

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.

Please pick-up 2019 CONTRIBUTION ENVELOPES AND CALENDARS

*Please pick up your contribution envelopes in the Social Hall! If there is any name or address correction, if you are unable to locate your envelopes, or if you wish a set of envelopes, please call the office, or drop a note in the collection basket. **This year all envelope numbers were reassigned due to the number of deaths and relocation of former parishioners. Please discard your old envelopes at the end of 2018. If you want proper credit for your contributions, you must use the envelopes you were assigned for the year 2019.***



A PRAYER FOR THE NEW YEAR

O God of new beginnings and wonderful surprises
thank You for the gift of a new year.
May it be a time of grace for me,
a time to grow in faith and love,
a time to renew my commitment to following Your Son, Jesus.

May it be a year of blessing for me,
a time to cherish my family and friends,
a time to renew my efforts at work,
a time to embrace my faith more fully.

Walk with me, please, in every day and every hour of this new year,
That the light of Christ might shine through me,
In spite of my weaknesses and failings.

Above all, may I remember this year
That I am a pilgrim on the sacred path to You. Amen.



Divine Liturgy Attendance weekend of 30 December:

5:00 PM: 57; 9:00 AM: 37; 11:00 AM: 77

Outreach Total for Local Veterans: \$2247.00

Total Christmas Collection 2018: \$13,995.00

Our return to the Lord for all He has given us: \$2,294.00



- **Sun. Jan. 2** ECF Classes Resume today – 9:55 AM – 10:45 AM
Let's try to make 2019 a perfect attendance year! Parents, coming back following a break is always difficult. However, please continue your responsibility in getting your children to religious education classes and to the Divine Liturgy. You are your children's primary educators. If God is important in your life, it will rub off into the lives of your children...if, not, that also will be communicated and absorbed. Remember, they need to grow up knowing one another and feeling that they are a part of our parish family. They are our precious gifts – new life in the community of God's worshippers
- **Mon. Jan 14** “Un-decorate” the Church – 9:30 AM.

NEWLY SANCTIFIED JORDAN WATER

On the Feast of Theophany we celebrated the Great Sanctification of Water. The dispenser containing the newly sanctified water is located by the Belvedere Ave. entrance. You are encouraged to take some water home for your sanctification.



MANY, MANY THANKS...

to those wonderful parishioners who gave up their Sunday afternoon to visit and sing Christmas carols for our Parishioners who are homebound or in Care Facilities. They are very grateful to be remembered and to know that they are still part of our parish family. The ECF students (both past and present) did an exceptional job and enjoyed themselves in the process. God Bless all of you!

“MOVIE AFTERNOON” (anticipating the “January Blahs”)

Sunday Afternoon – January 27th at 2:00 PM – we will meet in the Social Hall for an afternoon of relaxation, camaraderie, and enjoyment. The “Price” is right ... No Charge...Movie “refreshments” will be provided. The “Feature” of the day is: *to be announced later*. Laughter is good for whatever ails you. Everyone is invited to come and join us for an afternoon of fun.

