

## 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.

## ST. NICHOLAS' INSTANT LOTTERY RAFFLE

St. Nicholas has hidden \$50 worth of Instant Lottery Tickets!  
Come and take a chance! Tickets are \$1 each & 6 for \$5.  
Drawing to be held at the St. Nicholas' Feast Day  
Celebration on December 4th.

## 100<sup>TH</sup> 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 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration.

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

## 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 18<sup>th</sup>.** 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 November 26:**

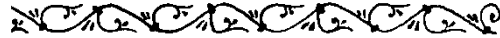
5:00 PM: **48**; 10:00 AM: **82**

**Entrance of the Theotokos: 25**

**Our return to the Lord for all He has given us: . . . . . \$2,526.25**



- **Sun., Dec. 4** ECF classes for K through 12 meet from 9:00 AM – 9:45 AM.
- **Sun., Dec. 4** St. Nicholas' Feast Day Celebration at DiLucia's at Noon.
- **Mon., Dec. 5** Vigil Liturgy for Nicholas of Myra – 6:00 PM.
- **Wed., Dec. 7** St. Vincent de Paul Meals Program 9 AM – 2 PM.
- **Wed., Dec. 7** Vigil Liturgy for Maternity of Holy Anna – 6:00 PM.
- **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.



**CHURCH DECORATING ... for the Nativity of Our Lord**

We will be decorating our Church for the Feast of the Nativity of Christ on *Monday, December 5, at 10:00 AM*. Please come and join us in preparing your Church for Christmas.

**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 4, 2022

SCHEDULE OF DIVINE SERVICES

Sunday	4 Dec.	<i>TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST. The Holy Great Martyr Barbara. Our Venerable Father John of Damascus.</i>
<b>(Sun. Vigil)</b>	<b>5:00 PM</b>	<b>+Andrew Greskovich, Sr. – Buddy &amp; Mary K. Greskovich</b>
	<b>10:00 AM</b>	<b>+Michael &amp; +Mary Lickwar – daughter, Mary Anne</b>
Monday	5 Dec.	<i>Our Venerable and God-bearing Father Sabbas the Sanctified.</i>
<b>(Vigil Lit.)</b>	<b>6:00 PM</b>	<b>+Marialice Verney – Pam Broderick &amp; Don Maddix families</b>
Tuesday	6 Dec.	<i>OUR HOLY FATHER NICHOLAS, ARCHBISHOP OF MYRA IN LYCIA, THE WONDERWORKER. (pgs. 274 – 276)</i>
		<b>No Divine Liturgy</b>
Wednesday	7 Dec.	<i>Pre-festive Day of the Maternity of the Holy Anna. Our Holy Father Ambrose, Bishop of Milan.</i>
<b>(Vigil Lit.)</b>	<b>6:00 PM</b>	<b>+Frances Cetina – Robert &amp; Marianne Cabosky</b>
Thursday	8 Dec.	<i>FEAST OF THE MATERNITY OF THE HOLY ANNA. (pgs. 277 – 280)</i>
		<b>No Divine Liturgy</b>
Friday	9 Dec.	<i>Our Venerable Father Patapius. The Holy Hannah, Mother of the Prophet Samuel.</i>
		<b>No Divine Liturgy</b>
Saturday	10 Dec.	<i>The Holy Martyrs Menas, Hermogenes and Eugephus.</i>
<b>(Vigil Lit.)</b>	<b>5:00 PM</b>	<b>+Andrew Kostraba – Richard &amp; Anna Marie Pinti</b>
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>
	<b>10:00 AM</b>	<b>+Douglas Winland – mother, Dorothy Winland</b>



Attentive to the Word  
26th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Luke 17: 12 – 19

