

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.

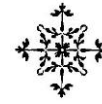
Funerals: Families of the deceased or the funeral director must contact Fr. Simeon before setting and publishing the day and time of the funeral.

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.

ETERNAL MEMORY



Grant, O Lord, eternal rest to the souls of your servants +**Margaret Fetchu**, +**Peter Perich** and +**Richard McGrath, Jr.** who have recently fallen asleep in the Lord. Please remember them and their families in your prayers.

CHOCOLATE BYZANTINE CROSS SALE

We will have *Chocolate Byzantine Crosses* for sale for Easter. The orders must be **prepaid** and must be **in the office by 6 March 2016**. Envelopes are located at the Church entrances for those interested in purchasing *Dark, Milk or White Chocolate Crosses*. The purchase price is \$5.00 each.

SPIRITUALITY DAY

The Benedictine Sisters of Queen of Heaven Monastery are offering a Day of Spirituality on Saturday, 27 February 2016. It will be held in the Social Hall from 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM. **To register, please call 330-856-1813 or e-mail qohm@netdotcom.com before Monday, 22 February 2016.**

The presenter will be Rev. Mykhalo Farynets, pastor of Infant of Prague Byzantine Catholic Church, Boardman, OH and St. Nicholas Byzantine Catholic Church, Youngstown, OH. His topic is "The Great Fast – Tradition or Necessity?"

There will be time for reflection, questions and refreshments, and an opportunity to receive the Mystery of Reconciliation (Confession). This is a good way to help prepare yourself to celebrate the Feast of the Resurrection. You are welcome to pray Vespers with the sisters. There is no charge for the afternoon, but registration is needed.



(PP) Divine Liturgy Attendance weekend of 31 January:

5:00 PM: **77** ; 11:00 AM: **89**

Feast of Presentation of Our Lord: **19**

Our return to the Lord for all He has given us: \$2,816.00

(SM) Divine Liturgy Attendance weekend of 31 January:

26 from St. Michael; **14** from St. Peter & Paul

Presentation of Our Lord: **8** from (SM); **4** from (PP)

Our return to the Lord for all He has given us: \$943.00



- **Sun. Feb. 7** ECF Religion Classes - 9:30 to 10:45 AM
- **Mon. Feb. 8** Great Lent begins. Strict abstinence. No meat, eggs or dairy products.
- **Sun. Feb. 14** Pick-up Baked Goods after the Divine Liturgy
- **Sun. Feb. 14** Meeting of Oblates of St. Benedict – 2 to 4 PM at the Monastery. Ring #301.
- **Sun. Feb. 14** Bible Study 4 PM in the Social Hall – Session 1
- **Mon. Feb. 15** Meeting of St. Benedict’s Auxiliary – 7 PM in the Social Hall. Bring your dimes & quarters.



VALENTINE BAKE SALE

The Ladies of St. Michael’s Parish will be baking at Ss. Peter and Paul Social Hall on Friday, February 12th and Saturday, February 13 ... just in time to celebrate St. Valentine’s Day. Their specialties are: Nut Rolls - \$10.00; Angel Food Rolls - \$10.00; Nut Horns - \$6.00 per dozen; and Kiffles - \$6.00 per dozen. *The sale will be by orders only. **Deadline for orders is Sunday, February 7th. Please call 330-872-7718 or 330-872-0746 to place an order.** Orders will be ready for pick-up on Sunday, February 14th at (PP) for parishioners of PP and at (SM) for St. Michael parishioners.*

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 10th. If you want them after that date, you will have to request them from the office.

BIBLE STUDY CLASSES

Once again we will be offering a Bible Study Class on Sunday afternoon at 4 PM. This will be an 8 week course entitled: ***Unlocking the Mystery of the Bible, and will begin Sunday, February 14, 2016.*** This course will provide the easiest way to understand the Bible and to get the “big picture” of God’s love for His people. Registration Forms are at all church entrances or email Stephen Byers at stivvy@yahoo.com. The cost for the materials is \$15.00. **Deadline for registration is Sunday, 7 February, 2016.** You can drop it in the collection basket in a sealed envelope, or give it to, or email Stephen Byers.

