

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.

SISTER BARBARA RETIRES ???

Not Really! Just from the secretarial position at the Parish Office! I started working in the Parish Office February 2006, when I was 15 years younger. It was challenging at times, but it was also a blessing and rewarding in so many ways. I learned a lot from my mentors: Father Bob Karl, Father Andrew and Father Simeon. I hope I have helped you as much as you have helped me. Your cooperation, kindness, trust and friendship have meant a lot to me and made my life as your Parish Secretary so much easier. I am now 15 years older and slower....and other home responsibilities are calling for my attention.

Although I am “retiring” from the Parish Office on January 29th, I will not be leaving the Parish Life at Saints Peter and Paul for some time yet. I am “passing the torch” to my very capable friend and co-worker, Lisa Mosko, and ask that you give her the same trust and cooperation that you have given to me. I will miss working with all of you, but I will miss my days with Gomez most of all. (In the last 5 years, I have learned to speak “dog language”....I talk to him and he “talks back” to me (sometimes we even argue), but Gomez always has the “last word.” He has me very well trained.)

Thanks to Father Simeon and God bless all of you! You are in my daily prayers!

Sister Barbara Paulik, OSB

CONTRIBUTION ENVELOPES

If you need your contribution envelopes, please call the Parish office at 330-372-1875 to pick them up.

CONTRIBUTION STATEMENTS

Contribution statements will be ready for pick-up in the Social Hall on the weekend of January 30th.

FREE ADULT EDUCATION – JANUARY

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

Wednesday evening 8:00 – 9:00 PM, January 27.

**“PARTAKERS OF THE DIVINE NATURE” – a Patristic Study of Deification –
by Rev. Nathan Adams.**

God has called his people to become partakers of His Divine Nature (2 Peter 1:4). Join us for this three-part series as we explore this process of participating in the Sacramental and moral life of Christ by which each individual and the whole Church are transformed into the mystical body of Christ.

Divine Liturgy Attendance weekend of January 16:

5:00 PM: 48; 9:00 AM: 27; 11:00 AM: 33

Our return to the Lord for all He has given us: \$1,900.00



- **Sun. Jan. 24** 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.
- **Tues. Jan. 26** Church Cleaning Party – 9:00 – Noon. We could use your help!
- **Wed. Feb. 3** St. Vincent de Paul Meals Program 9 AM – 2 PM.

THE WEEK FOLLOWING THE SUNDAY OF THE PUBLICAN AND THE PHARISEE IS A FAST FREE WEEK – JAN. 25 – 30.

NEWLY SANCTIFIED JORDAN WATER

On the Feast of Theophany we celebrated the Great Sanctification of Water. The dispenser containing the newly sanctified water is located by the Belvedere Ave. entrance. You are encouraged to take some water home for your sanctification. Small holy water bottles are available.

ALL SOULS REMEMBRANCE 2021

During our Liturgical Year our Byzantine Church remembers its faithful departed in a special way on 5 All Souls Saturdays. The first All Souls Saturday is **February 6th**. The others are on February 27th, March 6th, March 13th, and May 22nd. There is an envelope in your offertory box for these All Souls Remembrances. **If you wish to have your loved ones remembered by name on these special days, please submit the names, printed, with an offering in the envelope by January 31st** so that the names can be organized. *If you have submitted the names of your deceased family members previously, you do not need to resubmit them...just submit any additional names. If there are no additions, and you want your loved ones to be remembered by name, just write “NO CHANGES” on your envelope, put your offering in the envelope, and drop the envelope in the collection basket. Please help us by putting your name on the envelope.* Thank you for your prompt attention.

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!

JANUARY 24, 2021
SCHEDULE OF DIVINE SERVICES

Sunday	24 Jan.	<i>SUNDAY OF THE PUBLICAN AND THE PHARISEE.</i> <i>Our Venerable Mother Xenia of Rome.</i>
(Vigil Liturgy)	5:00 PM 9:00 AM 11:00 AM	+Nicholas Terbovich, Sr. (40th day) Intention of Rosary Society Members +Brian Koehn – Mom & Mike
Monday	25 Jan.	<i>Our Holy Father Gregory the Theologian, Archbishop of Constantinople.</i> No Divine Liturgy
Tuesday	26 Jan.	<i>Our Venerable Father Xenophon and His Wife Mary.</i> <i>Our Holy Father Joseph, Archbishop of Thessalonica.</i> No Divine Liturgy
Wednesday	27 Jan.	<i>Translation of the Relics of our Holy Father John Chrysostom.</i>
(SPP)	8:30 AM	+John & +Josephine Wargo – daughter, Elizabeth/family
Thursday	28 Jan.	<i>Our Venerable Father Ephrem the Syrian, Bishop of Nineveh.</i> <i>Our Venerable Father Isaac the Syrian, Bishop of Nineveh.</i> <i>The Passing of our Venerable Mother Olympia Bida (1952).</i>
(SPP)	8:30 AM	Health & Welfare of Mosko family – Ron Mosko
Friday	29 Jan.	<i>Translation of the Relics of the Holy Bishop and Martyr Ignatius of Antioch.</i> No Divine Liturgy
Saturday	30 Jan.	FEAST OF THE THREE HOLY BISHOPS: BASIL THE GREAT, GREGORY THE THEOLOGIAN AND JOHN CHRYSOSTOM. <i>The Holy Bishop-Martyr Hippolytus.</i>
(Vigil Liturgy)	5:00 PM	+Steve Zombar (40th day) – Raiti/Papsun/Friedl families
Sunday	31 Jan.	<i>SUNDAY OF THE PRODIGAL SON. The Holy Wonderworkers and Unmercenary Healers Cyrus and John.</i>
	9:00 AM 11:00 AM	+Andre Leon – Johnson & Leon families +Joan Bernard – Janice & Mike Clark



