

## 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.

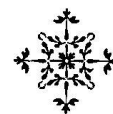
**Funerals:** Families of the deceased or the funeral director must contact Father William Rupp before setting and publishing the day and time of the funeral.

**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 +**Elizabeth Babyak** who has recently fallen asleep in the Lord. Please remember her and her family in your prayers.

## OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION:

### Saints Peter and Paul Byzantine Catholic Church, Warren, OH

- **Sunday, April 2 - 5:00 PM** - *Vespers for Palm Sunday Evening (Homilist: Fr. Kevin Marks)*. Opportunity for the Mystery of Reconciliation following Vespers. We will have a number of guest confessors available.
- **Wednesdays and Fridays during the Great Fast** - Fr. Will is available for the Mystery of Reconciliation *beginning at 5:00 PM* before the Pre-sanctified Liturgies. Fr. Will is available following the Liturgies as well.
- **Saturdays** - Fr. Will is available from *3:30 PM to 4:30 PM* on Saturday afternoons before Divine Liturgy.

### Saint Michael Byzantine Catholic Church, Campbell, OH

- **Holy Tuesday, April 4 - 6:00 PM** - *Divine Liturgy of the Pre-sanctified Gifts*. Opportunity for the Mystery of Reconciliation. A number of guest confessors will be available.

## HOLY WEEK AND PASCHA SCHEDULE 2023:

- Mon., April 3:** 6:00 PM - Pre-sanctified Liturgy and Opportunity for Confession.  
**Tue., April 4:** NO SERVICES (Faithful are encouraged to visit St. Michael's in Campbell.)  
**Wed., April 5:** 6:00 PM - Anointing of the Sick for all the Faithful.  
**Thurs., April 6:** 6:00 PM - Vespers and Divine Liturgy of St. Basil.  
**Fri., April 7:** 9:00 AM - Matins with the Twelve Passion Gospels.  
6:00 PM - Entombment Vespers and Procession with Shroud.  
**Sat., April 8:** 9:00 AM - Jerusalem Matins and Procession with Shroud.  
8:00 PM - Resurrection Matins and Divine Liturgy and Blessing of Baskets.  
**Sun., April 9:** 10:00 AM - Divine Liturgy and Blessing of Baskets.  
5:00 PM - Agape Vespers.



### Divine Liturgy Attendance weekend of March 11:

5:00 PM: 59; 10:00 AM: 73

Our return to the Lord for all He has given us: . . . . . \$2,932.10

MARCH 19, 2023

SCHEDULE OF DIVINE SERVICES

**UPCOMING EVENTS:**

- **Sun., March 19** ECF classes meet from 9:00 AM – 9:45 AM. Vespers – 5:00 PM. Fourth Presentation on the Spiritual Life after Vespers.
- **Sun., March 19** 100<sup>th</sup> Anniv. Fundraising Committee Meeting after Liturgy. Updates & discussion of fundraising events for 2023. Everyone is welcome!
- **Wed., March 22 & Fri., March 24** Liturgies of the Pre-sanctified Gifts 6:00 PM.
- **Thurs. – Sat., March 23 – 25** Kolachi Baking. See below for more information.
- **Sat., March 25** Major Holy Day - Annunciation – Divine Liturgy 9:00 AM.
- **Mon., March 27** Church Cleaning Party 9 AM – Noon. We could use your help.

**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 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.

**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 Poppyseed.

All rolls are \$14 each. Volunteers starting at 9 AM & after 9 AM Liturgy on Sat., 3/25.

If you have a rolling pin, please 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.

Sunday	19 March	<i>FOURTH SUNDAY OF THE GREAT FAST. MEMORY OF OUR HOLY FATHER JOHN CLIMACUS. The Holy Martyrs Chrysanthus and Daria.</i>
(Sun. Vigil)	5:00 PM 10:00 AM 5:00 PM	+Lynn Byers – sister, Dianna Koza Health & Welfare of Harry & Elaine Vislosky – Patricia & Valerie Vislosky Vespers
Monday	20 March	<i>Our Venerable Fathers of the St. Sabbas Monastery, killed by Saracens (796).</i> <b>No Divine Services</b>
Tuesday	21 March	<i>Our Venerable Father and Confessor James, Bishop of Catania.</i> <b>No Divine Services</b>
Wednesday	22 March	<i>The Holy Martyr Basilides, Priest of Ancyra.</i> 6:00 PM <b>Liturgy of the Pre-sanctified Gifts</b> +Sr. M. Martha Kacmarek – St. Michael’s Rosary Society
Thursday	23 March	<i>THE GREAT CANON OF OUR HOLY FATHER ANDREW OF CRETE. The Holy Venerable-Martyr Nikon and his students martyred with him. Our Holy Mother Rafka.</i> <b>No Divine Services</b>
Friday	24 March	<i>Pre-festive Day of the Annunciation. Our Venerable Father Zachary. Our Holy Father Artemon, Bishop of Seleucia of Pisidia.</i> 6:00 PM <b>Liturgy of the Pre-sanctified Gifts</b> +Helen and Antoni Romaniv - Anonymous
Saturday	25 March	<i>ANNUNCIATION OF THE THEOTOKOS AND EVER-VIRGIN MARY. AKATHISTOS SATURDAY. (Page 329)</i> 9:00 AM 5:00 PM <b>Intention of the Parish Family</b> <b>Health &amp; Welfare of Fr. Simeon – Mike &amp; Sue Johnson</b>
(Vigil Lit.)		
Sunday	26 March	<i>FIFTH SUNDAY OF THE GREAT FAST. (LEAVE-TAKING OF THE FEAST OF THE ANNUNCIATION.) SYNAXIS OF THE ARCHANGEL GABRIEL.</i> 10:00 AM 5:00 PM <b>+Nancy Danko – Paul Danko &amp; family</b> <b>Vespers</b>



