

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.

RECONCILIATION FOR PASCHA

*According to the Precepts of the Church, the faithful are to confess their sins during the Easter Season. Father is available for Confessions on Saturdays from 4:00 – 4:30 PM, on Tuesday, March 15, and after the Presanctified Liturgy on Wednesday and Friday – to assist us in being spiritually prepared to celebrate Pascha. **Please Note** that confessions for Easter will not be heard beyond Wednesday of Holy Week.*

“Confessing our sins is not going to a psychiatrist, or to a torture chamber: It’s saying to the Lord, ‘Lord, I am a sinner.’”
-Pope Francis

TEEN FUNDRAISER

SS. P. & P. Youth Group is selling Ianazone's pepperoni, hot pepper, and spinach rolls to help fund their trip to the national ByzanTEEN Youth Rally this summer. Each roll is \$5.00. Rolls will be available for pick-up after the Liturgies on March 19 & 20. Order sheets are on the bulletin board in the Social Hall. We are asking for your support.

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 6 March:

5:00 PM: 69 ; 11:00 AM: 97

Pre-sanctified Liturgy: 30

Our return to the Lord for all He has given us: \$3,934.35

(SM) Divine Liturgy Attendance weekend of 6 March:

26 from St. Michael; 5 from St. Peter & Paul

Pre-sanctified Liturgy: 10 from St Michael; 6 from St. Peter & Paul

Our return to the Lord for all He has given us: \$485.00



13 MARCH 2016

SCHEDULE OF DIVINE SERVICES

- **Sun. Mar. 13 ECF Religion Classes - 9:30 to 10:45 AM.** We only have 6 classes remaining for this catechetical year. Parents, please be faithful in bringing your children to class. Class is supposed to start at 9:30 AM.
- **Sun. Mar. 13** Bible Study 4 PM in the Social Hall – Session 5.
- **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).



NUTROLL PICK-UP

Rolls are ready for pick this weekend (12 & 13 March) in the Social Hall. Saturday, from 3:00 PM until 6:30 PM and Sunday, from 10:30 AM to 12:30 PM.

PUSSYWILLOWS NEEDED

Spring is almost here, so keep your eyes open for the budding of the pussywillows. Please cut them when they bud (before they turn yellow), and bring them to church before Thursday, March 17. **Do not put them in water.**

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.

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>
(Vigil Liturgy)	5:00 PM	+Joseph Sarsany – Mike & Donna Sherokee
(SM)	8:30 AM	+Robert Banky – Robert & Marianne Cabosky
(PP)	11:00 AM	+Stephen Sernulka III – Mom, Dad & family
Monday	14 March	<i>Our Venerable Father Benedict.</i> No Divine Services
Tuesday	15 March	<i>The Holy Martyr Agapius and his Companions.</i>
(PP)	7:00 PM	Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession)
Wednesday	16 March	<i>The Holy Martyrs Sabinus and Papas.</i>
(SM)	6:00 PM	Pre-Sanctified Liturgy followed by Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession).
Thursday	17 March	<i>Our Venerable Father Alexis, Man of God. Our Holy Father Patrick, Enlightener of Ireland.</i> No Divine Services
Friday	18 March	<i>Our Holy Father Cyril, Archbishop of Jerusalem.</i>
(PP)	6:00 PM	Pre-Sanctified Liturgy followed by Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession)
Saturday	19 March	<i>LAZARUS SATURDAY.</i>
(PP)	5:00 PM	Int. of Sr. M. Martha Kacmarek – B. Sisters
Sunday	20 March	<i>PALM (FLOWERY) SUNDAY.</i>
(SM)	8:30 AM	+Michael & +Mary Johnson – Mike & Sue Johnson
(PP)	11:00 AM	+John Slovinsky, Sr. – George & Donna Bodajlo



Attentive to the Word
Fifth Sunday of the Great Fast
Mark 10:32 – 45
Tone 1 p. 125 – 127 and p. 230 - 231

For the third time, Jesus spoke of his passion and death (see 4 also Mark 8:31-33; 9:30-32). His cross was to be the climax of his earthly mission. The Lord was clearly trying to impress upon his closest disciples that this would indeed occur. He was teaching them the doctrine of the cross: that he must suffer, be rejected, and experience death. His passion and death were at the heart of his mission and though he sometimes spoke about this to the crowds in veiled ways, he said it clearly to those who were closest to him (Mark 10:32-34).

Certainly John and James had heard all that Jesus said about his mission for they were among his closest disciples, the only ones privileged—along with Peter—to witness his transfiguration (see Mark 9:2-13). Despite all they had seen and heard, they asked Jesus to promise that they would sit at his side in places of honor when he came into his kingdom (Mark 10:37). They knew what Jesus was about, yet they still asked this question. What was going on in their minds at that moment that could make them disregard all they had learned?

We often are like James and John when it comes to the things of God. Like these two sons of Zebedee, we have heard and seen much: we have heard the Gospel proclaimed; we have pondered God's word in Scripture; we understand the nature of our Lord's mission. Our minds can be so entrenched in the ways of this world, however, that what we've seen and heard drifts out of our minds when we must make decisions.

The influence of the world is constantly pressing us, relentless in forcing upon us ways and standards which are opposed to what Christ taught. Each day we must center our lives on the truths we have learned in Christ so that they, not the world, can guide our lives. The author of the letter to the Hebrews warned: "We must pay the closer attention to what we have heard, lest we drift away from it" (Hebrews 2:1).

MARY OF EGYPT

On the fifth Sunday of the Great Fast, the Feast of St. Mary of Egypt is commemorated. Many legends surround her life and conversion experience. The more popular ones speak of Mary as one leading a career of infamy in Alexandria. During her youth, she was very rich and beautiful. She did not believe in God and chose to lead a selfish life of sin.

