

## 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.



**DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME** . . . begins Sunday, March 12, 2023. Don't forget to turn your clocks **ahead** one hour.

## 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!**

*"But when you do a charitable deed, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, that your charitable deed may be in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will Himself reward you openly" (Matthew 6:3-4).*

## 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>.**

## 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.**



**Divine Liturgy Attendance weekend of February 25:**

5:00 PM: **60**; 10:00 AM: **73**

**Pre-sanctified Liturgies:** Wed.: **27**; Fri.: **21**

**Our return to the Lord for all He has given us: . . . . . \$3,792.25**



- **Sun., March 5** ECF classes meet from 9:00 AM – 9:45 AM. Vespers – 5:00 PM. Second Presentation on the Spiritual Life after Vespers.
- **Sat., March 11** Third All Souls Saturday – Divine Liturgy 9:00 AM – Pg. 428.
- **Tues., March 14** Parish Guild Meeting – 6:00 PM. Everyone is welcome.
- **Wed., March 15 & Fri., March 17** Liturgies of the Pre-sanctified Gifts 6:00 PM.

### VESPERS ON SUNDAY EVENINGS DURING GREAT LENT

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

**Dates are as follows: March 5th, 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.

### LAMB OF GOD MUSICAL – **MARCH 5<sup>TH</sup> IS DEADLINE.**

**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 are inviting you to join us on a pilgrimage that will touch your heart. 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. The story is told via the perspectives of those who loved and knew Jesus: Peter, John, Thomas, Mary and Martha of Bethany, Mary Magdalene, and His mother Mary.

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.

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.

### 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!

### MARCH 5, 2023 SCHEDULE OF DIVINE SERVICES

Sunday (Sun. Vigil)	5 March <b>5:00 PM</b> <b>10:00 AM</b> <b>5:00 PM</b>	<i>SECOND SUNDAY OF THE GREAT FAST. Holy Martyr Conon.</i> <b>+Bob Blake – Betty &amp; Macala Blake</b> <b>+Barbara Howsare - +Richard &amp; Mary Anne Kilbert</b> <b>Vespers</b>
Monday	6 March	<i>The Holy Forty-Two Martyrs of Ammorium.</i> <b>No Divine Services</b>
Tuesday	7 March	<i>The Holy Martyrs and Bishops of Cherson: Basil, Ephrem, Capiton, Eugene, Etherius and others. The Passing of the Martyr the Priest-Exarch Leonid Feodorov (1935).</i> <b>No Divine Services</b>
Wednesday	8 March <b>6:00 PM</b>	<i>Our Venerable Father and Confessor Theophylact.</i> <b>Liturgy of the Pre-sanctified Gifts</b> <b>+Anna &amp; +Andrew Shuluga – Anita Schmitt</b>
Thursday	9 March	<i>The Forty Holy Martyrs of Sebaste. The Holy Martyr Urpasianus of Nicomedia.</i> <b>No Divine Services</b>
Friday	10 March <b>6:00 PM</b>	<i>The Holy Martyr Codratus and His Companions.</i> <b>Liturgy of the Pre-sanctified Gifts</b> <b>+All Faithful Departed Members of Our Lady of Wisdom Parish (Las Vegas, NV) – +Rt. Rev. Archimandrite Francis M. Vivona</b>
Saturday  (Vigil Lit.)	11 March  <b>9:00 AM</b> <b>5:00 PM</b>	<i>Third All Souls’ Saturday. Our Holy Father Sophronius, Patriarch of Jerusalem.</i> <b>Third All Souls’ Liturgy with reading of Diptyches</b> <b>+John Koza – Tim &amp; Annamarie Byers</b>
Sunday	12 March  <b>10:00 AM</b> <b>5:00 PM</b>	<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> <b>+Robert, +Esther &amp; +Bobby Shaffer – Jim Shaffer</b> <b>Vespers</b>



