

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.

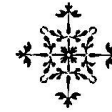
Funerals: Families of the deceased or the funeral director must contact Fr. Simeon before setting and publishing the day and time of the funeral.

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 +**Alexander Kuriatnyk** and +**David Norris** who have recently fallen asleep in the Lord. Please remember them and their families in your prayers.

CONTRIBUTION ENVELOPES AND CALENDARS

The 2016 Church Calendars and Contribution Envelopes are ready for pick-up by the Belvedere Ave. entrance. Our Parish family would like to thank the Sinchak and Sons Funeral Home for their generosity in providing our calendars again this year. God bless them for their kindness and generosity!

Please pick up your contribution envelopes by the Belvedere Ave. entrance! 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. Please discard all envelopes from 2015 and earlier.

NEWLY SANCITIFIED JORDAN WATER

On the Feast of Theophany we celebrated the Great Sanctification of Water. The dispenser containing the newly sanctified water is located by the Belvedere Ave. entrance. You are encouraged to take the some water home for your sanctification.



(PP) Divine Liturgy Attendance weekend of 3 January:

5:00 PM: **76**; 11:00 AM: **103**

Feast of Theophany: **47**

Our return to the Lord for all He has given us: \$3,666.80

Christmas Donations \$16,813.00

(SM) Divine Liturgy Attendance weekend of 3 January:

26 from St. Michael; **13** from St. Peter & Paul

Feast of Theophany: **11** from St. Michael; **6** from Ss. Peter & Paul

Our return to the Lord for all He has given us: \$847.00



- **Sun. Jan. 10** ECF Religion Classes resumed – Jan 3rd at 9:30 AM Parents, coming back following a break is always difficult. However, please continue your responsibility in getting your children to religious education classes and to the Divine Liturgy. Remember, they need to grow up knowing one another and feeling that they are a part of our parish family. They are our precious gifts – new life in the community of God’s worshippers
- **Sun. Jan. 10** Meeting of Oblates of St. Benedict – 2 to 4 PM at the Monastery. Ring # 301.
- **Mon. Jan. 11** St. Vincent de Paul Meals Program – 9 AM to 2 PM
- **(PP) Thurs. Jan 14** “Un-decorating” of the church – 10:00AM
- **(SM) Ladies** Tentative dates for baking – Feb. 12 or 13 – Mark your calendars.



ALL SOULS REMEMBRANCE

During our Liturgical Year our Byzantine Church remembers its faithful departed in a special way on 5 All Souls Saturdays. The first All Souls Saturday is 30 January 2016. There is an envelope in your offertory box for these All Souls Remembrances. **If you wish to have your loved ones remembered on these special days, please submit the names, printed, with an offering in the envelope by January 17 so that the names can be organized.** Previously submitted names do not need to be resubmitted, only additional names. Thank you for your prompt attention.

PROPER RECEPTION OF HOLY COMMUNION

The cold and flu season is upon us. I would like to take this opportunity to remind you of the proper way to receive Holy Communion. Please tilt your head back, open your mouth widely, without extending your tongue and wait for Father to drop the Body and Blood of our Lord into your mouth. **Please do not close your mouth upon the spoon.** Also, please assist with the distribution by holding the Red Communion Cloth under your chin.

10 JANUARY 2016

SCHEDULE OF DIVINE SERVICES

Sunday	10 January	<i>SUNDAY AFTER THEOPHANY. Holy Father Gregory of Nyssa. Venerable Dometian, Bishop of Melitene. Venerable Father Marcion, Priest and Treasurer of the Great Church.</i>
(Vigil Liturgy)	5:00 PM	+Stefan Karchut – Ellen Roby
(SM)	8:30 AM	+Virginia Stempak – M/M Michael Johnson
(PP)	11:00 AM	+Brian Koehn – Mom & Mike
Monday	11 January	<i>Postfestive Day of the Theophany. Venerable Father Theodosius, founder of the Common Life.</i>
		No Divine Liturgy
Tuesday	12 January	<i>Postfestive Day of the Theophany. Holy Martyr Tatiana.</i>
(Chapel)	8:30 AM	+Betty Rhoads – husband, Robert
Wednesday	13 January	<i>Postfestive Day of the Theophany. Holy Martyrs Hermylaous and Statonicus. Venerable Father Hilary, Bishop of Poitiers.</i>
(Chapel)	8:30 AM	Deceased in Knapik & Douglas Families – Sr. Agnes Knapik
Thursday	14 January	<i>Otdanije (Leave-taking) of Theophany. Venerable Fathers killed by the Arabs in Sinai and Raitho in 312. Commemoration of the Passing of the equal-to-the-apostles Nina, Enlightener of the Georgians.</i>
(Chapel)	8:30 PM	+Joanne Emery – sister, Elizabeth Cantelmo
Friday	15 January	<i>Venerable Fathers Paul of Thebes and John the Hut dweller.</i>
		No Divine Liturgy
Saturday	16 January	<i>Veneration of the Chains of the Holy, Glorious and Illustrious Apostle Peter.</i>
(PP)	5:00 PM	+Rev. Richard Whetstone – Byers family
Sunday	17 January	<i>SUNDAY OF THE PUBLICAN AND THE PHARISEE. Venerable Anthony the Great.</i>
(SM)	8:30 AM	+Michael Guinaugh – Eugene & Judy Bailey
(PP)	11:00 AM	Health of Selanik Family – Alex & Frances Selanik



