

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.

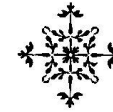
Godparent/Sponsor Letters: Must be a registered, active, supporting member of the parish.

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.

RECEPTION OF HOLY COMMUNION

PLEASE ENTER THE CENTER AISLE ONE ROW AT A TIME FROM EITHER SIDE. USE SOCIAL DISTANCING BY FORMING A SINGLE LINE WHERE THE "X'S" ARE MARKED. SEPARATE AT THE ICON TABLE TO FORM TWO LINES.

ETERNAL MEMORY



Grant, O Lord, eternal rest to the soul of Your servant +**Susan Welch, mother of Seminarian John Welch**, who has recently fallen asleep in the Lord. Please remember her and her family in your prayers.



- **Mon., Sept. 28** Church Cleaning Party 9:00 AM – Noon. We could use your help.

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 4th, from 2:30 – 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."

MILK CHOCOLATE BYZANTINE CROSS SALE – 2020

Since our church was closed for all of the Easter season, I have about 35 extra milk chocolate Byzantine Crosses for sale @ \$6.00 each. If anyone is interested, please call Sister Barbara @ 330-240-2534.



Divine Liturgy Attendance weekend of September 12:

5:00 PM: **50**; 9:00 AM: **36**; 11:00 AM: **39**

Our return to the Lord for all He has given us: \$2,774.26

SEPTEMBER 20, 2020
SCHEDULE OF DIVINE SERVICES

A NOTE FROM THE BENEDICTINE SISTERS

Glory to Jesus Christ! Glory Forever!

The year 2020 has been a year none of us will ever forget! It has brought about many changes in our lives. This pandemic, and mostly the “ageing process,” have also affected the lives of the sisters.

Queen of Heaven Monastery has four members remaining. With the health issues of the sisters and the necessity for assistance, it was time to actively plan for our future.

In August, after discernment and much prayer, and with the blessing of our prioress in Lisle, Illinois, I contacted the Humility of Mary Sisters to inquire about our living with them in their assisted living area at their motherhouse in Villa Maria, PA. Without a moment’s hesitation, their answer was an absolute “yes.” All of our requests were honored and even more was offered to us at the Villa. That was really a blessing from God and His hand is guiding the process.

Sisters Agnes and Mary Martha are in need of the most assistance at this time. They will be moving to the Villa on September 22nd. All change has its difficult moments. Their greatest difficulty is to leave their church and the people at SS. Peter and Paul Church, where they have served in a labor of love for over 50 years. They ask that you remember them in your prayers. They would also appreciate hearing from you when you are able. Their new addresses and phone numbers are:

Sister Agnes Knapik, OSB
P.O. Box 505
318 Villa Drive
Villa Maria, PA 16155

Sister Mary Martha Kacmarek, OSB
P.O. Box 515
318 Villa Drive
Villa Maria, PA 16155

Direct Line: 1-724-964-1397
Cell: 330-240-2532

Direct Line: 1-724-964-8368
Cell: 330-240-2533

Sister Marion and I will remain at the Monastery at Infant of Prague Manor, continuing in our ministries at the present time.

You are remembered in our prayers daily. Please remember us in your prayers also, especially during this transition. God’s blessings and stay well!

Sister Barbara Paulik, OSB
Administrator

Sunday	20 Sept.	<i>SUNDAY AFTER THE EXALTATION OF THE CROSS. The Holy Martyr Eustace and His Companions.</i>
(Sun. Vigil)	5:00 PM 9:00 AM 11:00 AM	+Judy Dinko – Wiley Byers Family +Dorothy M. Gladd – husband, George E. Gladd +Marialice Verney – John & Kathy Shinosky
Monday	21 Sept.	<i>Leave-taking (Otdanije) of the Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross. The Holy Apostle Codratus of Magnesia.</i>
		No Divine Liturgy
Tuesday	22 Sept.	<i>The Holy Martyr Phocas, Bishop of Sinope. The Holy Prophet Jonah. Our Venerable Father Jonah the Priest, Father of Theophane the Hymnographer and Theodore the Artist. Today we also commemorate the Holy Apostle Codratus.</i>
(SPP)	8:30 AM	+Elizabeth Prokop – Dom & Marlene Battaglia
Wednesday	23 Sept.	<i>The Conception of the Holy Prophet, Forerunner and Baptist John.</i>
(SPP)	8:30 AM	+Harry Reynolds – Mike & Rosanne Dando
Thursday	24 Sept.	<i>The Holy Martyr, First Among Women, and Equal to the Apostles, Thecia .</i>
(SPP)	8:30 AM	+Bill Shuttic – Dolores & Ronald Barrick
Friday	25 Sept.	<i>Our Venerable Mother Euphrosyna.</i>
		No Divine Liturgy
Saturday	26 Sept.	<i>The Falling Asleep of the Holy Apostle and Evangelist John the Theologian. Our Holy Father Paul VI, Pope of Rome.</i>
(Vigil Liturgy)	5:00 PM	Int. of George & Donna Bodajlo – 50th Wedding Anniv.
Sunday	27 Sept.	<i>SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST. The Holy Martyr Callistratus and His Companions. Our Venerable Father Nilus, Founder and Hegumen of the Grottaferrata Monastery.</i>
	9:00 AM 11:00 AM	+Elizabeth Petrigalla – Betty Blake +Fio Nuzzi – Janice & Mike



