

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.

PLEASE NOTE:

Due to supply issues, our 2023 Contribution Envelopes 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.

CHURCH CALENDARS

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



A PRAYER FOR THE NEW YEAR

O God of new beginnings and wonderful surprises
thank You for the gift of a new year.

May it be a time of grace for me,
a time to grow in faith and love,
a time to renew my commitment to following Your Son, Jesus.

May it be a year of blessing for me,
a time to cherish my family and friends,
a time to renew my efforts at work,
a time to embrace my faith more fully.

Walk with me, please, in every day and every hour of this new year,
That the light of Christ might shine through me,
In spite of my weaknesses and failings.

Above all, may I remember this year
That I am a pilgrim on the sacred path to You. Amen.



Divine Liturgy Attendance weekend of December 24:

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

Our return to the Lord for all He has given us: \$8,031.00



- **Sun., Jan. 1** There will be no ECF classes on Jan. 1. Classes will resume on Jan. 8.
- **Wed., Jan. 4** St. Vincent de Paul Meals Program 9 AM – 2 PM. Office of Readings for Theophany – 6:00 PM.
- **Thurs., Jan. 5** Vespers w/Vigil Liturgy & Great Blessing of Water – 6:00 PM.
- **Fri., Jan. 6** Theophany of our Lord – Holy Day of Obligation – 9:00 AM.
- **Sun., Jan. 8** Cake after 10:00 AM Liturgy to celebrate Helen Kuhar’s 100th Birthday. **HAPPY BIRTHDAY & GOD BLESS YOU, HELEN!**
- **Sun., Jan. 8** Christmas Caroling to our shut-ins (see below.)



NO FASTING FROM DECEMBER 25 THROUGH JANUARY 4.

JAN. 5 – DAY OF STRICT FAST (NO MEAT, EGGS, OR DAIRY PRODUCTS.)



NEWLY SANCTIFIED JORDAN WATER

On the Feast of Theophany we will celebrate the Great Sanctification of Water. The dispenser containing the newly sanctified water is located by the Belvedere Avenue entrance. You are encouraged to take some water home for your sanctification. Small holy water bottles are available.



CHRISTMAS CAROLING . . .

As is our custom, we will be caroling to our Parishioners who are in nursing homes or who are home-bound. We want them to know they are loved and missed. We plan to leave in groups from the Social Hall on Sunday, January 8, at 2:00 PM. Please join us as we bring joy to our valued Parishioners.

IN APPRECIATION

Checks totaling \$3,110 were presented to **Bella Women’s Center**. Half of this amount was matching funds from the Parish Guild.

Many thanks to all who donated so generously to our Phillip’s Fast Almsgiving!

JANUARY 1, 2023 SCHEDULE OF DIVINE SERVICES

Sunday	1 Jan.	<i>SUNDAY BEFORE THEOPHANY. CIRCUMCISION OF OUR LORD, GOD AND SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST. OUR HOLY FATHER BASIL THE GREAT, ARCHBISHOP OF CAESAREA IN CAPPADOCIA.</i>
(Sun. Vigil)	5:00 PM 10:00 AM	+Joan Bernard – John & Jennifer Welch +Nancy Sernulka – Lisa Sernulka Kofora
Monday	2 Jan.	<i>Pre-festive Day of Theophany. Our Holy Father Sylvester, Pope of Rome.</i> No Divine Liturgy
Tuesday	3 Jan.	<i>Pre-festive Day of Theophany. The Holy Prophet Malachi. The Holy Martyr Gordius. Venerable Mother Genevieve of Paris.</i> No Divine Liturgy
Wednesday	4 Jan.	<i>Pre-festive Day of Theophany. Syn axis of the Holy 70 Apostles. Our Venerable Father Theoctist, Hegumen at Cuomo in Sicily.</i> 6:00 PM Office of Readings for Theophany
Thursday	5 Jan.	<i>Vigil of the Theophany. The Holy Martyrs Theopempt and Theona. Our Venerable Mother Syncletica. The Holy Prophet Micah.</i> (Vigil Lit.) 6:00 PM Intention of Parish Family – Vespers with Liturgy and Great Blessing of Water
Friday	6 Jan.	<i>THE THEOPHANY OF OUR LORD, GOD AND SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST. (pgs. 312 – 316)</i> (SPP) 9:00 AM Intention of Parish Family
Saturday	7 Jan.	<i>Saturday after Theophany. SYNAXIS OF THE HOLY FORERUNNER, PROPHET AND BAPTIST JOHN.</i> (Vigil Lit.) 5:00 PM Health & Welfare for Janet Byers – Wiley Byers
Sunday	8 Jan.	<i>SUNDAY AFTER THEOPHANY. Our Venerable Father George the Chozebite. Our Venerable Mother Dominica. Our Holy Father and Confessor Emilian.</i> 10:00 AM Health of Helen Kuhar on her 100th Birthday – Karen Gilbert & Janet Yocum



