

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 Simeon to schedule.

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

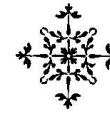
Funerals: Families of the deceased or the funeral director must contact Father Simeon before setting and publishing the day and time of the funeral.

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.

ETERNAL MEMORY



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



God does not forget the sinner; He forgets the sin.

RECONCILIATION FOR PASCHA

The Church holds the approaching time of Holy Week and the Glorious Resurrection so sacred and important that it asks of all its members to celebrate the Sacrament of Penance and share in the Most Holy Body and Precious Blood of Our Lord, God and Savior, Jesus Christ . . . We call this our "Easter Duty." How can anyone who believes in Jesus Christ let this most holy time pass by without being reconciled with God? . . . to acknowledge our sinfulness and seek divine forgiveness in the Sacrament of Reconciliation. *Father is available for Confessions on Saturdays from 4:00 – 4:30 PM and after the Pre-sanctified Liturgies on Wednesday and Friday to assist us in being spiritually prepared to celebrate Pascha.*

Please Note: Watch the bulletin for these scheduled times.

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE – 2022

All Services Monday thru Friday are at 7:00 PM.

Mon. & Tues. – Pre-sanctified Liturgies followed by Confession

Wed. – Pre-sanctified Liturgy with anointing for Health of body, mind and spirit

Holy Thurs. – Vespers w/Liturgy of St. Basil, commemorating the Institution of the Holy Eucharist, and the Betrayal of Judas

Good Friday – Entombment Vespers – Commemorating the Death and Burial of Jesus

Holy Saturday – 8:00 PM – Resurrection Matins & Divine Liturgy

Sunday – Feast of the Resurrection

9:00 AM – Divine Liturgy **11:00 AM** – Divine Liturgy

*Blessing of Easter Baskets: **Sat.: in the Social Hall Sun.: in the Church***



PUSSYWILLOWS NEEDED

Spring is almost here, (even though it doesn't feel like it), so keep your eyes open for the budding of the pussywillows. Please cut them when they bud (before they turn yellow), and bring them to the Social Hall. **Do not put them in water.**

Divine Liturgy Attendance weekend of March 19:

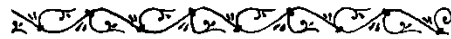
5:00 PM: **48**; 9:00 AM: **37**; 11:00 AM: **53**

Our return to the Lord for all He has given us: \$2,801.00

Ukraine Donations: \$6,689.91



- **Sun., March 27** ECF Classes today 10 AM to 10:45 AM.
- **Mon., March 28** Church Cleaning Party 9 AM – Noon. Come lend a helping hand.
- **Fri. & Sat., April 1 & 2** Kolachi Baking 9 AM.
- **Sat. & Sun., April 2 & 3** Kolachi Sale after Liturgies.
- **Wed., April 6** St. Vincent de Paul Meals Program 9 AM – 2 PM.
- **Sat. & Sun., April 9 & 10** Paska Sale after Liturgies. More information to come.



HOMEMADE CABBAGE & NOODLES SALE

We will be selling homemade cabbage & noodles again on **Sat. & Sun., March 26 & 27**, in the Social Hall. Carry-outs available after each Liturgy as quantities last - \$6 for a quart container. Proceeds to benefit the 100th Anniversary Fund.

KOLACHI BAKING

Anyone wishing to help bake Kolachi, please come to the Social Hall on **Friday, April 1st, &/or Saturday, April 2nd, at 9 AM.**

Kolachi will be sold for \$12 each after Liturgies April 2nd and 3rd.

Nut, Apricot, Apricot Nut, Cranberry Nut, and Poppyseed will be available. There are no pre-orders. Please call Patty James at 330-507-6273 for any questions.

LADYBUG BOX

4 Super Cash Bonanza tickets have been donated to our March Ladybug drawing. This month's drawing will be held on Sunday, March 27th, after the 11:00 AM Divine Liturgy.

Tickets are being sold in the Social Hall for chances to win the contents of the Ladybug 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.

YOU HAVE TO PLAY TO WIN! Will You Be The Next Lucky Winner???????

GREAT FAST CHARITY

St. Vincent de Paul is in need of desserts. On March 2nd our group prepared 411 carryout meals. Any donations of baked or store-bought cookies, cakes, cupcakes, sweet breads, etc. are appreciated. Items should be suitable for putting in individual baggies. **Please – No pies and nothing with nuts or peanut butter.**

Your donations may be dropped off in our Social Hall kitchen. Please call Elaine Vislosky at 330-770-1100 for any questions. Thank you!

