

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 scription 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: Lisa Mosko is 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.

TO ALL OUR PARISHIONERS AND FRIENDS

CHRIST IS BORN! Wishing all of you the peace and love that came to us in the birth of Jesus Christ. We hear many greetings and good wishes that rekindle our hope, our love and joy at this time. May we experience these good things, not only during this Holy Season, but throughout the year to come. Peace to all!

KOLACHI SALE

We will continue selling kolachi after the Liturgies until they are all sold. We only have Nut left. They are \$12 each and freeze well for the holidays. Proceeds will benefit our 100th Anniversary Celebration.

If you have any questions, please call Pat James at 330-507-6273.

CHRISTMAS ALMSGIVING

In addition to the white envelopes at the church entrances for monetary donations to **AKRON CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL IN HOWLAND**, a table will be set up in the Social Hall for material contributions. A list of needed items will be posted in the Social Hall, which includes a variety of gift cards. If donating gift cards, please place them in the white envelopes and drop them in the collection baskets. Please do not put names on the envelopes.

Any checks should be made payable to: Saints Peter and Paul Church.

The deadline to donate is January 1, 2022.

Thank you for your generosity!

CONTRIBUTION ENVELOPES AND CALENDARS

The 2022 Church Calendars and Contribution Envelopes are ready for pick-up in the Social Hall. *If there is any name or address correction, if you are unable to locate your envelopes, or if you wish a set of envelopes, please call the office, or drop a note in the collection basket. **This year all envelope numbers were reassigned due to the number of deaths and relocation of former parishioners. Please discard your old envelopes at the end of 2021.** If you want proper credit for your contributions, you must use the envelopes you were assigned for the year 2022.*

*Our Parish family would like to thank the **Peter Rossi & Son Memorial Chapel** for their generosity in providing our calendars this year. God bless them for their kindness and generosity!*

FREE BOOKS AND TAPES

Please call Sister Barbara at 330-240-2534 for an appointment.

Divine Liturgy Attendance weekend of December 11:

5:00 PM: **32**; 9:00 AM: **35**; 11:00 AM: **64**

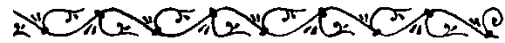
Our return to the Lord for all He has given us: \$2,951.55



- **Sun., Dec. 19** ECF Classes today 10 AM TO 10:45 AM.
- **Sun., Dec. 19** Church Decorating at Noon. Please come and join us in preparing your church for Christmas.
- **Mon., Dec. 20** Church Cleaning Party 9 AM – Noon. Come lend a helping hand.
- **Thurs. Dec. 24** A day of strict fast and abstinence – No meat or dairy products.
- **Fast Free Time** Christmas Day through January 4, 2022.



In order to fulfill your Sunday obligation to attend the Liturgy, the Liturgies for Sunday, Dec. 26, will be at 9 AM & 11 AM. THERE WILL BE NO VIGIL LITURGY ON SATURDAY EVENING SINCE IT IS CHRISTMAS DAY.



100TH ANNIVERSARY HOMEMADE COOKIE SALE

Come and buy your cookies this weekend, Saturday & Sunday, December 18 & 19, after all Liturgies!

Proceeds will benefit our 100th Anniversary Celebration. If you have any questions, please call Marge Basista at 330-544-0107.

MYSTERY OF DIVINE FORGIVENESS AND RECONCILIATION

We cannot appreciate the gift of “God with us” unless we are receptive. Let us make every effort to prepare ourselves for the coming of Christ by coming before Him and asking forgiveness of our sins . . .

