

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.

LADY BUG BOX

You have to play to win! Tickets are being sold in the Social Hall for chances to win the contents of the Lady Bug Box. This box contains Instant Lottery Tickets and/or Gift Cards. **This month's drawing will be held on Sunday, November 28th, after the 11:00 AM Divine Liturgy.**

THERE WILL BE NO LADY BUG IN DECEMBER.

We are going to let our Lady Bug rest in December. No tickets will be sold. We would still appreciate donations of Gift Cards – Lottery Tickets – Cash for prizes for our St. Nicholas' Day Dinner.

PARISH GUILD COOKIE SALE

Coming up on Saturday & Sunday, December 18 & 19, after all Liturgies.

Parishioners are all welcome to bake 3 – 5 dozen of their favorite holiday cookies.

Drop off dates are: Friday, December 17th from Noon – 2 PM and 5 PM – 7 PM;

Saturday, December 18th from 9 AM – 10 AM.

Traying cookies will begin at 10 AM on Saturday.

Proceeds will benefit our 100th Anniversary Celebration.

If you have any questions, please call Marge Basista at 330-544-0107.

IN GRATITUDE

MANY THANKS to all who donated food plus monetary donations of \$250 for the St. Vincent de Paul Thanksgiving Food Drive. Our parishioners gave generously, and it will be greatly appreciated by this worthy organization and its recipients.

CHRISTMAS ALMSGIVING

Our Christmas Almsgiving Project for this year will be Akron Children's Hospital. More information will be coming next week.

PARISH GUILD MEETINGS

There will be no Parish Guild Meetings in December and January.

LITURGY STIPENDS

The Divine Liturgy Stipend has been increased to \$20 by the Archeparchy of Pittsburgh effective July 1, 2021.

Divine Liturgy Attendance weekend of November 13:

5:00 PM: **42**; 9:00 AM: **38**; 11:00 AM: **52**

Our return to the Lord for all He has given us: \$2,600.25



- **Sun., Nov. 21** ECF Classes 10:00 AM to 10:45 AM.
- **Mon., Nov. 22** Church Cleaning Party 9 AM – Noon.
- **Tues., Nov. 23** **Interfaith Thanksgiving Service 7:00 PM at St. Paul Lutheran Church. Come to give thanks to God with our Christian brothers and sisters.**
- **Sat. & Sun., Nov. 27 & 28** 100th Anniv. Power Pt. Presentation after all Liturgies.

INTERFAITH THANKSGIVING SERVICE

The annual Interfaith Thanksgiving Service will be celebrated on **Tuesday, November 23**, at 7:00 PM at St. Paul Lutheran Church. Please join other members of our Parish Family along with members from St. Paul Lutheran Church, Central Christian Church, and Living Lord Lutheran Church as we give thanks to God for all the blessings He has bestowed upon us. A social with refreshments will follow the service.

Come and Give Thanks to God for all the Blessings you have received!

100TH ANNIVERSARY

Please give us a little of your time after Liturgies next **Saturday and Sunday, November 27 and 28**. Tim Byers has a Power Point Presentation for the Parishioners to view regarding our 100th Anniversary Celebration. Also, Mary Beth Byers will share a brief review of the Archeparchial Assembly she and Dianna Koza attended on Saturday, November 6, in Pittsburgh.

We appreciate your support for these updates regarding your church. Thank you!

KOLACHI SALE

We will continue selling kolachi after the Liturgies until they are all sold. We only have Nut and Apricot 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.

ST. NICHOLAS FEAST DAY CELEBRATION

We will be celebrating our annual St. Nicholas' Day Dinner at DiLucia's Banquet Hall on **Sunday, December 12, following the 11 AM Divine Liturgy. Doors will not be opened until noon.** Dinner is \$10 for adult parishioners and \$8 for children under 12. (Church will cover the additional cost.) Payment will be accepted on the day of the dinner. The served dinner will include soup, salad, stuffed chicken breast, mashed potatoes, French-style green beans, dessert, and beverage.

Please sign up in the Social Hall. **No reservations will be taken after December 5.**

Come join us as a Parish Family for dinner, games, and prizes!

NOVEMBER 21, 2021 SCHEDULE OF DIVINE SERVICES

Sunday	21 Nov.	<i>26TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST. FEAST OF THE ENTRANCE OF THE THEOTOKOS AND EVER-VIRGIN MARY INTO THE TEMPLE.</i>
(Sun. Vigil)	5:00 PM 9:00 AM 11:00 AM	+Nancy Sernulka – Peter & Janet Superak +Tom Vislosky – Parents, Harry & Elaine +Andrew Wujick – The Wujick family
Monday	22 Nov.	<i>Post-festive Day of the Entrance. The Holy Apostle Philemon and His Companions. The Holy Martyrs Cecilia, Valerian, Tiburtius and Maximus.</i> No Divine Liturgy
Tuesday	23 Nov.	<i>Post-festive Day of the Entrance. Our Holy Fathers Amphilochius, Bishop of Iconium & Gregory, Bishop of Agrigento.</i> No Divine Liturgy
Wednesday	24 Nov.	<i>Post-festive Day of the Entrance. The Holy Great Martyr Catherine. The Holy Great Martyr Mercury.</i> No Divine Liturgy
Thursday	25 Nov.	<i>THANKSGIVING DAY! Leave-taking of Feast of the Entrance. Our Holy Fathers & Martyrs Clement, Pope of Rome & Peter, Bishop of Alexandria.</i> No Divine Liturgy
Friday	26 Nov.	<i>Our Venerable Father Alypius the Stylite. Commemoration of the Dedication of the Church of the Holy Great Martyr George in Kiev.</i> No Divine Liturgy
Saturday	27 Nov.	<i>The Holy Martyr James the Persian. Our Venerable Father Palladius. The Holy Icon of Mother of God, called "the Sign."</i>
(Vigil Liturgy)	5:00 PM	+Edward Smith – mom, Dianna Koza
Sunday	28 Nov.	<i>27TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST. The Holy Venerable Martyr Stephen the Younger. The Holy Martyr Irenarchus.</i>
	9:00 AM 11:00 AM	Health/God's Blessings for Marjorie Simon – Paul & Cheryl +Michael & +Mary Lickwar – Mary Anne Kilbert