Attentive to the Word
SUNDAY BEFORE THEOPHANY
CIRCUMCISION OF OUR LORD
Luke 2: 20 - 21 & 40 - 52
Tone 5 Page 146 & then follow
directions on Pages 305 - 309



FEAST OF THEOPHANY

“You have revealed Yourself to the world today, and Your Light, O Lord, has shined upon us . . . We recognize You and exclaim to You: You have come and revealed Yourself, O inaccessible Light.” (Kontakion – Theophany)



The Sixth of January is the Feast of the Theophany. Originally it was the one Christian feast of the “Shining Forth” of God to the world in human form as Jesus. It included the celebration of Christ’s birth, the adoration of the Magi and all the childhood events such as the Circumcision, Presentation in the Temple, as well as His baptism by John in the Jordan.

Epiphany means “shining forth” or “manifestation”. The Feast, in our church, is more often and correctly called “Theophany”, which means the “manifestation of God”. Theophany is – after Easter and Pentecost – the greatest Feast of the Eastern Church: greater even than the Feast of the Nativity of Christ. It commemorates the baptism of Our Lord by John the Baptist, and the public manifestation of the incarnate Word to the world. At the River Jordan, God reveals Himself in the person of Jesus. He is the Word of God incarnate; on Him rests the Holy Spirit from all eternity; the Father witnesses to the divinity of Christ and proclaims Him to be His only Son . . . “This is my beloved Son in whom I am well pleased . . .” On this day of Theophany, God reveals Himself fully: He is one in three Persons. This is the mystery which allows us to call on the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit as one God. Nothing can be added to this vision or

manifestation. We celebrate the baptism of Jesus Christ as a Theophany because the Holy Trinity was made manifest for the first time.

The blessing of the water on the feast shows that Jesus was baptized for us in the Jordan River, and has transformed and changed the waters and **ALL CREATION** by His Presence. It is **NOW** the Kingdom of God presented and manifested to **us**. And as the water and all creation are transformed by Christ’s presence, so too, we are blessed to show that our entire lives have been transformed and brought into the presence of God through Christ!



THE CIRCUMCISION OF OUR LORD AND SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST

On the eighth day after His Nativity, our Lord Jesus Christ, in accordance with the Old Testament Law, was circumcised, as were all male infants as a sign of the Covenant of God with the Forefather Abraham and his descendants (Gen 17:10-14, Lev 12:3).

After this ritual the Divine Infant was given the name Jesus, as the Archangel Gabriel declared on the day of the Annunciation to the Most Holy Theotokos (Luke 1:31-33, 2:21). The Fathers of the Church explain that the Lord, the Creator of the Law, underwent circumcision in order to give people an example how faithfully the divine ordinances ought to be fulfilled. The Lord was circumcised so that later no one would doubt that He had truly assumed human flesh, and that His Incarnation was not merely an illusion, as certain heretics taught.

In the New Testament, the ritual of circumcision gave way to the Mystery of Baptism, which it prefigured (Col 2:11-12). Accounts of the Feast of the Circumcision of the Lord continue in the Eastern Church right up through the fourth century.

The two events, the Lord's Circumcision and Naming, remind Christians that they have entered into a New Covenant with God and "are circumcised with a circumcision made without hands, in putting off the body of the sins of the flesh by the circumcision of Christ" (Col 2:11). The very name "Christian" is a sign of mankind's entrance into a New Covenant with God.