

## 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:** 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.

## PARISH GUILD NUTROLL BAKING

We will be baking nut and cranberry-nut only. Baking days are on Thursday and Friday, March 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>. *The rolls are \$12.00 each. There are no pre-orders.* They will be sold first come, first serve. We will sell them in the Social Hall after each Liturgy on March 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>. They freeze well, so you can get an early start for your holiday baking. If you have any questions, please call Elaine Vislosky at 330-770-1100.

## YEAR-END CONTRIBUTION STATEMENTS FOR 2020

**... are ready for pick-up in the Social Hall. They are in alphabetical order to make it easier for you to find. Please, do not pick up anyone else's statement unless they have specifically asked you to do so.**

## CONTRIBUTION ENVELOPES

*If you haven't picked up your contribution envelopes for 2021, they are in the Parish Office. You will need to call the office at 330-372-1875. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.*

## JUST A REMINDER

With Covid-19 still on the scene, please do not congregate or visit in the Social Hall before and after the Divine Liturgies. Thank you for your cooperation!

## FREE ADULT EDUCATION

Live webinars, free of charge. An excellent opportunity for adult education in our Byzantine Church. Register at [EasternCatholic.org/Events](http://EasternCatholic.org/Events).

**Mondays, February 22, March 1, & March 8 @ 8 – 9 PM.**

The presentation will be "Dying to Sin – *The First Steps In Askesis.*" The presenter is Rev. Deacon Thomas Moses. Are we all called to askesis, or asceticism, or is it only the calling of a select few? Join us this Great Lent as we learn from the great ascetics of the Church, discovering how to apply the practice of askesis in our own lives.



**Divine Liturgy Attendance weekend of February 13:**

5:00 PM: 37; 9:00 AM: 30; 11:00 AM: 46

**Our return to the Lord for all He has given us: ..... \$3,879.00**



- **Sun. Feb. 21** 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.
- **Mon. Feb. 22** Church Cleaning Party 9 AM – Noon. We can use your help.
- **Sat. Feb. 27** **Second All Souls Saturday – Divine Liturgy 9:00 AM Pg. 428**
- **Wed. March 3** St. Vincent de Paul Meals Program 9:00 AM – 2:00 PM.
- **Thurs. & Fri., March 4 & 5** Parish Guild Nutroll Baking.

**REGULATIONS FOR THE SEASON OF THE GREAT FAST – 2021**

The fasts of the liturgical year are to be kept in accordance with the Norms of Particular Law of the Byzantine Metropolitan Church *sui iuris* of Pittsburgh.

**Simple Abstinence**

- The law of simple abstinence forbids the use of meat, but permits the use of eggs and dairy products.
- All faithful of the Archeparchy who receive the Eucharist are obliged to observe simple abstinence when prescribed. Abstinence is obligatory on all Wednesdays and Fridays of the Great Fast.

**Strict Abstinence**

- The law of strict abstinence (fast) forbids the use and consumption of all meat, eggs and dairy products.
- All faithful of the Archeparchy who receive the Eucharist are obliged to observe strict abstinence when prescribed.
- Strict abstinence (fast) **is to be observed in 2021 on Pure Monday, February 15** (the first day of the Great Fast), **and on Great and Holy Friday, April 2.**

**Dispensations**

- Priests and parents are to ensure that minors are educated in the authentic sense of penance.
- Pastors and administrators, with just cause and taking into account acceptable reasons due to personal circumstances, may grant to the individual faithful as well as to individual families, dispensations, transfers, or commutations of abstinence and strict fast into other pious practices. Superiors of religious houses or clerical institutions enjoy these same faculties relative to their constituents.

**Liturgical Services**

- The Divine Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts takes precedence over all other Lenten Devotions.
- The Divine Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts only is to be celebrated on Wednesdays and/or Friday evenings of the Great Fast and also on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday of Holy Week.

FEBRUARY 21, 2021  
SCHEDULE OF DIVINE SERVICES

Sunday	21 Feb.	<i>FIRST SUNDAY OF THE GREAT FAST. SUNDAY OF ORTHODOXY. MEMORY OF THE HOLY PROPHETS. Our Venerable Father Timothy of Symbola. Our Holy Father Eustathius, Archbishop of Great Antioch.</i>
(Sun. Vigil)	<b>5:00 PM</b> <b>9:00 AM</b> <b>11:00 AM</b>	<b>+George Bernard – Betty, John, &amp; Jen</b> <b>Health/Blessings on Cheryl Simon – Mom &amp; Paul</b> <b>+Nancy Sernulka (40<sup>th</sup> day) – Steve &amp; Mary T. Sernulka</b>
Monday	22 Feb.	<i>Finding of the Venerable Relics of the Martyrs at Eugenia.</i> <b>No Divine Services</b>
Tuesday	23 Feb.	<i>The Holy Martyr Polycarp, Bishop of Smyrna.</i> <b>No Divine Services</b>
Wednesday	24 Feb.	<i>The First and Second Finding of the Head of the Prophet, Forerunner and Baptist John.</i> <b>6:00 PM Pre-sanctified Liturgy</b>
Thursday	25 Feb.	<i>Our Holy Father Tarasius, Archbishop of Constantinople.</i> <b>No Divine Services</b>
Friday	26 Feb.	<i>Our Holy Father Porphyrius, Bishop of Gaza. The Holy Great Martyr, Photina the Samaritan.</i> <b>6:00 PM Pre-sanctified Liturgy</b>
Saturday	27 Feb.	<i>Second All Souls Saturday. Our Venerable Father and Confessor Procopius the Decapolite.</i> <b>9:00 AM Second All Souls Divine Liturgy with reading of Diptychs.</b> <b>5:00 PM +John J. Koza, III – Dianna Koza</b>
(Vigil Liturgy)		
Sunday	28 Feb.	<i>SECOND SUNDAY OF THE GREAT FAST. Our Venerable Father and Confessor Basil, Fellow Ascetic of Procopius.</i> <b>9:00 AM +Ken Ferrance (40<sup>th</sup> day) – Marjorie Reynolds</b> <b>11:00 AM +Judy Dinko – Loretta Greskovich, mother</b>



