

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.

2015 CONTRIBUTION ENVELOPES

Just a reminder: There are some parishioners who have not picked up their contribution envelopes for 2015. They are on a table at the Belvedere side entrance. We ask your cooperation in picking up the envelopes; they are quite expensive to mail. 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. Also, for a few weeks, please put your name on the envelope.

YEAR-END CONTRIBUTION STATEMENTS

The year-end contribution statements are ready to be picked up. They are in alphabetical order, on tables in the Social Hall. The statements will be there until February 8th. If you want them after that date, you will have to request them from the office.

“SOUPER BOWL OF CARING”

On the weekend of the Super Bowl, more than 260,000 young people across America join forces to tackle hunger and poverty through the “Souper Bowl of Caring.” This movement transforms Super Bowl weekend into the nation's largest youth-led weekend of giving and serving. Please help the youth of our parish make a difference for the hungry in our community by donating what you can after the Liturgies on the weekend of **February 1.**

HOWLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

An Amish Dinner Fundraiser will be held Saturday, 21 February 2015 at the Howland Community Church (rear entrance) 198 Niles Cortland Road, Howland, Ohio. Dinner will be served from 4:00 to 6:00 PM. Adults \$18.00 Children (4 to 12) \$8.00. Advance tickets only. Call 330-856-7403 or 330-856-3432. Calls will be returned.



Divine Liturgy Attendance weekend of 25 January:

5:00 PM: **91**; 11:00 AM: **96**

Our return to the Lord for all He has given us \$2,507.80



- **Sun. Jan. 25** ECF Religion Classes – 9:30 AM to 10:45 AM. The children have been practicing the Liturgy singing. **They will attend the 11:00 AM Divine Liturgy as a group on the First Sunday of every month, beginning 1 February 2015. We ask the parent’s cooperation in planning to attend this Divine Liturgy.**
- **Sun. Feb. 1** Bible Study – 4 PM in the Social Hall.
- **Mon. Feb. 2** Church Cleaning – 9 AM to Noon. Helpers welcome!
- **Wed. Feb. 4** St. Vincent de Paul Meals Program – 9 AM to 2 PM. We can use your help.
- **Thurs. Feb. 5** Bible Study – 10 AM in the Social Hall.
- **Sat. Feb. 7** First All Souls Saturday – 9 AM Divine Liturgy followed by a Panachida with Reading of the Diptychs.
- **Sun. Feb. 8** Meeting of Oblates of St. Benedict – 2 to 4 PM at the Monastery. Please ring #301.
- **Mon. Feb. 9** Meeting of St. Benedict’s Auxiliary – 7 PM in the Social Hall.
- **Wed. Feb. 11** Ladies Guild Anniversary Dinner at Buena Vista. Just a Reminder: Your reservation is needed.



LOCK-IN RETREAT: (Sponsored by Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy of Saint Josaphat)

“REJOICE AND BE EXCEEDINGLY GLAD FOR GREAT IS YOUR REWARD IN HEAVEN”

- For Teenagers and Young Adults
- Saturday March 7 to Sunday March 8 (1:30 PM to 12:00 Noon)
- Saint Anne’s, 3055 S. Raccoon Road, Austintown.
- Optional Service Project to be performed Saturday Morning at the Youngstown Pregnancy Help Center.
- \$25.00 (meals & T-shirt included) + optional donation of 1 Pack of baby diapers.
- **Call the parish office if you wish to attend. We have the forms that must be completed, as well as further directives. Registration is due 21 February 2015**

You are encouraged to attend. Father Andrew will be the Key Note Speaker. Other speakers will be Father James Barkett and Julian Hayda. It will be a good experience.

1 FEBRUARY 2015

SCHEDULE OF DIVINE SERVICES

Sunday,	1 February	<i>SUNDAY OF THE PRODIGAL SON. Pre-festive Day of the Feast of the Encounter. Holy Martyr Tryphon.</i>
(Vigil Liturgy)	5:00 PM	+Margaret Temar – Bruce and Debbie Morris
(SM)	8:30 AM	Prayer Intention of Altar/Rosary Society
(PP)	11:00 AM	+Lucy Prokop – John & Kathy Shinosky Family
Monday,	2 February	<i>FEAST OF THE ENCOUNTER OF OUR LORD WITH SIMEON AND ANNA.</i>
(PP)	6:00 PM	+Tom Raiti – John and Jennifer Welch
Tuesday,	3 February	<i>Synaxis of the Holy Prophet Simeon and the Prophetess Anna.</i>
		No Divine Liturgy
Wednesday,	4 February	<i>Post-festive Day of the Encounter. Venerable Father Isidore of Pelusium.</i>
		No Divine Liturgy
Thursday,	5 February	<i>Post-festive Day of the Encounter. Holy Martyr Agatha.</i>
(Chapel)	8:30 AM	+Knapik & +Douglas Families – Sr. Agnes Knapik
Friday,	6 February	<i>Leave-taking of the Encounter. Venerable Father Bucolus, Bishop of Smyrna. Holy Martyr Silvanus, Bishop of Emessa and Companions. Venerable Father and Confessor Photius, Patriarch of Constantinople.</i>
		No Divine Liturgy
Saturday	7 February	<i>First All-Souls’ Saturday. Memory of all the Faithful Departed. Venerable Father Parthenius, Bishop of Lampsacus. Passing of Martyr and Priest Peter Verhun.</i>
(PP)	9:00 AM	First All Souls’ Remembrance
(Vigil Liturgy)	5:00 PM	+Gregory V. Ross – Peter & Mary Kay Licavoli
Sunday,	8 February	<i>MEATFARE SUNDAY. Holy Great Martyr Theodore. Holy Prophet Zechariah.</i>
(SM)	8:30 AM	Health of Olivia Hash – James & Barb Hash
(PP)	11:00 AM	+Michael Yurtin – Jim & Mary Elko