Attentive to the Word Sunday After Theophany

Mt. 4:12 – 17

Follow Directions on pp. 316 – 317

Sunday Troparion: Tone 8 p. 161



The Feast of Theophany is a celebration of a historic event, the Baptism of Christ. In addition, we celebrate all the different manifestations of God (Theophanies) to us in the Person of Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh. In this Feast, we celebrate His mysterious union with humanity in the Church – a union of faith and love, engendering men to a new spiritual life in Baptism. The event of the Baptism of Christ in the Jordan River (Mk 1:9-11) serves to reveal His union in a clear and special manner.

In accordance with the Gospel, this is the first revelation of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit – the Holy Trinity. The icon brings this revelation to us. At the top of the icon, the opening of Heaven is symbolized by the segment of a circle. The circle signifies God’s presence at, and witness to the event. Emanating from the circle are rays of light surrounding the Holy Spirit, depicted in the figure of a dove descending upon our Savior Who is being baptized in the Jordan by John the Forerunner. In this graphic manner, the Father and the Holy Spirit give testimony to the appearance of the Son of God in the flesh among His people.

In this icon, we are immediately drawn to the Person of Christ. He stands in the waters of the Jordan. The iconographic imagery expresses that not just a part, the *whole* Body of Christ is immersed in the Jordan, in token of His burial; for in Colossians we read: “In Baptism you were not only buried with Him, but also raised to life with Him, because you believed in the power of God Who raised Him from the dead.” (2:12) The icon’s illustration of the total immersion of Christ, as well as His right hand blessing the waters, signify the sanctification and purification of the waters by Christ. No longer is water an image of death, but an image of *birth* to a new life which we share with Christ Who took upon Himself the sins of the world. In Christ, we celebrate that *all of creation is renewed*.

A further illustration of our coming to share this new life in Christ is the symbol of Christ undergoing Baptism “clothed” in the nakedness of Adam, the Father of all

mankind. Through Christ’s sanctification of the waters, He enables us to be raised up with Him and to put on robes of incorruptibility.

The role of John the Forerunner is depicted by the placing of his right hand on the head of Christ – a gesture which has always been an integral part of the sacramental ritual of Baptism. With his left hand, John makes a gesture of prayer, symbolizing the trembling awe which overwhelmed him at the sight of the divine manifestation.

Present in the icon are angels with their hands covered. Their heads are bowed as an indication of their role of service to God and their reverence to Him Whom they serve.

The icon of Theophany brings us visually and symbolically to the presence of the manifestation of God, the revelation of the Trinity, and the deep, spiritually rich significance of Baptism. In its presence, we know that God does reveal Himself to us and that through our Baptism, established by the Baptism of Christ, we are made new in Christ.

A SWEET LESSON IN HUMANITY AND HUMILITY

Years ago, a 10 year-old boy approached the counter of a soda shop and climbed onto a stool. “What does an ice cream soda cost?” he asked the waitress.

“Fifty cents,” she answered.

The youngster reached deep in his pockets and pulled out an assortment of change, counting it carefully as the waitress grew impatient. After all, she had “bigger” customers to wait on.

“Well, how much would just *plain* ice cream be?” the boy asked.

The waitress responded with noticeable irritation in her voice, “Thirty-five cents.”

Again, the boy slowly counted his money. “May I have some plain ice cream then, please?” He gave the waitress the correct amount and she brought him the ice cream.

Later, the waitress returned to clear the boy’s dish and when she picked it up, she felt a lump in her throat. There on the counter the boy had left two nickels and five pennies. She realized that he had had enough money for the sundae, but he sacrificed it so that he could leave her a tip.

The Moral: *Before passing judgment, first treat others with courtesy, dignity, and respect.*

Adapted from *A Lifetime of Success* by Pat Williams