

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.

ECF "POCKET CHANGE" CHARITY COLLECTION

The students of the ECF classes will be collecting "pocket change" for the Lenten practice of giving to those in need. This is a hands-on project. Our children will be responsible for collecting and counting the money. They will also decide a charity to support. There will be donation baskets at the doors of our Church. Your support will be greatly appreciated. **Kindness matters!**

"But when you do a charitable deed, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, that your charitable deed may be in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will Himself reward you openly" (Matthew 6:3-4).

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**. Any checks should be made out to Saints Peter and Paul Church.

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.

PUSSYWILLOWS NEEDED

Spring is almost here so keep your eyes open for the budding of the pussy willows. Please cut them when they bud (before they turn yellow), and bring them to the Social Hall. **Do not put them in water.**

ST. VINCENT de PAUL

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul of Trumbull County is in need of furniture, home goods, and appliances for their Share to Care Voucher Program. They currently are very low on furniture, and the need for furniture is high. If you would like more information, please call them at 234-223-2933.



Divine Liturgy Attendance weekend of February 18:

5:00 PM: **51**; 10:00 AM: **82**

Our return to the Lord for all He has given us: \$3,109.00



- **Sun., Feb. 26** ECF classes meet from 9:00 AM – 9:45 AM.
Vespers – 5:00 PM. First Presentation on the Spiritual Life after Vespers.
- **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.
- **Sat., March 4** Second All Souls Saturday – Divine Liturgy 9:00 AM – Pg. 428.
- **Wed., March 8 & Fri., March 10** Liturgies of the Pre-sanctified Gifts – 6:00 PM.

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.

FEBRUARY 26, 2023 SCHEDULE OF DIVINE SERVICES

Sunday	26 Feb.	<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>
(Sun. Vigil)	5:00 PM 10:00 AM 5:00 PM	+Steve Zombar – Raiti family +Theodore & +Patricia Falatic – son, Ted & family Vespers
Monday	27 Feb.	<i>Our Venerable Father and Confessor Procopius the Decapolite. Our Holy Father Gregory of Narek.</i> No Divine Services
Tuesday	28 Feb.	<i>Our Venerable Father and Confessor Basil, Fellow Ascetic of Procopius.</i> No Divine Services
Wednesday	1 March	<i>The Venerable Martyr Eudoxia. Our Holy Father David, Enlightener of Wales.</i> 6:00 PM Liturgy of the Pre-sanctified Gifts +Douglas Winland – Elsie & Dick Fowler
Thursday	2 March	<i>The Holy Martyr Theodotus, Bishop of Cyrene.</i> No Divine Services
Friday	3 March	<i>The Holy Martyr Eutropius and His Companions, Cleonicus and Basiliscus.</i> 6:00 PM Liturgy of the Pre-sanctified Gifts +Elizabeth McGreene - Anonymous
Saturday	4 March	<i>Second All Souls Saturday. Our Venerable Father Gerasimus of the Jordan.</i> 9:00 AM 5:00 PM
(Vigil Lit.)		Second All Souls' Liturgy with reading of Diptyches +Bob Blake – Betty & Macala Blake
Sunday	5 March	<i>SECOND SUNDAY OF THE GREAT FAST. The Holy Martyr Conon.</i> 10:00 AM 5:00 PM
		+Barbara Howsare - +Richard & Mary Anne Kilbert Vespers



Attentive to the Word

FIRST SUNDAY OF THE GREAT FAST

John 1: 43 – 51

Tone 5 Pg. 146 and Pgs. 220 – 221

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. 221 – Magnification

In today's Gospel, Philip and Nathaniel are called to be Apostles. Both made a decision for Christ. Pontius Pilate, the Roman governor, also made a decision at the trial of Jesus Christ. Fearing the anger of the people, he decided against Jesus. He ordered Him to be crucified. We make decisions every day of our life. But there is no more important decision than the one to live our commitment to Christ. The decision for Christ was made for us for the first time by our godparents at baptism. Now it must be our personal decision.

We live in difficult times. Our worldly society downgrades religion and moral values. It promotes pornography, abortion, divorce, and sexual permissiveness, among other evils. Does this mean we are to lower our standards and confirm to the easy norms of the world? By no means! We must be witnesses for Christ! It is not easy to live a good Christian life today. It was even more difficult in the early history of the Church. To be a Christian in those days meant to embrace a life of ridicule and even death. The world was pagan. Slavery, immorality and every vice and perversion under the sun were prevalent. In St. Paul's first letter to the Corinthians, he writes: "We have become a spectacle to the universe. We are fools on Christ's account. Ah, but in Christ you are wise! We go hungry and thirsty, poorly clad, roughly treated, wander about homeless.... Persecution comes our way; we bear it patiently ... We have become the world's refuse, the scum of all; that is the present state of affairs."

Paul did not advise his converts to go to the way of the world. He urged them to be the leaven that should change the world. This they did. Now is the hour of our decision. Mark your decision for Christ.

ICONS AND THE ICON SCREEN

In the Eastern Church the icons bear witness to the reality of God's presence with us in the mystery of faith. The icons are not just human pictures or visual aids to contemplation and prayer. They are the witnesses of the presence of the Kingdom of God to us, and so of our own presence to the Kingdom of God in the Church.

The iconostasis or icon screen in the Eastern Church exists to show our unity with Christ, his mother and all the angels and saints. It exists to show our unity with God. The altar table, which stands for the Banquet Table of the Kingdom of God, is placed behind the royal doors, between the icons of the Theotokos and Child and the glorified Christ, showing that everything which happens to us in the Church happens in history between those "two comings" of Christ: between his coming as the Savior born of Mary and his coming at the end of the age as the King and the Judge.

The icons on the royal doors witness to the presence of Christ's good news, the gospel of salvation. The four evangelists who recorded the gospels appear, and also an icon of the Annunciation, the first proclamation of the gospel in the world. Over the doors we have the icon of Christ's Mystical Supper with his disciples – the icon of the central mystery of the Christian faith and the unity of the Church in the world. It is the visual witness that we too are partakers in the "marriage supper of the lamb" (Revelation 19:9), that we too are blessed by Christ "to eat and drink at my table in my kingdom" (Luke 22:30), blessed to "eat bread in the Kingdom of God." (Luke 14:15)

Over and around the central gates are icons of the saints. The deacon's doors (for the servants of the altar) usually have icons depicting deacons or angels. The first row also has an icon of the person or event in whose honor the given building is dedicated, along with other prominent saints or events. Depending on the size of the iconostasis, there may be rows of icons of the apostles, the major feasts of the Church, (*ours are on the wall on either side of the icon screen*), the prophets and other holy people blessed by God – all crowned on the top by the cross of Christ.



FASTING

St. John Chrysostom compared prayer and fasting to the two wings of a bird. They are both needed if that bird is to fly. It simply cannot fly on one wing. And so the Christian in his flight through this earthly life cannot go on either prayer or fasting alone. He must make use of both of these means for the purification of his soul.

We call ourselves Christian and so we should imitate Christ. He gave us good example of both prayer and fasting. He fasted for forty days and forty nights in the desert before beginning His public life, and we saw the intensity of His prayer in the Garden of Gethsemane.

Great Lent is the time to intensify our own prayer and fasting. Attend the special services during Lent and keep the fast. Pray and fast for ourselves, our families, for our country, for peace in our hearts, etc.