Attentive to the Word

SUNDAY AFTER THE EXALTATION OF THE CROSS

Mark 8: 34 – 9:1

**Tone 7 – Troparion – Pg. 156 and then
follow directions on Pgs. 258 - 260**

EZ-PASS LANE TO HEAVEN?



On a rainy, dreary day a group of priests was returning home from a meeting. It had been a long day, and the heavy traffic in the Metropolitan New York area that they were encountering was a sure sign that, to paraphrase the words of Robert Frost, they still had "...miles to go before they slept!" A toll booth loomed ahead, with lengthy lines of cars maneuvering to find the gate with the shortest line. Fortunately, the clergymen were riding in a vehicle equipped with "EZ-PASS", thus shortening their delay at the toll booth.

At that point, one of the priests wondered aloud: "Do you think there is an EZ-PASS lane to Heaven?" The question, of course, was asked facetiously. In retrospect, however, it was really a profound comment indeed. Is there an EZ-PASS lane to Heaven? We would all like that, wouldn't we?

We live in a society that is constantly seeking shortcuts and searching for the "easy way" of doing things. From "fast food" to computerized banking and online shopping, our lives have become a study in convenience. Get it done...get it done quickly...get it done painlessly... this has become the acceptable philosophy of life in the 21st century.

Sadly, many of us have carried that same philosophy over into our spiritual lives. We have become masters at bending and reshaping the rules, disciplines and yes, even the teachings of our Church to suit ourselves, rationalizing that all of these things were established at a different time and under different circumstances. Surely, we say, they don't apply to us today!

In essence, we certainly do try our best to create our own EZ-PASS lane to Heaven! But the words of our Lord – found in the Gospel of St. Mark – show us the folly of such thinking: **WHOEVER WANTS TO COME AFTER ME, LET HIM DENY HIMSELF, LET HIM TAKE UP HIS CROSS AND LET HIM FOLLOW ME.**

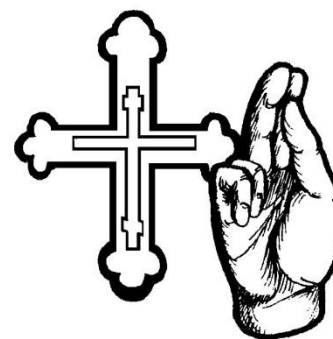
Those are harsh words – words that go against everything the world holds near and dear. Who wants to be denied of anything? Who wants to sacrifice? Who wants to even symbolically take up a cross? Yet in our quest to gain so much in life, we may ultimately lose that which we can least afford to lose: our soul!

It IS hard to take up our cross. It IS hard to avoid sin. It IS hard to love our enemies. It IS hard to be charitable. It IS hard to adhere to a sacrificial lifestyle of self-denial. It IS hard...*but not impossible*. A "cloud of witnesses" (the saints) has gone before us and has done just that, and what one man has done, another can do as well.

So what is the answer to the question: "Is there an EZ-PASS lane to Heaven?" It is a resounding and emphatic "NO!" It will take effort and commitment on our part. But take courage from the words of St. Paul to the Galatians: "Let us not grow weary in doing good, for in due time, we will reap our reward."

Protopresbyter Michael Rosco

THE SIGN OF THE CROSS



In the beginning, the cross was represented without the figure of the crucified Christ on it, because of the shame that was associated with the cross. Later when the persecution of Christians ceased, crosses appeared in many public places. The cross is the most widely used Christian symbol.

The sign of the cross was originally made by tracing the thumb or index finger over one's forehead (2nd century). Later, signing of the breast as well as the forehead began to take place. In the East, the practice of making the sign of the cross with two or three fingers was begun in the sixth century, to combat those who denied that Christ was both man and God – the number two signifying the two natures of Christ, or three, meaning the Trinity. This custom passed over to the West in the 9th century. Pope Leo gives this directive to his clergy: "Sign the Chalice and the Host with the proper cross ... with two fingers outstretched and the thumb hidden within them, by which the Trinity is symbolized..." In the 13th century, Pope Innocent III directed most explicitly that the sign of the cross be made with three fingers from the forehead to the breast and from the right to the left shoulder, the way that it is made by the majority of Eastern Christians. The West kept this custom until the 14th century. **Which is correct?** Both are – according to the tradition to which you belong. The Eastern is simply more ancient! This explanation is given that we all may realize that people may legitimately do things differently, and yet not be wrong.