

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.

PRAYERS SECOND WEEK OF GREAT LENT

I have loved the fleeting pleasures of the earth, O Lord, and have thrown away eternal blessings. O Christ Jesus, You alone love humankind, and You do not cut sinners off without hope, pouring out mercy upon those who repent. O Jesus, do not turn from me now as I repent, but see in me the thief who was saved by his confession, the tax-collector who was cleansed by mercy, and the prodigal who resolved to weep, for in all of these You have instilled a pattern of repentance. When You see me from afar repenting and running to You as Father, come out with warm and tender mercy. If You wish, You can forgive the sins by which I have polluted myself after baptism and my promise to lead a blameless life: but forgive me, O Creator of all, that I may receive the crown that does not perish. (from Matins, Canon 6 IKOS)



THANK YOU - ONE AND ALL! A big "thank you" from the Parish Guild for your support and help in making their Bingo/Card Party a big success! Special Thanks to our Teens: Macala Blake & Anthony Elbon who were a big help! Winners of the 50/50 raffle, the St Patrick Lottery Wreath and the \$100 raffle are :

50/50 Raffle: Janet Yocum

1st prize – St. Patrick Lottery Wreath: Donna Bodajlo

2nd prize - \$100.00 cash: Tom Sarsany

NUTROLL SALE

The Parish Guild will be baking Rolls for the Feast of the Resurrection. **Advance orders only!** Rolls available are nut, apricot, poppy, apricot-nut, Cranberry-nut and lekvar (prune). Rolls are \$10 each and will be ready for pick up on the weekend of April 6-7. **Order forms are located in the Social Hall. Deadline to place your order is 27March 2019.**

Please Note: Paska Orders will be taken later.

ANNULMENT WORKSHOP – March 26: 7 PM – 8 PM at St. Mary's, 356 South Belle Vista Ave., Youngstown, OH.

Divorced Catholics and anyone interested in learning about the annulment process are welcome to attend a free, one-hour workshop during Lent with Rev. Valerian M. Michlik, JCOL, Judicial Vicar; and Jay Conzemius, JCL, Tribunal Director and Judge. Topics will include: theology of marriage; ministry of the tribunal; marriage annulment types; why, when and how to start the petition for annulment process; and a process overview. Afterward participants can ask questions and /or start the process. No Reservations are required, but email Tribunal@diopitt.org or call 412-456-3033 so seating arrangements can be made.



Divine Liturgy Attendance weekend of 10 March:

5:00 PM: 77; 9:00 AM: 33; 11:00 AM: 67

Pre-sanctified Liturgy: Wed. 35 Fri. 38

Our return to the Lord for all He has given us: \$2,958.18



17 MARCH 2019

SCHEDULE OF DIVINE SERVICES

- **Sun. Mar. 17** ECF Classes - 9:55 to 10:45 AM.
- **Mon. Mar. 18** St. Benedict's Auxiliary Meeting – 7:00 PM in Social Hall. Wonderful DVD, especially during Lent. The “Letter of James”. *All parishioners and friends are invited.*
- **Mon. Mar. 25** Major Holy Day – Annunciation.
- **Wed. Mar. 27** Church Cleaning Party 9:00 AM – Noon. We can use your help!



SPIRITUALITY DAY

The Benedictine Sisters are offering a Day of Spirituality in preparation for the Resurrection of Christ, on **Sunday, March 31 from 1:30 PM to 4:30 PM**. It will be held at SS. Peter and Paul Social Hall at 180 Belvedere Avenue, N.E., Warren, Ohio.

The presenter will be Very Reverend Robert M. Pipta. He is the Rector of the Byzantine Catholic Seminary of SS. Cyril and Methodius in Pittsburgh, PA. His topic is “*Living in Peace and Repentance.*” The Great Fast of Lent is a blessed time for utter truthfulness about ourselves – our spiritual obstacles, selfish passions, bad habits – and the value of repentance cannot be underestimated. Father Pipta will help us examine ways in which we can journey closer to God while unearthing the prayer treasures of the Byzantine Christian Lenten observance.

There will be time for reflection, questions and refreshments, and an opportunity to receive the Mystery of Reconciliation (Confession). To register, call 330-856-1813 or email gohm@byzben.org by Sunday, March 24, 2019.



CHOCOLATE BYZANTINE CROSS SALE – 2019

We will have *Chocolate Byzantine Crosses* for sale for Easter. The orders must be **prepaid** and must be **in the office by March 31st**. 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 and will be ready for pick-up Palm Sunday, April 14th.

EASTER SALE

Egg-in-Wraps – Ukranian, Old World and Slavic Pin Art - \$5/pkg.
Lamb Butter/Chocolate Molds - \$12/pkg.
See Betty Zombar or Father Simeon for purchase.

