

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 Saints 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 and Lisa Mosko are in the Parish office from 11:30 AM – 2:30 PM on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. Father Simeon is available on other days and times by appointment.

MILK CHOCOLATE BYZANTINE CROSS SALE – 2020

We still have a few milk chocolate Byzantine Crosses for sale @ \$6.00 each. If anyone is interested, please see Sister Barbara or call the Office.

FREE ADULT EDUCATION – OCTOBER/ NOVEMBER

Our parents and all parishioners can also grow in their faith relationship with Our Lord. There are many free Eastern Churches' webinars, books, videos, etc. available to us...Just Google "God With Us Publications" to get started.

Live webinars, free of charge. Register at EasternCatholic.org/Events.

Wednesday evenings 8:00 – 9:00 PM, October 14, 21, & 28

**"GOD WITH US" – The Art of Catechesis in the Orthodox (Byzantine) Tradition
– by Rev. David Anderson.**

As an old saying goes, the law of prayer is the law of belief. The foundation and authority of catechesis is and always has been the Divine Liturgy of the Church. Rooted in prayer and looking to the Lord, we discover the Byzantine Faith in the face of Christ. *Please pick up a flyer at the entrances of the church for a listing for October and November free adult education webinars.*

NATIONAL BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CONVENTION

A "must take part in" convention for ALL Byzantine Catholics...Clergy, Monastics, Religious and Laity, sponsored by the four Eparchies of the Byzantine Catholic Church. It will be a Virtual Convention starting November 1, 2020. There will be a live Panel Discussion on Sat. November 14 from 11am – 3 pm on Zoom. This convention is entitled *GROWING A VIBRANT BYZANTINE CHURCH. (It takes all of us to make that happen!)* **So please pick-up a flyer and register for the convention. BE INFORMED! BE INVOLVED! AND HELP OUR CHURCH TO BECOME A VIBRANT CHURCH! Communication has improved so much with Tim Byer's emails each week. Everyone loves them. (That was the result of an Eparchial meeting 2 years ago.)**



Divine Liturgy Attendance weekend of October 11:

5:00 PM: 44; 9:00 AM: 36; 11:00 AM: 39

Our return to the Lord for all He has given us: \$2,821.00



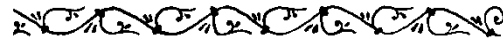
➤ **Sun. Oct. 18** ECF Classes meet promptly at 10 AM. Try to come a few minutes early so that we can get the temperatures taken in the Social Hall. Parents are asked to remain until after temperatures are taken. Parents may wait for their children in the Social Hall, but they are asked to practice social distancing and to wear a mask. *No one is permitted downstairs except teachers and students.*



PASTOR APPRECIATION MONTH



Please join us in the celebration of *Pastor Appreciation Month*. There will be a “take home cupcake” in the Social Hall after all the Liturgies next weekend, October 24 & 25, to honor our Pastor, Father Simeon. Stop to greet Father after the Liturgies, but we will observe the social distancing and masks are mandatory. Hopefully, next year, we can have a “real” celebration.



PRAYER BEFORE AN ELECTION

Lord God, as the election approaches, we seek to better understand the issues and concerns that confront our city/state/country, and how the Gospel compels us to respond as faithful citizens in our community. We ask for eyes that are free from blindness so that we might see each other as brothers and sisters, one and equal in dignity, especially those who are victims of abuse and violence, deceit and poverty. We ask for ears that will hear the cries of children unborn and those abandoned, Men and women oppressed because of race or creed, religion or gender. We ask for minds and hearts that are open to hearing the voice of leaders who will bring us closer to your Kingdom. We pray for discernment so that we may choose leaders who hear your Word, live your love, and keep in the ways of your truth as they follow in the steps of Jesus and his Apostles and guide us to your Kingdom of justice and peace. Amen.

Most Americans are tired of the “ugliness” and the negativity of the political campaigns that we have been bombarded with for what seems like an eternity, but we urge you to vote according to your conscience for the issues and candidates who will best serve our local community, our country and our God.

