

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.

SPIRITUALITY DAY

The Benedictine Sisters of Queen of Heaven Monastery are offering a Day of Spirituality in preparation for Christmas on Saturday, December 10, 2016, from 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM in the Social Hall of Ss. Peter and Paul. To register, please call 330-856-1813 or emailqohm@netdotcom.com by Tuesday, December 6th.

The presenter will be Msgr. George Appleyard, priest of the Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy in Parma. His topic will be “*Two Different Carols – One Priceless Song.*” He is an excellent speaker. There will be time for reflection, questions, and refreshments, and an opportunity to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation.



TUCK POINTING & CANOPY REPLACEMENT

The tuck pointing of our church building has been on the back burner for about ten years. It was at the point of actually being able to see daylight where mortar should have been. We have a beautiful church and we don't want to see it ruined with water leaks, etc. As all of you know, tuck pointing is a very expensive project. This one will cost \$48,100.00.

The canopy's are also in bad shape and need to be replaced. The canopy over the Belvedere Ave. entrance door had to be removed, because of the danger of collapse. The canopy replacements are also a very expensive project. We will do our best to keep the cost down and still have a quality product.

Any contribution towards the funding of these much needed projects will be greatly appreciated.

(PP) Divine Liturgy Attendance weekend of 27 November:

5:00 PM: 70 11:00 AM: 83

Our return to the Lord for all He has given us: \$2,074.50

(SM) Divine Liturgy Attendance weekend of 27 November:

19 from St. Michael; 8 from St. Peter & Paul

Our return to the Lord for all He has given us: \$352.00



SCHEDULE OF DIVINE SERVICES

- **Sun. Dec. 4** ECF Classes Today at the regular time – 9:30 to 10:45. Following the 11:00 AM Divine Liturgy, our ECF children will present a short program honoring St. Nicholas. We have so few children in our parish, and we need to show our support for them and for what they are learning. They are the future of our church, so we ask that you give an extra 10 minutes of your time after the Liturgy to hear their program. Our parish dinner will follow the children’s presentation.
- **Wed. Dec. 7** St. Vincent de Paul Meals Program – 9 AM to 2 PM. We can use your help. This might be a good way to keep the Phillip’s Fast in preparation for the Nativity of Jesus.
- **Sat. Dec. 10** Spirituality Day – 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM in the Social Hall. Msgr. George Appleyard is the presenter. He is a very good speaker. See this bulletin’s back page for further details.
- **Sat. & Sun. Dec. 17 & 18** Homemade Cookie Sale – Only \$4.50 per dozen – sponsored by St. Benedict’s Auxiliary. Different size tray arrangements will be sold before and after the week-end Divine Liturgies.

PARISH OUTREACH . . .

Part of the Phillip’s Fast is “almsgiving.” Our Parish Almsgiving has taken many forms over the years. We’ve had the “Giving Tree” where we have purchased gifts for children of all ages. Last year, we chose ornaments and bought gifts for Senior Citizens from Beatitude House, etc.

Our Outreach Program 2016 will be to collect “Needed Supplies” for the Children’s Rehabilitation Center in Howland. The Children’s Rehab Center cares for children who have physical or other disabilities. Examples of supplies needed are tissues, bleach, and AA batteries. A complete list of needed supplies is on the fliers that are on the bulletin boards in the church and Social Hall...**But please, DO NOT bring anything to church until AFTER the St. Nicholas Dinner.**

JUST A REMINDER:

PLEASE REFRAIN FROM UNNECESSARY AND LOUD TALKING BEFORE, DURING AND ESPECIALLY AFTER THE DIVINE LITURGY. DO YOUR VISITING IN THE SOCIAL HALL OR IN THE NARTHEX (VESTIBULE) OF THE CHURCH OR OUTSIDE.

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| Sunday | 4 December | <i>TWENTY-NINTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST. The Holy Great Martyr Barbara. Our Venerable Father John of Damascus.</i> |
| (Vigil Liturgy) | 5:00 PM | +Steve Zombar – Stephen, Betty, Jennifer & John |
| (SM) | 8:30 AM | +Anna Yencovcik – M/M Michael Johnson |
| (PP) | 11:00 AM | +Helen Sekula – M/M Richard McGrath, Sr. |
| Monday | 5 December | <i>Venerable and God-bearing Father Sabbas the Consecrated. (Also the Vigil of the Feast of St. Nicholas.)</i> |
| (PP) | 6:00 PM | +Patricia Harper – sister, Jinny Mirabelli |
| Tuesday | 6 December | <i>OUR HOLY FATHER NICHOLAS, ARCHBISHOP OF MYRA IN LYCIA, THE WONDERWORKER. Pg.274</i> |
| | | No Divine Liturgy |
| Wednesday | 7 December | <i>Prefestive Day of the Maternity of the Holy Anna. Our Holy Father Ambrose, Bishop of Milan.</i> |
| | | No Divine Liturgy |
| Thursday | 8 December | <i>FEAST OF THE MATERNITY OF THE HOLY ANNA.pg.277</i> |
| (PP) | 6:00 PM | +Stephen Sernulka, III – Pete Superak |
| Friday | 9 December | <i>Our Venerable Father Patapius. The Holy Hannah, Mother of the Prophet Samuel.</i> |
| | | No Divine Liturgy |
| Saturday | 10 December | <i>Holy Martyrs Menas, Hermogenes and Eugephus.</i> |
| (PP) | 5:00 PM | +Gloria Conway – Byers Family |
| Sunday | 11 December | <i>SUNDAY OF THE FOREFATHERS. Our Venerable Father Daniel the Stylite.</i> |
| (SM) | 8:30 AM | Prayer Intention of the Rosary Society |
| (PP) | 11:00 AM | +Anna Sudik – Patricia Sudik & family |



