

## 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.

## 2015 SCHEDULE OF DIVINE SERVICES FOR GREAT AND HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

**March 30 – Holy Monday**

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

**March 31– Holy Tuesday**

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

**April 1 – Holy Wednesday**

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

**April 2 – Holy Thursday**

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

**April 3 – Holy & Great Friday**

9:00 AM – Passion Matins – Reading of the Twelve Gospels (PP)

4:30 PM – Entombment Vespers (SM)

7:00 PM – Entombment Vespers (PP)

**April 4 – 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.*

**April 5 – 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.*

**Divine Liturgy Attendance weekend of 15 March:**

5:00 PM: **84**; 11:00 AM: **91**

Pre-sanctified Liturgy, Friday, 13 March: **34**

**Our return to the Lord for all He has given us ..... \$3,227.25**



- **Sun. Mar. 22** ECF Religion Classes – 9:30 AM to 10:45 AM.
- **Sun. Mar. 22** Bible Study – Session 8 – 4 PM in the Social Hall.
- **Wed. Mar. 25** Bible Study – Session 8 – 10 AM in the Social Hall.
- **Fri. Mar. 27** Ladies Guild Paska Baking.
- **Sat. Mar. 28** “Work Party” following Lazarus Saturday Liturgy



### 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.**

### 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 and before the Presanctified Liturgy on Fridays from 5:00 – 5:45 PM. and after the Presanctified Liturgies – 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.

### EASTER ROLLS READY FOR PICK-UP

Those who ordered Easter Rolls can pick them up this weekend. Paska Bread will be available for pick up on the weekend of 28-29 March.

### THE MOSAIC OF FAMILIES – A DAY FOR WOMEN

This *Twelfth Annual Day of Reflection for Women* is sponsored by the Office of Religious Education for our Pittsburgh Archeparchy. The Women’s Day is being held at St. Elias Byzantine Catholic Church, Munhall, PA. (Directions are on the brochure) – 9:30 AM to 2:30 PM, Saturday, April 11, 2015. The Topics being presented are: “Women-The Heart of the Family,” “Family-An Image of the Trinity,” and “Healthy Mentors from Scriptures.” Deadline for registration is March 31, 2015. (This would be a wonderful “Get-away” for the ladies.) Brochures are beside the bulletins at the Belvedere side entrance.

### PUSSYWILLOWS NEEDED

Spring is almost here, (even though it doesn’t feel like it), so keep your eyes open for the budding of the pussy willows. Please cut them when they bud (before they turn yellow), and bring them to church. **Do not put them in water.**

22 MARCH 2015

### SCHEDULE OF DIVINE SERVICES

Sunday,	22 March	<i>FIFTH SUNDAY OF THE GREAT FAST. MEMORY OF OUR HOLY MOTHER MARY OF EGYPT. Holy Martyr Basilides, Priest of Ancyra.</i>
(Vigil Liturgy)	<b>5:00 PM</b>	<b>+John J. Koza, Jr. – John &amp; Dianna Koza</b>
(SM)	<b>8:30 AM</b>	<b>+Mary Ellen Poptic</b>
(PP)	<b>11:00 AM</b>	<b>+Joseph Sarsany – Sarsany Family</b>
Monday,	23 March	Holy Venerable-Martyr Nikon and his students martyred with him. Holy Mother Rafka. <b>No Divine Services</b>
Tuesday,	24 March	<i>Pre-festive Day of the Annunciation. Venerable Father Zachary. Holy Father Artemon, Bishop of Seleucia of Pisidia.</i> <b>No Divine Services</b>
Wednesday,	25 March	<i>FEAST OF THE ANNUNCIATION OF THE THEOTOKOS.</i>
(SM)	<b>6:00 PM</b>	<b>+Elizabeth Maureen Todd – Bob &amp; Marianne Cabosky</b>
Thursday,	26 March	<i>Leave-taking of the Annunciation. Synaxis of Gabriel the Archangel.</i> <b>No Divine Services</b>
Friday,	27 March	<i>Venerable Mother Matrona of Thessalonica.</i>
(PP)	<b>6:00 PM</b>	<b>Pre-sanctified Liturgy</b>
Saturday	28 March	<i>LAZARUS SATURDAY.</i>
(PP)	<b>9:00 AM</b>	<b>Sp. Int. of Sr. Martha Kacmarek – Benedictine Sisters</b>
(Vigil Liturgy)	<b>5:00 PM</b>	<b>+Anna Popp – Mary DiLudovico &amp; Anna Cickelli</b>
Sunday,	29 March	<i>FLOWERY (PALM) SUNDAY.</i>
(SM)	<b>8:30 AM</b>	<b>+Michael Guinaugh - Family</b>
(PP)	<b>11:00 AM</b>	<b>+Anna Sudik (40<sup>th</sup> Day) – John and Betty Vazur</b>



