

## 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 FOURTH SUNDAY OF GREAT LENT

In this time of fasting, O faithful, let us strive to gain the great glory of heaven, through the mercy of our great God and Savior who delivers us from the flames of Hades.

Having passed the midpoint of this Fast, let us manifest the beginning of conversion, so that at the end of a holy life we may find the happiness that does not pass away.

Having passed half the distance of this holy Fast, let us hasten to its completion in joy; let us anoint our souls with oil for the struggle, that we may be worthy to venerate the holy Passion of Christ our God and to contemplate his glorious Resurrection.



*God does not forget the sinner: He forgets the sin.*

## RECONCILIATION FOR PASCHA

The Church holds the approaching time of Holy Week and the Glorious Resurrection so sacred and important that it asks of all its members to celebrate the Sacrament of Penance and share in the Most Holy Body and Precious Blood of Our Lord, God and Savior, Jesus Christ . . . We call this our "Easter Duty." How can anyone who believes in Jesus Christ let this most holy time pass by without being reconciled with God? . . . to acknowledge our sinfulness and seek divine forgiveness in the Sacrament of Reconciliation. *Father is available for Confessions on Saturdays from 4:00 – 4:30 PM and after the Presanctified Liturgies on Wednesday and Friday to assist us in being spiritually prepared to celebrate Pascha.* **Please Note: Watch the bulletin for these scheduled times.**

## HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE – 2019

*All Services Monday thru Friday are at 7:00 PM*

**Mon. & Tues.** – Pre-sanctified Liturgies followed by Confession

**Wed.** – Pre-sanctified Liturgy with anointing for Health of body, mind and spirit

**Holy Thurs.** – Vespers w/Liturgy of St. Basil, commemorating the Institution of the Holy Eucharist, and the Betrayal of Judas

**Good Friday** – Entombment Vespers – Commemorating the Death and Burial of Jesus

**Holy Sat. – 8:00 PM** – Resurrection Matins & Divine Liturgy

**Sunday – Feast of the Resurrection**

**9:00 AM** – Divine Liturgy    **11:00 AM** – Divine Liturgy

*Blessing of Easter Baskets: Sat.: in the Social Hall    Sun.: in the Church*



## Divine Liturgy Attendance weekend of 24 March:

5:00 PM: 76; 9:00 AM: 28; 11:00 AM: 58

**Pre-sanctified Liturgy: Wed. 39    Fri. 29    Annunciation: 45**

**Our return to the Lord for all He has given us: . . . \$2,423.20**



- **Sun. Mar. 31** ECF Classes - 9:55 to 10:45 AM.
- **Tues. Apr. 2** Parish Guild Meeting 7:00 PM in Social Hall.
- **Wed. Apr. 3** St. Vincent de Paul Meals Program 9:00 AM – 2:00 PM.
- **Th. & Fri. Apr. 4 & 5** Nutroll Baking – We can use your help from 9:00 AM. (Any amount of time that you can spare.)
- **Sat. Apr. 6** Pick up Nutrolls 3:00 PM – 6:00 PM.
- **Mon. Apr. 8** Auxiliary Meeting – Letter of James Pt. 2 – 7:00 PM.
- **Mon. Apr. 15** Church Cleaning Party 9:00 AM – Noon.



### 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 14<sup>th</sup>**.

### 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.

### NUTROLLS – ORDER PICK-UP

Your Orders Will Be Ready For Pick-Up On **Saturday, April 6, from 3:00 PM to 6:00 PM and before and after all Weekend Divine Liturgies.**

### PASKA SALE – ORDERS ONLY

Order forms are located on the table in the Social Hall. *Regular Paska Bread* is \$6 per loaf. *Paska Bread with raisins* is \$6.50 per loaf. Paskas will be available for pick up on **Saturday, April 13, from 3:00 PM to 6:00 PM and before and after all weekend Divine Liturgies.**