Once on an excursion to Jerusalem, she had noticed throngs of pilgrims entering the Church of the Holy Sepulchre. Curious to join the attractions, Mary tried to enter the Church, but was prevented by some mysterious force. Reflecting upon her sinful life, Mary began to wonder if her sinful life was the cause for preventing her entrance into the Church. At that moment, she became aware of the Icon of the Mother of God which had been above the entrance of the Church. Filled with compunction of heart, she cried for her many sins.

Mary sought a life of repentance for her wicked past by entering the desert. There she lived for nearly fifty years, willfully depriving herself of all comforts of life. While in the desert one day, she met a priest named Zosimus. She asked him to bring the Holy Eucharist to her on Holy Thursday. Joy and peace overcame her upon the reception of the Eucharist and she prayed the Prayer of St. Simeon: "Now you may dismiss your servant in peace, O Lord. For my eyes have seen your Salvation."

She reached a high degree of perfection and became a model for all penitent sinners. The Church singles her out as an example, showing that we too can become saints in spite of our past sins and human weaknesses. The troparion expressed this very thought: "In you, O Mother, was accurately preserved the divine image. Accepting the cross and following Christ, you have taught us by your life to despise the flesh because it is mortal and to take care of the soul, which is immortal."

We are coming to the events of Jerusalem. We are entering with the disciples to the Holy Place. We will come to the cross and the tomb. We will come to the empty grave. What will hold us back from seeing the power of God's love? What will keep us from the Resurrection? Only our own inability to see ourselves as we are. Only our inability to recognize our need for a Savior. Only our own ambition and pride that makes us think we don't need God's love. I would like to ask everyone in Church to ask this question: What is keeping me from God? What is keeping me from Jesus love? What is keeping me from the power of the Cross?

THE SATURDAY OF LAZARUS

When we open the texts of the liturgical Office for the week preceding Flowery / Palm Sunday, our Church reflects on our Lord's daily preoccupation and concern for His dear friend Lazarus who He is told is seriously ill and eventually dies. On Monday of the sixth week of the Great Fast, the morning Office (Matins) declares, "Today the illness of Lazarus is made known to Christ Who is lingering beyond the Jordan; however, in His foreknowledge, He declares: This sickness does not lead to death." It takes Jesus then the rest of the week to travel to Bethany where Lazarus was living with his two sisters, Martha and Mary.

On Tuesday at Vespers, we are told, "Today Lazarus gives up his spirit. Bethany laments and cries for the one whom You, O Savior, shall raise from the dead, to strengthen, by Your friend, the belief in Your divine resurrection...."

On Wednesday, at Matins, we are informed, "On this day the dead Lazarus is buried, and his relatives weep over him....the friend of Christ is placed in the earth...." On

Thursday, again at Matins, we pray, "Death begins to be frightened as it sees You draw near, O Christ; for You are Life, and the ends of the earth will know that Death has lost its power." Throughout this sixth week the liturgical texts keep contrasting Life and Death in the context of Jesus' friendship with Lazarus. It is a very powerful and compelling reflection on the relationship Jesus had with one human being - His friend, Lazarus. Being human, Christ himself was profoundly overcome with grief, knowing that Lazarus was dead. Jesus openly wept at Lazarus' tomb as we would and do when someone dear to us had died.

In the person of Lazarus, we can see ourselves, because Christ as God has that same deep, abiding love for all His friends. Saint John records our Lord's compelling words in the 15th chapter of his gospel: "There is no greater love than this - to lay down one's life for one's friends. You are My friends if you do what I command you. I no longer speak to you as slaves; for a slave does not know what his master is about. Instead, I call you friends since I have made known to you all that I heard from the Father."

These past five weeks of the Great Fast have truly been an opportunity to deepen that unique friendship and to take Jesus at His word. Of this holy Lenten season a few weeks remain just as a short time still remains until Jesus calls His friend Lazarus from the tomb. Friendship is not just one-sided; it is reciprocal. We enjoy very much being with our friends, in their company, doing things with and for them just as they do for us. To see Jesus as "Friend" can leave us feeling somewhat disconcerted and maybe even puzzled when we think of such a relationship in human terms, that is to say - putting

Jesus on that kind of human level - a "buddy" or "pal." Yet, He truly calls us friends not in the sense of a playmate or companion, rather in the uniqueness of the relationship we have with Him as our Redeemer and Savior Who laid down His very life for us. The unique challenge of friendship with Jesus echoes in His own words, "You are My friends if you do what I command you....that you love one another." (John 15: 14, 17)

By Msgr. John Sekellick

2016 SCHEDULE OF DIVINE SERVICES FOR GREAT AND HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

March 21 – Holy Monday

7:00 PM Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts (PP)

March 22 – Holy Tuesday

7:00 PM – Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts with Anointing of the Sick (SM)

March 23 – Holy Wednesday

7:00 PM – Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts with Anointing of the Sick. (PP)

March 24 – Holy Thursday

7:00 PM – Vespers with Divine Liturgy of St. Basil

March 25 – Holy & Great Friday

9:00 AM – Divine Liturgy (Annunciation) (PP)

4:30 PM – Entombment Vespers (SM)

7:00 PM – Entombment Vespers (PP)

March 26 – Holy Saturday

9:00 AM – Jerusalem Matins (PP)

8:00 PM – Resurrection Matins with Divine Liturgy of (PP)

The Blessing of Easter Baskets will take place in the Social Hall on Saturday evening.

March 27 – Feast of the Resurrection

8:30 AM Resurrection Matins with Divine Liturgy of (SM)

11:00 AM – Divine Liturgy (PP)

The Blessing of Easter Baskets will take place in the Church on Sunday morning.