

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.

JESUS AND ME:

When I fail, He lifts me up!

When I fail, He forgives!

When I am weak, He is strong!

When I am lost, He is the way!

When I am afraid, He is my courage!

When I stumble, He steadies me!

When I am hurt, He heals me!

When I am broken, He mends me!

When I am blind, He leads me!

When I am hungry, He feeds me!

When I face trials, He is with me!

When I face persecution, He shields me!

When I face problems, He comforts me!

When I face loss, He provides for me!

When I face Death, He carries me Home!

He is everything for everybody, everywhere!

He is God, He is faithful!

I am His and He is mine!

(PP) Divine Liturgy Attendance weekend of 17 January:

5:00 PM: 77; 11:00 AM: 100

Our return to the Lord for all He has given us: \$2,612.92

(SM) Divine Liturgy Attendance weekend of 17 January:

25 from St. Michael; 11 from St. Peter & Paul

Our return to the Lord for all He has given us: \$390.00



- **Sun. Jan. 24** 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.
- **Mon. Jan. 25** Church Cleaning Party – 9 AM to Noon. We can use your help!
- **Wed. Jan. 27** Meeting of the Eucharistic Ministers – 7 PM in the Social Hall
- **Fri. Jan. 29** (SM) Observance of All Souls Saturday – 6 PM Divine Liturgy with reading of Diptychs.
- **Sat. Jan. 30** (PP) First All Souls Saturday – 9 AM Divine Liturgy with reading of Diptychs.
- **Mon. Feb. 1** Ladies Guild Anniversary Dinner Meeting and nomination of Officers – 5:30 PM at Buena Vista Restaurant.
- **(SM) Ladies** Baking days – Feb. 12 & 13.



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 Saturday, February 7th. Please call 330-872-7718 or 330-872-0746 to place an order** or if you are attending St. Michael’s Church, there will be a sign-up sheet in the vestibule of the church. **Orders will be ready for pick-up on Sunday, February 14th at (PP) for parishioners of PP and at (SM) for St. Michael parishioners.** There will be No Deliveries.

CONTRIBUTION ENVELOPES

There are still some contribution envelopes that haven’t been picked up. They are located in the parish office. Sister Barbara is in the office Monday, Wednesday & Friday from 10:00 AM until 2:00 PM. You can pick up the envelopes during that time frame. 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. Please discard all envelopes from 2015 and earlier.

24 JANUARY 2016

SCHEDULE OF DIVINE SERVICES

Sunday	24 January	<i>SUNDAY OF THE PRODIGAL SON. Our Venerable Mother Xenia of Rome.</i>
(Vigil Liturgy)	5:00 PM	+Irene (Andoga) Bentley - Cousins
(SM)	8:30 AM	+Margaret Kostrub – M/M David Pocsatko
(PP)	11:00 AM	+Michael Vazur – John & Betty Vazur
Monday	25 January	<i>Holy Father Gregory the Theologian, Archbishop of Constantinople.</i>
		No Divine Liturgy
Tuesday	26 January	<i>Venerable father Xenophon and his wife, Mary. Holy Father Joseph, Archbishop of Thessalonica.</i>
(Chapel)	8:30 AM	+Mary Karl – Robert Fejko
Wednesday	27 January	<i>Translation of the relics of our Holy Father John Chysostom.</i>
(Chapel)	8:30 AM	+Dorothy Byers – Teresa Corso
Thursday	28 January	<i>Venerable Father Ephrem the Syrian, Bishop of Nineveh. Venerable Father Isaac the Syrian, Bishop of Nineveh. Passing of Venerable Mother Olympia Bida (1952).</i>
	8:30 PM	No Divine Liturgy
Friday	29 January	<i>FEAST OF THE THREE HOLY BISHOPS: BASIL THE GREAT, GREGORY THE THEOLOGIAN AND JOHN CHRISOSTOM. Translation of the relics of Holy Bishop and Martyr Ignatius of Antioch.</i>
(SM)	6:00 PM	Divine Liturgy with Reading of the Diptychs
Saturday	30 January	<i>First All Souls Saturday. Holy Bishop Martyr Hippolytus</i>
(PP)	9:00 AM.	Divine Liturgy with Reading of the Diptychs.
(PP)	5:00 PM	+Michael Hoso – Hoso Family
Sunday	31 January	<i>MEATFARE SUNDAY. Holy Wonderworkers and Unmercenary Healers Cyrus and John.</i>
(SM)	8:30 AM	+Tim Ferry – Michael & Sue Johnson
(PP)	11:00 AM	+Victor Burick – William Burick Family



Attentive to the Word Sunday of the Prodigal Son

Luke 15:11 – 32

Tone 2 p. 130– 131 and p. 216



Who does not know this parable from the Gospels? Even non-Christians use the expression "like the prodigal son." But how often do we really understand it?

