

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 Father William Rupp to schedule.

Mystery of Crowning: Must be a registered, active, supporting member of the Parish Family. Must meet with Father William Rupp before setting date and reserving your banquet hall. Pre-Cana program is required and three sessions with Father William Rupp. 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 Father William Rupp is notified. It especially is important that a family member contact Father William Rupp whenever a loved one is hospitalized.

Funerals: Families of the deceased or the funeral director must contact Father William Rupp 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 William Rupp is available on other days and times by appointment.

OUR PREPARATION FOR THE BIRTH OF CHRIST

The purpose of our preparation is to create an atmosphere of expectation, hope, and anxious eagerness in the hearts of the people, for the coming of Christ in the flesh. The Church designates a time for preparation of prayer, penance, fasting, almsgiving, forgiving, and accepting forgiveness. Families are called in a special way to make ready for Christ by keeping fast days in the home, praying together, reading Scripture, and preparing for forgiveness and the Mystery of Reconciliation (Confession). If we have not yet begun to prepare spiritually, or have become lax in our preparation – it is not too late to start in earnest to prepare for the coming of Christ!

FOUND

A St. Anthony medal was found at our St. Nicholas Feast Day Dinner at DiLucia's. Please call the office @ 330-372-1875 if it belongs to you.

PHILLIP'S FAST ALMSGIVING

The **Bella Women's Center** will be the recipient of our Phillip's Fast Almsgiving this year. Envelopes for your cash or check donations can be picked up at the church entrances. **Please make checks payable to Saints Peter and Paul Church and drop in the collection basket.**

Deadline to donate is December 18th. Please call Elaine @ 330-770-1100 for any more information.



NEW YEAR'S EVE CELEBRATION

Festivities in the Social Hall will begin at 6:15 PM with Appetizers.

Dinner to include: Kielbasa/Kraut – Hot Dogs – Haluski – Pierogi –
Dessert – Beverages.

Enjoy 25¢ Bingo (bring your quarters) & 50/50!

\$10 per person plus a donation of a favorite Dessert or Appetizer.

Please sign up in the Social Hall.

Come and celebrate an evening of fun to ring in the New Year!



Divine Liturgy Attendance weekend of December 3:

5:00 PM: **50**; 10:00 AM: **96**

St. Nicholas of Myra: 40

Our return to the Lord for all He has given us: \$4,056.00



- **Sun., Dec. 11 & 18** ECF classes will meet from 9:00 AM – 9:45 AM. There will be no ECF classes on Dec. 25 and Jan. 1. Classes will resume on Jan. 8.
- **Mon., Tues., & Thurs., Dec. 12, 13, & 15** Lisa will be in the office.
- **Wed., Dec. 14** Session 4 – Scripture and Liturgy Study – 6 PM – 7 PM in Social Hall.
- **Mon., Dec. 19** Church Cleaning Party 9 AM – Noon. Come lend a helping hand.
- **Fri., Dec. 23** A day of strict fast and abstinence – No meat or dairy products.
- **Fast-Free Time** Christmas Day through January 4, 2023.
- **Mon., Dec. 26** Synaxis of the Theotokos – 8:30 AM Liturgy.
- **Tues., Dec. 27** Divine Liturgy – 6:00 PM



100TH ANNIVERSARY HOMEMADE COOKIE SALE

Cookie Trays will be available for purchase after Liturgies on December 17 & 18. Parishioners are all welcome to bake 3 – 5 dozen of their favorite holiday cookies. They are greatly appreciated!

Drop-off Date: Saturday, December 17, from 9 AM – 11 AM.

Proceeds will benefit our 100th Anniversary Celebration.

If you have any questions, please call Pat James @330-507-6273

OFFICE (SERVICE) OF RECONCILIATION

We cannot appreciate the gift of “God with us” unless we are receptive. Let us make every effort to prepare ourselves for the coming of Christ by coming before Him and asking forgiveness of our sins. On December 16 our Parish will hold a Service of Reconciliation with an opportunity for individual confessions. Guest priests will also be available to hear confessions.

Friday: December 16: 6:00 PM (Office of Reconciliation)

