

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.

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 17th. If you want them after that date, you will have to request them from the office.



OUR CHURCH – SERVING EACH OTHER AND THE COMMUNITY

A parishioner is one who is registered as a member of a parish and who gives of his/her time, talent and treasure to serve his/her church and the larger community.

There are many ways that we can volunteer our services. Here at SS. Peter and Paul we have many ministries to which we can volunteer our services: The Ladies Guild (now Parish Guild), who sponsor many parish activities that we enjoy, the Rosary Society, Oblates of St. Benedict, our Shut-in Hospitality (visiting, sending cards & bulletins, making phone calls, etc.), Church cleaning, Work parties, Liturgy helpers: Cantors, Lectors, Servers, Ushers, Collection-counters; Catechists/children; Adult formation; The Benedictine Sisters, who are part of our parish, also offer Spirituality days and membership in St. Benedict's Auxiliary, who often engage speakers, or have programs that provide growth opportunities; We volunteer our services at St. Vincent de Paul monthly, to provide home-cooked meals for those less fortunate and we can always use extra hands; We take part in "Out-reach programs" in the local area; We join with other churches and pastors in celebrating an Interfaith Service at Thanksgiving.

We have begun to expand our involvement in Social Media; thanks to several of our young parishioners, who have volunteered to take pictures, we have made a serious attempt to submit articles and pictures of parish activities in our eparchial newspaper, the BCW.

There are many ways to volunteer your gifts. GET INVOLVED! Help your parish to grow. Call the Office for more information and contacts.



Divine Liturgy Attendance weekend of 3 February:

5:00 PM: **70**; 9:00 AM: **48**; 11:00 AM: **75**

Our return to the Lord for all He has given us: \$4,877.00



- **Sun. Feb. 10** ECF Classes - 9:55 to 10:45 AM.
- **Sat. & Sun. Feb. 9 & 10** Coffee & donuts after all Liturgies.
- **Sun. Feb. 10** Oblate Meeting - 2:00 to 4:00 PM at the Monastery – Please ring #301.
- **Tues. Feb. 12** Ladies Guild Anniversary Dinner at Giorgio’s at 6:00 PM. Call Elaine 330-770-1100 by Feb. 5th if you plan to attend.
- **Sun. March 3** Ladies Guild is now renamed Parish Guild and is open to all men and women. Their first event is a *Bingo-Card Party – March 3rd* at 1:00 PM. Hope to see all of you there!


No Fasting This Week.


ALL SOULS REMEMBRANCE

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 23 February 2018. There is an envelope in your offertory box for these All Souls Remembrances. *If you wish to have your loved ones remembered on these special days, please submit the names, printed, with an offering in the envelope by February 9th* so that the names can be organized. Previously submitted names do not need to be resubmitted, only additional names. Thank you for your prompt attention.

SS. CYRIL & METHODIUS TRADITIONAL SLOVAK DINNER

Saturday, Feb. 23rd, 6:00 PM at SS. Cyril’s Hall
\$15 Donation

Stuffed Cabbage, Potato Pirohi, Slovak Green Beans,
Marinated Beets, Kolbasi & Kraut, Coffee & Tea
Kolach for Dessert

For Reservations or more info., Call Rosemary Heald at 330-727-6726.

10 FEBRUARY 2019

SCHEDULE OF DIVINE SERVICES

Sunday	10 February	<i>SUNDAY OF THE PUBLICAN AND THE PHARISEE. The Holy Martyr Charalampas.</i>
(Sun. Vigil)	5:00 PM	+Frank Hosos, Jr. – Ron Mosko
	9:00 AM	Health of Helen Lippitt – Mike & Sue Johnson
	11:00 AM	+Bill Shuttic – Bill Seese
Monday,	11 February	<i>The Holy Martyr Blaise, Bishop of Sebaste.</i> No Divine Liturgy
Tuesday, (Chapel)	12 February 8:30 AM	<i>Our Holy Father Melitius, Archbishop of Antioch.</i> +Joanne Emory – sister, Elizabeth Cantelmo
Wednesday (Chapel)	13 February 8:30 AM	<i>Our Venerable Father Martinian.</i> +Sister Mariam Konkus – Benedictine Sisters
Thursday	14 February	<i>Our Venerable Father Auxentius. The Passing of our Venerable Father Constantine, whose monastic name is Cyril, the Apostle of the Slavs. The Venerable Maron, Hermit and Wonderworker.</i>
(Chapel)	8:30 AM	All Living & Deceased Clergy– Anonymous Donor
Friday	15 February	<i>The Holy Apostle Onesimus.</i> No Divine Liturgy
Saturday	16 February	<i>The Holy Martyrs, the Presbyter Pamphilius, Porphyrius and their Companions.</i>
(Vigil Liturgy)	5:00 PM	+Patricia Harper – Ruth Ann Sutyak
Sunday	17 February	<i>SUNDAY OF THE PRODIGAL SON. The Holy Great Martyr Theodore the Recruit.</i>
	9:00 AM	+Harry Reynolds – Mike & Rosanne Dando
	11:00 AM	+Steve Zumerling – Zoe Gradishar



