

## 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. Andrew to schedule.

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

**Funerals:** Families of the deceased or the funeral director must contact Fr. Andrew 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:** The Parish office is open from 10 AM – 2 PM Monday, Wednesday and Friday. Father Andrew is available on other days and times by appointment.

## CONTRIBUTION ENVELOPES AND CALENDARS

**The 2015 Church Calendars and Contribution Envelopes are ready for pick-up in the Social Hall. Please pick up your contribution envelopes in the Social Hall! If there is any name or address correction, if you are unable to locate your envelopes, or if you wish a set of envelopes, please call the office, or drop a note in the collection basket. This year all envelope numbers were reassigned due to the number of deaths and relocation of former parishioners. Please discard your old envelopes at the end of 2014. If you want proper credit for your contributions, you must use the envelopes you were assigned for the 2015 year.**

## 2014 - A LOOK BACK

As we begin the Year 2015, we should reflect on this past year to see where we were, where we are now, and where we are going. Not only should we do this individually, but we should do this as a parish family. As a community of faith, our existence is made possible through the efforts of many people. We should take the time to recognize all those who make Saints Peter and Paul Parish what it is today:

*God the Father, God the Son & God the Holy Spirit; our Holy Father, Pope Francis; Metropolitan William; the clergy and religious sisters and brothers of the Metropolitan Province; all of the parishioners of Saints Peter and Paul Parish; our Parish secretary; our Maintenance; our Parish Advisory Board; our Cantors; our Catechists; our Altar Servers; our Ushers; our Collection Counters; our Grounds Crew; our Cemetery Caretaker; all our volunteers.*

Thank you for your continued support and generosity toward the growth of your faith community of Saints Peter and Paul. I look forward to working with you in 2015 as we journey together toward eternal salvation.



## Divine Liturgy Attendance weekend of 21 December:

5:00 PM: **92**; 11:00 AM: **124**

Royal Hours on Christmas Eve: **8**

Christmas Eve, 6 PM: **124**; Christmas Eve, 10 PM: **68**; Christmas Day: **74**

**Our return to the Lord for all He has given us ..... \$3,574.03**



- **Sun. Dec. 28** No ECF Religion Classes – Celebrate the Birth of Christ
- **Fast Free Time** – Christmas Day until January 4, 2015.
- **Sun. Dec. 28** Caroling for Parishioners who are Homebound and Nursing Homes. Meet in the Social Hall at 12:45 PM. Leaving at 1:00 PM.
- **Sun. Dec. 28** Family Fun Night: 4:00 PM in the Social Hall. Sign-up sheet is in the Social Hall.



### CHRISTMAS CAROLING . . .



We will be caroling for our Parishioners who are in Nursing homes or who are home-bound on **December 28**. We want them to know they are loved and missed. **We will meet at 12:45 PM in the Social Hall and hopefully leave at 1:00 PM.** We hope to be back by 4:00 PM to join in our First Family Fun Evening.

### FAMILY FUN EVENING

A Family Fun evening is being planned for Sunday, 28 December beginning around 4 PM. The Nativity movie will be shown in our social hall and pizza, snacks and beverages will be provided. All are invited and welcome to enjoy an evening with your Parish Family and celebrate the Birth of our Savior. If you plan to attend, please indicate on the sign-up sheet located in the Social Hall.

### 90<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF PARISH FOUNDING

On January 7, 2015 our parish will celebrate the 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its founding. This milestone anniversary will be commemorated on Sunday, **January 11** with a Divine Liturgy celebrated by Metropolitan William. Also we are looking for photographs from the life of the parish through the years. If you have any photos from any activities (i.e. Baptism, Wedding, First Communion, Choir, picnics, school, etc.) that you would like to share, please submit them to the Parish Office with your name on the back so that we can return it to you. We are planning to scan the photos into the computer to have a slide presentation through our media equipment in the hall. More information will follow as details are finalized.