**Attentive to the Word**  
**Fifth Sunday of Great Lent**  
**Mark 10:32 - 45**  
**Pages 161 - 163 and 230 - 231**

**"MISSING THE POINT"**

Have you ever tried to explain something to someone, only to be frustrated with them because they were missing your point? It can be as if you were talking to the wall, because the other person just missed completely what you were trying to say. How many times Christ was speaking to those who would listen, and they would completely miss His point? People would listen to Him with their own foregone conclusions, whether it was the Pharisees or His disciples. How patient He had to have been.

In today's Gospel reading, Jesus was discussing with His disciples what was going to happen to Him in the coming days, how He was going to be arrested, charged, found guilty, executed, only to rise from the dead. James and John, however, had their minds on other things, and were more concerned with the seating arrangement, I suppose, at the heavenly banquet of the coming kingdom. "Teacher, we want You to do for us whatever we ask...Grant that we may sit, one on Your right hand and the other on Your left, in Your glory," they asked of Jesus. Talk about missing the point! Jesus was telling them about the days to come leading up to His crucifixion, and they're more concerned about being first in line at the head table of the victory celebration after He resurrects from the dead.

All this talk of who was to get the premium seats gave Jesus the opportunity to teach them about authority, power, and service, in God's kingdom, using Himself as the example. He challenged the disciples to think of themselves as servants of others if they wanted to have authority. "For even the Son of Man," Jesus said, "did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life as a ransom for many." The idea of service is, of course, at odds with how we live life today, how we value competitiveness and aggressiveness, the drive to get ahead, to "make it" in this world. The idea of being the servant of others is too often something we give lip service to. We rationalize our actions so we can have a clear conscience. And then we, like the disciples, miss the point as well.

Today's Epistle reading mentions conscience. Noting how the practice of the Old Testament was to perform an animal sacrifice as a ritual of seeking redemption from sins and a clearing of conscience, "How much more shall the blood of Christ," asks Paul, "purify your conscience?" What is the conscience, but that small voice in us planted by God that tells us right from wrong? A voice that grows in power by living the life in Christ. A voice that wanes to near silence when we ignore it. St. Maximus the Confessor said, "do not dishonor your conscience, which always gives you excellent counsel. For it offers you divine and angelic advice." St. John Climacus said, "After God, let us have conscience as our aim and rule in everything."

As we enter the home stretch toward Holy Week, may our conscience be stirred by the quiet voice of God within, and not require God to make a dramatic display to get our attention. May we go beyond the mere practices that we may be pursuing in our Lenten endeavors, remembering the Lord's words to the prophet Hosea, "I desire mercy, not sacrifice," and get the point that God is trying to make in our lives.

**MARY OF EGYPT**

On the fifth Sunday, the Church encourages and strengthens the faithful with the reminder that they have already passed the greater part of Lent. The end is at hand. Let us persevere until the end. Let us work now, "while it is day." Procrastination is the thief of time. Let us use our time well for the benefit of our soul. Let us occupy ourselves with love and with a humble attention to our own self and our tasks, conscious of God and our difficulties. Let us do this not feverishly but diligently. Fever and excitement harass, but diligence comforts us.

On this Sunday, the Church recalls the example of a great penitent, Mary of Egypt (c. 450 A.D.). An Egyptian by birth, Mary was a frivolous actress and lived in Alexandria, leading a sinful life. After her conversion she went into the desert near the river Jordan where she spent the remainder of her life doing penance for her past sins. 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."*

*By Fr. Basil Shereghy*