OCTOBER 18, 2020

SCHEDULE OF DIVINE SERVICES

Sunday	18 Oct.	<i>TWENTIETH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST. Holy Apostle and Evangelist Luke.</i>
(Sun. Vigil)	5:00 PM	+Msgr. Sylvester Hladky – Hosó family
	9:00 AM	+Anthony P. Simon – Marjorie, Paul & Cheryl
	11:00 AM	+Steve Zumerling – M/M Donald Kovac
Monday	19 Oct.	<i>The Holy Prophet Joel. The Holy Martyr Varus. Our Venerable Father John of Rila.</i>
		No Divine Liturgy
Tuesday	20 Oct.	<i>The Holy Great Martyr Artemius.</i>
(SPP)	8:30 AM	+Andrew Greskovich, Sr. – J. Nadzan & family
Wednesday	21 Oct.	<i>Our Venerable Father Hilary the Great.</i>
(SPP)	8:30 AM	Health of Srs. Agnes & Martha – Friends of SPPC
Thursday	22 Oct.	<i>The Holy Bishop Abercius, Equal to the Apostles, Wonderworker. The Holy Seven Children of Ephesus. Our Holy Father John Paul II, Pope of Rome..</i>
(SPP)	8:30 AM	+Millie Simko – M/M Phillip Lucarell
Friday	23 Oct.	<i>The Holy Apostle James, Brother of the Lord.</i>
		No Divine Liturgy
Saturday	24 Oct.	<i>The Holy Martyr Arethas and His Companions.</i>
(Vigil Liturgy)	5:00 PM	+Susan Welch – Don & Helen Firment
Sunday	25 Oct.	<i>TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST The Holy Martyrs and Notaries Marcian and Martyrius. The Holy and Just Tabitha the Merciful.</i>
	9:00 AM	+Harry Reynolds – Mary A. Moneypenny & Kostrub family
	11:00 AM	+Joan Bernard – Janice & Michael Clark



Attentive to the Word

TWENTIETH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Luke 8: 5 – 15

Tone 3 pages 135 – 137



One of the most fertile areas in Galilee is the Plain of Gennesaret. It lies on the northwest shore of the Sea of Galilee, near Capernaum. Jesus often spoke to large crowds in these fields, and the plain's abundance inspired many of His stories about the nature of God's kingdom. In this setting, such a parable was related in today's Gospel (Luke 8: 5-15) about a Sower. It is quite likely that Jesus may have been looking at some sower sowing his seed as He spoke, using a familiar scene from Palestinian life.

Farming methods in the Near East were and still are crude and primitive. Having broken the soil by surface plowing, the sower simply walked through the field scattering seed on either side of him by the handful. He did not expect all of it to take root. Some would inevitably fall on the beaten path instead of the plowed area and thus remain on the surface to be trampled on by passerby or eaten by birds. Some would be scattered in areas where there is only a thin layer of soil over bedrock: this is the geological condition of much of the land of Palestine. In such ground the rain does not seep away quickly into the ground so that the excess moisture would cause the seed to germinate immediately and begin to grow. But it would be a premature growth that could not last; the sun and the plant's lack of roots would soon finish it off. Still other seed would fall among thorns, which rob the soil of its nourishment and choke off the growth of the grain. Finally the rest of the seed – the bulk of it – would fall where the sower wanted it to fall, in his good ground where it would germinate successfully in good measure.

This parable was a riddle to the disciples and the Jews. Jesus developed His teaching by solving the riddle. The fate of the word of God depends on the disposition of its receptor.

The hardened pathway represents the closed mind which shuts out God's instruction. The shallow, rocky ground represents those who accept the word but who never reflect on it, who fail to realize its consequences and who, therefore, collapse (wither) when challenged.

The thorny ground stands for those whose lives are so busy that the things of God are crowded out by cares, responsibilities, selfish pleasures, human projects – a whole multiplicity of occupation which an individual may allow to stifle God's voice.

The good ground is a fertile disposition in the hearer to do three things. First, to listen attentively. Second, to keep what he heard in his mind and heart and think it over until he discovers its meaning for himself. Third, he puts what he has heard into action.

Jesus' exclamation, "Listen, anyone who has ears to hear" (Vs. 8), is a fitting invitation to respond to the message of the parable, positively or negatively: either spiritual fruitfulness or barrenness; spiritual abundance or poverty; eternal salvation or reprobation. The fascinating parable of the Sower is an exhortation to perseverance and an encouragement to banish any thought of despair in the conviction that no setback, disappointment or loss can trouble us when our faith is well-rooted in God's word.

The word as seed invites the hearer to examine self and test self in terms of the seeds' bearing fruit.

How well do we LISTEN as the entire Divine Liturgy – not only the Epistle and Gospel – speaks to us of the mysteries that should be the substance of our living in Christ Jesus?

By Rev. John T. Sekellick, J.C.L.