

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.

OUR PHILIP'S FAST OUTREACH

Our Parish "Advent" outreach for 2015 is "*BE A SANTA TO A SENIOR*" sponsored by Home Instead Senior Care. The "Giving Tree" is in the corner of (PP) Church at the Belvedere side entrance. Choose an ornament from the "Giving Tree," and record your name, number, etc. on the sheet provided (the list has already been started). Please return your **unwrapped gift with the ornament attached by December 6th**, to the box provided in the Social Hall. We realize this gives you only one week to purchase your gift. (We apologize for that...time just got away from us.) But we also know that our parishioners are generous and caring and that we always "come through" when it comes to helping others. You may drop off your gifts during the week, if you so choose. Sr. Barbara is in the office from 10 AM to 2 PM Monday, Wednesday, and Friday.

SPIRITUALITY DAY

The Benedictine Sisters of Queen of Heaven Monastery are offering a Day of Spirituality, Saturday, December 12, 2015, from 1:00 PM to 4:30 PM. It will be held at SS. Peter and Paul Social Hall. To register, please call 330-856-1813 or email qohm@netdotcom.com by Monday, December 7, 2015. The presenter will be Reverend Thom Dansak, retired Chaplain US Navy. (He has "subbed" often at our Church). His topic will be "Let's Not Forget Joseph." For most of us, Joseph is not in the forefront when we think of Christmas. His topic will spark your curiosity and you will not be disappointed in Father Thom's presentation. There will be time for reflection, questions, refreshments and the Mystery of Reconciliation (Confession). You are welcome to pray Vespers with the sisters. There is no charge for the afternoon. Please avail yourself of the opportunity to further prepare for the glorious Feast of the Nativity.



(PP) Divine Liturgy Attendance weekend of 22 November:

5:00 PM: **81**; 11:00 AM: **99**

Our return to the Lord for all He has given us: \$2,662.30

(SM) Divine Liturgy Attendance weekend of 22 November:

18 from St. Michael; 6 from St. Peter & Paul

Our return to the Lord for all He has given us: \$366.00



- **Sun. Nov. 29** NO E.C.F. RELIGION CLASSES TODAY! Thanksgiving Vacation... SEE YOU ON DEC. 6
- **Sun. Nov. 29** No Bible Study this week.
- **Thurs. Dec.2** St. Vincent de Paul Meals Program – 9 AM to 2 PM – We can use your help!
- **Sun. Dec. 6** Feast of St. Nicholas – Dinner after 11:00 AM Divine Liturgy – Advance reservations needed by Nov. 29th.



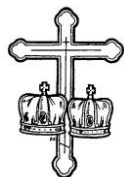
ST. NICHOLAS FEAST DAY

On Sunday, December 6th, after the 11:00 AM Divine Liturgy, the parishioners are invited to a catered dinner in the Social Hall. The dinner will be provided by the parish, but we ask for a donation of at least \$5.00 for each person attending. If you plan to attend the dinner, we ask that you sign your family name on the sign-up sheet, with the number attending, so that we might be better prepared with food and seating arrangements. The sign-up sheets are on the bulletin board on the Belvedere Side entrance and in the Social Hall. **Deadline for sign-up is Sunday, November 29th.** We hope to see all of you there!

YOU ARE INVITED...

The ECF Students will have a program, honoring St. Nicholas on Sunday, December 6th. **It will be held during their regular class time** (from 9:30 AM to approximately 10:35 AM) **in the Church**. We invite parents, grandparents, relatives, friends and all of the parishioners from both parishes to attend the program. These children are the future of our Church. They need your support and they need you to show interest in what they are learning and what they want to share with you. We hope to see all of you there!

CONGRATULATIONS TO:



GWENDOLYN STROCK & ANTHONY TOUNTAS, JR. who celebrated the Mystery of Crowning in Marriage on Saturday, 21 November 2015. *May God grant you peace, health and happiness for many years.*

