

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 scripton 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.

YEAR-END CONTRIBUTION STATEMENTS FOR 2021

... are ready for pick-up in the Social Hall. They are in alphabetical order to make it easier for you to find. Please, **do not** pick up anyone else's statement unless they have specifically asked you to do so. **The statements will be there until February 28th**. If you want them after that date, you will have to request them from the office.

WHY MEATFARE?

This Sunday is the final day of Meatfare week and the beginning of Cheesefare week. Traditionally this is the final day an Eastern Christian would eat meat until Holy Pascha, but one can still consume animal products such as cheese and dairy until Cheesefare or Forgiveness Sunday. So, just as a runner is not able to run a race without training and preparation, so too are Christians unable to physically and spiritually fast without preparation. It is not until this third week of the pre-Lenten period that the Church begins to actually make greater demands on us by inspiring us to bid farewell to meat on this Sunday of the Final Judgment. Today, our laws are not as strict, but the principle is the same. Self-discipline is necessary! Fasting helps us with self-discipline! Let us do the best that we are physically able to make this our best preparation for Pascha.

FREE ADULT EDUCATION

Live webinars, free of charge. Register at EasternCatholic.org/Events.

Wednesday, February 23.

8:00 PM – 9:30 PM

**“IMAGE & LIKENESS”: St. John of Damascus on the Holy Icons
by Rev. Nathan Symeon Adams**

Join us as we study our Holy Father John of Damascus' fierce and powerful defense of the importance of Holy Images, that we may approach the anniversary of the restoration of icons to the churches after the iconoclast heresy with renewed faith in their power to ingrain the truth in our souls.

FREE BOOKS AND TAPES

Please call Sister Barbara at 330-240-2534 for an appointment.

LITURGY STIPENDS

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



Divine Liturgy Attendance weekend of February 12:

5:00 PM: **48**; 9:00 AM: **40**; 11:00 AM: **38**

Our return to the Lord for all He has given us: \$2,877.00



- **Sun., Feb. 20** ECF Classes today 10 AM to 10:45 AM.
- **Mon., Feb. 21** Church Cleaning Party 9 AM – Noon. Come lend a helping hand.
- **Sat. & Sun., Feb. 26 & 27** Mardi Gras Weekend.
- **Mon., Feb. 28** First Day of the Great Fast.
- **Wed., March 2** St. Vincent de Paul Meals Program 9 AM – 2 PM.



**ALL ABOUT MARDI GRAS
LET'S CELEBRATE!**

**Come join us for a Mardi Gras Celebration after Liturgies
Feb. 26th & 27th in the Social Hall!**

The season of Mardi Gras begins with the Epiphany January 6th and ends on Fat Tuesday as we begin the season of Lent. It represents the biblical story of The 3 Kings who brought gifts to the Baby Jesus.

The King Cake evolved from this event. This cake is baked with a miniature plastic baby inside representing the Baby Jesus. It is decorated in the colors of Mardi Gras – purple for Justice, green for Faith, and gold for Power. Tradition has it that the person who gets the piece of cake with the baby will have Luck and Prosperity the upcoming year.

We will be celebrating Mardi Gras with our own King Cake. An instant lottery ticket will be awarded to everyone finding the baby in their piece of cake.

See how soon your luck begins!

LADY BUG BOX 

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. Proceeds from this fundraiser will be going towards our 100th Anniversary Celebration. We would like to continue this fundraiser monthly with your support. Any donations of Cash, Instant Lottery Tickets and/or Gift Cards would be welcome and greatly appreciated!

This month's drawing will be held on Sunday, February 27th, after the 11:00 AM Divine Liturgy.

YOU HAVE TO PLAY TO WIN!

Will You Be The Next Lucky Winner???????