## Attentive to the Word

### FOURTH SUNDAY OF THE GREAT FAST MEMORY OF OUR HOLY FATHER JOHN CLIMACUS

*Mark 9: 17 – 31*

**Tone 8 Pg. 161 & Pgs. 226 – 227**

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. 227 – Magnification

### **"I believe, Lord, help my unbelief"**

There is an elusive quality to hope. It is easy to say that we have hope when we least need to hope; it is the most difficult to hope when hope and hope alone is all we have to fall back on. To use an analogy, if you ask me whether I believe that parachutes work, I will answer yes, I do. But if you invite me to put on a parachute and jump out of an airplane, I will begin to have all sorts of worries about whether this particular parachute will open or not, and I will end up deciding to stay on the ground where it is much easier to have trust that parachutes work.

So too in our Christian lives, if everything is under our control, it is easy to say that we hope in God. But when things spin out of control – then we desperately need something that is beyond our reach, when the future looks absolutely bleak – then it is precisely that we need to have hope. In short, hope is most a virtue in hopeless situations.

Things certainly were bleak for the father and his son that we read about today. The father had tried everything for his son, but nothing worked; and the more things that failed, the harder it was to have any hope for his son. So when he stood before Jesus, his hope was thin indeed and struggling to preserve itself. His cry is sometimes also the anguished cry of our own hearts: "I believe; help my unbelief! I put all my hope in you; heal my despair! I trust in you, my God; do not forsake me!"

• For reflection: Meditate on the image of this parent bringing his child before Jesus in desperate need. What does it say to you about your bringing your own needs before Jesus?

• Prayer starter: Lord Jesus, you know that my faith is far smaller than a mustard seed and sometimes very fragile. Do not let me be tempted beyond my strength. Increase my hope and trust.

## ST. JOHN CLIMACUS

To really understand what St. John represents, one has to be familiar with the Book of Exodus, the second book of the Bible. Understanding Exodus is important, because the people of his day revered St. John so much that they saw in him another Moses. He was likened to Moses because, like the great prophet of old who brought down the tablets of the Law, he too brought down a gift to share with the people. That gift, a book called *The Ladder of Divine Ascent*, is still being read by Eastern Christians today.

Moses and St. John had a shared interest: they both sought to deliver their people out of slavery. What Moses did in the past, St. John does eternally by his theology. To this day, people are still being freed by his wisdom.

On the fourth Sunday of the Great Fast, we commemorate Saint John Climacus, author of *The Ladder of Divine Ascent*. In this work, Saint John outlines the steps essential in attaining communion with God, steps which remind us that the way to the Kingdom constantly challenges us to engage in spiritual warfare: Be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might. Put on the whole armor of God that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. (Ephesians 6:10-13).

We know with certainty that Christianity is not for weaklings and cowards. The end of Great Lent is drawing near and we recall Christ's awesome words which encourage us to persevere until the end: He who endures to the end will be saved (Matthew 24:13).



## FEAST OF THE ANNUNCIATION

In his homily on the Annunciation, Nicholas Cabasilas states, "The Incarnation was not only the work of God, but also that of the will and faith of the Virgin. God had chosen her for His Mother and borrowed the flesh she willingly accepted to surrender to Him. As He was incarnate of His own free will, He wanted His mother to give Him birth as freely and willingly."

To express the importance of the Annunciation and Mary's acceptance of God's invitation, Byzantine churches portray the icon the Annunciation on the Royal Doors of the iconostas, the entrance into the Holy of Holies. The four Evangelists are also depicted on the Royal Doors to signify that as the Holy Spirit descended upon Mary to bring about the Incarnation of the Word of God as Man, He also descended upon the Evangelists to bring about the Word of God in the Gospels.

This is one of the most important feasts of our Liturgical Year. It has been celebrated in the East since the year 353 as told by St. Athanasius. The feast of the Annunciation is one of the twelve greatest Feast Days of the Church. Its service is taken even if it should fall on Palm Sunday, Great and Holy Friday, or on the feast of the Resurrection of our Lord (Pascha). It is the beginning of God's plan for our salvation!