## Attentive to the Word

### SECOND SUNDAY OF THE GREAT FAST

*Mark 2: 1 - 12*

**Tone 6** *Pg. 146 and Pgs. 222 - 223*

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. 223 – Magnification

Imagine that you witnessed the miracle described by St. Mark (2:1-12) and read on the Second Sunday of Great Lent. A paralyzed man is brought on a stretcher by his friends, carried up to the roof of the house where Jesus is teaching, lowered down through the ceiling and laid at Jesus' feet. Jesus pronounces his sins forgiven and then heals him of his paralysis. What would impress you more: the thought that a man's sins had been forgiven or the sight of a paralytic suddenly walking? The answer is obvious. Jesus performs the physical cure as a visible sign that He also has the power to affect the spiritual cure and He does so because we human beings need such visible signs.

The dramatic changes narrated in the Gospel are reflected in a more philosophical way by the Epistle to the Hebrews (1, 10 - 2, 3). God does not change, the Epistle tells us, and all of our earthly security is founded upon the fact that God remains the same. God, for example, does not shift from moods of tender love to outbursts of violent anger. St. John teaches that God is love (1 John 3), always love. We experience God's love as tender and supportive and merciful when we draw near to Him. We experience that same unchanging love of God as wrath, as guilt-provoking, as threatening, only when we drift away from Him. He Himself remains steadfast and unchanging; we are the ones who change.

God does not change, Hebrews teaches, but people unavoidably do. All God's creatures are, by definition, in a constant state of change. The world of rocks and plants and animals all reveal patterns and cycles of change. Human beings are conceived, gestate, are born, grow up, grow old and die. We cannot avoid changing physically or spiritually, but we can choose how our spiritual development will progress. If we choose to do nothing, the Epistle warns, we run the risk of being "carried away" (Hebrews 2, 1). It is a law of the spiritual life that, unless we actively struggle to make progress, we will in fact regress, backslide, decline and fall away. We cannot stand still; we cannot draw a line and say, "Here, I've gone as far in my faith as I need to."

The example of the paralyzed man, who goes on a long and difficult journey through town, up onto the roof and down through the ceiling just on the hope that the Lord will free him to be able to move, is a powerful reminder that we can never allow ourselves to be paralyzed by a lazy, self-satisfied, small-minded or cowardly attitude. Great Lent is the time to step back and look at how we are changing – for indeed we are changing whether we know it or not. We will only make progress toward God if we choose to press on; if we sit back passively, we will be carried away, slowly and imperceptibly at first, further and further from real union with God and the real fulfillment of His will for us. Today's Scriptures remind us of the unbending law that we cannot avoid change, but they also reassure us that Christ has the power to change us for the better if we choose to repent, visibly, actively and sincerely this Lent.

*By Fr. John Custer*

### ST. GREGORY PALAMAS

On this second Sunday of Lent, the church also remembers St. Gregory Palamas, a devout bishop of the late Byzantine period, who came to the defense of "hesychasm" or the devotion to the "prayer of the heart" also known as the "Jesus Prayer."

Saint Gregory Palamas, Archbishop of Thessalonica, was born in the year 1296 in Constantinople. St Gregory's father became a prominent dignitary at the court of Andronicus II Paleologos (1282-1328), but he soon died, and Andronicus himself took part in the raising and education of the fatherless boy. Endowed with fine abilities and great diligence, Gregory mastered all the subjects which then comprised the full course of medieval higher education. The emperor hoped that the youth would devote himself to government work. But Gregory, barely twenty years old, withdrew to Mount Athos in the year 1316 (other sources say 1318) and became a novice in the Vatopedi monastery under the guidance of the monastic Elder St Nicodemus of Vatopedi (July 11). There he was tonsured and began on the path of asceticism. A year later, the holy Evangelist John the Theologian appeared to him in a vision and promised him his spiritual protection.

Gregory used terminology popular in his day to explain how God is alive and active among his people. His theology is still relevant for us today, as we remind ourselves of our basic catechism, through which we were taught to understand the truths of the faith. Especially during Great Lent, the church reminds us to "brush up" on our theology, going back to some of the basics of Christian belief and the commemoration of St. Gregory Palamas, and his writings are one way that we can refresh our understanding of them.