

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.

ALTAR SERVER CLASS

Several of our young people have voiced a desire to assist our priest as altar servers. We will be scheduling an instruction class soon. The opportunity to become an altar server is open to all children who have made their First Reconciliation. It requires a commitment on the part of each child and parent for regular attendance at the Divine Liturgy and other Liturgical Services. There will be a "Sign-up Sheet" on the bulletin board in the Social Hall for those who wish to make that commitment.

CHOCOLATE BYZANTINE CROSS SALE – Deadline Today

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.

SCHOLARSHIPS FOR CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

The Monsignor Hladky Memorial Foundation is offering scholarships toward tuition for students of all grade levels who are attending a Catholic elementary, junior high or high school. Applications may be obtained by April 1, 2016 by calling 330-847-8257 or writing to: Monsignor Hladky Memorial Foundation

P.O. Box 184

Warren, OH 44482.

Applications must be returned by May 1, 2016.



(PP) Divine Liturgy Attendance weekend of 28 February:

5:00 PM: **64** ; 11:00 AM: **90**

Pre-sanctified Liturgy: 26

Our return to the Lord for all He has given us: \$3,242.75

(SM) Divine Liturgy Attendance weekend of 28 February:

21 from St. Michael; **11** from St. Peter & Paul

Pre-sanctified Liturgy: 12 from St Michael; **10** from St. Peter & Paul

Our return to the Lord for all He has given us: \$2,452.00



- **Sun. Mar. 6** ECF Religion Classes - 9:30 to 10:45 AM.
- **Sun. Mar. 6** Bible Study 4 PM in the Social Hall – Session 4.
- **Tues. Mar. 8** Important Ladies Guild Meeting – 7 PM in the Social Hall.
- **Thurs. – Fri. Mar. 10 – 11** Ladies Guild Nut roll Baking.
- **Sun. Mar. 13** Meeting of Oblates of St. Benedict – 2 PM to 4 PM at the monastery – Ring #301.
- **Mon. Mar. 14** Meeting of St. Benedict’s Auxiliary – 7 PM in the Social Hall. There will be a Lenten Video as part of the meeting. Guests and parishioners are invited for the enrichment of their spiritual formation.
- **Fri. Mar. 18** Ladies Guild Paska Baking.
- **Sun. Mar. 20** Blessing of paskas to be delivered to our parishioners who are home bound or are in nursing home facilities. *Volunteers are needed to help with the delivery of the paskas, etc.* (See Elaine Vislosky).



NUTROLLS AND PASKA BREADS – DEADLINE TODAY

The Ladies Guild will be baking Rolls and Paska Bread for the Feast of the Resurrection. **Advance orders only!** Rolls are \$10 each and will be ready for pick up next weekend (12 & 13 March) in the Social Hall before and after the Divine Liturgies. **Order forms are located in the Social Hall. Deadline to place your order is 6 March 2016.**

WANTED . . . PUSSYWILLOWS

It seems a little strange to be asking for pussywillows in the month of February, but with the spring-like weather that we have been experiencing, some plants and pussywillows have already emerged from their winter nap. Please . . . when your pussywillows **begin** to blossom, please cut them and bring them to church. We will store them here until Palm Sunday. DO NOT PUT THEM IN WATER.



MARCH 13TH - DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME BEGINS !

TURN YOUR CLOCKS AHEAD 1 HOUR!

