

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.

CHURCH CALENDARS

The 2023 Church Calendars are in the Social Hall for pick-up.

Our Parish family would like to thank **Peter Rossi & Son Memorial Chapel** for their generosity in providing our calendars this year. God bless them for their kindness and generosity!

ST. NICHOLAS CELEBRATION THANKS!!

Many Thanks and God's Blessings on all those who gave of their time and talent to make our St. Nicholas Celebration at DiLucia's a great time! The food was delicious as usual. We enjoyed singing Christmas carols, watching the children's faces light up when they saw St. Nicholas, and appreciated the children's help passing out the door prizes.

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.

MANY THANKS!

Thanks to all the faithful volunteers who gave of their time to decorate our Church for the Feast of the Nativity of our Lord. You did a beautiful job, and you will be blessed in abundance!



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 (*Don't forget to 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 10:

5:00 PM: **49**; 10:00 AM: **71**

Maternity of the Holy Anna: 19

Our return to the Lord for all He has given us: \$3,060.00



- **Sun., Dec. 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., Dec. 19** Church Cleaning Party 9 AM – Noon. Come lend a helping hand.
- **Wed., Dec. 21** Last Session – Scripture and Liturgy Study – 6 PM in Social Hall.
- **Fri., Dec. 23** A day of strict fast and abstinence – No meat or dairy products.
- **Christmas Day – Jan. 4** Fast-Free Time.
- **Mon., Dec. 26** Synaxis of the Theotokos – 8:30 AM Liturgy.
- **Tues., Dec. 27** Divine Liturgy – 6:00 PM



100TH ANNIVERSARY HOMEMADE COOKIE SALE

Come and buy your cookies this weekend, Saturday & Sunday, December 17 & 18, after all Liturgies!

Proceeds will benefit our 100th Anniversary Celebration.
If you have any questions, please call Pat James @330-507-6273.

PHILLIP’S FAST ALMSGIVING – LAST WEEKEND TO DONATE.

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.

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.

Saturday: December 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 18, 2022

SCHEDULE OF DIVINE SERVICES

Sunday (Sun. Vigil)	18 Dec.	<i>SUNDAY BEFORE CHRISTMAS, OF THE ANCESTORS. The Holy Martyr Sebastian and His Companions.</i> 5:00 PM +Sister Mary John Semon – Benedictine Sisters 10:00 AM +Father Robert Karl – Jim & Marge Basista
Monday	19 Dec.	<i>The Holy Martyr Boniface.</i> No Divine Liturgy
Tuesday	20 Dec.	<i>Pre-festive Day of Christmas. The Holy Martyr Ignatius the God-bearer.</i> No Divine Liturgy
Wednesday	21 Dec.	<i>Pre-festive Day of Christmas. The Holy Martyr Juliana of Nicomedia.</i> No Divine Liturgy
Thursday	22 Dec.	<i>Pre-festive Day of Christmas. The Holy Great Martyr Anastasia.</i> No Divine Liturgy
Friday	23 Dec.	<i>Pre-festive Day of Christmas. The Holy Ten Martyrs of Crete. Commemoration of the Dedication of the Great Church of Holy Wisdom in Constantinople.</i> 6:00 PM Office of Readings for Nativity
Saturday (Vigil Lit.)	24 Dec.	<i>Vigil of Christmas. The Holy Great Martyr Eugenia. (pg. 288)</i> 5:00 PM Intention of Parish Family – Vespers with Divine Liturgy
Sunday	25 Dec.	<i>CHRISTMAS, THE BIRTH OF OUR LORD, GOD AND SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST.</i> 10:00 AM Intention of Parish Family



Attentive to the Word
SUNDAY BEFORE CHRISTMAS –
OF THE HOLY ANCESTORS

Matthew 1: 1-25

Tone 3 pg. 135; then follow directions for Dec. 18th
on pgs. 285 – 287



GENEALOGY OF CHRIST

Most of us find seeing our family's genealogy or hearing stories about the people we grew up with as enjoyable as resurrecting the old Christmas decorations from the attic each year. We like to be reassured of who we are and where we came from. It gives us a sense of identity and of belonging to a particular community.

The opening lines of Matthew's Gospel should have a similar, although more profound, effect on us – if we don't get hung up on all those unfamiliar Hebrew names. Matthew's genealogy, his "family record of Jesus Christ, son of David, son of Abraham" is intended to illustrate for us in great detail how God guided salvation history from the call of Abraham the patriarch down through the generations to the birth of Jesus, the Messiah.

These men and women, Jews and Gentiles alike, are our spiritual ancestors. They are part of who we are and where we came from as believers. Among them are names of Saints and names of sinners. The Saints among them could well teach us what it means to believe; not simply to have an intellectual faith, but a faith which means a complete trust in God, an unlimited faithfulness to Him. In this context, think of Abraham whose faith was tested to the utmost. How difficult we find it to give to God something of ours: but Abraham was asked to bring as a blood-offering his own son – and he did not doubt God.

David, a ruddy-cheeked shepherd as deft with a slingshot as he was adept at the harp, chosen by God to rule Israel in its golden age of prosperity; Ruth, model of loyal friendship to Naomi and faithfulness to the Lord, whom she chose to be her God; Joseph, husband of Mary and hero of Christians who are called on to discern God's

will in difficult and unusual circumstances; and Mary herself, from whom we have so much to learn about hearing the word of God and heeding it.

As the Phillip's Fast runs its gentle course toward the Nativity, let's spend a little time with our ancestors by rereading a few of their stories in Scripture. They can help us to know and appreciate who we are as a people who belong to one another.



I HAVEN'T KILLED ANYONE . . .



As a reason for not going to confession, some people state that they haven't killed anyone or abused anyone. But there are subtle sins which lead to bigger ones. An astute father confessor can detect a pattern and warn us about this. Patriarch Tikhon of Moscow, who was a bishop in the U.S. about a hundred years ago, compiles a Model for Confession, which starts and ends the prayers used in some parishes.

"I, a sinner, confess to the Lord God, Almighty, One in the Holy Trinity, to the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God, to all the Saints, and to you my Father confessor all my sins. I have sinned through: gossip, scorn, insubordination, pride, envy, anger, slander, laziness, negligence, carelessness, attachment to things, resentment, disobedience, lying, self-will, reproaching others, nursing wrongs, accepting impure thoughts, love of money, love of glory, love of sensual pleasure, neglect of prayer, missing church services, grumbling, evil speech, concealing sins at confession, inattention in church, self-love, lover of honor, love of glory, gluttony, drunkenness.

"For these and all my other sins, known and unknown, by which I have offended and angered the Good God against me, I am heartfully sorry: I repent sincerely and I promise with the help of God to better my life. For these and all the sins of my past, I humbly ask pardon of God."

Are you spiritually prepared for the Birth of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ???