

## 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 Fr. Simeon to schedule.

**Mystery of Crowning:** Must be a registered, active, supporting member of the parish family. Must meet with Fr. Simeon before setting date and reserving your banquet hall. Pre-Cana program is required and three sessions with Fr. Simeon. 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 Fr. Simeon is notified. It especially is important that a family member contact Fr. Simeon whenever a loved-one is hospitalized.

**Funerals:** Families of the deceased or the funeral director must contact Fr. Simeon before setting and publishing the day and time of the funeral.

**Parish Membership:** We welcome anyone to become a parishioner of Sts. 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:** Sister Barbara is in the Parish office from 10 AM – 2 PM Monday, Wednesday and Friday. Father Simeon is available on other days and times by appointment.

## MARIAPOCH PILGRIMAGE

The Byzantine Catholic Eparchy of Parma invites you to its annual eparchial pilgrimage to the Shrine of Our Lady of Mariapoch, 17486 Mumford Road, Burton, OH on 13 August and 14 August. See complete pilgrimage schedule at [www.mariapoch.org](http://www.mariapoch.org).

## BENEFIT FOR SISTERS OF ST. BASIL – UNIONTOWN

The GCU is sponsoring a golf outing to assist the Sisters of St. Basil with the funding of renovations needed at Mt. St. Macrina Manor Nursing Home. It is a 4 person golf scramble for Friday, August 26, 2016 at 1 PM, to be held at Seven Oaks Country Club, Beaver, PA. Entry Fee is \$100 per person (discounted to \$380 for those entering as a foursome). Includes cart, lunch prizes, & buffet dinner. Call the parish office for applications. **Sorry! Deadline is August 15, 2016.**

## JUMPING TO CONCLUSIONS

At a wedding ceremony, the pastor asked if anyone had anything to say concerning the union of the bride and groom. It was their time to talk, or forever hold their peace.

The moment of utter silence was broken by a young, beautiful woman carrying a child. She stated walking slowly toward the pastor.

Everything suddenly turned to chaos. The bride slapped the groom. The groom's mother fainted. The groomsmen started giving each other looks and wondering how best to help save the situation.

The pastor asked the woman, "Can you tell us why you came forward? What do you have to say?"

The woman replied, "We can't hear in the back."



**(PP) Divine Liturgy Attendance weekend of 7 August:**

5:00 PM: 82 11:00 AM: 83

**Our return to the Lord for all He has given us: . . . . . \$3,251.90**

**(SM) Divine Liturgy Attendance weekend of 7 August:**

17 from St. Michael; 9 from St. Peter & Paul; 5 Visitors

**Our return to the Lord for all He has given us: . . . . . \$348.00**



- **Aug. 1 – 14** Fast in preparation for the Feast of the Dormition of the Blessed Mother. We recommend abstaining from meat on Wed. and Fri.
- **Sun. Aug. 21** Parish Picnic – Don't forget to sign up!
- **Mon. Aug. 22** Church cleaning party – 9 AM to noon. We can use your help!



### COMBINED PARISH PICNIC



Please mark your calendars for the afternoon of Sunday, **August 21<sup>st</sup>** at **St. Demetrios Center Grounds at 3223 Atlantic, NE.** We are planning a combined parish picnic with St. Michael Parish! *Meats & beverages will be provided. You bring your favorite dish to share with your fellow parishioners.* **Deadline for sign-up August 15, 2016.**

Please note: **There will be special games and prizes for children & teens...plus special “gambling” games for the adults...so bring your families and your quarters for a really fun afternoon.** We hope to see all of you there!

### SHRINE OF OUR LADY OF LEBANON

The 51<sup>st</sup> annual pilgrimage will be held from 13 August through 15 August 2016. **Metropolitan William will celebrate the Divine Liturgy on Sunday, 14 August at 7 PM.** All of our local clergy are asked to **concelebrate with Archbishop William.** You are encouraged to attend this Divine Liturgy. The feast of the Dormition (Assumption) is a Holy Day of Obligation in both the East and West. You can fulfill your obligation to attend the Divine Liturgy on this Feast Day by attending this Vigil Liturgy at the Shrine. See complete schedule at [www.ourladyoflebanonshrine.com](http://www.ourladyoflebanonshrine.com)

### BIBLE STUDY CLASSES

Once again we will be offering a Bible Study Class on Sunday afternoon at 4 PM. In these sessions, we will be studying *Walking Toward Eternity: Daring to Walk the Walk.* This is an 8 week course, and **will begin Sunday, 11 September 2016.** It introduces you to **7 key virtues & practical steps to living them out in your daily lives.** If you are interested, please call 330-372-1875 or email [sppbyzchurch@gmail.com](mailto:sppbyzchurch@gmail.com) to register. Registrations are necessary so that we can order the number of books needed for the sessions. **Deadline for registration is August 28.** The cost for the materials is \$14.