Tuesday: December 21: 6:00 PM to 7:00 PM

SCHEDULE OF DIVINE SERVICES FOR THE FEAST OF THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD

December 24 – 6:00 PM, *Compline with Divine Liturgy*

December 25 – 10:00 AM, *Divine Liturgy*

DECEMBER 19, 2021
SCHEDULE OF DIVINE SERVICES

Sunday	19 Dec.	<i>SUNDAY BEFORE CHRISTMAS, OF THE ANCESTORS. The Holy Martyr Boniface.</i>
(Sun. Vigil)	5:00 PM	+Eugenia Vesa – Anna Calderas
	9:00 AM	+Carol King – Mr. & Mrs. Robert Cabosky
	11:00 AM	+Frank & +Vicky Secola – Jim & Mary Elko
Monday	20 Dec.	<i>Pre-festive Day of Christmas. The Holy Martyr Ignatius the God-bearer.</i>
		No Divine Liturgy
Tuesday	21 Dec.	<i>Pre-festive Day of Christmas. The Holy Martyr Juliana of Nicomedia.</i>
(SPP)	8:30 AM	+Sr. Mary John Semon – Benedictine Sisters
Wednesday	22 Dec.	<i>Pre-festive Day of Christmas. Holy Great Martyr Anastasia.</i>
		No Divine Liturgy
Thursday	23 Dec.	<i>Pre-festive Day of Christmas. The Holy Ten Martyrs of Crete. Commemoration of the Dedication of the Great Church of Holy Wisdom in Constantinople.</i>
(SPP)	8:30 AM	+Mary Vasil (40 th day)
Friday	24 Dec.	<i>Vigil of Christmas. The Holy Great Martyr Eugenia.</i>
(Vigil Liturgy)	6:00 PM	Intention of Parish Family – Compline & Divine Liturgy
Saturday	25 Dec.	<i>CHRISTMAS, THE BIRTH OF OUR LORD, GOD AND SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST. (Page 289)</i>
	10:00 AM	Intention of Parish Family
		No Vigil Liturgy
Sunday	26 Dec.	<i>SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS, MEMORY OF THE HOLY & RIGHTEOUS JOSEPH THE BETROTHED; OF DAVID, THE KING; AND OF THE HOLY APOSTLE JAMES, THE BROTHER OF GOD. SYNAXIS OF THE MOTHER OF GOD. The Holy Martyr Euthymius, Bishop of Sardis.</i>
	9:00 AM	+Sr. Agnes Knapik – Robert & Marianne Cabosky
	11:00 AM	+William F. Isabella, Jr. – Shirley Wade & family



Attentive to the Word
SUNDAY BEFORE CHRISTMAS -
OF THE HOLY FATHERS

Matthew 1: 1 - 25

Tone 5 - Pg. 146 and follow directions
on Pgs. 285 - 287 for Dec. 19th.



GENEALOGY OF CHRIST

Every year before Christmas we read the genealogy of Christ from St. Matthew's Gospel, and we ask ourselves, Why? Why do we have to read all these names that mean so little to us, if anything at all? For one thing, they are the people to whose family the Lord Jesus Christ belongs through His humanity. They are relatives of His, and this should be enough for us to find their names deeply moving: Christ is of their blood, Christ is of their family. Among them are names of Saints and names of sinners.

The Saints among them could well teach us what it means to believe; not simply to have an intellectual faith, but a faith which means a complete trust in God, an unlimited faithfulness to Him. In this context, think of Abraham whose faith was tested to the utmost. How difficult we find it to give to God something of ours: but Abraham was asked to bring as a blood-offering his own son – and he did not doubt God.

We can remember the struggle of Jacob with the Angel in the darkness, as we at times struggle for our faith, for our integrity, for our faithfulness, in the darkness of the night, or the darkness of doubt, in the darkness that seizes us at times on all sides.

But, we can also learn something from those who in history, in the Bible, appear to us as sinners. They were frail and this frailty conquered them; they had no strength to resist the impulses of their bodies and of their souls, of the complex passions of men. And yet – they believed in God passionately. One of them was David, and one of his Psalms expresses it so well: "From the deep I cry unto Thee..." From the depths of despair, of shame, from the depths of his fall, from the depths of his alienation from God, from the darkest depths of his soul he still cried to God. He does not hide from Him, he does not go away from Him, but it is to Him he comes with this desperate cry of a desperate man.

Do we, when we are at the darkest point of life, when we are wrapped in all the darkness that is within us do we, from within this darkness, come to God and say: It is to You, O Lord, I cry! Yes - I am in darkness, but You are my God. You are the God Who created the light and the darkness, and You are within the darkness as You are within the

blinding light; You are in death as You are in life; You are in hell, as You are on the Throne; and from wherever I am I can cry to You.

To us these people are names; of some of them we know a little; about others we know nothing. But they all were concrete human beings, men and women like us, with all our frailty and all our hope, all the wavering of the will and all the hesitations. They are concrete and real, and they are Jesus' ancestors. And we ourselves can try and learn, in the concreteness of our lives, whether we are frail or strong at a given moment, still to be God's own. This will be possible for us, only to the extent to which Christ becomes more and more real to us and when it is in Him, and through Him that we discover them all.

Metropolitan Anthony Bloom

THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD

The Icon of the Nativity of Christ tells us the whole story of Christmas. In the Center of the Icon, Jesus is wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger. This manger which holds Jesus is in a dark cave. The dark cave represents the world before Jesus came. Jesus is the New Light Who came to lead us out of darkness into the New Life.



Next to Jesus is the Mother of God, and at the bottom right side of the Icon is St. Joseph, the foster father of Jesus. The man standing next to Joseph is the Devil, tempting Joseph to doubt that Jesus is God, the Messiah - the PROMISED ONE. The Angels are shown telling the shepherds the good news that Jesus Christ is born!

THE CHRISTMAS GREETING

It is certainly commendable to wish someone a "Merry Christmas." But how powerful a message is given by the traditional Byzantine Christmas greeting:

"Christ is Born!" and the response: **"Glorify Him!"**

CHRISTOS RAZDAJETSJA!

SLAVITE JEHO!