6 JANUARY 2019

SCHEDULE OF DIVINE SERVICES

Sunday, (Sun. Vigil)	6 January	<i>THEOPHANY OF OUR LORD, GOD AND SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST.</i> 5:00 PM +Mildred Syrko – Oblates of St. Benedict 9:00 AM +John E. Mosko – Gene & Janet Cook 11:00 AM +Theodore A. Falatic – Wiley Byers
Monday,	7 January	<i>Synaxis of St. John The Baptist, Prophet and Forerunner.</i> No Divine Liturgy
Tuesday, (Chapel)	8 January	<i>Postfestive Day of Theophany. Venerable Father George the Chozebite. Venerable Mother Dominica. Holy Father and Confessor Emilian.</i> 8:30 AM +Paul & +Mildred Homa – Chris & Gene Krupsa
Wednesday (Chapel)	9 January	<i>Postfestive Day of Theophany. Holy Martyr Polyeuct.</i> 8:30 AM +Mary Minarish – daughter, Karen Meehan
Thursday, (Chapel)	10 January	<i>Postfestive Day of Theophany. Holy Father Gregory of Nyssa. Venerable Dometian, Bishop of Melitene. Venerable father Marcion, Priest and Treasurer of the Great Church.</i> 8:30 AM +John E. Mosko – Byers family
Friday,	11 January	<i>Postfestive day of Theophany. Venerable Father Theodosius, founder of the Common Life.</i> No Divine Liturgy
Saturday (Vigil Liturgy)	12 January	<i>Saturday after Theophany. Holy Martyr Tatiana.</i> 5:00 PM +John Hrop, Jr. – Hoso family
Sunday,	13 January	<i>SUNDAY AFTER THEOPHANY. Holy Martyrs Hermylaus and Stratonicus. Venerable Father Hilary, Bishop of Poitiers.</i> 9:00 AM +Kim Uhlin – Rosary Society 11:00 AM +Brian Koehn – Mom & Mike



Attentive to the Word

Theophany of Our Lord, God and Savior Jesus Christ.

Mt. 2: 13 – 23

Pages 312 – 316 (Sun. Texts are omitted)

FEAST OF THEOPHANY

“You have revealed Yourself to the world today, and Your Light, O Lord, has shined upon us . . . We recognize You and exclaim to You: You have come and revealed Yourself, O inaccessible Light.” (Kontakion – Theophany)

The Sixth of January is the Feast of the Theophany. Originally it was the one Christian feast of the “Shining Forth” of God to the world in human form as Jesus. It included the celebration of Christ’s birth, the adoration of the Magi and all the childhood events such as the Circumcision, Presentation in the Temple, as well as His baptism by John in the Jordan.

Epiphany means “shining forth” or “manifestation”. The Feast, in our church, is more often and correctly called “Theophany”, which means the “manifestation of God”. Theophany is – after Easter and Pentecost – the greatest Feast of the Eastern Church: greater even than the Feast of the Nativity of Christ. It commemorates the baptism of Our Lord by John, the Baptist and the public manifestation of the incarnate Word to the world. At the River Jordan, God reveals Himself in the person of Jesus. He is the Word of God incarnate; on Him rests the Holy Spirit from all eternity; the Father witnesses to the divinity of Christ and proclaims Him to be His only Son . . . “This is my beloved Son in whom I am well pleased . . .” On this is day of Theophany, God reveals Himself fully: He is one in three Persons. This is the mystery which allows us to call on the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit as one God. Nothing can be added to this vision or manifestation. We celebrate the baptism of Jesus Christ as a Theophany because the Holy Trinity was made manifest for the first time.

The blessing of the water on the feast shows that Jesus was baptized for us in the Jordan River, and has transformed and changed the waters and **ALL CREATION** by

His Presence. It is **NOW** the Kingdom of God presented and manifested to **us**. And as the water and all creation are transformed by Christ’s presence, so too, we are blessed to show that our entire lives have been transformed and brought into the presence of God through Christ!



THE LORD’S THEOPHANY IN THE JORDAN



Come, O faithful,
Having enjoyed the Master’s hospitality,
The Banquet of Immortality in the lowly manger,
Let us run to the Jordan,
There to see a strange mystery,
Revealing the Light from on high.

The feast of Christ’s Birth has passed;
It shone more brightly than the sun.
The day of His Epiphany is coming;
That day will be even more radiant.

There the shepherds gave glory with the angels,
Worshipping God made man.
Here John’s right hand will touch the Master
As he cries out in fear:
Sanctify both me and the waters,
O Only Merciful One!

The feast which passed was radiant,
But the coming one is even more glorious!
There the Magi worshipped the Savior;
Here the servant baptizes the Master.
There the shepherds saw the Child and were amazed;
Here the voice of the Father proclaims
the only-begotten Son!