that beyond the experiences, however challenging, of this life lies the promise of a vision far greater than anything we could formulate with our limited human mind: the promise of heaven, in the company of angels, in the abiding and loving Presence of our Creator.

By Msgr. John Sekellick



SUNDAY OF ORTHODOXY

A sense of joy and thanksgiving is expressed on this First Sunday of the Great Fast when we celebrate the triumph of the True Faith. On this day the Church commemorates the final ending of the Iconoclast controversy and the definitive restoration of holy icons to the churches by the Byzantine Empress Theodora, acting as regent for her young son Michael III. This took place in Constantinople on the First Sunday of Lent, March 11th, 843.

There is, however, not only an historical link between the First Sunday and the restoration of icons, but also a spiritual affinity. If the True Faith triumphed during the time of the iconoclast controversy, it was because so many of the faithful were prepared to undergo exile, torture, and even death, for the sake of the truth about holy icons. This feast is a celebration in honor of the martyrs and confessors of the Church who struggled and suffered for the faith.

We also remember the martyrs of Eastern Europe who suffered for their faith earlier in this century. It is appropriate for beginning the season of Lent, when we are striving to imitate the martyrs by means of our ascetic self-denial. This commemoration of the triumph over Iconoclasm also celebrates the victory of the True Faith over all heresies and errors of religious teachings.

This Sunday can be especially celebrated with a procession of icons before the Liturgy. Before the Iconoclast period, this Sunday was the commemoration of Moses, Aaron, Samuel and the prophets. Traces of this more ancient observance can still be seen in the choice of the Epistle reading at the Divine Liturgy (Hebrews 11:24-6, 32-40) and in the Alleluia verse before the Gospel: "Moses and Aaron were among His priests, and Samuel among them that call upon His Name."