Attentive to the Word
26TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
Luke 12: 16 - 21 and
Luke 10: 38 - 42 & 11: 27 - 28
Tone 1 Pgs. 125 & 268 - 271



ON BEING FOCUSED!

Today we hear much about being "focused" or being "centered." When we read articles in newspapers or magazines or when we view stories about different people on television, we hear much talk about the importance of directing our attention or our lives toward a specific goal. Maybe it came from all of those sports interviews we see broadcast on television. There we see a sweaty, breathless football player standing in the locker room with a towel around his neck and a microphone forced in his face. He then proceeds to tell us how he dropped the ball because he did not focus enough on the quarterback. He then goes on to say how all of his thoughts and actions must be centered on the game, for if not, the game becomes a splintered series of mishap after mishap.

Although this example has to do with America's favorite pastime, football, we see the same scenario repeated time after time in sport after sport. This seems to have become so common and so attractive, that we have come to apply these terms to many aspects of our lives. Today it is a common practice to speak of being centered in any project we may undertake. We tell our children to focus on the homework they have to do and let nothing distract them. It is even common to refer to our entire life as one that must be centered. We are warned of the danger of becoming involved in too many activities and becoming fragmented; we must center our lives so we do not become overwhelmed.

Actually, this may be very good advice. For in a world that not only expects much from us, but also demands much from us, it is a constant danger to lose site of ourselves and our needs. When we become controlled by all of the activities placed on us, we tend to be out of control, out of focus, and allow life to control us. We fail to recognize the larger meaning life has for us, and are lost in the uncentered details of merely reacting to the events presented before us.

This is the issue which Christ addresses in this Sunday's Gospel reading. In this reading from the Gospel of Saint Luke, Christ tells the story of a man who planned to tear down his old barns, build new ones, and eat drink and be merry the rest of his life. Christ then condemns the man, for he asks, "This night your soul will be required of you, then whose will those things be which you have provided?" Christ does not call the man a fool or condemn his acts because he did well in life, rather, he questions the reason the man

acquired all his wealth. Christ realized, and pointed out to His disciples, that this man was centered only on himself and his own pleasure. Christ does not begrudge the man what his hard work and good fortune had brought him; Christ presents the story to show that this man was focused only upon himself.

The focus of the Gospel of Jesus Christ is "God-centered." Throughout the Gospel, and throughout the entire Bible for that matter, we find our attention being directed away from selfish needs and centered on God. The entire story of Israel is one where the attractions of the world and of the life of others became more important than their life with God. They lost focus of their meaning as a nation, a people, who had a very special covenant with God. The Pharisees, who were the religious leaders of the people of Israel, had focused their attention on the law rather than on God. Keeping the law became the center of their attention, not what God wanted or what their brothers and sisters needed. Christ continues this admonition through teaching and example, telling and showing His disciples and the people, what it means to be God-Centered.

So it is in this Gospel passage, Christ condemns the man not for what he achieved, but for being centered only on himself. In the same chapter Christ goes on to tell His disciples that they should not be anxious about what they should eat or what they should drink; yes, these things are important, but they should not over-shadow their need for God. This Gospel tells us there is nothing wrong with keeping ourselves centered, of providing for ourselves and our families, but it also warns that above all, our focus should be "God-centered." It is at these times that we discover ourselves as well.

+Bishop Nicholas of Johnstown

ENTRANCE OF THE THEOTOKOS

The feast of the Entrance of the Mother of God into the Temple praises and glorifies God for His plan of salvation. God prepares for Himself a holy dwelling place, Mary. The Byzantine Church never tires of praising the Mother of God for her role in our salvation. In the Virgin Mary, God's plan of salvation was achieved. In the Icon of the Entrance of the Mother of God, Mary is shown as a young girl being escorted to the Temple by her parents, Joachim and Anna. She is also accompanied by the holy virgins carrying candles. The Church honors the Virgin Mary as the God-bearer, (in Greek: Theotokos) the one who, in God's plan of salvation, would give birth to God the Word, Jesus.

TROPARION - Today is the prelude of the benevolence of God and the herald of the salvation of man, for the Virgin plainly appears in the temple of God and foretells Christ to all. Let us also with full voice cry out to her: "Hail, Fulfillment of the Creator's Plan."