

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.

ETERNAL MEMORY



Grant, O Lord, eternal rest to the soul of Your servant +**Wiley Byers** who has recently fallen asleep in the Lord. Please remember him and his family in your prayers.



THANK YOU

I would like to thank all who remembered me during this Holy Season of Christ's birth. Your thoughtfulness and generosity were greatly appreciated. I hope you all have a Blessed New Year.

Father Simeon

NEWLY SANCTIFIED JORDAN WATER

On the Feast of Theophany we celebrated 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.



**HAPPY 100TH BIRTHDAY TO
OUR LONG-TIME PARISHIONER,
HELEN KUHAR!!
MAY GOD GRANT YOU
GOOD HEALTH AND HAPPINESS!**

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.

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



Divine Liturgy Attendance weekend of December 31:

5:00 PM: **63**; 10:00 AM: **80**

Our return to the Lord for all He has given us: \$13,401.30



- **Sun., Jan. 8** ECF classes meet from 9:00 AM – 9:45 AM.
- **Sun., Jan. 8** Cake provided by Janet Yocum and Karen Gilbert after 10:00 AM Liturgy to celebrate Helen Kuhar’s 100th Birthday.
- **Sun., Jan. 8** Christmas Caroling to our shut-ins (see below.)
- **Wed., Jan. 11, Jan. 18, & Jan. 25** Divine Liturgy – 6:00 PM.
- **Mon., Jan. 16** “Un-decorate” the Church – 9:00 AM.
- **Mon., Jan. 23** Church Cleaning Party 9 AM – Noon. Come lend a helping hand.



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.

THANK YOU

Thank you everyone for your generosity and kind greetings during this Nativity season. Bravo and Lassie are enjoying the extra treats as well!

God’s Blessings to each one of you this New Year!



Father Will

IN APPRECIATION

Thank you to our parishioners who, during this Nativity Season, have increased their efforts to give, whether from your time, talent, or treasure. Your generosity continues to be felt and is certainly making an impact on our parish and our community.

*One gives freely, yet grows all the richer;
another withholds what he should give,
and only suffers want.*

*Whoever brings blessing will be enriched,
and one who waters will himself be watered (Prov. 11:24-25).*

JANUARY 8, 2023 SCHEDULE OF DIVINE SERVICES

Sunday	8 Jan.	<i>SUNDAY AFTER THEOPHANY. Our Venerable Father George the Chozebite. Our Venerable Mother Dominica. Our Holy Father and Confessor Emilian.</i>
(Sun. Vigil)	5:00 PM 10:00 AM	Health & Welfare of Janet Byers – +Wiley Byers Health of Helen Kuhar on her 100th Birthday – Karen Gilbert & Janet Yocum
Monday	9 Jan.	<i>Post-festive Day of Theophany. The Holy Martyr Polyeuct.</i> No Divine Liturgy
Tuesday	10 Jan.	<i>Post-festive Day of Theophany. Our Holy Father Gregory of Nyssa. The Venerable Dometian, Bishop of Melitene. Our Venerable Father Marcion, Priest and Treasurer of the Great Church.</i> No Divine Liturgy
Wednesday	11 Jan.	<i>Post-festive Day of Theophany. Our Venerable Father Theodosius, Founder of the Common Life.</i> 6:00 PM +Elizabeth Prokop – George & Kathy Mocker
Thursday	12 Jan.	<i>Post-festive Day of Theophany. The Holy Martyr Tatiana.</i> No Divine Liturgy
Friday	13 Jan.	<i>The Holy Martyrs Hermylaous and Stratonicus. Our Venerable Father Hilary, Bishop of Poitiers.</i> No Divine Liturgy
Saturday	14 Jan.	<i>Leave-taking (Otdanije) of Theophany. Our Venerable Fathers killed by the Arabs in Sinai and Raitho in 312. Commemoration of the Passing of the holy Equal-to-the-apostles Nina, Enlightener of the Georgians.</i> (Vigil Lit.) 5:00 PM +Marlene Fejko – Vasil family
Sunday	15 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 Brian “Fio” Koehn – mom & Mike Clark



Attentive to the Word
SUNDAY AFTER THEOPHANY

Matt. 4: 12 - 17

*Tone 6 Page 152 & then follow
directions on Pages 316 - 318*



"Repent! For the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand!" We hear these stirring words of our Lord proclaimed at the end of the Holy Gospel reading prescribed for the Sunday after Holy Theophany (Matthew 4:12-17). Jesus is beginning His public ministry, and like all the prophets of old, He is inviting people to reform their lives, but He adds one new element: belief in His Gospel.

