

## 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. Andrew to schedule.

**Mystery of Crowning:** Must be a registered, active, supporting member of the parish family. Must meet with Fr. Andrew before setting date and reserving your banquet hall. Pre-Cana program is required and three sessions with Fr. Andrew. 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. Andrew is notified. It especially is important that a family member contact Fr. Andrew whenever a loved-one is hospitalized.

**Funerals:** Families of the deceased or the funeral director must contact Fr. Andrew 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:** The Parish office is open from 10 AM – 2 PM Monday, Wednesday and Friday. Father Andrew is available on other days and times by appointment.

## CHOCOLATE BYZANTINE CROSS SALE

We will have *Chocolate Byzantine Crosses* for sale for Easter. The orders must be **prepaid** and must be **in the office by 15 March 2015**. 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.

## NUTROLLS AND PASKA BREADS

The Ladies Guild will be baking Rolls and Paska Bread for the Feast of the Resurrection. Rolls are \$10 each and will be ready for pick up on the weekend of 21-22 March. Paska Bread is \$6 each and will be available for pick up on the weekend of 28-29 March. They are being offered on an order only basis. Order forms are located at the Belvedere Ave. entrance as well as in the Social Hall. **Deadline to place your order is 15 March 2015.**

## SPAGHETTI DINNER

Saturday, 7 March 2015, 4 PM – 7 PM. St. Michael Byzantine Catholic Church Social Center, 2140 Highland Road, Hermitage, PA. Spaghetti with homemade sauce & meatballs, salad, bread, cake & beverage. Adults: \$10, Children 12 & under: \$5, Children 3 & under: free. Tickets available at the door. Take-outs available.

## WEDDING SOUP SALE

St. Vincent de Paul Deanery of Trumbull County will be selling Wedding Soup at our parish, after both Divine Liturgies on the weekend of 8 March 2015. The cost is \$7.00 a quart. You can pre-order by calling 330-392-4202, 330-369-2301 or 330-652-0074 before March 5<sup>th</sup> or you can purchase the soup the March 8<sup>th</sup> weekend. Proceeds will go to help feed those in need at Vincent de Paul Dining Hall in Warren.



MARCH 8<sup>TH</sup> - DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME BEGINS !

TURN YOUR CLOCKS AHEAD ONE HOUR !



**Divine Liturgy Attendance weekend of 22 February:**

5:00 PM: 37; 11:00 AM: 97

Pre-sanctified Liturgy, Friday, 20 February: 35

**Our return to the Lord for all He has given us ..... \$2,921.50**



- **Sun. Mar. 1** ECF Religion Classes – 9:30 AM to 10:45 AM.
- **Sun. Mar. 1** Bible Study – Session 5 – 4 PM in the Social Hall
- **Mon. Mar. 2** Church Cleaning Party – 9 AM to Noon. We can use your help.
- **Wed. Mar. 4** St. Vincent de Paul Meals Program – 9 AM to 2 PM. Your help will be appreciated.
- **Thurs. Mar. 5** Bible Study - Session 5 – 10 AM in the Social Hall.
- **Sat. Mar. 7** Third All Souls Saturday – Divine Liturgy at 9 AM followed by Panachida with reading of the Diptychs.
- **Sat. Mar. 7** Spirituality Day 1:00 – 4 PM in the Social Hall. Registration needed. See more information below.



### LENTEN ALMSGIVING

Once again this Lenten season, we will support the Bella Women’s Center through their “Bella Bear Campaign” for our Lenten Almsgiving. **Donation bottles are available at the Belvedere Ave entrance. Please return all bottles by 22 March 2015.**

### SPIRITUALITY DAY

The Benedictine Sisters of Queen of Heaven Monastery are offering a Day of Spirituality on Saturday, 7 March 2015. It will be held in the Social Hall from 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM. **To register, please call 330-856-1813 or e-mail [gohm@netdotcom.com](mailto:gohm@netdotcom.com) before Monday, 2 March 2015.**

The presenter will be Rev. Robert Pipta, rector of SS. Cyril and Methodius Seminary, Pittsburgh, PA. His topic is “Friendship with God through Worship, Stewardship and Fellowship.” He is an excellent speaker.

There will be time for reflection, questions and refreshments, and an opportunity to receive the Mystery of Reconciliation (Confession). This is a good way to help prepare yourself to celebrate the Feast of the Resurrection. You are welcome to pray Vespers with the sisters. There is no charge for the afternoon, but registration is needed.