6 MARCH 2016

SCHEDULE OF DIVINE SERVICES

Sunday	6 March	<i>FOURTH SUNDAY OF THE GREAT FAST. MEMORY OF OUR HOLY FATHER JOHN CLIMACUS. The Holy Martyr Agapius and his Companions.</i>
(Vigil Liturgy)	5:00 PM	+Richard McGrath (40th day) – Ron Mosko
(SM)	8:30 AM	+Michael Guinaugh – Michael & Sue Johnson
(PP)	11:00 AM	+Helen Sekula – Janice & Michael Clark
Monday	7 March	<i>Holy Martyrs and Bishops of Cherson: Basil, Ephrem, Capiton, Eugene, Etherius and others. Passing of the Priest Martyr Leonid Feodorov (1935).</i>
		No Divine Services
Tuesday	8 March	<i>Our Venerable Father nad Confessor Theophylact.</i>
		No Divine Services
Wednesday	9 March	<i>The Forty Holy Martyrs of Sebaste. Holy Martyr Urpasianus of Nicomedia.</i>
(SM)	6:00 PM	Pre-Sanctified Liturgy
Thursday	10 March	<i>GREAT CANON OF OUR HOLY FATHER ANDREW OF CRETE. The Holy Martyr Codratus and His Companions</i>
		No Divine Services
Friday	11 March	<i>Our Holy Father Sophronius, Patriarch of Jerusalem.</i>
(PP)	6:00 PM	Pre-Sanctified Liturgy
Saturday	12 March	<i>Akathistos Saturday. Venerable Father and Confessor Theophane of the Sygrian Mountain. Holy Father Gregory, Pope of Rome. Holy Father Symeon, the New Theologian.</i>
(PP)	5:00 PM	+Joseph Sarsany – Mike & Donna Sherokee
Sunday	13 March	<i>FIFTH SUNDAY OF THE GREAT FAST. MEMORY OF OUR HOLY MOTHER MARY OF EGYPT. The Translation of the relics of Nicephor, Patriarch of Constantinople.</i>
(SM)	8:30 AM	+Robert Banky – Robert & Marianne Cabosky
(PP)	11:00 AM	+Stephen Sernulka III – Mom, Dad & family



Attentive to the Word
Fourth Sunday of the Great Fast
Mark 9:17- 31
Tone 8 p. 161 – 162 and p. 226 - 225

FOURTH SUNDAY OF THE GREAT FAST

Listen to this dialogue: It's a conversation between a recent convert and an unbelieving friend:

"So you have been converted to Christ?"

"Yes."

"Then you must know a great deal about him. Tell me what country was he born in?"

"I don't know."

"What was his age when he died?"

"I don't know."

"How many sermons did he preach?"

"I don't know."

"You certainly know very little for a man who claims to be converted to Christ!"

"You are right. I am ashamed at how little I know about him. But this much I do know: Three years ago I was a drunkard. I was in debt. My family was falling to pieces. My wife and children would dread my return home each evening. But now I have given up drink; we are out of debt; ours is now a happy home. All this Christ has done for me. This much I know of him!"

To really know Christ is to be transformed by him.

To really pray is to find ourselves in Christ's mind and heart. To really pray is to surrender ourselves to His love for us. To fast is to empty ourselves and make room for Christ!

That's why we are so often mediocre and nothing happens in our lives. We say we pray. We ask, but we really don't do it with conviction.

When we say the Our Father, there is always this introduction: And make us worthy O Lord that we may with confidence and without condemnation call upon you and say:

When we pray with confidence things happen in our lives.

When we surrender our own will and our own desires and our own ideas about how things should be done, we make room for God to act.

When we really fast and pray we make room for transformation in our lives. To really know Christ is to be transformed by Him. To really pray is to let Christ be the center of our lives. To really fast is to make room in our will and in our hearts for God because we are emptied of ourselves.

We are heading to the Cross. We are making that journey to our salvation. We are walking with the Savior. Jesus is leading us to the Cross. Let us walk with Him. Let Him lead the way. Let us surrender our fears and our weakness to his grace and mercy.

Then we will rise with Him and be transformed by Him.

By Fr John Zeyack

ST. JOHN CLIMACUS

To really understand what St. John represents, one has to be familiar with the Book of Exodus, the second book of the Bible. Understanding Exodus is important, because the people of his day revered St. John so much that they saw in him another Moses. He was likened to Moses because, like the great prophet of old who brought down the tablets of the Law, he too brought down a gift to share with the people. That gift, a book called *The Ladder of Divine Ascent*, is still being read by Eastern Christians today.

Moses and St. John had a shared interest: they both sought to deliver their people out of slavery. What Moses did in the past, St. John does eternally by his theology. To this day, people are still being freed by his wisdom.

On the fourth Sunday of the Great Fast, we commemorate Saint John Climacus, author of *The Ladder of Divine Ascent*. In this work, Saint John outlines the steps essential in attaining communion with God, steps which remind us that the way to the Kingdom constantly challenges us to engage in spiritual warfare: Be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. (Ephesians 6:10-13).

We know with certainty that Christianity is not for weaklings and cowards. The end of Great Lent is drawing near and we recall Christ's awesome words which encourage us to persevere until the end: He who endures to the end will be saved (Matthew 24:13).