29 NOVEMBER 2015

SCHEDULE OF DIVINE SERVICES

Sunday,	29 November	<i>TWENTY-SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST. Holy Martyrs Paramon and Philemon. Venerable Father Acacius, mentioned in the Ladder of St. John Climacus.</i>
(Vigil Liturgy)	5:00 PM	+Steven Sernulka, III – (40 th day) Richard & Connie Sernulka
(SM)	8:30 AM	+ Robert Banky – Marjorie Simon Family
(PP)	11:00 AM	+ Patricia Harper – Mercedes Sutyak
Monday,	30 November	<i>The Holy and Glorious Apostle Andrew the First-called.</i> No Divine Liturgy
Tuesday, (Chapel)	1 December 8:30 AM	<i>The Holy Prophet Nahum.</i> + Dorothy Byers – Mary Beth Hayer
Wednesday,	2 December	<i>The Holy Prophet Habakkuk. Passing of the Blessed Confessor Ivan Slezyuk, Bishop of Ivano-Frankivsk (1973).</i> No Divine Liturgy
Thursday, (Chapel)	3 December 8:30 AM	<i>The Holy Prophet Zephaniah.</i> + Mary Karl – Robert Fejko
Friday, (Chapel)	4 December 8:30 AM	<i>Holy Great Martyr Barbara. Our Venerable father John of Damascus.</i> Intention of Sister Barbara Pavlik – Benedictine Sisters
Saturday (PP)	5 December 5:00 PM	<i>Our Venerable and God-bearing Father Sabbas the Consecrated.</i> + Elizabeth Zombar – Bender Family
Sunday,	6 December	<i>TWENTY-EIGHTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST. OUR HOLY FATHER NICHOLAS, ARCHBISHOP OF MYRA IN LYCIA, THE WONDERWORKER.</i>
(SM)	8:30 AM	+ George Simko – wife, Millie
(PP)	11:00 AM	+ Fio Nuzzi – Phil Lucarello



Attentive to the Word

Twenty-seventh Sunday after Pentecost

Luke 13:10-17

Tone 2 Pages 130 – 132

BENT OVER LIVES

In our reading from the gospel of Luke, we heard the story of the healing of the bent over woman. It is a powerful story, but in order for us to connect our lives with hers, we have to be able to identify with this nameless, faceless person who encountered Jesus in the synagogue one Sabbath day when she came to worship. So we want to invite you to join us in bending over for a while as we try to experience the world from her vantage point.

We don't know why the woman was bent over and unable to stand up straight. We don't know what bent her over but we can get a sense of the impact that it had on her life. Being bent over shrinks your world down to a very small circle that extends just a few feet out in front of you and makes you oblivious to anything beyond that tiny circle. You can't move very quickly in this position because you can't look ahead and react to things coming towards you until you are right on top of them. You can't look around and get your bearings so you never really know where you are heading until you actually arrive. For all intents and purposes, your world ends at waist level. Anything higher than that is out of sight and out of reach. You can see the trunks of trees but not the leaves, you can see the ground but not the clouds, you can see people's feet but not their faces.

Being bent over isolates you from everyone else. It is practically impossible to carry on a conversation with anyone from this position. You can't establish eye contact or see any of the visual cues that we rely on to read the reactions of other people. It is hard to tell if someone is agreeing, disagreeing or even paying attention to what you are saying judging by the expression on their feet. And it is just as difficult for people who are standing upright to carry on a conversation with the back of your head. It is a whole lot easier for them to just to step to the side and stay out of your field of vision so that they could walk past without getting caught in an awkward conversation.

It is not very comfortable being bent over. It is a painful position to stay in for any length of time and pain, in and of itself, gets to be very isolating. When our bodies are in

pain, it is hard for us to be attentive to anything or anyone else. The pain becomes a constant preoccupation that intrudes into everything we do. It reduces our mobility, restricts our activities, and diminishes our interactions with others. Luke tells us that the woman in his story was bent over for eighteen years and unable to stand up straight. Can you imagine the impact that had on her quality of life? Everyone in her community was so used to seeing her bent over all of the time that eventually it became her defining feature. No one bothered using her name anymore. She was known simply as "the bent over woman." Her infirmity had become her identity. And it may be that after being bent over for eighteen years, the woman had resigned herself to never being able to stand upright again. When she heard that Jesus had come to her synagogue, she didn't even make an effort to approach him and ask to be healed.

But when Jesus saw the bent over woman, he immediately called her to him and said, "Woman, you are free from your ailment." And when he laid his hands on her, she stood up straight again and began praising God. Jesus teaches us to expect our lives to be transformed on the Sabbath. When the faith community gathers together, and the Word of life is proclaimed, and the presence of Christ is embodied in lives of those who claim Him as their Lord and Savior, God's healing power touches our lives and enables us to stand upright again.

All week long our lives get bent over by the weight and strain of all the burdens we carry. We get bent over by the pressures of work and the strain of financial burdens, by the worries of caring for our families and loved ones, by the pain of physical injuries and the distress of psychological wounds. As our lives get bent over, our world shrinks down smaller and smaller and we become more and more isolated and alienated and incapable of reaching out and touching the lives of others. But every week when we gather to worship surrounded by our brothers and sisters in Christ, we can have an encounter with Jesus that helps us stand upright again.

Everyone who is touched by the healing power of God's love is able to see all of the other people who are bent over and can reach out and touch them with the power of God's healing love. Life bends all of us over with the weight of its stress, strain, aches and pains. Like the bent over woman in Luke's gospel, the only reason we are able to stand upright today is because we have experienced the healing power of God's love in those who have reached out to touch us. And like Jesus, we too are called to reach out and touch the bent over people we encounter every day and help them stand upright again.