1 MARCH 2015

### SCHEDULE OF DIVINE SERVICES

Sunday,	1 March	<i>SECOND SUNDAY OF THE GREAT FAST. Venerable Martyr Eudoxia. Holy Father David, Enlightener of Wales.</i>
(Vigil Liturgy)	<b>5:00 PM</b>	<b>+Fr. Joseph Ridella – John &amp; Dianna Koza</b>
(SM)	<b>8:30 AM</b>	<b>Prayer Intentions of Rosary Society</b>
(PP)	<b>11:00 AM</b>	<b>+Mary Mosko – John &amp; Vicki Stankewich</b>
Monday,	2 March	<i>Holy Martyr Theodotus, Bishop of Cyrene.</i>
		<b>No Divine Services</b>
Tuesday,	3 March	<i>Holy Martyr Eutropius and His Companions, Cleonicus and Basiliscus.</i>
		<b>No Divine Services</b>
Wednesday,	4 March	<i>Venerable Father Gerasimus of the Jordan.</i>
(SM)	<b>6:00 PM</b>	<b>Pre-sanctified Liturgy</b>
Thursday,	5 March	<i>Holy Martyr Conon.</i>
		<b>No Divine Services</b>
Friday,	6 March	<i>Holy Forty-two Martyrs of Ammorium.</i>
(PP)	<b>6:00 PM</b>	<b>Pre-sanctified Liturgy</b>
Saturday	7 March	<i>Third All Souls Saturday. Holy Martyrs and Bishops of Cherson: Basil, Ephrem, Capiton, Eugene, Etherius and others. Passing of the Martyr the Priest-Exarch Leonid Feodorov.</i>
(PP)	<b>9:00 AM</b>	<b>Third All Souls’ Remembrance</b>
(Vigil Liturgy)	<b>5:00 PM</b>	<b>+Phyllis Eggens (40<sup>th</sup> Day) – Ken &amp; Fran Hanis</b>
Sunday,	8 March	<i>THIRD SUNDAY OF THE GREAT FAST. VNERATION OF THE HOLY CROSS. Venerable Father and Confessor Theophylact.</i>
(SM)	<b>8:30 AM</b>	<b>+George Simko – wife, Millie</b>
(PP)	<b>11:00 AM</b>	<b>+Michael Vazur (40<sup>th</sup> Day) – John &amp; Betty Vazur</b>



**Attentive to the Word**  
**Second Sunday of Great Lent**  
**Mark 2:1-12**

**Pages 146 - 148 and 222 - 223**

The Kondak for the Second Sunday of the Great Fast sets the tone for this third week of the Easter Fast: “Now is the time for actions to speak for themselves...Fast, then, with tears of sorrow, bringing alms...” Yes, now is the time for action, not words; now is the time to do mercy, not just to speak about it; now is the time to reach out, not merely to consider it. Now is the time; there is no other, nor will there ever be.

Epistle and gospel go hand in hand to give us food of substance in order to sustain us in these good works during the Great Fast. The epistle begins by presenting to us the great God of heaven as One who is the same forever. God is changeless in his love and compassion, changeless in His promises and blessings, changeless in His covenant. Paradoxically His changelessness is grounded in His ability to be changed - - moved by us in our helpless and wretched state of sinfulness. For it is only then that His mercy and tender love come into play. Yes, the same forever, dynamically the same; vibrantly the same; changelessly alive and forgiving love.

Today’s gospel reiterates this same message of a wondrous God and the privileged position we are in to share in this glorious proclamation. John the Baptist had announced that sin would be forgiven. Here we see Jesus saying that sin is forgiven. And since the time of our salvation in Jesus Christ, the Church has proclaimed that sin has been forgiven. For we read in the Gospel, “He nailed to the cross with Himself the record of our sins.”

Yet consternation was shown by the scribes because Jesus forgave sin. They thought, “Why does He speak this way? He blasphemes. Only God can forgive sins!” They did not realize the fullness of God’s mercy. They did not understand the extent of His will to forgive. They did not see how impelled God is to be compassionate with us who have fallen. So intent is our Father on forgiving, that through His Servant Jesus the forgiveness of sin, total salvation, is proclaimed for each of us.

The Scribes’ unspoken criticism is answered by one question from Jesus, “Why do you think such things in your heart?” In effect he asks them, “Why do you want to keep people bound in sin? Why are your minds so narrow? Why do you continue to make God into your own image? Why do you limit my Father’s love? Why?”

Perhaps as we continue through this Great Fast we will ask ourselves these same questions, pondering them deeply. Consider: if forgiveness has not been granted us, what real meaning can Easter have? But if sin has been truly taken away by the Blood of Christ, then assuredly this is “Good News for all the people.” And if Good News, then share it we must: by a loaf, a coat, a cup, a hug, a word of joy. Let us draw nearer to God by our Prayer, Fasting and Almsgiving and ask for His forgiveness in Confession. Christ has the power to change us for the better if we choose to repent, visibly, actively and sincerely this Lent.

**ST. GREGORY PALAMAS**

St. Gregory Palamas was born in the year 1296. He grew up in Constantinople (now Istanbul, Turkey) in a critical time of political and religious unrest. Constantinople was slowly recovering from the devastating invasion of the Crusades. The peace and faith of its citizens were at stake.

Gregory's family was wealthy. Upon finishing his studies in Greek philosophy, rhetoric, poetry, and grammar, Gregory withdrew to Mount Athos, an already established community of monasticism, to become a monk. The young novice Gregory was especially attached to the prayer of the heart, also known as the Jesus Prayer: "Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me, a sinner."

The experienced practice of the Jesus Prayer, requiring solitude and silence combined with physical exercises and breathing methods, is called "hesychasm," meaning inner stillness, peace, or silence. Inner silence of this kind makes us capable of listening to the whispers of the divine within us. "The kingdom of God is within you" (Luke 17:21). Therefore, the Jesus Prayer is the prayer of the whole person, involving the human body, mind, soul, and heart. Pray the Jesus Prayer daily.

*“Lord, Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me, a sinner!”*

St. Gregory Palamas fell asleep in the Lord on November 14, 1359.