

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.

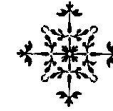
Funerals: Families of the deceased or the funeral director must contact Father William Rupp before setting and publishing the day and time of the funeral.

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.

ETERNAL MEMORY



Grant, O Lord, eternal rest to the soul of Your servant +**Marjorie Reynolds** who has recently fallen asleep in the Lord. Please remember her and her family in your prayers.

PLEASE NOTE:

Due to supply issues, our 2023 Contribution Envelopes have not yet arrived. You will have the same envelope numbers as assigned to you last year. Until you receive your new envelopes, please just put your contributions in a regular envelope with your envelope number, name, and amount. Please add the Holy Day if applicable.

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!

MANY THANKS!

Thanks to all the parishioners who gave of their time to bake the delicious cookies! Also a big thank you goes out to all who arranged the cookies on the trays and sold them. Proceeds will benefit our 100th Anniversary.



Divine Liturgy Attendance weekend of December 17:

5:00 PM: **51**; 10:00 AM: **82**

Office of Reconciliation: 35

Our return to the Lord for all He has given us: \$3,038.00

CHRIST IS BORN!

GLORIFY HIM!

- **Sun., Dec. 25** There will be no ECF classes on Dec. 25 and Jan. 1. Classes will resume on Jan. 8.
- **Mon., Dec. 26** Synaxis of the Theotokos – 8:30 AM Liturgy. The office will be closed due to the Holy Day.
- **Tues., Dec. 27** Divine Liturgy – 6:00 PM
- **Sat., Dec. 31** New Year’s Eve Celebration @ 6:15 PM in Social Hall.



NO FASTING FROM DECEMBER 25 THROUGH JANUARY 4.



THE CHRISTMAS GREETING

It is certainly commendable to wish someone a “*Merry Christmas.*” But how powerful a message is given by the traditional Byzantine Christmas greeting: “*Christ is Born!*” and the response: “*Glorify Him!*”

PEACE ON EARTH

When people attend church services weekly as they do other activities; when people do more praying than shopping; when there are longer lines for confessions than at State Stores; when folks gather with family and friends than at night clubs; then we shall have “Christ in Christmas and Peace on earth.”

FROM GREAT VESPERS OF THE NATIVITY

“Heaven and earth are united today, for Christ is born! Today God has come upon earth, and man has gone up to heaven. Today, for our sake, is seen in the flesh He who by nature is invisible. Therefore let us give glory and cry aloud to Him: Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, which Your coming has bestowed upon us, O Savior, Glory to You!”



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!

BONUS – The Ohio State Football Game will be broadcast at 8:00 PM.

\$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!

DECEMBER 25, 2022 SCHEDULE OF DIVINE SERVICES

Sunday	25 Dec.	<i>CHRISTMAS, THE BIRTH OF OUR LORD, GOD AND SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST.</i>
(Sun. Vigil)	5:00 PM 10:00 AM	Intention of Parish Family Intention of Parish Family
Monday	26 Dec.	<i>SYNAXIS OF THE THEOTOKOS AND EVER-VIRGIN MARY. MEMORY OF THE HOLY AND RIGHTEOUS JOSEPH THE BETROTHED; OF DAVID THE KING; AND JAMES, BROTHER OF GOD. Holy Martyr Euthymius, Bishop of Sardis.</i>
(SPP)	8:30 AM	+Kenny Ferrance – Jim Augusta
Tuesday	27 Dec.	<i>THE HOLY APOSTLE, FIRST MARTYR AND ARCHDEACON STEPHEN. Our Venerable Father and Confessor Theodore, Brother of Theophane the Hymnographer.</i>
	6:00 PM	+Mary Louise Palovich – Mr. & Mrs. John Chekan
Wednesday	28 Dec.	<i>Post-festive Day of Christmas. The Holy 20,000 Martyrs of Nicomedia. The Blessed Martyr Gregory Khomyshyn, Bishop of Stanislaviv (1945).</i>
		No Divine Liturgy
Thursday	29 Dec.	<i>Post-festive Day of Christmas. The Holy Innocents killed by Herod in Bethlehem. Our Venerable Father Marcellus, Hegumen of the Akimetes.</i>
		No Divine Liturgy
Friday	30 Dec.	<i>Post-festive Day of Christmas. The Holy Martyr Anysia. The Venerable Zoticus, Priest and Protector of Orphans.</i>
		No Divine Liturgy
Saturday	31 Dec.	<i>Leave-taking (otdaniye) of Christmas. Saturday after Christmas. Our Venerable Mother Melany of Rome.</i>
(Vigil Lit.)	5:00 PM	+Joan Bernard – John & Jennifer Welch
Sunday	1 Jan.	<i>SUNDAY BEFORE THEOPHANY. CIRCUMCISION OF OUR LORD, GOD AND SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST. OUR HOLY FATHER BASIL THE GREAT, ARCHBISHOP OF CAESAREA IN CAPPADOCIA.</i>
	10:00 AM	+Nancy Sernulka – Lisa Sernulka Kofora



