

## 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.

## CHOCOLATE BYZANTINE CROSS SALE

The feast of the Resurrection of Christ will soon be upon us! You will again have an opportunity to order *Chocolate Byzantine Crosses* for your family and/or friends. Envelopes are located at the Church entrances for those interested in purchasing *Dark, Milk or White Chocolate Crosses*. The purchase price is \$6.00 each. The orders must be **prepaid**. Just drop your order envelopes in the collection basket. **The crosses will be ready for pick-up Palm Sunday weekend, April 1st and 2nd.** (If paying by check, make check payable to: *Saints Peter and Paul Byzantine Catholic Church*). **ABSOLUTE DEADLINE FOR ORDERS: MARCH 19<sup>TH</sup>.**



## EASTER BAKING:

### Kolachi

Kolachi Baking will be on **Thursday – Saturday, March 23, 24, & 25.**  
This year we will be baking: Nut, Apricot, Apricot-Nut, Cranberry-Nut and Poppysseed. All rolls are \$14 each. Volunteers starting at 9 AM. If you have a rolling pin, bring it along. Early sales from Noon – 3 PM on March 25. Sales continue after each Liturgy. No Pre-orders.

### Paska

Paska Baking will be on **Thursday & Friday, March 30 & 31.**  
Plain Paska - \$6.00; Raisin Paska - \$7.00. Volunteers are needed at 9 AM. Sales after Liturgies April 1 – 2. No Pre-orders.

## 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!**

## SCHOLARSHIPS FOR CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

The Monsignor Sylvester Hladky Memorial Foundation is offering scholarships toward tuition for students of all grade levels who are attending a Catholic elementary school, junior high school or high school. Parents must request applications by April 23, 2023. Please call 330-847-8257. Completed applications must be returned by May 22, 2023.



**Divine Liturgy Attendance weekend of March 4:**

5:00 PM: 72; 10:00 AM: 70

**Our return to the Lord for all He has given us: . . . . . \$2,464.50**

## EVENTS:

- **Sun., March 12** ECF classes meet from 9:00 AM – 9:45 AM.  
Vespers – 5:00 PM. Third Presentation on the Spiritual Life after Vespers.
- **Tues., March 14** Parish Guild Meeting – 6:00 PM. Everyone is welcome.
- **Sat., March 18** Fourth All Souls Saturday – Divine Liturgy 9:00 AM – Pg. 428.
- **Wed., March 22 & Fri., March 24** Liturgies of the Pre-sanctified Gifts 6:00 PM.
- **Sat., March 25** Annunciation – Divine Liturgy 9:00 AM.

## VESPERS ON SUNDAY EVENINGS DURING GREAT LENT

Vespers will be held on Sunday evenings during the Great Fast. They began on February 26<sup>th</sup>. Vespers will be celebrated at 5:00 PM.

**Dates are as follows:** *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.

## 100<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE MEETING

**Sunday, March 19<sup>th</sup>, after the 10 AM Divine Liturgy:** Updates and discussion of fundraising events for 2023. Everyone is welcome!

## LAMB OF GOD MUSICAL

*You can still sign up with payment after Liturgies in the Social Hall to reserve bus seating. Sunday, April 23<sup>rd</sup> at 2:00 PM:* 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. 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.

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.

## ST. VINCENT de PAUL

St. Vincent de Paul dining hall is in need of workers to prepare meals for the poor. If you can offer any time on any day: Monday through Friday 10 AM – 1 PM, please call Christine at 330-610-3132. Thank You!

## 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.**

## MARCH 12, 2023 SCHEDULE OF DIVINE SERVICES

Sunday	12 March	<i>THIRD SUNDAY OF THE GREAT FAST. VENERATION OF THE HOLY CROSS. Our Venerable Father and Confessor Theophane of the Sygrian Mountain. Our Holy Father Gregory. Pope of Rome. Our Holy Father Symeon, the New Theologian.</i>
(Sun. Vigil)	<b>5:00 PM</b> <b>10:00 AM</b> <b>5:00 PM</b>	<b>+John Koza – Tim &amp; Annamarie Byers</b> <b>+Robert, +Esther &amp; +Bobby Shaffer – Jim Shaffer</b> <b>Vespers</b>
Monday	13 March	<i>The Translation of the Relics of our Holy Father Nicephor, Patriarch of Constantinople.</i> <b>No Divine Services</b>
Tuesday	14 March	<i>Our Venerable Father Benedict.</i> <b>No Divine Services</b>
Wednesday	15 March	<i>Mid-Lent. The Holy Martyr Agapius and His Companions.</i> <b>6:00 PM Liturgy of the Pre-sanctified Gifts</b> <b>+Mary Prest – Rosalie Krivan</b>
Thursday	16 March	<i>The Holy Martyrs Sabinus and Papas.</i> <b>No Divine Services</b>
Friday	17 March	<i>Our Venerable Father Alexis, Man of God. Our Holy Father Patrick, Enlightener of Ireland.</i> <b>6:00 PM Liturgy of the Pre-sanctified Gifts</b> <b>+Patricia Edwards – Magda Yuschak</b>
Saturday	18 March	<i>Fourth All Souls' Saturday. Our Holy Father Cyril, Archbishop of Jerusalem.</i> <b>9:00 AM Fourth All Souls' Liturgy with reading of Diptyches</b> <b>5:00 PM +Lynn Byers – sister, Dianna Koza</b>
Sunday	19 March	<i>FOURTH SUNDAY OF THE GREAT FAST. MEMORY OF OUR HOLY FATHER JOHN CLIMACUS. The Holy Martyrs Chrysanthus and Daria.</i> <b>10:00 AM Health &amp; Welfare of Harry &amp; Elaine Vislosky – Patricia &amp; Valerie Vislosky</b> <b>5:00 PM Vespers</b>