7 FEBRUARY 2016

SCHEDULE OF DIVINE SERVICES

Sunday	7 February	<i>CHEESEFARE SUNDAY. Venerable Father Parthenius, Bishop of Lampsacus. Passing of Priest-Martyr Peter Verhun.</i>
(Vigil Liturgy)	5:00 PM	+Donald Sutyak – M/M Walter Mintus
(SM)	8:30 AM	+Jason Lazor – Greg & Cathie Lazor
(PP)	11:00 AM	+Lucy Prokop – Bill Maddox Family
Monday	8 February	<i>First Day of the Great Fast. Strict Abstinence is to be observed. Holy Great Martyr Theodore. The Holy Martyr Zechariah.</i>
		No Divine Services
Tuesday	9 February	<i>The Holy Martyr Nicephor.</i>
		No Divine Services
Wednesday	10 February	<i>Holy Martyr Charalampas. Venerable Woman Scholastica, sister of St. Benedict of Nursia.</i>
(SM)	6:00 PM	Pre-Sanctified Liturgy
Thursday	11 February	<i>Holy Martyr Blaise, Bishop of Sebaste.</i>
		No Divine Services
Friday	12 February	<i>Our Holy Father Melitius, Archbishop of Antioch.</i>
(PP)	6:00 PM	Pre-Sanctified Liturgy
Saturday	13 February	<i>Saturday of the First Week of Lent, on which we commemorate the Miracle of St. Theodore. Our Venerable Father Martinian.</i>
(PP)	5:00 PM	+Margaret Temar – George & Patricia Teringo
Sunday	14 February	<i>FIRST SUNDAY OF THE GREAT FAST. SUNDAY OF ORTHODOXY. MEMORY OF THE HOLY PROPHETS. Our Venerable Father Auxentius.. Passing of Venerable Father Constantine (Cyril, Apostle of the Slavs).</i>
(SM)	8:30 AM	+Robert Banky – Linda Guinaugh
(PP)	11:00 AM	+Anna Sudik – John & Betty Vazur



Attentive to the Word Sunday of Cheesefare

Mt. 6:14 – 21

Tone 4 p. 141 and p. 218 - 219

WHY WE DO WHAT WE DO

MATTHEW 6:16-18

The purpose of fasting is to prepare us spiritually for God's work in our lives. When we eliminate whatever distracts us and give Him our undivided attention, we begin to see things from His perspective. With the Spirit's help, we will be able to identify the areas of our being that call for change – ungodly thought patterns, habits that need to be broken, misplaced priorities, and our daily schedule. The Lord uses fasting to do some "housecleaning," and that is a good thing.

When our mind's filter is clogged with ungodly thinking, we are unable to take in deep scriptural truth. Among the benefits of fasting are a clear mind, and greater understanding of Scripture. An additional advantage is increased spiritual discernment about ourselves and others. We will have insight to see things that we may have overlooked before. Following our spiritual "bath," God's power will be released into our lives, and we will break free from the ungodliness that has restricted us. Greater intimacy with the Lord will also result. With our minds freed of clutter and our priorities straightened out, we will be in a position for God to pour out His fullness into us. Greater confidence and courage to do the Father's will become ours as well. Scripture warns us not to turn fasting into a public display or religious ritual as the Pharisees were in the habit of doing. It is to be a private experience – one that strengthens our relationship with God. When was the last time you let the Lord "clean house"? He has the time, if you are willing.



CHEESEFARE SUNDAY

On all occasions Jesus maintained the habit of being forgiving toward those who mistreated him. This was supremely demonstrated by his words from the cross in which he offered forgiveness and prayed for the forgiveness of those who were crucifying him. This prayer for forgiveness was not the impulse of the moment; it was the expression of a

permanent principle by which Jesus lived. If you and I would be true followers of Jesus, we must adopt his fundamental attitudes and then engage in the same kinds of activities in which he participated. *Jesus taught that we should seek forgiveness and also grant forgiveness (Matt. 6:8).*

It is significant that in the Lord's Prayer Jesus taught his disciples to be forgiving in the same breath in which he taught them to pray for forgiveness. Our Lord taught that if we would experience forgiveness, we must be forgiving. Forgiving others is not a *price* we pay in order to receive forgiveness; it is a *condition* we must meet in order to obtain forgiveness. There is a difference between paying a price and meeting a condition. *Jesus taught that we must be forgiving (Matt. 18:21 -22).*

In Jesus' day it was common practice to grant forgiveness three times. When Peter inquired about forgiving seven times, he was being very generous. Jesus shocked his disciples by telling them that they must not place restrictions on forgiveness: "I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times" (v 22).

Behind our Lord's command to practice unlimited forgiveness is his divine desire to deliver us from self-destructive attitudes and actions. He recognized that to harbor hate in the heart is to create an acid that will destroy our capacity to be loving and helpful. Our Lord recognized that all of us will experience mistreatment and injustice in one form or another. In his own experience, he developed the habit of always practicing forgiveness rather than responding with hate, bitterness, and hostility. He never resorted to retaliation. Retaliation of evil for evil will destroy our homes, our families, and our fellowship. The apostle Paul says that Satan seeks to prevent us from practicing forgiveness so that he might gain an advantage over us (2 Cor. 2:10-11). The most expensive luxury anyone can have is a grudge against a Christian brother or sister.

A forgiving spirit prevents the Devil from establishing a beachhead in our minds and thought processes. *A forgiving spirit* delivers us from becoming involved in a vicious cycle of self-destructiveness. *A forgiving spirit* prevents the acid of hate from collecting in our hearts. *A forgiving spirit* brings healing to broken hearts and injured spirits. *A forgiving spirit* permits us to reveal God's love as we have experienced it through Jesus Christ. *A forgiving spirit* enables us to experience God's continuing miracle of forgiveness.

Let each of us develop the habit of being forgiving rather than being vindictive and retaliatory toward those who mistreat us.



Lent is a positive time for us to put Christ first in our lives. May your Lent be a time of renewal of mind, heart and spirit.