

## 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.

## CONTRIBUTION ENVELOPES ARE FINALLY HERE!

Please pick-up your 2023 Contribution Envelopes in the Social Hall. *If there is any name or address correction, if you are unable to locate your envelopes, or if you wish a set of envelopes, please call the office, or drop a note in the collection basket. **Please discard your old 2022 envelopes.** If you want proper credit for your contributions, you must use the envelopes you were assigned for the year 2023.*

*Also please pick up your Year-End Contribution Statements for 2022. If you haven't picked up your Contribution Envelopes yet, your statement will be in your box.*

*Contribution Envelopes and Statements will be in the Social Hall through February 26th. After that date, you will have to call the Parish office at 330-372-1875 to pick them up.*

## 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](http://EasternCatholic.org/Events).

**Thursday, February 16 (started February 9).**

**8:00 PM – 9:00 PM**

**“ORTHODOXY & LIFE”: A Patristic Approach to Life Issues  
by Rev. Josiah Trenham**

In this study, the Church Fathers will guide us into a deeper understanding of what it means to champion life, and why it is an essential, non-negotiable part of being a Christian.



**Divine Liturgy Attendance weekend of February 4:**

5:00 PM: 52; 10:00 AM: 72

**Our return to the Lord for all He has given us: . . . . . \$2,451.00**



- **Sun., Feb. 12** ECF classes meet from 9:00 AM – 9:45 AM.
- **Mon., Feb. 20** First Day of the Great Fast - Vespers – 6:00 PM.
- **Wed., Feb. 22 & Fri., Feb. 24** Pre-sanctified Liturgies – 6:00 PM.
- **Mon., Feb. 27** Church Cleaning Party 9 AM – Noon.  
Come lend a helping hand



### 100<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE MEETING

*Sunday, February 19th, in the Social Hall*

**after the 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy.**

**Bring your 2023 fundraising ideas for discussion.**

**Everyone is welcome!**



### LAMB OF GOD MUSICAL

**Sunday, April 23<sup>rd</sup> at 2:00 PM:** We are inviting you to join us on a pilgrimage that will touch your heart. We've arranged for a charter bus to take us to Ss. Robert & William Catholic Parish in Euclid, Ohio, to experience "*Lamb of God*," a powerful musical work by Rob Gardner, which portrays the final days of the life of Jesus Christ through to His glorious resurrection. The story is told via the perspectives of those who loved and knew Jesus: Peter, John, Thomas, Mary and Martha of Bethany, Mary Magdalene, and His mother Mary.

Funds have been donated toward making this possible, but a \$10 reservation is necessary to reserve limited seating on the bus. A light lunch will be provided in the church hall at 11:15 AM prior to boarding the bus, which will depart at Noon. A freewill offering will be accepted for the performance.

This is a unique performance with a full choir, orchestra and 19 different soloists and narrators sharing their emotional roles, as written in the Bible.

**Sign up with payment after Liturgies in the Social Hall to reserve bus seating. Deadline: March 5<sup>th</sup>.**

### BYZANTINE CATHOLIC WORLD

...New subscribers and those wishing to renew their *Byzantine Catholic World* subscriptions, please use the envelope provided in your envelopes box, and return in the collection basket by **February 26<sup>th</sup>.**

FEBRUARY 12, 2023

### SCHEDULE OF DIVINE SERVICES

Sunday	12 Feb.	<i>MEATFARE SUNDAY. Our Holy Father Meletius, Archbishop of Antioch.</i>
(Sun. Vigil)	<b>5:00 PM</b> <b>10:00 AM</b>	<b>+Wiley Byers (40<sup>th</sup> Day) – son, Patrick Byers</b> <b>+Angeline Lucia – Betty &amp; Bill Miller</b>
Monday	13 Feb.	<i>Cheesefare Monday. Our Venerable Father Martinian.</i>
(Manor)	<b>8:30 AM</b>	<b>+Betty Vazur – Ruth Grinta</b>
Tuesday	14 Feb.	<i>Cheesefare Tuesday. Our Venerable Father Auxentius. The Passing of our Venerable Father Constantine, whose monastic name is Cyril, the Apostle of the Slavs.</i>
		<b>No Divine Liturgy</b>
Wednesday	15 Feb.	<i>Cheesefare Wednesday. The Holy Apostle Onesimus.</i>
	<b>6:00 PM</b>	<b>Vespers</b>
Thursday	16 Feb.	<i>Cheesefare Thursday. The Holy Martyrs, the Presbyter Pamphilius, Porphyrius and their Companions.</i>
		<b>No Divine Liturgy</b>
Friday	17 Feb.	<i>Cheesefare Friday. The Holy Great Martyr Theodore the Recruit.</i>
(Manor)	<b>8:30 AM</b>	<b>Sixth Hour</b>
Saturday	18 Feb.	<i>Cheesefare Saturday. Memory of all Holy Ascetics. Our Holy Father Leo, Pope of Rome.</i>
(Vigil Lit.)	<b>5:00 PM</b>	<b>+Sr. Miriam Konkus – Benedictine Sisters</b>
Sunday	19 Feb.	<i>CHEESEFARE SUNDAY. The Holy Apostle Archippus.</i>
	<b>10:00 AM</b>	<b>Health &amp; Welfare of Michael Johnson – Mike &amp; Sue Johnson</b>



