

## 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

Since our church was closed for all of the Easter season, I have a few extra milk chocolate Byzantine Crosses for sale @ \$6.00 each. If anyone is interested, please call Sister Barbara @ 330-240-2534.

## TRUMBULL COUNTY LIFE CHAIN

Life Chain is a well-known pro-life prayer gathering of local churches held each year on the first Sunday in October. SS. Peter and Paul Parish always take part (on an individual basis) in this silent prayer gathering. The gathering takes place on **Sunday, October 4<sup>th</sup>, from 2:30 PM – 3:30 PM**. It will be held on the sidewalk along Elm Road between Warren Plaza and Harding High School.

*“Let us invest one hour to save a lifetime.”*

## GCU FUNDRAISER FOR OUR SEMINARY IN PITTSBURGH

The GCU is holding a raffle in which *the winner will receive \$2,000.00 in Holiday Cash*. We have only 15 tickets to sell so it's first come, first serve. Tickets are \$10.00 each. The winning number is based on the PA Daily 3-digit Number (first number drawn at 7 PM) on Sunday, December 6, 2020. **See Betty Zombar to purchase tickets. It only takes one ticket to win.**

## FREE ADULT EDUCATION – OCTOBER

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

**Wednesday evenings 8:00 – 9:00 PM, October 7 – 28**

**“GOD WITH US” – The Art of Catechesis in the Orthodox Tradition –  
by Rev. David Anderson.**

As an old saying goes, the law of prayer is the law of belief. The foundation and authority of Orthodox Catholic catechesis is and always has been the Divine Liturgy of the Church. Rooted in prayer and looking to the Lord, we discover the Orthodox Faith in the face of Christ.



**Divine Liturgy Attendance weekend of September 26:**

5:00 PM: 55; 9:00 AM: 43; 11:00 AM: 38

**Our return to the Lord for all He has given us: . . . . . \$2,266.00**



➤ **Wed., Oct. 7** St. Vincent de Paul Meals Program 9:00 AM – 2:00 PM.



**ECF CLASSES BEGIN TODAY...**

Today we are pleased to celebrate an important event in our parish life as we begin our new catechetical year. The children and the adults who teach them will be blessed at the start of this new catechetical year. We ask God to enlighten the children to accept God’s message and make it part of their lives. We also ask God to shed His enlightenment on Mrs. Rosemary Finley, Mrs. Betty Blake, Miss Victoria Smolak and Mrs. Luanne Hite, who have accepted the responsibility to teach our children the Way of Our Lord through lessons, activities and example. We ask God to grant to his servants, our students and our teachers “many happy and spiritually fruitful years.”

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.

**THANK YOU AND GOD BLESS YOU**

Heartfelt thanks from Benedictine Sisters Agnes and Mary Martha for the beautiful bedspreads received from SS. Peter and Paul Parish. That was such a unique gift, which will bring back many happy memories as they read and re-read your names each day as they make their beds. The sisters are adjusting well to their new surroundings. They realized that they both needed more assistance than was anticipated and have been moved to a different area where more assistance is available. They send their love and their prayers!

Their new address is:

(Sr. Agnes Knapik, OSB or Sr. M. Martha Kacmarek, OSB)

P.O. Box 924  
318 Villa Drive  
Villa Maria, PA 16155

Sr. Agnes’ direct line:  
1-724-964-8369  
(cell) 330-240-2532

Sr. M. Martha’s direct line:  
1-724-964-8368  
(cell) 330-240-2533

OCTOBER 4, 2020

SCHEDULE OF DIVINE SERVICES

Sunday	4 Oct.	<i>EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST. The Holy Martyr Hierotheus, Bishop of Athens. Our Venerable Father Francis of Assisi.</i>
<b>(Sun. Vigil)</b>	<b>5:00 PM</b> <b>9:00 AM</b> <b>11:00 AM</b>	<b>Health of Sisters Agnes &amp; Martha – friends</b> <b>+Mary Butchko – Betty Blake</b> <b>+Benjamin &amp; +Frances Martin – Ron Mosko</b>
Monday	5 Oct.	<i>The Holy Martyr Charitina.</i> <b>No Divine Liturgy</b>
Tuesday	6 Oct.	<i>The Holy and Glorious Apostle Thomas.</i>
<b>(SPP)</b>	<b>8:30 AM</b>	<b>+Anna &amp; +Elias Fedyszak – Fedyszak family</b>
Wednesday	7 Oct.	<i>The Holy Martyrs Sergius and Bacchus.</i> <b>No Divine Liturgy</b>
Thursday	8 Oct.	<i>Our Venerable Mother Pelagia.</i>
<b>(SPP)</b>	<b>8:30 AM</b>	<b>+Joan Bernard - family</b>
Friday	9 Oct.	<i>The Holy Apostle James Alpheus. Our Venerable Father Adronicus and His Wife Athanasia. Our Righteous Forefather Abraham and his Nephew Lot. The Holy Martyr Denis, Bishop of Paris.</i> <b>No Divine Liturgy</b>
Saturday	10 Oct.	<i>The Holy Martyrs Eulampius and Eulampia.</i>
<b>(Vigil Liturgy)</b>	<b>5:00 PM</b>	<b>+Suzanne Tablac – Staci Brindle &amp; family</b>
Sunday	11 Oct.	<i>NINETEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST. MEMORY OF THE FATHERS AT THE SEVENTH ECUMENICAL COUNCIL. The Holy Apostle Phillip, one of the Seven Deacons. Our Venerable Father Theophane, the Artist and Hymnographer, Bishop of Nicea. Our Holy Father John XXIII, Pope of Rome.</i>
	<b>9:00 AM</b> <b>11:00 AM</b>	<b>+Rebecca Kapusta – John &amp; Irene Chekan</b> <b>+Charles “Buddy” Hite – Ron &amp; Ann Whitfield</b>



