

## 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.

## 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.

## CONTRIBUTION ENVELOPES AND CALENDARS

**There are still some contribution envelopes that haven't been picked up. They are located by the Belvedere Ave. entrance! The envelope boxes will remain there for 1 more week. The cost for mailing has risen to almost \$3.50 per box, so they will be mailed only to those who are ill or are unable to come to church. 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.**



**(PP) Divine Liturgy Attendance weekend of 10 January:**

5:00 PM: 67; 11:00 AM: 100

**Our return to the Lord for all He has given us: . . . . . \$3,855.79**

**(SM) Divine Liturgy Attendance weekend of 10 January:**

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

**Our return to the Lord for all He has given us: . . . . . \$952.00**



- **Sun. Jan. 17 ECF Religion Classes - 9:30 to 10:45 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.
- **Mon. Jan. 25** Church Cleaning Party – 9 AM to Noon. We can use your help!
- **Fri. Jan. 29 (SM)** Observance of All Souls Sat. – 6 PM Divine Liturgy with reading of Diptychs.
- **Sat. Jan. 30 (PP)** First All Souls Saturday – 9 AM Divine Liturgy with reading of Diptychs.
- **(SM) Ladies** Tentative dates for baking – Feb. 12 or 13 – Mark your calendars.



**ALL SOULS REMEMBRANCE**

Just a Reminder: There is an envelope in your offertory box for the 5 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 this weekend, 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.

**FAST-FREE WEEK**

Today we celebrate the Sunday of the Publican and the Pharisee. This is the second Sunday of preparation leading into the season of the Great Lenten Fast. Following this Sunday, we have a fast free week, in which any foods can be eaten every day, including Wednesday and Friday. The reason for this fast free week is to remind us of paradise, and contemplate the only way we can regain paradise fully in our lives. In addition by not permitting a fast during the beginning of our preparation for Great Lent, the Holy Church accuses the pride of the Pharisee, who vainly praised himself for fasting twice a week, and, in agreement with this accusation, acts contrary to his hypocritical and proud fast.

17 JANUARY 2016

SCHEDULE OF DIVINE SERVICES

Sunday	17 January	<i>SUNDAY OF THE PUBLICAN AND THE PHARISEE. Venerable Anthony the Great.</i>
<b>(Vigil Liturgy)</b>	<b>5:00 PM</b>	<b>+Rev. Richard Whetstone – Byers family</b>
<b>(SM)</b>	<b>8:30 AM</b>	<b>+Michael Guinaugh – Eugene &amp; Judy Bailey</b>
<b>(PP)</b>	<b>11:00 AM</b>	<b>Health of Selanik Family – Alex &amp; Frances Selanik</b>
Monday	18 January	<i>Our Holy Fathers Athanasius and Cyril of Alexandria</i> <b>No Divine Liturgy</b>
Tuesday	19 January	<i>Our Venerable Father Macarius of Egypt.</i>
<b>(Chapel)</b>	<b>8:30 AM</b>	<b>+Mary and +Michael Pipa – daughter, Virginia</b>
Wednesday	20 January	<i>Our Venerable and God-bearing Father Euthymius the Great.</i>
<b>(Chapel)</b>	<b>8:30 AM</b>	<b>+George, +Mary and +David Krupsa – Cathy Eddy</b>
Thursday	21 January	<i>Our Venrable Father Maximus the Confessor. The Holy Martyr Neophyte. The Holy Martyrs Eugene, Candidus, Valerian and Aquila. The Holy Virgin Martyr Agnes of Rome.</i>
<b>(Chapel)</b>	<b>8:30 PM</b>	<b>+Intention of Sister Agnes Knapik – Benedictine Sisters</b>
Friday	22 January	<i>The Holy Apostle Timothy. The Holy Venerable-martyr Anastasius the Persian.</i>
		<b>No Divine Liturgy</b>
Saturday	23 January	<i>Holy Martyr Clement Bishop of Ancyra. Holy Martyr Agathangel. Commemoration of the 6 Ecumenical Council.</i>
<b>(PP)</b>	<b>5:00 PM</b>	<b>+Irene (Andoga) Bentley - Cousins</b>
Sunday	24 January	<i>SUNDAY OF THE PRODIGAL SON. Our Venerable Mother Xenia of Rome. Ukranian Church: Holy Martyrs in Pidlashia, the Blessed Vincent Lewoniuk and his Companions.</i>
<b>(SM)</b>	<b>8:30 AM</b>	<b>+Margaret Kostrub – M/M David Pocsatko</b>
<b>(PP)</b>	<b>11:00 AM</b>	<b>+Michael Vazur – John &amp; Betty Vazur</b>