## Attentive to the Word

SUNDAY OF MEATFARE

*Matthew 25: 31 – 46*

*Tone 3 – Page 135*

*Meatfare – Pages 217 – 218*



Only one week is left before the beginning of Great Lent. For people who are marginally in the Church, Lent comes unexpectedly, that is to say, they do not expect it and do not prepare for it. For such people, Lent ends just as unexpectedly, Church feasts unexpectedly pass by, and life itself unexpectedly comes to its natural end. And it so happens that people spend their whole lives trying to hide from God, running from Him, and not expecting to meet Him.

It appears that a lot has been accomplished: they received advanced degrees, made good careers, bought houses and expensive cars, traveled around the world. But standing before God, they find themselves absolutely naked: “Lord, I had a new Mercedes... Lord,

I vacationed in Hawaii... Lord, I became the head of my department...” Unfortunately, “not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ shall enter the kingdom of heaven” (Matt. 7:21). God wants only one thing: “My son, give me your heart” (Prov. 23:26). But where are our hearts? – There...where our treasure is (Luke 12:34): on vacation, in the trunk of the Mercedes, and in the desk drawer at work. Chasing after the worldly, running in circles of worldly vanity, people grow attached to this vanity, become one with it, and no longer can or want to be with God.

Of course, with their minds most people would say that they would rather be in paradise than hell, but their hearts are fleeing from God. “Such people say one thing, but their heart says another: with their tongue they say ‘Lord, Lord,’ but their heart says ‘Have me excused’” (Saint Theophan the Recluse). Such people are not accustomed to prayer. Fasting to them is burdensome, and they are strangers in church. Even during divine services they are constantly drawn to where their heart is – and it is not in church, not with God.

Why is the Judgment Dreadful? Not at all because the Judge is dreadful, but because on that day “the thoughts out of many hearts [will] be revealed” (Luke 2:35) – the thoughts of our hearts. God does not decide who finds salvation in the Body of Christ, and who remains an outside observer. Christ teaches us: “For the measure you give will be the measure you get back” (Luke 6:38). And if for all our life we ran from God and measured out to Him only a token of ourselves, how can we hope to enter into the fullness of life with Him? Indeed, “they will go away into eternal punishment” (Matt. 25:46); but they will go on their own accord. They will run from God, continuing on the path that they chose and confirmed with their lives. They will hide away from God as they kept hiding during their lives; and separation from God is everlasting punishment.

They are surprised: “Lord, when did we... not minister to Thee?” (Matt. 25:44) The way to damnation is surprisingly simple: every time a man turns away from God and toward a television set, silences the voice of conscience, and knowingly chooses sin, walks past someone in need, even though he could help, or at least comfort – the man makes yet another step away from God. And from all of these small steps, as from bricks, the path away from God is built.

But the path to God is just as simple! Love God and love your neighbor (Mark 12:30-31); and how much can be done to make this love full of life and action! Feed the hungry, give drink to the thirsty, give shelter to the homeless, clothe the naked, visit the sick and the captive (Matt. 25:34-36), love divine services and prayer (1 Thess. 5:17; Col 3:15, et passim), live in the Church, the Body of Christ, rather than outside of It, and you will find life, because Christ defeated death – and only in His Body is there life.

Every moment of our life offers us an opportunity to make a small step toward God. One should not wait for great persecutions in order to be faithful to Christ. One should not wait for a beggar to say: “Help me, because I am an angel in human form.” One should not wait for the Final Judgment: “Then, I will surely choose God.” “He who does not love his brother whom he has seen, cannot love God whom he has not seen” (1 John 4:20). Act with kindness here and now. Choose truth in your every word. Do not silence your conscience – listen to it. If “the kingdom of God is in the midst of you” (Luke 17:21) here and now, then even at the Final Judgment we will hear: “Come, O blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world” (Matt. 25:34). The Lord wants everyone to be saved (1 Tim. 2:4); the choice is ours. Make your choice today!

*By Fr. Sergei Sveshnikov*