FEBRUARY 20, 2022

SCHEDULE OF DIVINE SERVICES

Sunday	20 Feb.	<i>MEATFARE SUNDAY. Our Venerable Father Leo, Bishop of Catania. Our Holy Father Agathon, Pope of Rome.</i>
(Sun. Vigil)	5:00 PM 9:00 AM 11:00 AM	+Victor Byers – sister, Dianna Koza Health & Blessings for Paul & Cheryl Simon - mom +Charles “Buddy” Hite, Jr. – wife, Luanne & family
Monday	21 Feb.	<i>Cheesefare Monday. Our Venerable Father Timothy of Symbola. Our Holy Father Eustathius, Archbishop of Great Antioch.</i>
		No Divine Liturgy
Tuesday	22 Feb.	<i>Cheesefare Tuesday. Finding of the Venerable Relics of the Martyrs at Eugenia.</i>
(SPP)	8:30 AM	+Sr. M. Martha Kacmarek – Sr. Barbara Pavlik
Wednesday	23 Feb.	<i>Cheesefare Wednesday. The Holy Martyr Polycarp, Bishop of Smyrna.</i>
		No Divine Liturgy
Thursday	24 Feb.	<i>Cheesefare Thursday. The First and Second Finding of the Head of the Prophet, Forerunner and Baptist John.</i>
(SPP)	8:30 AM	+Andre Leon – The Leon & Jim Johnson, Jr. families
Friday	25 Feb.	<i>Cheesefare Friday. Our Holy Father Tarasius, Archbishop of Constantinople.</i>
		No Divine Liturgy
Saturday	26 Feb.	<i>Cheesefare Saturday. Memory of all Holy Ascetics. Our Holy Father Porphyrius, Bishop of Gaza. The Holy Great Martyr, Photina the Samaritan.</i>
(Vigil Liturgy)	5:00 PM	+Stephen Sernulka, III – mom & dad
Sunday	27 Feb.	<i>CHEESEFARE SUNDAY. Our Venerable Father and Confessor Procopius the Decapolite.</i>
	9:00 AM 11:00 AM	+Douglas Winland – Marjorie Reynolds +Nancy Sernulka – Mary Anne Karchut



**Attentive to the Word
SUNDAY OF MEATFARE**

Matthew 25: 31 – 46

Tone 6 – Page 152

Meatfare – Pages 217 – 218



We believe that Jesus will come in Glory to judge the living and the dead! This is a part of our creed, what we believe as Christians.

This morning's gospel reading gives us a description, a vision of that last judgment. Awesome! Terrifying! A time of reward and punishment. A time of separation and eternal loss. A time of judgment. How are we going to be judged? By the way we treat others – We either have an open heart or a closed heart.

We know a lot about hearts today. They get clogged and then they don't work right. They race, they lose their timing, and then they no longer give life. We get very serious about taking care of our hearts. The heart is the center of love. We give our heart to those we love, and Jesus' judgment is based on how we have had an open heart or a closed heart to others.

It is easy to love those who love us. It is easy to love those from whom we expect a reward. I was hungry. I was thirsty. I was a stranger. I was naked. I was ill. I was in prison. How open was our heart? How closed was our heart? Don't be afraid to fill your heart and to reach out in love. Love makes us vulnerable. We may be taken advantage of. We may be used. We may not be appreciated. We may be misjudged. It is so easy to find an excuse not to love.

But St. John rightly says in his epistle, *He Himself made us a promise, and the promise is no less than this: eternal life.* That's what Jesus brings and gives. *Let no one deceive you; the man who acts in holiness is holy indeed, even as the Son is holy. The man who sins belongs to the devil because the devil is a sinner from the beginning. It was to*

destroy the devil's works, that the Son of God revealed himself...No one whose actions are unholy belongs to God, nor anyone who fails to love his brother.

Don't be afraid to fill your heart with people and things you love, for the love of God won't occupy space in your heart any more than a singer's voice occupies space in a concert hall. Love is not like a loaf of bread. If I give a chunk of the loaf to you, I have less to offer others. Love is like Eucharistic Bread: I receive the whole Christ. You receive the whole Christ too; and so does the next and the next.

You can love your mother with your whole heart, and your husband or wife, and each of your children. The wonder is that giving the whole of it to one person does not force you to give less to another. On the contrary, each one of us now gets more. For if you love only your friend and no one else, it is a feeble heart that you offer. Your friend would stand to gain if you also gave it to others.

Certainly, we are limited. We are constrained by time, energy, and talent. But we can all do something. Maybe we can't do everything for everyone all the time, but we can do something. And it's those little things that we do that open up our heart, that love becomes visible, and that lets Christ become present and visible to others.

By Fr. John Zeyack



Outside His parables, there are only three occasions when Christ explicitly speaks of the punishment of hell:

1. When people fail to perform works of mercy.
2. When adults corrupt children by bad example and serious scandal.
3. Whenever there is an unforgiving hatred of neighbor.

Christ even condemns what some consider only slight infringements of the law of charity and brotherly love. Christ denounces all words of anger, ridicule and contempt. In the Gospel of St. Matthew, our Lord says ". . . everyone who grows angry with his brother/sister shall be liable to judgment; anyone who uses abusive language toward his brother (neighbor) shall be answerable to the Sanhedrin, and if he holds him in contempt he risks the fires of Gehenna (hell)."

Let us do good and perform works of mercy so that we can receive the reward prepared for us by our Heavenly Master.