

## 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.

## FEAST OF THE ANNUNCIATION

In his homily on the Annunciation, Nicholas Cabasilas states, "The Incarnation was not only the work of God, but also that of the will and faith of the Virgin. God had chosen her for His Mother and borrowed the flesh she willingly accepted to surrender to Him. As He was incarnate of His own free will, He wanted His mother to give Him birth as freely and willingly."

To express the importance of the Annunciation and Mary's acceptance of God's invitation, Byzantine churches portray the icon the Annunciation on the Royal Doors of the iconostas, the entrance into the Holy of Holies. The four Evangelists are also depicted on the Royal Doors to signify that as the Holy Spirit descended upon Mary to bring about the Incarnation of the Word of God as Man, He also descended upon the Evangelists to bring about the Word of God in the Gospels.

This is one of the most important feasts of our Liturgical Year. It has been celebrated in the East since the year 353 as told by St. Athanasius. The feast of the Annunciation is one of the twelve greatest Feast Days of the Church. Its service is taken even if it should fall on Palm Sunday, Great and Holy Friday, or on the feast of the Resurrection of our Lord (Pascha). It is the beginning of God's plan for our salvation!

## 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).

**Monday, March 22 @ 8 – 9 PM.**

The presentation will be "MORE SPACIOUS THAN THE HEAVENS – *A Liturgical Study of the Annunciation.*" Presenter - Rev. Sebastian Carnazzo. "***Today is the beginning of our salvation and the revelation of the mystery that was planned from all eternity: The Son of God becomes the Son of the Virgin, and Gabriel announces this grace... "***



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

5:00 PM: 50; 9:00 AM: 34; 11:00 AM: 43

Pre-sanctified Liturgy: Wed. 28 Fri. 24

**Our return to the Lord for all He has given us: . . . . . \$3,116.25**



- **Sun., March 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., March 22** Church Cleaning Party 9:00 AM – Noon.
- **Thurs., March 25** Annunciation - Solemn Holy Day. Vigil Liturgy Wed., 3/24.
- **Th. & Fri., March 25 & 26** Paska Baking in Social Hall.
- **Sat. & Sun., March 27 & 28** Paska Sale after Liturgies.
- **Sun., March 28 – Palm Sunday** Pick-up of prepaid Chocolate Byzantine Crosses.

### PARISH GUILD PASKAS

We will be baking Paska Bread on **Thurs. & Fri., March 25<sup>th</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup>**. No orders will be taken. **Regular Paska Bread is \$6 per loaf. Paska Bread with raisins is \$7.00 per loaf.** They will be sold first come, first serve after all the Liturgies on **March 27<sup>th</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup>**. Please call Elaine Vislosky at 330-637-2797 if you have any questions.

### PUSSYWILLOWS NEEDED

Spring is here so keep your eyes open for the budding of the pussy willows. Please cut them when they bud (before they turn yellow), and bring them to the Social Hall. **Do not put them in water.**

### HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE – 2021

*All Services Monday thru Friday are at 7:00 PM*

**Mon. & Tues.** – Pre-sanctified Liturgies followed by Confession

**Wed.** – Pre-sanctified Liturgy with anointing for Health of body, mind and spirit followed by Confession

**Holy Thurs.** – Vespers w/Liturgy of St. Basil, commemorating the Institution of the Holy Eucharist, and the Betrayal of Judas

**Good Friday** – Entombment Vespers – Commemorating the Death and Burial of Jesus

**Holy Sat.** – **8:00 PM** – Resurrection Matins & Divine Liturgy

**Sunday – Feast of the Resurrection**

**9:00 AM** – Divine Liturgy    **11:00 AM** – Divine Liturgy

**\*\*Blessing of Easter Baskets: Sat.: in the Social Hall    Sun.: in the Church\*\***

MARCH 21, 2021

### SCHEDULE OF DIVINE SERVICES

Sunday	21 March	<i>FIFTH SUNDAY OF THE GREAT FAST. MEMORY OF OUR HOLY MOTHER MARY OF EGYPT. Our Venerable Father and Confessor James, Bishop of Catania.</i>
<b>(Sun. Vigil)</b>	<b>5:00 PM</b>	<b>+John Koza, III (40<sup>th</sup> day) – Ron Mosko</b>
	<b>9:00 AM</b>	<b>+Suzie Petricko – Marjorie, Paul &amp; Cheryl</b>
	<b>11:00 AM</b>	<b>Health &amp; Welfare of Srs. Agnes, Martha, Barbara &amp; Marion – SS. Peter &amp; Paul Church Community</b>
Monday	22 March	<i>The Holy Martyr Basilides, Priest of Ancyra.</i> <b>No Divine Services</b>
Tuesday	23 March	<i>The Holy Venerable Martyr Nikon and his students martyred with him. Our Holy Mother Rafka.</i> <b>No Divine Services</b>
Wednesday	24 March	<i>Pre-festive Day of the Annunciation. Our Venerable Father Zachary. Our Holy Father Artemon, Bishop of Seleucia of Pisidia.</i>
<b>(Vigil Liturgy)</b>	<b>6:00 PM</b>	<b>+Eugenia Vesa – Kathleen Dennison</b>
Thursday	25 March	<i>ANNUNCIATION OF THE THEOTOKOS AND EVER VIRGIN MARY. (Pg. 329 - See Wed. above)</i> <b>No Divine Services</b>
Friday	26 March	<i>Leave-taking of Annunciation. Synaxis of Gabriel the Archangel.</i>
	<b>6:00 PM</b>	<b>Pre-sanctified Liturgy</b>
Saturday	27 March	<i>LAZARUS SATURDAY.</i>
<b>(Vigil Liturgy)</b>	<b>5:00 PM</b>	<b>Intention of Sr. M. Martha Kacmarek – Benedictine Srs.</b>
Sunday	28 March	<i>PALM (FLOWERY) SUNDAY.</i>
	<b>9:00 AM</b>	<b>+Esther, +Robert, &amp; +Bob Shaffer – Jim &amp; Anita</b>
	<b>11:00 AM</b>	<b>+Bill &amp; +Helen Sorbes – Jim &amp; Mary Elko</b>



