

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.

REGULATIONS FOR THE SEASON OF THE GREAT FAST – 2023

The fasts of the liturgical year are to be kept in accordance with the Norms of Particular Law of the Byzantine Metropolitan Church *sui iuris* of Pittsburgh.

Simple Abstinence

- The law of simple abstinence forbids the use of meat, but permits the use of eggs and dairy products.
- All faithful of the Archeparchy who receive the Eucharist are obliged to observe simple abstinence when prescribed. Abstinence is obligatory on all Wednesdays and Fridays of the Great Fast.

Strict Abstinence

- The law of strict abstinence (fast) forbids the use and consumption of all meat, eggs and dairy products.
- All faithful of the Archeparchy who receive the Eucharist are obliged to observe strict abstinence when prescribed.
- Strict abstinence (fast) **is to be observed in 2023 on Pure Monday, February 20** (the first day of the Great Fast), **and on Great and Holy Friday, April 7.**

Dispensations

- Priests and parents are to ensure that minors are educated in the authentic sense of penance.
- Pastors and administrators, with just cause and taking into account acceptable reasons due to personal circumstances, may grant to the individual faithful as well as to individual families, dispensations, transfers, or commutations of abstinence and strict fast into other pious practices. Superiors of religious houses or clerical institutions enjoy these same faculties relative to their constituents.

Liturgical Services

- The Divine Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts takes precedence over all other Lenten Devotions.
- The Divine Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts only is to be celebrated on Wednesdays and/or Friday evenings of the Great Fast and also on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday of Holy Week.

CONTRIBUTION ENVELOPES & STATEMENTS

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.



Divine Liturgy Attendance weekend of February 11:

5:00 PM: **57**; 10:00 AM: **73**

Our return to the Lord for all He has given us: \$3,518.00

- **Sun., Feb. 19** ECF classes meet from 9:00 AM – 9:45 AM.
100th Anniv. Fundraising Committee Meeting after Liturgy. Everyone welcome!
- **Mon., Feb. 27** Church Cleaning Party 9 AM – Noon. Come lend a helping hand.
- **Wed., March 1** St. Vincent de Paul Meals Program 9 AM – 2 PM.
- **Wed., March 1 & Fri., March 3** Pre-sanctified Liturgies – 6:00 PM.

**MONDAY, FEBRUARY 20 – LENT BEGINS – DAY OF STRICT FAST –
NO MEAT, EGGS OR DAIRY PRODUCTS.**

VESPERS ON SUNDAY EVENINGS DURING GREAT LENT

Vespers will be held on Sunday evenings during the Great Fast beginning February 26th. Vespers will be celebrated at 5:00 PM.

Dates are as follows: Feb. 26th, March 5th, March 12th, March 19th, March 26th, & April 2nd (Palm Sunday).

Following Vespers everyone is welcome to the Social Hall where we will have a light Lenten meal of soup and bread and a presentation on the spiritual life. We will read and discuss writings from the Saints on how to cultivate a deeper relationship with God. Please bring your Bibles too!

Please see sign-up sheet in the Social Hall.

LAMB OF GOD MUSICAL

Sunday, April 23rd 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 5th.

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 26th**.

FEBRUARY 19, 2023
SCHEDULE OF DIVINE SERVICES

Sunday (Sun. Vigil)	19 Feb. 5:00 PM 10:00 AM	<i>CHEESEFARE SUNDAY. The Holy Apostle Archippus.</i> +Sr. Miriam Konkus – Benedictine Sisters Health & Welfare of Michael Johnson – Mike & Sue Johnson
Monday	20 Feb. 6:00 PM	<i>FIRST DAY OF THE GREAT FAST. Our Venerable Father Leo, Bishop of Catania. Our Holy Father Agathon, Pope of Rome.</i> Vespers
Tuesday	21 Feb.	<i>Our Venerable Father Timothy of Symbola. Our Holy Father Eustathius, Archbishop of Great Antioch.</i> No Divine Services
Wednesday	22 Feb. 6:00 PM	<i>Finding of the Venerable Relics of the Martyrs at Eugenia.</i> Pre-Sanctified Liturgy Health of Christine Johnson Leon - family
Thursday	23 Feb.	<i>The Holy Martyr Polycarp, Bishop of Smyrna.</i> No Divine Services
Friday	24 Feb. 6:00 PM	<i>Our Venerable Father Erasmus, of the Kiev Caves..</i> Pre-Sanctified Liturgy +All Faithful Departed Members of Our Lady of Wisdom Parish (Las Vegas, NV) – +Rt. Rev. Archimandrite Francis M. Vivona
Saturday (Vigil Lit.)	25 Feb. 5:00 PM	<i>Saturday of the First Week of Lent, on which we commemorate the Miracle of St. Theodore. First and Second Finding of the Head of John the Baptist.</i> +Steve Zombar – Raiti family
Sunday	26 Feb. 10:00 AM	<i>FIRST SUNDAY OF THE GREAT FAST. SUNDAY OF ORTHODOXY. MEMBORY OF THE HOLY PROPHETS. Our Holy Father Porphyrius, Bishop of Gaza. The Holy Great Martyr Photina the Samaritan.</i> +Theodore & +Patricia Falatic – son, Ted & family