31 MARCH 2019

### SCHEDULE OF DIVINE SERVICES

Sunday	31 March	<i>FOURTH SUNDAY OF THE GREAT FAST. MEMORY OF OUR HOLY FATHER JOHN CLIMACUS. Our Venerable Father Hypatius, Bishop of Gangra.</i>
(Vigil Liturgy)	<b>5:00 PM</b> <b>9:00 AM</b> <b>11:00 AM</b>	<b>+Millie Simko – Mr. &amp; Mrs. Frank Arundel</b> <b>+Harry Reynolds – Rick &amp; Karen Reynolds</b> <b>+Robert Shaffer – Jim &amp; Anita Shaffer</b>
Monday	1 April	<i>Our Venerable Mother Mary of Egypt.</i> <b>No Divine Services</b>
Tuesday	2 April	<i>Our Venerable Father Titus the Wonderworker.</i> <b>No Divine Services</b>
Wednesday	3 April	<i>Our Venerable Father and Confessor Nicetas, Hegumen of Medikion.</i> <b>6:00 PM Pre-sanctified Liturgy</b>
Thursday	4 April	<i>THE GREAT CANON OF OUR HOLY FATHER ANDREW OF CRETE. Our Venerable Fathers Joseph the Hymnographer and George of Maleon.</i> <b>No Divine Services</b>
Friday	5 April	<i>The Holy Martyrs Theodulus and Agathopodes and their Companions.</i> <b>6:00 PM Pre-sanctified Liturgy</b>
Saturday	6 April	<i>Akathistos Saturday. Our Holy Father Eutyches, Archbishop of Constantinople. The Death of our Holy Father Methodius, Teacher of the Slavs.</i> <b>(Vigil Liturgy) 5:00 PM</b> <b>+John &amp; +Anna Koza – John &amp; Dianna Koza</b>
Sunday	7 April	<i>FIFTH SUNDAY OF THE GREAT FAST. MEMORY OF OUR VENERABLE MOTHER MARY OF EGYPT. Our Venerable Father George, Bishop of Mitylene.</i> <b>9:00 AM</b> <b>11:00 AM</b> <b>+Stephen Sernulka, III – Ann Jason Palmer</b> <b>+Mike Kuhar – wife, Helen &amp; daughter, Karen</b>



## Attentive to the Word

Fourth Sunday of the Great Fast

St. John Climacus

*Mk. 9: 17-31*

**Tone 4 Page 141 and Pages 226 – 227**

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. 227 - Magnification

### FOURTH SUNDAY OF THE GREAT FAST

Listen to this dialogue: It’s a conversation between a recent convert and an unbelieving friend:

*"So you have been converted to Christ?"*

*"Yes."*

*"Then you must know a great deal about him. Tell me what country was he born in?"*

*"I don't know."*

*"What was his age when he died?"*

*"I don't know."*

*"How many sermons did he preach?"*

*"I don't know."*

*"You certainly know very little for a man who claims to be converted to Christ!"*

*"You are right. I am ashamed at how little I know about him. But this much I do know: Three years ago I was a drunkard. I was in debt. My family was falling to pieces. My wife and children would dread my return home each evening. But now I have given up drink; we are out of debt; ours is now a happy home. All this Christ has done for me. This much I know of him!"*

To really know Christ is to be transformed by him.

To really pray is to find ourselves in Christ’s mind and heart. To really pray is to surrender ourselves to His love for us. To fast is to empty ourselves and make room for Christ!

That’s why we are so often mediocre, and nothing happens in our lives. We say we pray. We ask, but we really don’t do it with conviction.

When we say the Our Father, there is always this introduction: And make us worthy O Lord that we may with confidence and without condemnation call upon you and say:

When we pray with confidence things happen in our lives.

When we surrender our own will and our own desires and our own ideas about how things should be done, we make room for God to act.

When we really fast and pray, we make room for transformation in our lives. To really know Christ is to be transformed by Him. To really pray is to let Christ be the center of our lives. To really fast is to make room in our will and in our hearts for God because we are emptied of ourselves.

We are heading to the Cross. We are making that journey to our salvation. We are walking with the Savior. Jesus is leading us to the Cross. Let us walk with Him. Let Him lead the way. Let us surrender our fears and our weakness to his grace and mercy. Then we will rise with Him and be transformed by Him.

*By Fr John Zeyack*

### ST. JOHN CLIMACUS

To really understand what St. John represents, one has to be familiar with the Book of Exodus, the second book of the Bible. Understanding Exodus is important, because the people of his day revered St. John so much that they saw in him another Moses. He was likened to Moses because, like the great prophet of old who brought down the tablets of the Law, he too brought down a gift to share with the people. That gift, a book called *The Ladder of Divine Ascent*, is still being read by Eastern Christians today.

Moses and St. John had a shared interest: they both sought to deliver their people out of slavery. What Moses did in the past, St. John does eternally by his theology. To this day, people are still being freed by his wisdom.

On the fourth Sunday of the Great Fast, we commemorate Saint John Climacus, author of *The Ladder of Divine Ascent*. In this work, Saint John outlines the steps essential in attaining communion with God, steps which remind us that the way to the Kingdom constantly challenges us to engage in spiritual warfare: Be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might. Put on the whole armor of God that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. (Ephesians 6:10-13).

We know with certainty that Christianity is not for weaklings and cowards. The end of Great Lent is drawing near and we recall Christ's awesome words which encourage us to persevere until the end: He who endures to the end will be saved (Matthew 24:13).