Attentive to the Word
Twenty-ninth Sunday after Pentecost

Lk. 17: 12 - 19

Tone 4 Pg. 141 - 142

Once, as Jesus was passing through Samaria on his way to Jerusalem, ten lepers met him. They stood afar off and cried: "Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!" Jesus saw them and said: "Go, show yourselves to the priest". So in this case He did not touch them. Instead, He tested their faith to see whether they would obey and go to the priests to get a certificate of healing even before they had been healed. They obeyed and were healed.

And one of them returned and with a loud voice glorified God and fell at His feet, giving Him thanks. He was a Samaritan. And Jesus said: "Were there not ten cleansed? Where are the nine? Were there not any found to give glory to God except this foreigner?" And Jesus said to him: "Arise, go your way. Your faith has made you well." (Luke 17.11-19). The Samaritans accepted Christ as the Messiah and became Christians, while the Jews rejected Him.

The Fathers of the Church see a lesson in this for us. The ten lepers signify mankind. We are all leprous, but only one in ten give thanks to God for the salvation He has brought to us. In the same way, only some of the seed sown by God (in the Parable of the Sower) brings forth good fruit. We can all be cleansed by Him, but if we do not return to Him in gratitude and to glorify Him, we cannot be saved.

DECEMBER 6 SAINT NICHOLAS THE WONDERWORKER

This glorious saint, celebrated even today throughout the entire world, was the only son of his eminent and wealthy parents, Theophanes and Nona, citizens of the city of Patara in Lycia. Since he was the only son bestowed on them by God, the parents returned the gift to God by dedicating their son to Him.

St. Nicholas learned of the spiritual life from his uncle Nicholas, Bishop of Patara, and was tonsured a monk in the Monastery of New Zion founded by his uncle. Following the death of his parents, Nicholas distributed all his inherited goods to the poor, not keeping anything for himself. As a priest in Patara, he was known for his charity, even though he carefully concealed his charitable works.

When he gave himself over to solitude and silence, thinking to live that way until his death, a voice from on high came to him: "Nicholas, for your ascetic labor, work among the people, if you desire to be crowned by Me."

Immediately after that, by God's wondrous providence, he was chosen archbishop of the city of Myra in Lycia. Merciful, wise and fearless, Nicholas was a true shepherd to his flock. During the persecution of Christians under Diocletian and Maximian, he was cast into prison, but even there he instructed the people in the Law of God. He was present at the First Ecumenical Council of Nicaea [325] and, out of great zeal for the truth, struck the heretic Arius with his hand. For this act he was removed from the Council and from his archiepiscopal duties, until the Lord Christ Himself and the Most-holy Theotokos appeared to several of the chief hierarchs and revealed their approval of Nicholas. A defender of God's truth, this wonderful saint was ever bold as a defender of justice among the people.

Merciful, truthful, and a lover of justice, Nicholas walked among the people as an angel of God. Even during his lifetime, the people considered him a saint and invoked his aid in difficulties and in distress. Even by his presence alone, he brought comfort, peace and good will among men. In old age he became ill for a short time and entered into the rest of the Lord, after a life full of labor and very fruitful toil, to rejoice eternally in the Kingdom of Heaven. St. Nicholas continues to help the faithful on earth by his miracles and to glorify his God. He entered into rest on December 6, 343.

DECEMBER 8 THE CONCEPTION OF SAINT ANN

Celebrated for many centuries under a variety of titles, the feast widely known as the Immaculate Conception is celebrated in the Eastern Church as the Feast of the Conception of Saint Ann. This feast commemorates Saint Ann's conception of Mary, the Mother of God.

The writings of the early Church tell us that Mary's parents, Joachim and Ann, prayed earnestly for a child. Ann and Joachim had lived devoutly in marriage for many years. They gave a third of their income to the poor and a third to the Temple. Still, they were scorned for being without offspring. With heavy hearts, they prayed that God would bless them with a child to comfort them in their old age. The Lord God answered their prayers by allowing Ann to conceive a child who would be the mother of God's own Son, Jesus Christ.

Thus, we see in this feast how marvelously God prepared for the birth of His own Son. Our Lord Jesus Christ was mystically born from the virginal womb of a woman who herself was immaculately conceived from a barren womb! Let us, therefore, cry out to the Mother of God, "Hail, O Womb of Divine Incarnation! Hail, O you through whom creation is renewed! Hail, O you through whom the Creator becomes a babe! Hail, O bride and Maiden ever-pure!" (From the *Akathist*)