Sunday	17 March	<i>SECOND SUNDAY OF THE GREAT FAST. Our Venerable Father Alexis, Man of God. Our Holy Father Patrick, Enlightener of Ireland.</i>
(Vigil Liturgy)	5:00 PM 9:00 AM 11:00 AM	+Bill Shuttic – Betty & Steve Zombar +Andrew Greskovich, Sr. – Andrew, Jr. & Mary Kay +Mary Minarish – daughter, Karen Meehan
Monday	18 March	<i>Our Holy Father Cyril, Archbishop of Jerusalem.</i> No Divine Services
Tuesday	19 March	<i>The Holy Martyrs Chrysantus and Daria.</i> No Divine Services
Wednesday	20 March	<i>Our Venerable Fathers of the St. Sabbas Monastery, killed by Saracens.</i> 6:00 PM Pre-sanctified Liturgy
Thursday	21 March	<i>Our Venerable Father and Confessor James, Bishop of Catania.</i> No Divine Services
Friday	22 March	<i>The Holy Martyr Basil, Priest of Ancyra.</i> 6:00 PM Pre-sanctified Liturgy
Saturday	23 March	<i>Third All Souls' Saturday. The Holy Venerable Martyr Nikon and his students martyred with him. Our Holy Mother Rafka.</i> 9:00 AM Third All Souls Sat. w/Reading of the Diptyches (Vigil Liturgy) 5:00 PM +Dorothy Byers – Elaine & Harry Vislosky & family
Sunday	24 March	<i>THIRD SUNDAY OF THE GREAT FAST. VENERATION OF THE HOLY CROSS. Prefestive Day of the Annunciation. Our Venerable Father Zachary. Our Holy Father Artemon, Bishop of Seleucia of Pisidia. Our Holy Father Oscar Romero, Archbishop of San Salvador.</i> 9:00 AM Prayer Intentions of Rosary Society Members 11:00 AM +Donald Sutyak – Ropchock family



Attentive to the Word

First Sunday of the Great Fast

Mk. 2: 1 - 12

Tone 2 Page 130 and Pages 222 - 223

Liturgy of St. Basil during Great Lent:

(In place of Antiphons) Pages 16 & 17 Typical Psalms

Beatitudes Pgs. 23-24; (Instead of "It is truly proper,") Pg. 223 - Magnification



Our Gospel lesson from Matthew 2: 1-12, read on the second Sunday of Lent in the Eastern Catholic Church, has a threefold symbolism relating to our preparation for Easter.

- (1) We must come to Christ in faith and let Him heal us of our spiritual paralysis. Sin is a paralysis of the soul.
- (2) We should let nothing deter us from getting to Christ, who alone can heal us, both in body and In soul.
- (3) We must help each other come to Christ.

Have you ever come to the point in your life where you wanted to give up? You just get so tired of fighting and struggling. It just doesn't seem worth it anymore to struggle. It seems that just as soon as you solve one problem, another is heading your way. You have no more energy. You just want to be left alone! There are more and more demands and they never go away.

I read a story about a girl who complained to her father about her life and how things were going so hard for her.

Her father listened intently to her woes. Let me show you something. He was a chef and he took her into the kitchen. He filled three pots with water and placed each on a high fire. Soon the pots came to a boil. In one, he placed carrots; in the second, he placed eggs; and in the last he placed ground coffee beans. He let them sit and boil, without saying a word.

The daughter impatiently waited, wondering what he was doing. In about twenty minutes, he turned off the burners. He fished out the carrots and placed them in a bowl. He pulled the eggs out and placed them in a bowl. Then he ladled out the coffee and placed it in a bowl.

He turned to her and asked, "Darling, what do you see?"

"Carrots, eggs, and coffee," she replied. He brought her closer and asked her to feel the carrots. She did and noted that they were soft. He then asked her to take an egg and break it. After pulling off the shell, she observed a hard-boiled egg. Finally, he asked her to sip the coffee. She smiled as she tasted its rich aroma.

"What does it mean?" she humbly asked

He explained that each of them had faced the same adversity, boiling water, but each reacted differently. The carrot went in strong, hard and unrelenting. But after being subjected to the boiling water, it softened and became weak. The egg had been fragile. Its thin outer shell protected its liquid interior. But after sitting through the boiling water, its inside became hardened. The coffee beans were unique. After they were in the boiling water, they had changed the water.

"Which are you?" he asked. When adversity knocks on your door, how do you respond? Are you a carrot, and egg or a coffee bean?

Are you the carrot that seems hard, but with pain and adversity do you wilt and become soft and lose your strength? Or are you the egg, which starts off with a malleable heart? Were you a fluid spirit, but after a death, a breakup, a divorce or a layoff, have you become hardened and stiff? Your shell looks the same, but are you bitter and tough with a stiff spirit and heart?

How about us?

The Gospel this morning is about a paralytic man. His friends strip away the roof and lower him so that Christ could heal him. Good friends, good Christian men and women help us to strip away the outer coating that keeps us from Christ.

Our Lent is about a time to let Christ into our hearts and to open them again to goodness, truth and joy. But it is also a time to remember that we don't come to Christ alone. We need to bring one another. Support one another in our journey of faith. And to standby one another when we feel so paralyzed that we just stop functioning.

You are healed! You are forgiven! You can get off your mat and go home renewed and refreshed.

That's where our Lent leads us.

By Fr. John Zeyack