## Attentive to the Word

### EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

*Luke 6: 31 – 36*

*Tone 1 Pages 125 – 127*

#### THE MANY FACES OF GRACE



Our grammar school religion teachers had the difficult task of putting the whole Catholic faith into simple terms. Many of us were probably first introduced to “grace” as a sort of heavenly bank account: when you do something good you get grace, but when you do something bad all your grace is withdrawn.

Our Lord’s words in today’s Gospel (Luke 6: 31-36) might seem to paint a similar picture. The passage is taken from Jesus’ Sermon on the Mount (although St. Luke locates it on a plain). In the course of this well-known discourse, Jesus describes a whole new way of life, summed up by the Beatitudes (Matthew 5: 3-12; Luke 6: 20-23). Our Sunday reading continues the same theme, presenting some very direct and difficult commandments for Christian living: “If you love those who love you...and if you do good to those who do good to you...and if you lend to those from whom you hope to receive,” Jesus asks, “what credit is that to you?” Even sinners do the same (Luke 6: 32-34).

The word translated “credit” is actually **charis**, the Greek word for “grace.” At first glance, Jesus seems to be suggesting that we get “credit” or “grace” only for doing extraordinary good deeds: “Love your enemies and do good and lend, expecting nothing in return, and your reward will be great.” (Luke 6: 35).

But surely the state of our relationship with God cannot be figured out on a balance sheet – grace is surely more than a credit to our account in heaven! Our tradition has always taught that grace is, first and foremost, a share in God’s own life. Since that sixth day, when God breathed His own life into the nostrils of Adam, whom He had created in His own image and likeness (Genesis 2: 7; Genesis 1: 27), the lives of all human beings have never ceased enjoying God’s grace in one form or another.

The Sacraments are special sources of grace because they are moments when we renew or increase our personal share in the divine life through Jesus Christ. Whatever good works we accomplish are sources of grace because they affect the quality of our lives. Inasmuch as we act out truth and unselfishness in our lives, we resemble God and give visible expression to the divine life we share through the Sacraments.

Upon closer examination, this is the view of grace expressed in Jesus’ words. The purpose of all the heroic good deeds Jesus demands is not to rack up points in heaven; they are rather ways to strengthen a relationship and a resemblance between God and ourselves: “You will be sons of the Most High, for He is kind to the ungrateful and the selfish. Be merciful, even as your Father is merciful.” (Luke 6: 35-36).

Reading the lives of the Saints, we find many instances of special graces given to particularly holy people. In today’s Epistle, St. Paul hints mysteriously at two in his own life. On the one hand, he talks about the visions and ecstasies of a “man” (2 Corinthians 12: 2-5) who is certainly himself (see 12: 7). He brushes these uplifting experiences of special closeness to God aside, however, and prefers to dwell on another experience: “a thorn was given me in the flesh, an angel of Satan to harass me, to keep me from being too elated. Three times I besought the Lord that it should leave me but he said to me, ‘My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.’” (2 Corinthians 12: 7-9)

What was this thorn in Paul’s flesh? Perhaps it was a physical illness like epilepsy, or a recurrent temptation, or again Paul’s lifelong failure to bring many Jews to Christ. Whatever it was, Paul considers this negative experience as much a grace as his revelations and ecstasies.

In weakness, helplessness or even failure, Paul found himself totally emptied. Precisely in such moments, because his own resources were of no use, he could feel the power and presence of God most completely. The negative experience became grace because it became an occasion to come closer to God. Especially in times of trial, frustration and failure, we can experience the truth that God’s grace is sufficient. God’s presence will be obvious at every turn and juncture of our lives, if only we learn to recognize the many faces of grace.

*by Rev. John S. Custer*