Attentive to the Word

Sunday of the Publican & Pharisee

Lk 18: 10 – 14

Tone 5 Pages 146 – 148 and Page 215



Jesus Christ shared the parable of the Publican and the Pharisee with us to warn us of the great spiritual danger of arrogant self-confidence in our own righteousness, coupled with contempt for those whom we consider to be beneath us. In this way Jesus sought to protect us from the terrible spiritual sickness of Pharisee-ism.

This disease of the soul first manifests itself as absolute confidence and trust in the rightness of our own point of view and judgment; it presupposes our personal superiority over others. And this twisted expression of self-confidence quickly degenerates into uncritical self-satisfaction and self-righteousness, into a kind of mindless self-admiration. It takes endless pleasure in the self, and in all that it does.

Let us look at the Pharisee in today's parable. He goes into the Temple of God to offer incense to his own self-idol. He proclaims his saintliness and enumerates his good works. He admires and praises himself. He, after all, is not like other people who are up to their necks in immorality and evil. In the midst of his supposed prayer he does not hesitate to spill the poisonous bile of his hatred for the Publican whom he sees praying off in a distant corner. With exaggerated self-satisfaction he refers to his careful fasting and his generous support of the temple. He is indeed, a fastidious observer of the law of the covenant.

And even though we feel repulsed by the attitude and behavior of the Pharisee, we need to be honest enough to admit to ourselves that there are more than a few times when we astonishingly resemble him. After all, who among us does not want others to think that

we are better people than we actually are? Which one of us does not suffer from some lack of respect toward others? Is there even one of us who is very lenient in his judgment of others, and sterner in his own self-criticism? I sincerely doubt it. Every one of us, more or less, has something of that Pharisee inside of us. Something of that self-adulation and righteousness. And so to protect ourselves from infection by this disease requires nothing less than constant struggle and vigilant effort on our part.

A truly Christian heart seeks to do what is just and right as a simple and natural expression of our responsibility as persons. But even then we understand that our good deeds do not reflect perfection and so should not be the cause of weaning pride on our part. That is why St. Vasilios, who devoted his entire life to the loving service of others wrote, "Even if we were somehow able to do absolutely everything that is required of us, we would still have to conclude that we are unworthy servants of the Lord. And this is because after having done all this, we will only have fulfilled our basic duty and obligation and nothing more."

This condemnation of the smug self-satisfaction of the Pharisee, leads us to the justification of the Publican, who keenly feels and readily acknowledges his personal inadequacies. The Publican is admittedly burdened by a host of sins. But he is acutely aware of his sinfulness and spiritual poverty. And so he stands back, in the farthest corner of the temple. He does not dare to even lift his eyes toward heaven. With heavy sighs, he whispers his short prayer, "God, have mercy on me, a sinner."

His prayer is a request, a plea actually, that is filled with contrition. And this contrition, this acknowledgement and confession of personal imperfection, is nothing less than the very cornerstone of the entire spiritual life. And this is because it is inseparably bound with humility of the soul; and it is humility that allows divine grace to transfigure and sanctify our lives.

Perhaps the attitude that we need to acquire if we wish to offer prayer that is acceptable before God, is summed up in the words of Jesus himself who said to us, Take My yoke upon you, and learn from Me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and in Me you will find rest for your souls.." Matt. 11:28. May we too approach the altar of God with that same gentleness of spirit, and that same humility of heart and soul.