Saturday: December 17 & 24: 3:30 PM to 4:30 PM

SCHEDULE OF DIVINE SERVICES FOR THE FEAST OF THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD

December 23 – 6:00 PM, *Office of Readings for Nativity*

December 24 – 5:00 PM, *Vespers with Divine Liturgy*

December 25 – 10:00 AM, *Divine Liturgy*

DECEMBER 11, 2022

SCHEDULE OF DIVINE SERVICES

Sunday	11 Dec.	<i>SUNDAY OF THE FOREFATHERS. Our Venerable Father Daniel the Stylite. Our Venerable Father Spiridon the Wonder-worker, Bishop of Tremithus.</i>
(Sun. Vigil)	5:00 PM 10:00 AM	+Andrew Kostraba – Richard & Anna Marie Pinti +Douglas Winland – mother, Dorothy Winland
Monday	12 Dec.	<i>Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe.</i> No Divine Liturgy
Tuesday	13 Dec.	<i>The Holy Martyrs Eustratius, Auxentius, Eugene, Mardarius and Orestes. The Holy Virgin Martyr Lucy,</i> No Divine Liturgy
Wednesday	14 Dec.	<i>The Holy Martyrs Thrysus, Leucas, Philemon, Appolonius and Callinicus. The Blessed Priest and Ascetic Father Nimatulla al-Hardini (Joseph Kassab).</i> No Divine Liturgy
Thursday	15 Dec.	<i>The Holy Martyr Eleutherius. Our Venerable Father Paul of Latra. Our Holy Father Stephen, Archbishop of Surozh.</i> No Divine Liturgy
Friday	16 Dec.	<i>The Holy Prophet Haggai.</i> 6:00 PM Office of Reconciliation
Saturday	17 Dec.	<i>The Holy Prophet Daniel and the Three Holy Children: Hananiah, Azariah and Mishael.</i>
(Vigil Lit.)	5:00 PM	+Sister Mary John Semon – Benedictine Sisters
Sunday	18 Dec.	<i>SUNDAY BEFORE CHRISTMAS, OF THE ANCESTORS. The Holy Martyr Sebastian and His Companions.</i> 10:00 AM +Father Robert Karl – Jim & Marge Basista



Attentive to the Word
SUNDAY OF THE FOREFATHERS

Luke 14: 16 – 24

*Tone 2 Trop. of Resurrection – Pg. 130
and the rest from Pgs. 281 – 283*



This familiar parable is read in the Church each year just two Sundays before the feast of our Lord's Nativity. In it we are reminded of the great care with which God prepared the way of His incarnation. All of the Law and the Prophets look forward to this moment, the moment when the God/man Jesus Christ comes into the world. He is, in fact, the fulfillment of the Law and the Prophets – the goal towards which they were all aiming. The whole world was prepared by them for this great event.

As the parable tells us the King – that is God – has prepared a great feast for us and has invited us to come and enter into the joy that He has prepared for us.

In the parable, however, there were some who refused this invitation, considering their own affairs to be more important or more desirable than the feast of the King. Although God had chosen them, they did not choose God. Is this not like our first parents Adam and Eve. God had created them so that they might live in His love and in complete harmony with Him. But they chose to follow their own will and not to enter into the joy that God had prepared for them. They too were chosen by God, but they did not choose God and so were cast out of paradise.

But our Creator, not willing to abandon His creation, prepared a way that we might return to Him. This preparation covered centuries and millennia of time; it was defined by the law and prophets; it was lived out time and time again in the history of God's chosen people, the children of Abraham until finally the Way was ready to be revealed in its fullness. The Way that God prepared for us to return to Him is in fact the Person of Jesus Christ, God Himself taking human flesh and becoming incarnate. Just as through Adam all men fell into sin and corruption and death, now through Jesus Christ all men were invited to rise out of that condemnation and live again according to the love and grace of God. The Way back to the Kingdom of God had been restored. We had again been chosen by God but some refused this second choosing, instead choosing to follow their own desires.

Even so, our God, in His great love for us, holds the door open to all mankind that we might enter into this great feast that He has prepared for us. He calls us into His Kingdom even though we are poor and beggars, bringing nothing of our own to Him other than ourselves. He goes into the highways and searches out even those who did not know Him so that they might come and share in His joy. The invitations have been sent out, the doors are thrown open and we are invited to the feast of God's provision for our salvation. No matter who we are, no matter from whence we come, the doors to the Kingdom of God are open to us. We are called to set aside our own desires, our own will, our own worldly pleasures, and instead enter into the Life of the Holy Trinity, conforming our will to the will of Christ, reaping the joys and pleasures of the Kingdom of God in exchange for those of the world. We are called to come to Him.

Today we begin in earnest to move toward the feast of the birth of the God/man Jesus Christ. Today we are called to see the great preparation that has gone into this event, to marvel at the love and care of God for us that He would labor so long and with such great care for us. Today we look back at the whole of the history of the people of God and see that it is the history of God's preparation all leading to the moment when He would take flesh, become incarnate and enter the world as a child. Today you have been given an invitation to come and join the feast, to abandon the world and enter the Kingdom of God, to receive the Life of Christ. Today you have been chosen by God – will you then choose Him?



NO TIME FOR GOD ? !

When God came into the world, people didn't have time. They were too busy. There was no room for Him in the inn. "He came unto his own, and they that were his own people received him not." And it seems that still today we have no room. We crowd Him out with so many things, especially with our busyness.

In Luke 14:16-24, the Lord tells a parable about busy people. A man – He said – gave a banquet and sent out invitations. One by one those who were invited to the banquet offered their excuses for not being able to come. They were all too busy; one with his farm, one with his wife, and another with his oxen. What Jesus is saying here is that man can become so busy making a living that he can neglect to make a life. God can be crowded out so easily by the trivial and the frivolous. The things that matter most are at the mercy of the things that matter least. Jesus is telling us also that important duties that keep us from God are not duties at all, but sins.

Listen to these words of a pastor: "On Friday night, a man boasted to me that he had not taken a vacation in twenty-five years. He was too busy selling insurance. The following Monday I conducted his funeral. He died of a heart attack."

Fast living. Fast dying. And the tragedy of it all is that we miss the banquet. We miss the greatest gift of all – eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.