Attentive to the Word

SUNDAY OF CHEESEFARE

Matthew 6: 14 - 21

Tone 4 Pg. 141 and Pgs. 218 - 219

Following each Divine Liturgy we will pray the Prayer of Mutual Forgiveness, which you will find in the pews. We will also have the opportunity to exchange forgiveness with one another.

Our Epistle and Gospel readings go hand in hand this morning, offering us great words of wisdom and preparation as we begin Great Lent this evening. Over the course of our pre-Lenten preparation, we've been instructed in the perspective with which we are to enter the fast. Starting with Zacchaeus Sunday, we've been presented with a series of questions through the parables of Christ – are our hearts' desire to see the Lord? Are we prepared to humble ourselves before the Lord? Are we ready to return to Him in repentance and brokenness of heart? And finally, we were presented with the Last Judgment, to ensure that we consider the question of our salvation with all seriousness and sobriety.

Great Lent is all about returning to Christ...and we struggle with fasting and repentance and prayers and almsgiving and spiritual readings to do just that. The most prominent feature of Great Lent is our fasting. And today, we hear from Christ and St. Paul exactly how it is we are to undertake our fast.

Christ warns us: when you fast, don't fast like the hypocrites. They say the fast is for God, but it's really to obtain the praise of others. And when they receive this praise, Christ says, that is their reward. We are not to call attention to our fasting. The only one who should see and know our labors is God, and He'll reward us as He sees fit. Our fasting is to be solely for God, as an offering of our lives and our wills and as an offering of love to our Savior.

This point is very much related to something St. Paul said in the Epistle reading as well. As we are fasting, we are not to worry about what other people are doing. St. Paul writes, "Let him who eats, despise not him who does not eat; and let him who does not eat, not judge him who eats: for God has received him. We are not to let others know what we are doing, and we are not to worry about how others are keeping the fast.

St. Paul then goes on to remind us that the day of our salvation is close at hand; the day we are to stand before the Throne of the Lord of Glory is closer now than it has ever been. And so we offer a fast of repentance, according to the words of Christ. And to our

fast from food, we join a fast from all sin. We put off the works of darkness, and clothe ourselves in the armor of light.

The Fathers of the Church warn us that our fasting can easily be for nothing – if we fast for the praise of men, then it's worthless. And if we don't fast from works of wickedness, then our fasting from food is for nothing. This evening we will begin our Lenten journey to that great and holy day of our Lord's Resurrection. But we must keep in mind that our Lenten journey will be of no use if it's simply a dietary modification for the course of 40+ days. We're called by our Lord to lay aside all sin and to focus all of our energies on being with Christ.

To set the tone for our fast let us meditate on this quote from St. John Chrysostom: "Do you fast? Give me proof of it by your works. If you see a poor man, take pity on him. If you see a friend being honored, do not envy him. Do not let only your mouth fast, but also the eye and the ear and the feet and the hands and all the members of our bodies. Let the hands fast, by being free of avarice (greed). Let the feet fast, by ceasing to run after sin. Let the eyes fast, by disciplining them not to glare at that which is sinful. Let the ear fast, by not listening to evil talk and gossip. Let the mouth fast from foul words and unjust criticism. For what good is it if we abstain from eating birds and fishes, but bite and devour our brothers?"



"FORGIVE US AS WE FORGIVE"...very scary words

In Mt 6:14-21 Jesus once again insists on mutual forgiveness between people as a precondition of God's forgiveness. Those who do not forgive are not forgiven. This teaching is repeated by Jesus in the parable of the unforgiving servant which concludes with virtually the same words. The opinion that even unforgiving Christians are forgiven by God is contradicted by Christ Himself. The moral action of the faithful, when they forgive others their trespasses, is bound with the love of God: not to forgive others is willfully to alienate ourselves from the forgiveness of God.

Keeping a sad countenance while fasting, so that everyone can see how one is suffering, is mere external display. Jesus rejects such hypocrisy. Thus, during seasons of fasting, the hymns of our Byzantine Church call the faithful to *wash and anoint their faces*. There is no "Ash Wednesday" to display that we are in a penitential season. And fasting is not merely abstaining from eating. Physical fasting works together with spiritual fasting, or self-denial. Fasting is for the glory of God, not to impress people around us. By attaching themselves to treasures on earth, people cut themselves off from heavenly treasures. Let us really try to fast in the true spirit of the Great Fast.