

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

THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

Thank you for your support of St. Benedict's Auxiliary "Kolachi" sale. This wonderful group of men and women who comprise the Auxiliary (as well as other friends) have this annual baking and other fundraisers to benefit the Benedictine Sisters. The Sisters are grateful to them and to all of you for your love and prayers. You are remembered daily in the prayers of our Sisters. The Auxiliary is always open for new members...just attend one of the meetings or see one of the Sisters. Again, thank you for all of your help! *Sister Barbara Paulik, OSB*

THANKSGIVING DAY

More than three hundred years ago, a small number of grateful Pilgrims gathered in prayerful tribute to God for an abundant first harvest. This launched a meaningful custom which is one of our most cherished holidays, Thanksgiving Day. Thursday, we celebrate Thanksgiving Day. It is an appropriate time for us to reflect on our blessings. It is a day to express our gratitude to Almighty God for His abundant gifts. He is the source of all blessings, as we pray in the Ambo prayer of the Divine Liturgy. "For every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from You, the Father of Lights."

There is no true prayer without thanksgiving. God expects gratitude. Thanksgiving forces us to take stock of our situations. The blessing we are able to count forces us to conclude we are much better off than we thought we were. Today we take good things too much for granted. In the hot dry desert when the sun beats down unmercifully, we treasure water more than gold. After being without food for a few days, we know the importance of food. When our pockets are empty, we realize the value of money. When we are ill, we finally acknowledge the wonders of health. We can go on and on to enumerate how we take so many things for granted and it is only when we are deprived of them that we really begin to appreciate them. We do have reason to be thankful, don't we?

Come and Give Thanks to God for all the Blessings you have received!



Divine Liturgy Attendance weekend of 11 November:

5:00 PM: 61; 9:00 AM: 39; 11:00 AM: 80

Our return to the Lord for all He has given us: \$3,554.06



- **Sun. Nov. 11** Classes for K through 12 will meet from 9:55 to 10:45 AM.
- **Thurs. Nov. 15** Philip's Fast begins in preparation for the Nativity of Christ.
- **Mon. Nov. 19** Important Meeting of St. Benedict's Auxiliary – 7:00 PM in the Social Hall. Election and Installation of Board Members.
- **Tues. Nov. 20** **Interfaith Thanksgiving Service 7:30 PM at Central Christian Church. Come to give thanks to God with our Christian brothers and sisters.**
- **Thurs. Nov. 22** Thanksgiving Day – Parish Office Closed.
- **Mon. Nov. 26** Church Cleaning Party – 9:00 AM to Noon! We would be grateful for your help!



ST. NICHOLAS DINNER

Our St. Nicholas Dinner will be held in the Social Hall after the 11:00 AM Divine Liturgy on 2 December 2018. It will be catered by DiLucia's. The cost per person is: Adults = \$10.00; Children (ages 7-12) = \$5.00; Children (6 & under) free. **Deadline: Sun. Nov. 25**
Sign-up sheets are on the bulletin board in the Social Hall.



INTERFAITH THANKSGIVING SERVICE

The annual Interfaith Thanksgiving Service will be celebrated on **Tuesday, 20 November 2018** at 7:30 PM at Central Christian Church. Pastor Ann Marie Perkins is the homilist for this year's celebration. Please join other members of our Parish Family along with members from Central Christian Church and St. Paul Lutheran Church as we give thanks to God for all the blessings He has bestowed upon us. A social with refreshments will follow the service.

18 NOVEMBER 2018 SCHEDULE OF DIVINE SERVICES

Sunday	18 November	<i>TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST. The Holy Martyrs Plato & Roman.</i>
(Sun. Vigil)	5:00 PM 9:00 AM 11:00 AM	+Tom Vislisky – Family +Joseph Schasney – Michael & Sue Johnson +Esther & +Aida – Jim & Anita Shaffer
Monday	19 November	<i>The Holy Prophet Obadiah. The Holy Martyr Barlaam.</i> No Divine Liturgy
Tuesday	20 November	<i>Prefestive Day of the Entrance of the Theotokos. Our Venerable Father Gregory the Decapolite. Our Holy Father Proclus, Archbishop of Constantinople.</i> No Divine Liturgy
Wednesday	21 November	<i>FEAST OF THE ENTRANCE OF THE THEOTOKOS INTO THE TEMPLE. (Holy Day ...pages 268 – 271).</i> 9:00 AM +Steve Zumerling – Don & Judy Shuttic
Thursday	22 November	<i>THANKSGIVING DAY! Postfestive Day of the Entrance. Th Holy Apostle Philemon and His Companions. Holy Martyrs Cecilia, Valerian, Tiburtius and Maximus. (pages 271 – 271)</i> 9:00 AM Liturgy of Thanksgiving for Parishioners of our Parish
Friday	23 November	<i>Postfestive Day of the Entrance. Holy Fathers Amphilochius, Bishop of Iconium and Gregory, Bishop of Agrigento.</i> No Divine Liturgy
Saturday	24 November	<i>Postfestive day of the Entrance. The Holy Great Martyr Catherine. The Holy Great Martyr Mercury.</i> 5:00 PM +Steve Zombar, Jr. – Steve, Betty, Jen & John
Sunday	25 November	<i>TWENTY-SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST. Leave-taking of the Entrance. Our Holy fathers and Martyrs Clement Pope of Rome and Peter, Bishop of Alexandria.</i> 9:00 AM 11:00 AM Prayer intention of the Rosary Society members +Joseph Chaky (40th day)