Attentive to the Word
CHRISTMAS – THE BIRTH OF OUR LORD

Matthew 2: 1–12

Pages 289 – 294



THE TROPARION AND KONTAKION OF CHRISTMAS

Troparion: Your birth, O Christ our God, has shed upon the world the light of knowledge; for through it, those who worshipped the stars have learned from a star to worship You, the Sun of Justice, and to know You, the Dawn from on High. Glory to You, O Lord!

Kontakion: Today the Virgin gives birth to the Transcendent One; and the earth offers a cave to the Unapproachable. The angels sing His glory with the shepherds; the wise men journey with the star. The Eternal God is born for us as an infant child.

No holy day has so many hymns and songs celebrating the glories of the birth of the Son of God than does Christmas. This is true both of the liturgical hymns and of popular songs known as Christmas carols. In the Byzantine Church the festal anthems are "Your birth, O Christ Our God" (troparion) and "The Virgin Today" (kontakion). They convey to us the theme and the spirit of the Christmas celebration in the Byzantine tradition.

The Troparion "Your birth, O Christ Our God" is very ancient and we do not know its author. This troparion speaks only about the adoration of the Magi and not of the shepherds. The reason is that in the Byzantine tradition the adoration of the shepherds is celebrated on Christmas Eve while on Christmas day both the Gospel reading and the hymns concentrate on the Magi. Some see this as the tendency of Byzantine thought to emphasize the divinity of Christ. Actually, the reason is simply the concern to commemorate everything about Jesus' birth on Christmas day.

First the poet proclaims that the birth of Christ brought a new day and that the light characteristic of this day, which starts a new age, is the light of knowledge. It begins the period of human history when the darkness and ignorance about God is broken and the full daylight of the knowledge of the divine truth has dawned upon us. The troparion continues by saying that this new light of knowledge enabled the Magi, who until that time "worshipped the stars, to worship You, the Sun of righteousness and to know You the Dayspring from on high." The poet actually says that the Christmas star taught the Magi to worship this Sun of the new light. Just as the sun at its rising puts out all minor lights (i.e., stars), because its light is so overwhelming that the stars become invisible, so Jesus Christ shines above all other flickering

lights. The new people of God live and move in the full daylight of truth about God since the sun of Righteousness began to shine and no power of darkness could overpower it or extinguish it. It will shine forever! The hymn ends with "O Lord, glory be to You." These are words of praise, glorification and of gratitude. God is with us! How fortunate we are!

The Kontakion "The Virgin Today" was written by the greatest and most famous of all Byzantine hymn writers, St. Roman the Melodist, sometime around 540 A.D. The poet uses the whole world for his stage: man and God, earth and heaven, Angels and shepherds, the Magi and the Star. All of this forms the background of the great and most wonderful event — the human birth of the Son of God for our sake: He who is always for us men becomes an infant, a child; becomes man. What a spectacle! The Virgin mother gives birth to Him who is beyond all existence and being and the earth comes offering a cave to Him who is beyond reach, who is unapproachable. Then there are the Angels who mix their praises with those of the shepherds. The Magi are journeying but guided by this strange star which leads them to Christ. All this cosmic orchestration glorifies the fact of the birth of the Son of God on earth.



GREETINGS FROM FATHER WILL

Christ is Born! Glorify Him! Christos Razdajetsja! Slavite Jeho!

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

With joy, I greet you all as we celebrate the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ! Today, and in the days that follow, we celebrate *God with us*. Having fallen away from paradise though sin, God has searched us out and sets us on the path of salvation! Jesus, God in the flesh, has come to restore us from that ancient fall, as we sing in the troparion before the Nativity: *Christ is born to raise up the likeness that had fallen*. God has taken on flesh so that we, who are flesh, can share in the life of God – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit!

Friends, it is my hope for all of you that you experience the true joy of this season. The true joy is the renewal of God's presence in your hearts. May the Holy Spirit dwell richly in each one of you as the Holy Apostle Paul says, "*God has sent the Spirit of His Son into our hearts, crying out, 'Abba! Father!'*" (Gal 4:6). God, in His immense love, has chosen to draw near to us. May each of us respond to His love and draw near to him this season, and always.

Yours in Christ,

Father Will