

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.

ST. MICHAEL'S ROSARY SOCIETY

If anyone is interested in joining St. Michael's Rosary Society, please call Janice Clark @ 330-544-6436.

YEAR-END CONTRIBUTION STATEMENTS FOR 2022

... 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.

PLEASE NOTE:

Due to supply issues, our 2023 Contribution Envelopes still have not yet arrived. You will have the same envelope numbers as assigned to you last year. Until you receive your new envelopes, please just put your contributions in a regular envelope with your envelope number, name, and amount. Please add the Holy Day if applicable.

The 2023 Church Calendars are in the Social Hall for pick-up.

FREE ADULT EDUCATION

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

Thursdays, February 9 & 16.

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 January 28:

5:00 PM: 58; 10:00 AM: 74

Our return to the Lord for all He has given us: \$1,917.00



- **Sun., Feb. 5** ECF classes meet from 9:00 AM – 9:45 AM.
- **Mon. Feb. 6; Fri., Feb. 10** Divine Lit. – 8:30 AM – Manor Chapel.
- **Wed., Feb. 8** Divine Lit. – 6:00 PM.
- **Sat., Feb. 11** First All Souls Saturday – Divine Liturgy 9:00 AM – Pg. 428.
- **Sun., Feb. 12** Superbowl/Bingo Party (see below.)
- **Mon., Feb. 13** Parish Guild Anniversary Dinner Meeting (see below.)
- **Mon., Feb. 13; Fri., Feb. 17** Divine Lit. – 8:30 AM – Manor Chapel.
- **Wed., Feb. 15** Divine Lit. – 6:00 PM.



SUPERBOWL/BINGO PARTY

Sunday, February 12th, in the Social Hall

\$10 Charge at the door.

Quarter Bingo starts at 4:00 PM.

Watch the SuperBowl on the Big Screen!

Please bring an appetizer or dessert.

Please sign up in the Social Hall by February 5th.

PARISH GUILD ANIVERSARY DINNER MEETING

Monday, February 13th – 6:00 PM

Giorgio’s Restaurant

New Members are welcome.

Please sign up in the Social Hall by February 5th.

100th 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!



LORD, bless all the members of our Parish family.
 Help us bring together the wisdom of age – the
 Enthusiasm of youth – the suffering of our sick – the
 Talents of all to continue the work of the Church
 And lead us all to eternal happiness. Amen.

FEBRUARY 5, 2023
 SCHEDULE OF DIVINE SERVICES

Sunday	5 Feb.	<i>SUNDAY OF THE PRODIGAL SON. Post-festive Day of the Meeting. The Holy Martyr Agatha.</i>
(Sun. Vigil)	5:00 PM	Intention of Fr. Simeon Sibenik – Benedictine Sisters
	10:00 AM	+Mark Sharon – Gary Sharon & family
Monday	6 Feb.	<i>Post-festive Day of the Encounter. Our Venerable Father Bucolus, Bishop of Smyrna. The Holy Martyr Silvanus, Bishop of Emessa, and Companions. Our Venerable Father and Confessor Photius, Patriarch of Constantinople.</i>
(Manor)	8:30 AM	+Harry Reynolds – Rick & Karen Reynolds
Tuesday	7 Feb.	<i>Post-festive Day of the Meeting. Our Venerable Father Parthenius, Bishop of Lampsacus. The Passing of the Martyr and Priest Peter Verhun (1957)..</i>
		No Divine Liturgy
Wednesday	8 Feb.	<i>Pre-festive Day of the Meeting. The Holy Great Martyr Theodore. The Holy Prophet Zechariah.</i>
	6:00 PM	+Mary Passek – Michael & Elizabeth Phipps
Thursday	9 Feb.	<i>Leave-taking (Otdanije) of the Encounter. The Holy Martyr Nicephor.</i>
		No Divine Liturgy
Friday	10 Feb.	<i>The Holy Martyr Charalampas.</i>
(Manor)	8:30 AM	+Gregory Vrael - Anonymous
Saturday	11 Feb.	<i>First All Souls’ Saturday. Memory of all the Faithful Departed. The Holy Martyr Blaise, Bishop of Sebaste.</i>
	9:00 AM	First All Souls Liturgy with reading of Diptyches
(Vigil Lit.)	5:00 PM	+Wiley Byers (40th Day) – son, Patrick Byers
Sunday	12 Feb.	<i>MEATFARE SUNDAY. Our Holy Father Meletius, Archbishop of Antioch.</i>
	10:00 AM	+Angeline Lucia – Betty & Bill Miller



Attentive to the Word

SUNDAY OF THE PRODIGAL SON

Luke 15: 11 - 32

Follow directions on Pg. 216 (Res. Tone 2 - Pg. 130)

*except for Magnification: from Meeting
of Simeon: Pgs. 322 - 323*



It has long been recognized that we have misnamed the parable of "The Prodigal Son." It is actually a story of forgiveness and patience, and its hero is the loving father who gives his son his freedom and accepts his apologetic return with equal gentleness.

Still, if we concentrate on the figure of the son, there is another lesson to be learned from this parable about freedom and human nature. With typical youthful impetuosity, the son yearns to be free of the weight of his father's authority and the drudgery of family life. He takes his inheritance (his by fact of his birth, not because he has earned it) and sets off "to find himself" we might have said a decade or two ago.

His journey has no real goal except to be far away from home (Luke 15, 13); he has no itinerary except to live out his fantasies (15, 14). The young man quickly learns, however, that neither wealth nor pleasures endure as his money runs out and a famine strikes the land where he has settled.

It is hunger that brings him to nostalgia for his father's house again; he decides that he would rather see to his needs than flex his freedom in destitution. His motives for returning, let us not be deceived, are as selfish as his reasons for leaving,

yet the loving father accepts him back just the same while ignoring the son's well-rehearsed surrender of his freedom (Luke 15, 18-19; 22).

In today's Epistle, St. Paul argues - in rather more refined terms "the very same point that the prodigal son learned from his stomach; 'All things are lawful for me' but not all things are helpful" (1 Cor. 6, 12). I may revel in my freedom and in the infinite possibilities it affords me without ever realizing my potential, without ever satisfying my deepest desires.

Human beings have long made much of two of our divine and uncreated faculties: intellect and free will. These we misuse whenever we ignore the third of God's gifts to us at our creation: His own image and likeness (Genesis 1, 26-27). This gift, in its turn, is the foundation for the still greater possibilities realized by God's Incarnate Son: "Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit?" (1 Cor. 6, 15-19) It is this divine image which should give direction to our intellect and a goal to our freedom. The fact that we bear God's image naturally gives rise as well to certain laws of conduct - laws all too often rejected as impositions on our freedom; laws we attempt to reason away in a display of intellect. But Catholic morality is not a burden imposed upon us from the outside. It is much more on honest and practical reading of what lies written inside us, in the depths of our nature (1 Cor. 6, 15-18).

The exercise of freedom for its own sake, the emphasis of freedom from, can only alienate, fragment and ultimately undo us, as it did the prodigal son. The unbridled pursuit of pleasure takes a long path toward disillusionment, to prove along the way that nothing created can ultimately satisfy. God has endowed us with spiritual senses that only He can satisfy. To dedicate our freedom and to direct our intellect toward any lesser goal is to choose the doomed exile of the prodigal son. We are free so to choose. Indeed, we are free to surrender our freedom to God's Kingdom or to squander it on what fails to satisfy. To do so would be to deny the facts of our nature and to turn our backs on our true home.

Great Lent is a homecoming. The example of the prodigal son invites us to recognize our exile and turn homeward.

By Fr. Jack Custer