Attentive to the Word

Twenty-sixth Sunday after Pentecost

Lk. 12: 16 - 21

Tone 1 - Pages 125 - 127

ON BEING FOCUSED!

Today we hear much about being "focused" or being "centered." When we read articles in newspapers or magazines or when we view stories about different people on television, we hear much talk about the importance of directing our attention or our lives toward a specific goal. Maybe it came from all of those sports interviews we see broadcast on television. There we see a sweaty, breathless football player, standing in the locker room with a towel around his neck and a microphone forced in his face. He then proceeds to tell us how he dropped the ball because he did not focus enough on the quarterback. He then goes on to say how all of his thoughts and actions must be centered on the game, for if not, the game becomes a splintered series of mishap after mishap.

Although this example has to do with America's favorite pastime, football, we see the same scenario repeated time after time in sport after sport. This seems to have become so common and so attractive, that we have come to apply these terms to many aspects of our lives. Today it is a common practice to speak of being centered in any project we may undertake. We tell our children to focus on the homework they have to do and let nothing distract them. It is even common to refer to our entire life as one that must be centered. We are warned of the danger of becoming involved in too many activities and becoming fragmented; we must center our lives so we do not become overwhelmed.

Actually, this may be very good advice. For in a world that not only expects much from us, but also demands much from us, it is a constant danger to lose sight of ourselves and our needs. When we become controlled by all of the activities placed on us, we tend to be out of control, out of focus, and allow life to control us. We fail to recognize the larger meaning life has for us, and are lost in the uncentered details of merely reacting to the events presented before us.

This is the issue which Christ addresses in this Sunday's Gospel reading. In this reading from the Gospel of Saint Luke, Christ tells the story of a man who planned to tear down his old barns, build new ones, and eat drink and be merry the rest of his life. Christ then condemns the man, for he asks, "This night your soul will be required of you,

then whose will those things be which you have provided?" Christ does not call the man a fool or condemn his acts because he did well in life, rather, he questions the reason the man acquired all his wealth. Christ realized, and pointed out to His disciples, that this man was centered only on himself and his own pleasure. Christ does not begrudge the man what his hard work and good fortune had brought him; Christ presents the story to show that this man was focused only upon himself.

The focus of the Gospel of Jesus Christ is "God-centered." Throughout the Gospel, and throughout the entire Bible for that matter, we find our attention being directed away from selfish needs and centered on God. The entire story of Israel is one where the attractions of the world and of the life of others became more important than their life with God. They lost focus of their meaning as a nation, a people, who had a very special covenant with God. The Pharisees, who were the religious leaders of the people of Israel, had focused their attention on the law rather than on God. Keeping the law became the center of their attention, not what God wanted or what their brothers and sisters needed. Christ continues this admonition through teaching and example, telling and showing His disciples and the people, what it means to be God-Centered.

So it is in this Gospel passage, Christ condemns the man not for what he achieved, but for being centered only on himself. In the same chapter Christ goes on to tell His disciples that they should not be anxious about what they should eat or what they should drink; yes, these things are important, but they should not over-shadow their need for God. This Gospel tells us there is nothing wrong with keeping ourselves centered, of providing for ourselves and our families. But, it also warns that above all, our focus should be "God-centered. It is at these times that we discover ourselves as well.

+Bishop Nicholas of Johnstown

ENTRANCE OF THE THEOTOKOS

The feast of the Entrance of the Mother of God into the Temple praises and glorifies God for His plan of salvation. God prepares for Himself a holy dwelling place, Mary. The Byzantine Church never tires of praising the Mother of God for her role in our salvation. In the Virgin Mary, God's plan of salvation was achieved. In the Icon of the Entrance of the Mother of God, Mary is shown as a young girl being escorted to the Temple by her parents, Joachim and Anna. She is also accompanied by the holy virgins carrying candles. The Church honors the Virgin Mary as the God-bearer, (in Greek: Theotokos) the one who, in God's plan of salvation, would give birth to God the Word, Jesus.

TROPARION - Today is the prelude of the benevolence of God and the herald of the salvation of man, for the Virgin plainly appears in the temple of God and foretells Christ to all. Let us also with full voice cry out to her: "Hail, Fulfillment of the Creator's Plan."