Attentive to the Word

Sunday of the Prodigal Son
Luke 15: 11 - 32
Pages 125 – 127 and 320 and 216
Or use the papers provided

All that God looks for from us is the slightest opening and he forgives a multitude of sins. Let me tell you a parable that will confirm this. There were two brothers: they divided their father's goods between them and one stayed home, while the other went away to a foreign country, wasted all he had been given, and then could not bear the shame of his poverty. Now the reason I have told you this parable is so that you will understand that even sins committed after baptism can be forgiven if we face up to them. I do not say this to encourage indolence but to save you from despair, which harms us worse than indolence.

The son who went away represents those who fall after baptism. This is clear from the fact that he is called a son, since no one is called a son unless he is baptized. Also, he lived in his father's house and took a share of all his father's goods. Before baptism no one receives the Father's goods or enters upon the inheritance. We can therefore take all this as signifying the state of believers. Furthermore, the wastrel was the brother of the good man, and no one is a brother unless he has been born again through the Spirit.

What does he say after falling into the depths of evil? I will return to my father. The reason the father let him go and did not prevent his departure for a foreign land was so that he might learn well by experience what good things are enjoyed by the one who stays at home. For when words would not convince us God often leaves us to learn from the things that happen to us.

When the profligate returned after going to a foreign country and finding out by experience what a great sin it is to leave the father's house, the father did not remember past injuries but welcomed him with open arms. Why? Because he was a father and not a judge. And there were dances and festivities and banquets and the whole house was full of joy and gladness. Are you asking: "Is this what he gets for his wickedness?" Not for his wickedness, but for his return home; not for sin, but for *repentance*; not for evil, but *for being converted*. What is more, when the elder son was angry at this the father gently won him over, saying: You were always with me, but he was lost and has been found; he as dead and has come back to life. "When someone who was lost has to be saved," says the father, "it is not the time for passing judgment or making minute inquiries, but only for mercy and forgiveness."
(Commentary of St. John Chrysostom)

THE ENCOUNTER

Forty days after his birth, Jesus is taken to the Temple. Simeon meets him in the Temple. He is waiting for God to act. He is waiting for God to fulfill His promises. He blesses God when he sees this child – "Now You may let your servant go in peace, according to your word, for my eyes have seen your salvation." We pray this prayer as part of the evening prayer of the Church, as part of Vespers.

We come to the Church to see God's glory, to hear His word. The Church is the Holy Place, because it is God's Temple. In it we see all the events of our salvation come alive and present for us. It is the Holy Place that focuses our faith – where we hear the Word of God proclaimed and preached and are called to a life of faith and obedience. It is the Holy Place where we receive and are consecrated in the sacrament of Holy Matrimony. And it is to the service of the Holy Place that the priest is ordained to serve God and His people. *We* are dedicated and consecrated to Him in our baptism and we renew that dedication and consecration every time we enter into the Holy Place.

How do you solve a personal problem? How do you reconcile all the difficulties in your life? Where do you find peace and forgiveness and healing? It is the Holy Place where we receive the Precious and Holy and life-giving body and blood of our Lord God and Savior Jesus Christ for the remission of sins and for life everlasting. It is the Holy Place where through the sacrament of confession we are healed from our sins and restored to Grace.

Where do you go when you have a personal problem? Let's say you have a fondness for gossip or quarreling. Or suppose you have a life-controlling addiction to alcohol or drugs or sex? How do stop? Sometimes the answer is something that seems totally unrelated. For example, in winter when your feet feel icy cold, if you keep the heat in your body with a hat, your blood will carry it down to your toes.

In the same way, when people have problems, spiritual leaders often recommend that they do something that sounds unrelated – such as read the Bible, pray, go to Church, or focus on serving other people. These seemingly unrelated things bring grace to help overcome problems. Why? Because God is the source of healing power. Sometimes I just have to come into church when nobody is here just to get my head straight. Sometimes I just need to come and ask God to help me bear my burdens or to help me get rid of a temptation. There I find the strength to live, to love, to forgive, to overcome temptation and hurts and worries – and like Simeon I can say: Now You may dismiss your servant in peace. Now O Lord I know you are God and master of my life. Now O Lord I know that you are my strength and my hope.

Fr. John Zeyack