28 DECEMBER 2014

### SCHEDULE OF DIVINE SERVICES

Sunday,	28 December	<i>SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS. Memory of the Holy and Just Joseph, husband of Mary; of David, Prophet and King; of the Holy Apostle James, brother of the Lord. Holy 20,000 Martyrs of Nicomedia. Bl. Martyr Gregory Khomyshyn, Bishop of Stanislaviv. (1945).</i>
(Vigil Liturgy)	<b>5:00 PM</b>	<b>+John, +Mary, &amp; +Paul Fejko – Robert J. Fejko</b>
(SM)	<b>8:30 AM</b>	<b>+Paul &amp; +Joseph Shifra – Kevin &amp; Betsy Cihan Family</b>
(PP)	<b>11:00 AM</b>	<b>+Victor Burick – William Burick Family</b>
Monday,	29 December	<i>Holy Innocents killed by Herod in Bethlehem. Venerable Father Marcellus, Hegumen of the Akimetes</i>
(chapel)	<b>8:30 AM</b>	<b>+John and +Josephine Wargo – daughter, Elizabeth</b>
Tuesday,	30 December	<i>Postfestive Day of the Nativity. Holy Martyr Anyisia. Venerable Zoticus, Priest and Protector of Orphans.</i>
		<b>No Divine Liturgy</b>
Wednesday,	31 December	<i>Leave-taking of the Nativity. Venerable Mother Melany of Rome.</i>
(PP)	<b>6:00 PM</b>	<b>+Helen Sekula – Jim and Marge Basista</b>
Thursday,	1 January	<i>CIRCUMCISION OF OUR LORD, GOD AND SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST. HOLY FATHER BASIL THE GREAT, ARCHBISHOP OF CAESAREA IN CAPPADOCIA.</i>
		<b>No Divine Liturgy</b>
Friday,	2 January	<i>Pre-festive of Theophany. Holy Father Sylvester, Pope of Rome.</i>
		<b>No Divine Liturgy</b>
Saturday	3 January	<i>Saturday before Theophany. Holy Prophet Malachi. Holy Martyr Gordius. Venerable Genevieve of Paris..</i>
(Vigil Liturgy)	<b>5:00 PM</b>	<b>+Msgr. Sylvester Hladky - Friends</b>
Sunday,	4 January	<i>SUNDAY BEFORE THEOPHANY. Synaxis of the Holy 70 Apostles. Venerable Father Theoctist, Hegumen at Cuomo in Sicily.</i>
(SM)	<b>8:30 AM</b>	<b>Prayer Intentions of the Altar/Rosary Society</b>
(PP)	<b>11:00 AM</b>	<b>+Fr. Andrew Chura – Allen and Linda Grove</b>



## Attentive to the Word

### Sunday After Christmas

Matthew 2: 13-23

Pages 141 - 142 and 302 - 304

Tragedies should wait until January, because they don't fit our ideas about Christmas. That's why King Herod doesn't fit the Christmas story. The horrifying sequence of events in Matthew's Gospel doesn't feel like it belongs in the Christmas story. No Christmas card has this verse from Matthew on the front: "A voice was heard in Ramah, wailing and loud lamentation" (Matthew 2:18). This part of the story may not seem to fit, but we need to hear it. Every true story admits that even in the midst of blinking decorations and flickering candles, darkness threatens the light. Ignoring the darkness is ignoring reality. We leave King Herod out of the Christmas story because we think we're supposed to keep the hardships of the real world away from Christmas. Matthew says that Christmas came in the days of King Herod. He executed his favorite wife, his brother-in-law, and three of his sons because he thought they wanted his crown.

We usually imagine angels speaking in soft, reassuring tones. The angel in Joseph's dream shouted: "Wake up! Hurry! Run!" They escaped to Egypt. They were far from home, but the baby was safe. Tragically, not everyone was safe. Herod's order was the death of every boy in Bethlehem two years old and younger. Matthew can't find words terrifying enough to describe the horror, so he borrows words from the prophet Jeremiah: "wailing and loud lamentation, / Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be consoled, because they are no more" (v. 18).

The first Christmas was soldiers with swords in the streets; mothers clutching their babies, hiding in the closet, trying not to breathe too loudly, and begging their infants not to cry. There aren't many questions more impossible to answer than, "Why couldn't the angel have warned them too?" Even the birth of the new King didn't stop the suffering. It's not surprising that we want to skip this part of the story.

Regardless of the tragedies and sorrows we suffer, we need to remember the hope that comes with the Birth of our Savior. The part of this story that we're used to leaving out—the sadness, suffering, and death—is most important. God comes to the worst places and the most painful circumstances to share our suffering, to care for us

in the midst of tragedy. Christ has come to bear our sorrows. We have not been left alone. This holy season is the promise that God's joy is deeper than our sadness, that ultimately life is more powerful than death, and that the light shines even in the darkness.



**FEAST OF THE CIRCUMCISION:** "When the eighth day arrived for His circumcision the name Jesus was given the Child, the name the angel had given Him before He was conceived." Our Lord submitted to the law even though He was the Creator of all mankind and of the entire universe. We would do well to follow His example by also submitting to the law – His law: "Love God with all your heart and soul, with all your strength and mind. Love your neighbor as yourself." What a world this would be if we all did that. Maybe we can't expect all the people of the world to submit to His law – but we can begin with ourselves – here and now!

**FEAST OF ST BASIL:** We also remember St. Basil the Great on this day, who was the Archbishop of Caesarea. He reformed the Liturgy, defied the Emperor in defense of the Faith, and worked for unity of the Church. He also was responsible for organizing monastic life in his time. He was known as "St. Basil the Great". In him we can see the power of faith in Christ to change and transform our lives.

### THE CHRISTMAS GREETING

It is certainly commendable to wish someone a "Merry Christmas." But how powerful a message is given by the traditional Byzantine Christmas greeting: "**Christ is Born!**" and the response: "**Glorify Him!**"

### THANK YOU

I would like to thank all who remembered me during this Holy Season of Christ's birth with Christmas greetings and the generous gifts. Your thoughtfulness and generosity were greatly appreciated. May God continue to bless us throughout the New Year as we journey together as a family of faith.

**CHRIST IS BORN!**

**GLORIFY HIM!**

**CHRISTOS RAZDAJETSJA!**

**SLAVITE JEHO!**