MARCH 27, 2022 SCHEDULE OF DIVINE SERVICES

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| Sunday | 27 March | <i>FOURTH SUNDAY OF THE GREAT FAST. MEMORY OF OUR HOLY FATHER JOHN CLIMACUS. Our Venerable Mother Matrona of Thessalonica.</i> |
| (Sun. Vigil) | 5:00 PM 9:00 AM 11:00 AM | +Frank Hosos, Jr. – Ron Mosko +Harry Reynolds – Mike & Rosanne Dando +Mark Sharon – Gary Sharon & family |
| Monday | 28 March | <i>Our Venerable Father Hilary the Younger. The Holy Stephen the Wonderworker.</i> No Divine Services |
| Tuesday | 29 March | <i>Our Venerable Father Mark, Bishop of Arethusa, the Deacon Cyril, and others who suffered martyrdom under Julian the Apostate.</i> No Divine Services |
| Wednesday | 30 March | <i>Our Venerable Father John Climacus, Author of “The Ladder.”</i> 6:00 PM Pre-Sanctified Liturgy |
| Thursday | 31 March | <i>THE GREAT CANON OF OUR HOLY FATHER ANDREW OF CRETE. Our Venerable Father Hypatius, Bishop of Gangra.</i> No Divine Services |
| Friday | 1 April | <i>Our Holy Mother Mary of Egypt.</i> 6:00 PM Pre-Sanctified Liturgy |
| Saturday | 2 April | <i>Akathistos Saturday. Our Venerable Father Titus the Wonderworker.</i> (Vigil Liturgy) 5:00 PM +Clarence Rizzi – Sister Barbara Pavlik |
| Sunday | 3 April | <i>FIFTH SUNDAY OF THE GREAT FAST. MEMORY OF OUR HOLY MOTHER MARY OF EGYPT. Our Venerable Father and Confessor Nicetas, Hegumen of Medikion.</i> 9:00 AM Family in Ukraine – Betty Zombar 11:00 AM +William F. Isabella, Sr. – George & Donna Bodajlo |



Attentive to the Word

FOURTH SUNDAY OF THE GREAT FAST

ST. JOHN CLIMACUS

Mark 9:17 – 31

Tone 3 Pg. 135 & Pgs. 226 – 227

Liturgy of St. Basil during Great Lent:

(In place of Antiphons) Pages 16 & 17 Typical Psalms

Beatitudes Pgs. 23-24; (Instead of "It is truly proper,") Pg. 227 Magnification

"I believe, Lord, help my unbelief"

There is an elusive quality to hope. It is easy to say that we have hope when we least need to hope; it is the most difficult to hope when hope and hope alone is all we have to fall back on. To use an analogy, if you ask me whether I believe that parachutes work, I will answer yes, I do. But if you invite me to put on a parachute and jump out of an airplane, I will begin to have all sorts of worries about whether this particular parachute will open or not, and I will end up deciding to stay on the ground where it is much easier to have trust that parachutes work.

So too in our Christian lives, if everything is under our control, it is easy to say that we hope in God. But when things spin out of control – then we desperately need something that is beyond our reach, when the future looks absolutely bleak – then it is precisely that we need to have hope. In short, hope is most a virtue in hopeless situations.

Things certainly were bleak for the father and his son that we read about today. The father had tried everything for his son, but nothing worked; and the more things that failed, the harder it was to have any hope for his son. So when he stood before Jesus, his hope was thin indeed and struggling to preserve itself. His cry is sometimes also the anguished cry of our own hearts: "I believe; help my unbelief! I put all my hope in you; heal my despair! I trust in you, my God; do not forsake me!"

- For reflection: Meditate on the image of this parent bringing his child before Jesus in desperate need. What does it say to you about your bringing your own needs before Jesus?

- Prayer starter: Lord Jesus, you know that my faith is far smaller than a mustard seed and sometimes very fragile. Do not let me be tempted beyond my strength. Increase my hope and trust.

ST. JOHN CLIMACUS

Lent is a time of repentance, a time when our heart of stone must be made by the power of God into a heart of flesh, from insensitive to become perceptive, from cold and hard to become warm and open to others, and indeed, to God Himself.

Lent is a time of renewal when, like spring, everything becomes new again; It is a time of reconciliation, and reconciliation is a joy: it is God's joy, and it is our joy; it's a new beginning.

The fourth Sunday of The Great Fast is the day of Saint John of the Ladder, also known as St. John Climacus. I want to read to you a few phrases of his which are relevant to the particular time of the year in which we live:

“Repentance, that is our return to God, is renewal of our baptism; it is our effort to renew our covenant with God, our promise to change our life. It is a time when we can acquire humility, that is peace; peace with God, peace with ourselves, peace with all the created world. Repentance is born of hope and rejection of despair. Repentance is our peace with God. Repentance is cleansing of our conscience. Repentance implies carrying off all sadness and pain.”

If we ask ourselves how we can respond to God Who receives us as the father received the prodigal son, a God Who has waited for us longingly, here is what St. John of the Ladder said about prayer:

“Don't use in prayer falsely wise words; because it is often the simple and uncomplicated whispering of children that rejoices our heavenly Father. Don't try to say much when you speak to God, because otherwise your mind in search of words will be lost in them. One word spoken by the publican brought Divine mercy upon him; one word filled with faith saved the thief on the cross. The use of the multiplicity of words when we pray disperses our mind and fills it with imaginations. One word spoken to God collects the mind in His presence.”

Let us remember these words of St. John Climacus because he was a man who knew what it means to turn to God, to stay with God, to be God's joy and to rejoice in Him. He is offered us in this time, when we are ascending towards the days of the Passion, he is offered us as an example of what grace Divine can do to transform an ordinary, simple human being into a light to the world.

By Metropolitan Anthony of Sourozh