14 AUGUST 2016

### SCHEDULE OF DIVINE SERVICES

Sunday	14 August	<i>THIRTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST Prefestive Day of the Dormition. Holy Prophet Micah. Translation of the Relics of our Father Theodosius, Hegumen of the Pecherskaja Lavra.</i>
(Vigil Liturgy)	5:00 PM	+Kay Roscoe – John & Mary Craciun
(SM)	8:30 AM	Prayer Intention of Rosary Society
(PP)	11:00 AM	+Helen & +Fio Nuzzi – Janice and Mike
Monday	15 August	<i>DORMITION OF OUR MOST HOLY LADY, THE THEOTOKOS AND EVER VIRGIN MARY</i>
(SM)	9:00AM	+George Simko – wife, Millie
(PP)	6:00 PM	+Anna Marie Kissel (40 <sup>th</sup> day) – Marge & Jim Basista
Tuesday	16 August	<i>Postfestive Day of Dormition. Translation of the Icon of Our Lord, not made by human hands, from Edessa to Constantinople. 944. Holy Martyr Diomedes.</i>
		<b>No Divine Liturgy</b>
Wednesday	17 August	<i>Postfestive Day of Dormition. Holy Martyr Myron.</i>
(Chapel)	8:30 AM	+Jacqueline Pilasky – VL & Scotty Marlowe
Thursday	18 August	<i>Postfestive Day of Dormition. Holy Martyrs Flores and Laurus.</i>
(Chapel)	8:30 AM	+Larry Maloney – Ruth Billcheck
Friday	19 August	<i>Postfestive Day of Dormition. Holy Martyr Andrew the Tribune and His Companions.</i>
		<b>No Divine Liturgy</b>
Saturday	20 August	<i>Postfestive Day of Dormition. Holy Prophet Samuel. Holy King Stephen of Hungary.</i>
(PP)	5:00 PM	+Rev. Richard Whetstone – Louis & Mary Conlin
Sunday	21 August	<i>FOURTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST. Postfestive Day of Dormition. Holy Apostle Thaddeus. Holy Martyr Bassa.</i>
(SM)	8:30 AM	+Faustion Rapczak – M/M Michael Johnson
(PP)	11:00 AM	+John & Pauline Kostraba – daughter, Jinny



**Attentive to the Word**  
**Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost**

**Mt. 21:33 – 42**

**Pp. 141 – 142 & 351 & 352**

**Tropar of Tone 4; Tropar & Kondak of Prefeast;**  
**Rest from Res. Tone 4**

**THE DORMITION OF THE THEOTOKOS**

The celebration of Mary's passage into heaven at the end of her life has been celebrated in the Church of Rome since the 7th century, and in the Eastern Churches even before that! There is no direct Biblical description of this event, and the imagery we use is taken from one of the apocryphal gospels so popular in the earlier eras of the Church. These sources describe the event this way. When Mary realized her earthly life was coming to an end, she asked for the company of the twelve apostles, who had now dispersed all over the world on their various missions. By God's miraculous intervention, they were all gathered to her bedside, except Thomas. When she passed away, they buried her in a tomb near the Mount of Olives. When Thomas finally arrived, he asked to see her mortal remains, so they took him to the tomb and opened it, only to find a profusion of flowers inside and the body gone. As they returned to Jerusalem, the story says they heard singing and--looking back over their shoulders--they saw her in the sky being lifted up into heaven.

The story is theologically rich, and says more about the Church perhaps than it does about Mary herself. If we celebrate Pentecost as the birthday of the Church, this present feast tells us about the "ascension" of the Church, how it moves in each of us -- you and me--into the realm of heaven. The presence of the twelve apostles and their involvement in the funeral of the Virgin is symbolic of the ministry of the Church in ferrying her children from this world to the next.

**BLESSING OF FLOWERS**

In the Byzantine Church we bless flowers on this festival, not simply because they were found in the tomb of the Virgin, but because they are the seeds of next year's plantings. What we see in any bloom now is the seed of another one to come, and therefore a strong symbol of resurrection. Besides seeds, we also bless herbs on this day. The prayers speak of all these things, flowers, herbs and seeds, as medicine. There is a *healing that comes from death*, as contradictory as that might sound. St. Gregory Nyssa

once referred to death as "the final remedy." Things which cannot be set right in this world can be made right in the next. **Bring your flowers to the Church for blessing. Flowers will be blessed after each Divine Liturgy.**



**THIRTEENTH SUNDAY : PARABLE OF THE TENANTS**



We as the Christian Church should receive this parable with fear and trembling. If the nation of Israel had been given great riches, what have we as Eastern Catholic Christians been given? We no longer wait for the Messiah, He has come. In fact, we're preparing even now to receive His body and blood in the Divine Liturgy. Man's salvation is no longer prophesied, but was fulfilled in Christ. We are no longer slaves of the law, but free in the love of Christ. And we, who are in possession of the fullness of this Mystery, are we caring for it any better than God's first chosen people?

The vineyard of the Church is planted. It is hedged from the world by the grace of the Holy Spirit. Our altar is the heavenly altar, and our worship takes place in the heavens. We have been given all we need for the bountiful harvest. But what will our Lord find when He returns? Will we be working diligently in the vineyard—both tilling the soil of our own hearts, as well as calling those outside the vineyard to enter into the joy of the Lord? Or will we just be living, taking advantage of what the Lord has given us, but not doing our part in return?

Christ makes it abundantly clear both in this morning's parable and in other places, if we don't use the gifts we've been given—both as a Church body, and as individual Christians—then the gifts will be taken away. And we'll be called to give an account for our failures. In response to the love and mercy of our Savior, let us strive to bring forth fruits worthy of the kingdom of Heaven. Fruits of love, of mercy and of compassion. Fruits of a sinless life, of prayer and Christ-likeness. Fruits that we can give to our Master in return for all that He has given us.