

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.

CHRISTMAS ALMSGIVING

You will find white envelopes at each of the church entrances. These are for your donations to **AKRON CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL IN HOWLAND**. Please drop them in the collection baskets with no names on the envelope.

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

The deadline to donate is January 1, 2022.

Thank you for your generosity!

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: Friday, December 17th from Noon – 2 PM and 5 PM – 7 PM;
Saturday, December 18th from 9 AM – 10 AM.**

Traying cookies: 10 AM on Saturday.

Proceeds will benefit our 100th Anniversary Celebration.

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

FREE ADULT EDUCATION

Live webinars, free of charge. An excellent opportunity for adult education in our Byzantine Church. Register at EasternCatholic.org/Events.

Wednesdays, December 1 & 8 @ 8 – 9 PM.

The presentation will be ***“Rejoice All Ye Peoples: The Feasts of the Old Testament.”***

The presenter is Rev. Sebastian Carnazzo, Ph.D.

PARISH GUILD MEETINGS

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

Divine Liturgy Attendance weekend of November 20:

5:00 PM: **37**; 9:00 AM: **39**; 11:00 AM: **58**

Our return to the Lord for all He has given us: \$2,307.00



- **Sun., Nov. 28** No ECF Classes today – Thanksgiving Vacation!
Classes resume on Dec. 5.
- **Sat. & Sun., Nov. 27 & 28** 100th Anniversary Power Point Presentation after all Liturgies.
- **Wed., Dec. 1** St. Vincent de Paul Meals Program 9 AM – 2 PM.



100TH ANNIVERSARY

Please give us a little of your time after Liturgies **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!

LITURGY STIPENDS

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

NOVEMBER 28, 2021

SCHEDULE OF DIVINE SERVICES

Sunday	28 Nov.	<i>27TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST. The Holy Venerable Martyr Stephen the Younger. The Holy Martyr Irenarchus.</i>
(Sun. Vigil)	5:00 PM	+Edward Smith – mom, Dianna Koza
	9:00 AM	Health/God's Blessings for Marjorie Simon – Paul & Cheryl
	11:00 AM	+Michael & +Mary Lickwar – Mary Anne Kilbert
Monday	29 Nov.	<i>The Holy Martyr Paramon. The Holy Martyr Philemon. Our Venerable Father Acacius, mentioned in The Ladder of St. John (Climacus).</i>
		No Divine Liturgy
Tuesday	30 Nov.	<i>The Holy and Glorious Apostle Andrew the First-called.</i>
		No Divine Liturgy
Wednesday	1 Dec.	<i>The Holy Prophet Nahum.</i>
		No Divine Liturgy
Thursday	2 Dec.	<i>The Holy Prophet Habakkuk. The Passing of the Blessed Confessor Ivan Slezyuk, Bishop of Ivano-Frankivsk (1973).</i>
		No Divine Liturgy
Friday	3 Dec.	<i>The Holy Prophet Zephaniah.</i>
		No Divine Liturgy
Saturday	4 Dec.	<i>The Holy Great Martyr Barbara. Our Venerable Father John of Damascus.</i>
(Vigil Liturgy)	5:00 PM	Intention of Sister Barbara Pavlik – Benedictine Sisters
Sunday	5 Dec.	<i>28TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST. Our Venerable and God-bearing Father Sabbas the Sanctifier.</i>
	9:00 AM	Intentions & Spiritual Well Being of the Blake family – Betty Blake
	11:00 AM	Intention of Rosary Society Members



Attentive to the Word
27TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Luke 13: 10 - 17

Tone 2 Pgs. 130 - 132



For eighteen years this woman came to church bent over: Crippled. She had been faithful, loved the Lord, a “daughter of Abraham.” I guess you could say she was “saved.” Eighteen years is a long time. Everybody had accepted her condition. I suppose in a way, she had learned to live with it. I’m sure she wished every day that she could stand straight, but had realized that nothing could be done. But this was no ordinary crippling. She had been crippled “by a spirit.” It doesn’t say it was an “evil spirit.” It was just a “spirit.”

Most of us would assume that eighteen years previous she was just walking along one day, and this “spirit” just came upon her and jumped on her to afflict her. She was just an innocent woman, minding her own business when this “spirit” comes along and bends her over. But that’s not the way it happens. Spirits just don’t attack us unawares. But spirits cannot go where they are not invited.

Somewhere along the line, we are confronted with decisions about an attitude, or a principle of faith that we just cannot accept. God usually is trying to teach us something about living our lives for Him and draw us closer to Him. But what happens is we have a pre-set line of thought about this particular subject, and we just can’t give it up. Maybe it is something we have been taught all our lives, and we have taken it for the gospel truth, but the problem is that it doesn’t square with scripture, and we just can’t adjust to the new light that God is showing us. Or maybe it is a preconceived set of notions about life, or the church, or view of ourselves that we cherish, but has no basis in the truth. God is trying to take us to a new plane of living, but we refuse to go. So we stay where we are, trying to stop change and live on a plane of unreality that leaves us open to “spirits.” And these “spirits” can cripple us. They limit our effectiveness. This daughter of Abraham continued to love the Lord, but by allowing this spirit to coexist with her, she limited her ability to function in life, and limited her effectiveness in the Kingdom. Here are some of the spirits that can cripple us.

A LEGALISTIC SPIRIT

Jesus said: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind." This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: "Love your neighbor as yourself." All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two

commandments." (Matt. 22:37-40). But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. (Gal. 5:22-23).

The basis of our Christian experience is love. Out of love comes the commandments. But the tendency is, as time passes, to grow cold in our relationship with God. Love fades, but the commandments remain. Every action of ourselves and others is not interpreted in the light of love, but in the light of the law. And that is exactly what Jesus preached against. This spirit of legalism is a crippling spirit, for it saps us of the love, tenderness, patience and gentleness that we need, not only to get along with others but to minister to them.

AN UNFORGIVING SPIRIT

How many times have we heard the phrase, “That person just makes me sick!” Our unwillingness to forgive someone who has hurt us can actually make us sick! I have had people tell me, “When I get around so and so I get a headache!” That’s a spirit that can really cripple us! Studies have shown that people who carry grudges (admitted or not) have significantly reduced life spans and greater incidences of disease. The Scripture tells us that this woman was physically bent over.

Human relationships are very hard to maintain. Our method of communication is faulty at best. No spoken language can completely express our thoughts and feelings. It’s like two ships sailing together in a storm. Sometimes we bump up against each other. It is natural that we are going to get hurt along the way. When we refuse to forgive, the person that is hurt the most is us. By forgiving those who have hurt us, we get rid of the spirit that can cripple us.

THE CARNAL SPIRIT

The most damaging spirit in this world is the one we are born with: The carnal spirit. This is the spirit that puts “self” on the throne of our hearts. We are then in a constant struggle with God over the control of our lives. We understand what St. Paul meant in Romans 7:15-18 when he said, “What I want to do, I do not do, but what I hate, I do.”

Unless we ask God to sanctify us and to remove this law of sin from our being, we will remain truly crippled. We cannot maintain our Christian experience for long without the cleansing power of the Holy Spirit in our lives. The spirits that cripple us are just like a disease. We need to be healed. Jesus called this woman forward and said, “Woman, you are set free from your infirmity.” For eighteen years she has been bent over, not being able to see the sky, or look someone in the eye. Every Sabbath she had come, looking for hope. Our Church gives us hope, and asks for God’s presence and His Holy Spirit to invade our lives, to cleanse us, and to lift us up to a new plane of living. When we respond, it’s amazing how our crippling spirits seem to disappear!