The "reform of life" of which Jesus speaks is not a suspended moment in time, a once-for-all effort. Rather, it is a continuing process which is operative through life. Perhaps we may object - claiming that we have, in fact, reformed our lives. More exactly, however, the truth may be that once this has begun, we may never relax the effort. Continuing reform brings us new dimensions of faith in and love of God and of one another.

In times past, in certain parts of the world and with the early settlers of our country, it was a civic duty to be a Christian, a practicing Christian. The whole atmosphere of society promoted this. In our own times, we are challenged by an entirely different atmosphere - the insidious spirit of secularism which effectively eliminates any mention or hint of God in our lives.

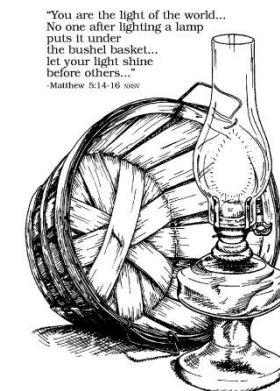
We need only look at what has happened to the celebration of our Lord's holy birth (Christmas) and His holy Resurrection (Pascha). In many communities, no longer is there a Nativity scene on public display, no religious music may be used in public schools, and the birth of Christ is treated like any other civic holiday such as Independence Day (July 4th), Memorial or Labor Day. Holiday "gift giving" has replaced the example of the presentation of gifts by the Wise Men from the East at the crib in Bethlehem, God's Gift to us in the Person of His own Son, for the exchange of seasonal gratification and self-satisfaction.

Pascha finds people buying and wearing new outfits of clothes, not truly cognizant of the "putting on" of Christ with the robe of new life imparted at baptism, which formed a

major part of the Resurrection ceremonies in more ancient times. An "Easter Bunny" puts eggs in children's baskets, but few remember that the egg is a dramatic symbol of life contained in the tomb, the very tomb from which Christ rose - alive after death and giving as the promise of our own resurrection and of life forever.

This attitude has posed keen problems for the authentic Christian in a world more and more framed in a secularist context. In the face of such challenges, we must call to mind more readily how our religious faith is rooted in Christ, as He calls us to repentance. Our Church, in fact, will soon place us again in the preparatory period preceding the Great Fast (Lent) to remind us that our spiritual lives have a direction different from the direction the secular world would have us move, and in which it sometimes does move us: The clarion call of our Savior "Repent! For the Kingdom of God is at hand!" is a keen reminder to keep our lives on that straight course leading us, in hope, to heaven.

By Msgr. John T. Sekellick, JCL



"You are the light of the world...
No one after lighting a lamp
puts it under
the bushel basket...
let your light shine
before others..."
-Matthew 5:14-16 size

"... But now you are light in the Lord; walk as children of light."
Ephesians 5:8

Read: Matthew 5:14-16

Lamps were among the most valued possessions in Israelite homes. Light was a symbol of life, and a good lamp provided light for every household function. In fact, an Israelite woman checked her lamp all through the night, adding more oil or fixing the wick, to make sure the light stayed strong and sent the message "all is well."

Jesus wants our lives to be like a good lamp, sending out the daily signal that all is well in our relationship with Him. When people see you, they should see the light of Christ and give glory to God. Can those around you see Jesus in the way you behave and the way you talk? Does your life communicate His positive truth, or do you send negative statements of criticism or discouragement? Do your actions make someone want to know more about your Lord?

Perhaps the statement your life is making right now is not what it should be. Maybe you are discouraged by inconsistency or feelings of inadequacy. Remember that Jesus gives you the strength and wisdom you need because He is the "light of life." God promises to continue building His truth into your life day by day, so that your character and conduct reflect His distinguishing presence.