## Attentive to the Word Sunday of the Publican & Pharisee

**Luke 18:10 – 14**

**Tone 1 p. 125 – 127 and p. 215**



Jesus Christ shared the parable of the Publican and the Pharisee with us to warn us of the great spiritual danger of arrogant self-confidence in our own righteousness, coupled with contempt for those whom we consider to be beneath us. In this way Jesus sought to protect us from the terrible spiritual sickness of Pharisee-ism.

This disease of the soul first manifests itself as absolute confidence and trust in the rightness of our own point of view and judgment; it presupposes our personal superiority over others. And this twisted expression of self-confidence quickly degenerates into uncritical self-satisfaction and self-righteousness, into a kind of mindless self-admiration. It takes endless pleasure in the self, and in all that it does.

Let us look at the Pharisee in today's parable. He goes into the Temple of God to offer incense to his own self-idol. He proclaims his saintliness and enumerates his good works. He admires and praises himself. He, after all, is not like other people who are up to their necks in immorality and evil. In the midst of his supposed prayer he does not hesitate to spill the poisonous bile of his hatred for the Publican whom he sees praying off in a distant corner. With exaggerated self-satisfaction he refers to his careful fasting and his generous support of the temple. He is indeed, a fastidious observer of the law of the covenant.

And even though we feel repulsed by the attitude and behavior of the Pharisee, we need to be honest enough to admit to ourselves that there are more than a few times when we

astonishingly resemble him. After all, who among us does not want others to think that we are better people than we actually are? Which one of us does not suffer from some lack of respect toward others? Is there even one of us who is very lenient in his judgment of others, and sterner in his own self-criticism? I sincerely doubt it. Every one of us, more or less, has something of that Pharisee inside of us. Something of that self-adulation and righteousness. And so to protect ourselves from infection by this disease requires nothing less than constant struggle and vigilant effort on our part.

A truly Christian heart seeks to do what is just and right as a simple and natural expression of our responsibility as persons. But even then we understand that our good deeds do not reflect perfection and so should not be the cause of weaning pride on our part. That is why St. Vasilios, who devoted his entire life to the loving service of others wrote, "Even if we were somehow able to do absolutely everything that is required of us, we would still have to conclude that we are unworthy servants of the Lord. And this is because after having done all this, we will only have fulfilled our basic duty and obligation and nothing more."

This condemnation of the smug self-satisfaction of the Pharisee, leads us to the justification of the Publican, who keenly feels and readily acknowledges his personal inadequacies. The Publican is admittedly burdened by a host of sins. But he is acutely aware of his sinfulness and spiritual poverty. And so he stands back, in the farthest corner of the temple. He does not dare to even lift his eyes toward heaven. With heavy sighs, he whispers his short prayer, "God, have mercy on me, a sinner."

His prayer is a request, a plea actually, that is filled with contrition. And this contrition, this acknowledgement and confession of personal imperfection, is nothing less than the very cornerstone of the entire spiritual life. And this is because it is inseparably bound with humility of the soul; and it is humility that allows divine grace to transfigure and sanctify our lives.

Perhaps the attitude that we need to acquire if we wish to offer prayer that is acceptable before God, is summed up in the words of Jesus himself who said to us, Take My yoke upon you, and learn from Me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and in Me you will find rest for your souls..” Matt. 11:28. May we too approach the altar of God with that same gentleness of spirit, and that same humility of heart and soul.