## Attentive to the Word

### FIRST SUNDAY OF THE GREAT FAST

*John 1: 43 – 51*

**Tone 5 Pg. 146 and Pgs. 220 – 221**

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. 221 - Magnification

In today’s Gospel, Philip and Nathaniel are called to be Apostles. Both made a decision for Christ. Pontius Pilate, the Roman governor, also made a decision at the trial of Jesus Christ. Fearing the anger of the people, he decided against Jesus. He ordered Him to be crucified. We make decisions every day of our life. But there is no more important decision than the one to live our commitment to Christ. The decision for Christ was made for us for the first time by our godparents at baptism. Now it must be our personal decision.

We live in difficult times. Our worldly society downgrades religion and moral values. It promotes pornography, abortion, divorce, and sexual permissiveness, among other evils. Does this mean we are to lower our standards and conform to the easy norms of the world? By no means! We must be witnesses for Christ! It is not easy to live a good Christian life today. It was even more difficult in the early history of the Church. To be a Christian in those days meant to embrace a life of ridicule and even death. The world was pagan. Slavery, immorality and every vice and perversion under the sun were prevalent. In St. Paul’s first letter to the Corinthians, he writes: “We have become a spectacle to the universe. We are fools on Christ’s account. Ah, but in Christ you are wise! We go hungry and thirsty, poorly clad, roughly treated, wander about homeless.... Persecution comes our way; we bear it patiently ... We have become the world’s refuse, the scum of all; that is the present state of affairs.”

Paul did not advise his converts to go to the way of the world. He urged them to be the leaven that should change the world. This they did. Now is the hour of our decision. Mark your decision for Christ.

### ICONS AND THE ICON SCREEN

In the Eastern Church the icons bear witness to the reality of God's presence with us in the mystery of faith. The icons are not just human pictures or visual aids to contemplation and prayer. They are the witnesses of the presence of the Kingdom of God to us, and so of our own presence to the Kingdom of God in the Church.

The iconostasis or icon screen in the Eastern Church exists to show our unity with Christ, his mother and all the angels and saints. It exists to show our unity with God. The altar table, which stands for the Banquet Table of the Kingdom of God, is placed behind the royal doors, between the icons of the Theotokos and Child and the glorified Christ, showing that everything which happens to us in the Church happens in history between those "two comings" of Christ: between his coming as the Savior born of Mary and his coming at the end of the age as the King and the Judge.

The icons on the royal doors witness to the presence of Christ's good news, the gospel of salvation. The four evangelists who recorded the gospels appear, and also an icon of the Annunciation, the first proclamation of the gospel in the world. Over the doors we have the icon of Christ's Mystical Supper with his disciples – the icon of the central mystery of the Christian faith and the unity of the Church in the world. It is the visual witness that we too are partakers in the "marriage supper of the lamb" (Revelation 19:9), that we too are blessed by Christ "to eat and drink at my table in my kingdom" (Luke 22:30), blessed to "eat bread in the Kingdom of God." (Luke 14:15)

Over and around the central gates are icons of the saints. The deacon's doors (for the servants of the altar) usually have icons depicting deacons or angels. The first row also has an icon of the person or event in whose honor the given building is dedicated, along with other prominent saints or events. Depending on the size of the iconostasis, there may be rows of icons of the apostles, the major feasts of the Church, (*ours are on the wall on either side of the icon screen*), the prophets and other holy people blessed by God – all crowned on the top by the cross of Christ.



### FASTING

St. John Chrysostom compared prayer and fasting to the two wings of a bird. They are both needed if that bird is to fly. It simply cannot fly on one wing. And so the Christian in his flight through this earthly life cannot go on either prayer or fasting alone. He must make use of both of these means for the purification of his soul.

We call ourselves Christian and so we should imitate Christ. He gave us good example of both prayer and fasting. He fasted for forty days and forty nights in the desert before beginning His public life, and we saw the intensity of His prayer in the Garden of Gethsemane.

Great Lent is the time to intensify our own prayer and fasting. Attend the special services during Lent and keep the fast. Pray and fast for ourselves, our families, for our country, for peace in our hearts, etc.