## Attentive to the Word

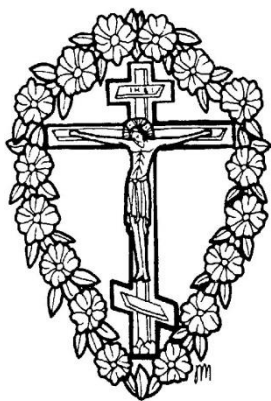
### THIRD SUNDAY OF THE GREAT FAST VENERATION OF THE CROSS

*Mark 8: 34 - 9:1*

**Tone 7 Pg. 156 and Pgs. 223 - 225**

Liturgy of St. Basil during Great Lent:

(In place of Antiphons) Pages 16 & 17 Typical Psalms



How many times I have heard – I wish it was me. Not my son or my daughter who is sick. Not my wife or husband. Not my closest friend. Let the burden fall on me. Let me carry the burden instead of them. I am willing to give myself rather than to see them suffer. We see that kind of love that just overwhelms us. That puts us in the place of the other. That doesn't measure the cost.

That's why the Church puts the cross in front of us today! Reflect on the Kontakion of the feast and listen carefully to the words: "No longer does the flaming sword guard the gates of Eden; for on them one finds the most glorious seal, the Tree

of the Cross. By it the sorrow of death and the victory of the Abyss have been conquered. For You, O Savior, stood and called out to those in the Abyss, 'Enter again into paradise.'"

One of the exports of our country that has affected the whole world is brand name advertising and recognition. Even children from the youngest age demand a certain brand or style. We are so permeated with advertising that we automatically pick up a certain brand and will only settle for this or that maker. We find ourselves in a society that elevates a great number of symbols, often times without much thought or discernment. Yet, which of these elevated symbols, displaying wealth, fashion, and/or fad, affords much more than one's envy, compliment or criticism?

Our Church elevates the Cross before us! Our sign, our symbol, our hope and our joy! For on it our Lord offered himself for us! For on it, He conquered our human

failure and sinfulness. For through it he overcame the effects of evil in our lives and won for us what was lost!

God gave His Son for us. Jesus gave Himself for us on the Cross. This is our *brand* of religion, of our faith, of our hope and trust in God. In the Cross, we see how much God loves us. Jesus died a real death, a horrible death on the cross. In the middle of Lent our Church places the cross before us so that we focus on Jesus and watch every step that he makes in our behalf, knowing that it is for us and for our salvation.

Too many of us come to the resurrection without first coming to the Cross and so we never get the real power of the cross. We don't accept our own cross because we don't see ourselves in relation to Jesus who lovingly and obediently accepts the cross and offers Himself. We run and hide because we forget to trust this loving God who is with us on our journey and wants to lead us to Paradise.

I often think of the story of the man who was angry at God. He had this cross – and it bothered him. He wanted something different. One day he had a dream and in it was a whole room full of crosses. He could put away his cross and choose one of his own. He reached out for a beautiful marble cross – it was shiny and looked good. He took it but soon realized how heavy it was and how hard to carry. He went back and exchanged it.

He picked out another. It was metal and had beautiful designs on it. He choose it and began to carry it but found out it had sharp edges that dug into his skin as he carried it. He soon took that one back and exchanged it.

He picked out a third. It truly was beautiful. It had jewels all over it. And yet as he began to carry it, the jewels rubbed up against his back and started to make his skin bleed.

He went back again. This time he found a small wooden cross in the corner. This one is for me. He said. The angel told him that it was the same one he came in with! Maybe we need to look at the cross of Jesus. Know that our cross isn't nearly as heavy as His. He bore our cross and calls us to walk with Him in our life's journey. Let His cross be our sign and symbol of our trust in God.

*By Fr John Zeyack*