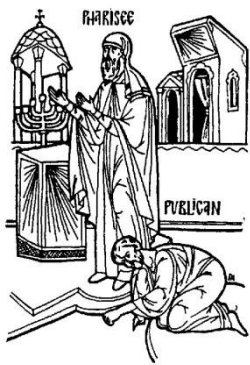
Attentive to the Word

SUNDAY OF THE PUBLICAN AND THE PHARISEE

Luke 18: 10 - 14

Tone 1 Pgs. 125 – 127 and Pg. 215

PREPARING FOR LENT



As we prepare for the coming of Great Lent, we have the Sunday of the Pharisee and Tax Collector. This parable found in the fourteenth chapter of Luke, speaks of the Pharisee and the tax collector who go to the Temple to pray. The Byzantine Church places this gospel each year just before the beginning of Lent to remind us about the virtue of humility.

Humility in this context really raises the question as to whether our own good works, our own noble efforts, justify us before God, or whether we are radically dependent on God's good pleasure for our justification.

A parable is a short story with a message. This parable is a classic. There are only two characters in this story. The contrast between them is sharply drawn. The Pharisee was proud of his virtue and looked down on everyone else. The publican was aware of his sinfulness and begged for mercy.

Jesus draws two conclusions from the parable. The first conclusion is particular: The humble publican went home justified; the proud Pharisee did not. The second conclusion is general: "For all who exalt themselves will be humbled but those who humble themselves will be exalted."

If you take a moment and really think about this parable, you will find yourself asking questions that challenge the very simplicity of the story. Doesn't Jesus seem to be quite hard on the Pharisee? Wasn't he, all in all, a pretty good guy? Is there something wrong with being faithful to prayer and fasting and justice? What was so great about the tax collector?

To grasp the deeper meaning of this parable we have to recall that it was addressed "to those who believe in their own self-righteousness." We have to emphasize the word SELF-RIGHTEOUS. The Pharisees actually did observe a strict fast every Monday and Thursday. They did give a tenth of their income to the service of the Temple. The problem was not with these good works but with their belief that because they were perfect in keeping the law, they were therefore justified in the sight of God. The Pharisee's prayer was a smug expression of gratitude that he was on the way to holiness and eternal life.

But, Jesus said, that's not the way it is. The incisive moral point of this parable is the contrast between two views of justification before God. The Pharisee believes he is justified because he has perfectly performed the works of the law. The publican realizes that he has no self-justification and has no choice but to throw himself on the mercy of God. In so doing, he finds justification.

The Christian doctrine of justification would be more fully developed by St. Paul, particularly in his Letter to the Romans (see Chapters 3, 4, and 5), but St. Paul's doctrine is rooted in the teaching of Jesus in this parable. The heart of the doctrine is that we cannot justify ourselves; we can only be justified by faith in Jesus Christ. Though the Pharisees as a specific religious sect have disappeared from the scene, many of us Christians are still far too Pharisaical. We sorely need to learn the lesson of this parable.

It is for this reason that our church places this Gospel so close to Lent, the time of preparation and repentance. It is for this reason that our Church is always chanting "Lord have mercy."



FEAST OF THE THREE HOLY HIERARCHS

On January 30th we will celebrate the Feast of the three Holy Bishops, St. Gregory Nazianzus, St. Basil the Great and St. John Chrysostom. In addition to this feast, in common, each of these great Fathers of the Eastern Churches has a special day commemorating his memory. St. Basil the Great (January 1), St. Gregory of Nazianzus (January 25), and St. John Chrysostom (November 1).

In the early part of the twelfth century a controversy arose among the admirers of these famous bishops; each group proclaiming that their saint was the greatest. This divided the people of Constantinople and caused great confusion. The saintly Bishop John of Euchaita was appointed as arbitrator. With fervent prayer, he asked God to help him resolve the problem. One night he had a vision in which the three saints appeared to him and told him they were equal before God, and that each had his own individual genius a value. They asked him to institute a common feast commemorating all three. Bishop John chose January 30th and composed a beautiful office for this feast.

The merits of these three great bishops are expressed in the Vesper services of the feast. "Come, feast lovers! Let us come together and extol in song those sons, bishops of Christ, the pride of the Fathers, towers of faith, and teacher and guardians of believers, saying: 'Rejoice, O Basil the Wise, star of the Church and its unshakeable pillar. Rejoice, O heavenly intelligence, Gregory the Theologian, the great High Priest. Rejoice, O John of the golden words, Chrysostom, fervent preacher of repentance. Therefore, O blessed Fathers, do not cease to intercede with Christ always for those who, in faith and love, celebrate your most noble and sacred feast.'"

Eastern Christians today continue to hold these Church Fathers and their teachings in great esteem.

By Msgr. Eugene A. Chromoga