Tone 1 Pgs. 125– 127



### THE GRATEFUL LEPER



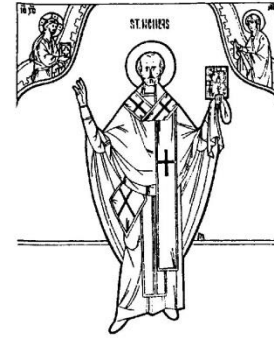
The condition of lepers in the time of Jesus has been described (see 5:12-16). The group that meets Jesus is composed of both Jews (Galileans) and Samaritans. The companionship of these usually bitter enemies indicates the desperation of their condition, which led them to depend on one another. Because they were required to avoid contact with non-lepers, but had to depend on their charity for survival, lepers haunted the outskirts of town. This group of lepers shouted at Jesus from the proper distance; they had heard about his compassion and his healing power. Jesus simply gives a command, which could also be a test of their faith and obedience. They are to

show themselves to the priest, whose responsibility it was to judge whether a leper was permitted to return to society. They obey Jesus' instruction, going to report their healing, while they are as yet unhealed.

Only one of the group returns to express gratitude. He attributes the healing to God, openly singing his praises. The ingratitude of the others is a jarring note – but possibly the fact that the one grateful returnee was a Samaritan was more shocking. Jesus' final words to him are the message he gave to the woman in the Pharisee's house and the woman cured of the hemorrhage. The faith of all the lepers led to their *physical healing*; perhaps it was more than this for the others as well, but for the Samaritan at least, this healing brought "salvation," complete wholeness, and a proper relationship to God.

### FEAST OF ST. NICHOLAS – DECEMBER 6

It is easy to understand why this holy bishop has become so closely connected with the festival of Christ's birth. The stories about the saint, fabricated and embroidered in Christian imagination over the ages, in various times and places, all tell of the simple faith and love of the man known only for his goodness and love.



The extraordinary thing about the image of St. Nicholas in the Church is that he is not known for anything **extraordinary**. He was not a theologian and never wrote a word ... yet he is famous in the memory of believers as a zealot for the true faith! He was not an ascetic and did no outstanding feats of fasting and vigils ... yet he is praised for his possession of the "fruit of the Holy Spirit – love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control!" He was not a mystic (in our present meaning of the term) ... yet he lived daily with the Lord and was godly in all his words and deeds! He was not a prophet in the technical sense ... yet

he proclaimed the Word of God, exposed the sins of the wicked, defended the rights of the oppressed and afflicted, and battled against every form of injustice with supernatural compassion and mercy! In a word, he was a good pastor, father and bishop to his flock, known especially for his love and care of the poor. Most simply put, he was a **divinely good person!**

The Messiah has come so that human beings can live lives which are, strictly speaking, humanly impossible. He has come so that people can really **be good!** One of the greatest and most beloved examples among believers that this is true, is the holy bishop of Myra ... about almost nothing else is known ... except that he was **good!** For this reason alone, he remains "**the very spirit of Christmas.**" (Pay special attention to the Troparion and Kontakion for the Feast of St. Nicholas.)

### THE MATERNITY OF THE HOLY ANNA – DECEMBER 8

Celebrated for many centuries under a variety of titles, the feast widely known as the Immaculate Conception is celebrated in the Eastern Church as the Feast of the Conception of Saint Ann. This feast commemorates Saint Ann's conception of Mary, the Mother of God.

The writings of the early Church tell us that Mary's parents, Joachim and Ann, prayed earnestly for a child. Ann and Joachim had lived devoutly in marriage for many years. They gave a third of their income to the poor and a third to the Temple. Still, they were scorned for being without offspring. With heavy hearts, they prayed that God would bless them with a child to comfort them in their old age. The Lord God answered their prayers by allowing Ann to conceive a child who would be the mother of God's own Son, Jesus Christ.

Thus, we see in this feast how marvelously God prepared for the birth of His own Son. Our Lord Jesus Christ was mystically born from the virginal womb of a woman who herself was immaculately conceived from a barren womb! Let us, therefore, cry out to the Mother of God, "Hail, O Womb of Divine Incarnation! Hail, O you through whom creation is renewed! Hail, O you through whom the Creator becomes a babe! Hail, O bride and Maiden ever-pure!" (From the *Akathist*)