## Attentive to the Word

### FIFTH SUNDAY OF THE GREAT FAST

St. Mary of Egypt

*Mark 10: 32 - 45*

*Tone 1 Pg. 125; follow directions: Pgs. 230 - 232*

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. 231 - Magnification

### FIFTH SUNDAY OF GREAT LENT

In the gospel story, we see that the apostles, James and John, asked a favor of Jesus. They said to Him: "Allow us to sit one at your right hand and the other at your left in your glory." Jesus rebuked them by saying: "You do not know what you are asking." The other apostles became indignant toward James and John. They were angry towards them because, in the ambitious request, they were not included. Jesus teaches that we must not be solely concerned with our personal desires, but to be of service to one another.

Just as Jesus was a servant to mankind, we should also be a servant to one another. Offer yourselves and be generous toward one another. The words of Jesus should be the motto of our lives "For the Son of Man himself did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many." Do we practice and live up to these words? Or do we imitate the actions of James and John who were concerned with their own personal glories.

### MARY OF EGYPT

On the fifth Sunday, the Church encourages and strengthens the faithful with the reminder that they have already passed the greater part of Lent. The end is at hand. Let us persevere until the end. Let us work now, "while it is day." Procrastination is the thief of time. Let us use our time well for the benefit of our soul. Let us occupy ourselves with love and with a humble attention to our own self and our tasks, conscious of God and our difficulties. Let us do this not feverishly but diligently. Fever and excitement harass, but diligence comforts us.

On this Sunday, the Church recalls the example of a great penitent, Mary of Egypt (c. 450 A.D.). An Egyptian by birth, Mary was a frivolous actress and lived in Alexandria,

leading a sinful life. After her conversion she went into the desert near the River Jordan where she spent the remainder of her life doing penance for her past sins. She reached a high degree of perfection and became a model for all penitent sinners. The Church singles her out as an example, showing that we too can become saints in spite of our past sins and human weaknesses. The troparion expressed this very thought.

### THE SATURDAY OF LAZARUS

When we open the texts of the liturgical Office for the week preceding Flowery / Palm Sunday, our Church reflects on our Lord's daily preoccupation and concern for His dear friend Lazarus who He is told is seriously ill and eventually dies. On Monday of the sixth week of the Great Fast, the morning Office (Matins) declares, "Today the illness of Lazarus is made known to Christ Who is lingering beyond the Jordan; however, in His foreknowledge, He declares: This sickness does not lead to death." It takes Jesus then, the rest of the week to travel to Bethany where Lazarus was living with his two sisters, Martha and Mary.

On Tuesday at Vespers, we are told, "Today Lazarus gives up his spirit. Bethany laments and cries for the one whom You, O Savior, shall raise from the dead, to strengthen, by Your friend, the belief in Your divine resurrection...."

On Wednesday, at Matins, we are informed, "On this day the dead Lazarus is buried, and his relatives weep over him....the friend of Christ is placed in the earth...."

On Thursday, again at Matins, we pray, "Death begins to be frightened as it sees You draw near, O Christ; for You are Life, and the ends of the earth will know that Death has lost its power." Throughout this sixth week the liturgical texts keep contrasting Life and Death in the context of Jesus' friendship with Lazarus. It is a very powerful and compelling reflection on the relationship Jesus had with one human being - His friend, Lazarus. Being human, Christ himself was profoundly overcome with grief, knowing that Lazarus was dead. Jesus openly wept at Lazarus' tomb as we would and do when someone dear to us had died. In the person of Lazarus, we can see ourselves, because Christ as God has that same deep, abiding love for all His friends.

Of this holy Lenten season a few weeks remain just as a short time still remains until Jesus calls His friend Lazarus from the tomb. Friendship is not just one-sided; it is reciprocal. Jesus truly calls us friends not in the sense of a playmate or companion, rather in the uniqueness of the relationship we have with Him as our Redeemer and Savior Who laid down His very life for us. The unique challenge of friendship with Jesus echoes in His own words, "You are My friends if you do what I command you....that you love one another." (John 15: 14, 17)