By our sins, but even more by our forgetfulness, we distance ourselves from God and His Kingdom, we go off alone to "a far country." We waste the talents which God has given us. And we become spiritually impoverished, we begin to be in want. This is unavoidable; we were created for God's Kingdom, so we are not capable of being truly happy and satisfied anywhere else. But we are afraid to turn to God, so we seek happiness and satisfaction from transitory things which can never satisfy us.

Several years ago, there was a film [The Poseidon Adventure.] about an elderly couple in a dangerous, frightening situation. The husband said to his wife: "maybe we should pray!" The wife answered: "you haven't been near a church in fifty years; now you think you should ask God for help?" Well, yes! Now is always the right time to ask God for help! The very thought that "maybe we should pray" is a sign that the Holy Spirit is moving our hearts; we could not even think of praying if God did not give us the impulse to pray.

On this Sunday of the Prodigal Son, and on the following two Sundays, we have a special part of our worship that never occurs at any other time: the solemn chanting of Psalm 136, "By the rivers of Babylon, there we sat and wept, when we remembered Zion!" This is the great gift we ask of God: that we may remember Zion, His Heavenly Kingdom. That we may not forget Jerusalem, the heavenly city which is the goal of our pilgrimage. Chanting this psalm, we remember, we realize that in this world we are all exiles, we are all "displaced" from our true Home in the Heavenly Kingdom. That gift of memory, of understanding of our situation, enables us to resolve, like the Prodigal Son: "I will get up and go back to my Father!" With this realization, we resolve to make the effort of Great Lent, to travel this spiritual road back to the Heavenly Kingdom. It is not easy; it will take time and energy, and sometimes we shall be tired and weary. But we

will not be alone; Jesus is with us, and so are all the Saints, and the Father is awaiting us with loving, joyful welcome.

As the late great Pope John Paul II taught:

"We must show people the beauty of memory, the power that comes to us from the Spirit and makes us witnesses because we are children of witnesses; we must make them taste the wonderful things the Spirit has wrought in history; we must show that it is precisely Tradition which has preserved them ..."

So prepare well for Lent. Plan to put aside distractions, to be able to take the time to pray, to read the Scriptures, to fast, to go to Church (and to review the special services in advance). Plan how to regulate the household during Lent, especially to eliminate as many intrusions that keep us away from growing closer to God: i.e. TV, internet, cell phone, etc.

By Bishop Basil Losten

THE PRODIGAL SON PARABLE IN "F"

Feeling footloose and frisky, a feather-brained fellow forced his fond father to fork over the family finances. He flew far to foreign fields and frittered his fortune feasting fabulously with faithless friends. Finally facing famine and fleeced by his fellows in folly, he found himself a feed-flinger in a filthy farmyard. Fairly famished he feign would have filled his frame with the foraged foods of the fodder fragments left by the filthy farmyard creatures.

'Fooley', he said, 'My father's flunkies fare far fancier,' the frazzled fugitive found feverishly, frankly facing facts. Frustrated by failure and filled with foreboding he forthwith fled to his family. Falling at his father's feet, he floundered forlornly. 'Father, I have flunked and fruitlessly forfeited family favor.'

But the faithful father, forestalling further flinching frantically flagged the flunkies. 'Fetch forth the finest fatling and fix a feast.'

But the fugitive's fault-finding frater frowned on the fickle forgiveness of the former folderol. His fury flashed.

But fussing was futile, for the far-sighted father figured, such filial fidelity is fine, but what forbids fervent festivity? The fugitive is found! "Unfurl the flags, with fanfares flaring! Let fun and frolic freely flow!" "Former failure is forgotten, folly is forsaken!

And forgiveness forms the foundation for future fortitude."

(N.B. Someone had a lot of time on their hands.)