

## 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.

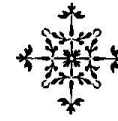
**Funerals:** Families of the deceased or the funeral director must contact Fr. Andrew before setting and publishing the day and time of the funeral.

**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.

## ETERNAL MEMORY



Grant, O Lord, eternal rest to the soul of your servant +**Rose Anne Festko** who has recently fallen asleep in the Lord. Please remember her and her family in your prayers.

## FAREWELL AND MANY YEARS

Our Parish Family extends our prayerful best wishes and thanks to **Subdeacon Michael Slivka** as his time with us comes to an end on 14 September 2014. We thank him for the work he did around our parishes and Manor and we pray for his safe return home as well as for his life's journey. Z'Bohom.

## BIBLE STUDY CLASSES

Once again we will be offering a Bible Study Class on Sunday afternoon at 4 PM and Thursday at 10 AM. In these sessions, we will be studying the *Book of James*. This is a 10 session course and will begin **Tuesday, 16 September 2014 and Sunday, 21 September 2014**. The cost for the materials is \$20.00.

## TRUMBULL COUNTY LIFE CHAIN

Life Chain is a pro-life prayer gathering of local churches held each year on the first Sunday of October. This is the 24<sup>th</sup> year the Life Chain has taken place, and parishioners of SS. Peter and Paul Church have taken part in it for many years. This year's event will take place on Sunday, October 5, 2014 from 2:30 to 3:30 PM beside Harding High School (that's our parish's assigned place). We will be standing together with other churches in prayer and visible demonstration that clearly states the "Abortion kills children." Life is our Lord's precious gift. Stand up for this precious gift.

## ANNUAL CHINESE AUCTION

Sunday October 5, 2014 at St. Michael's Byzantine Catholic Church Center, 2140 Highland Road, Hermitage, PA. Doors open at 1:00 PM. Drawings start at 2:15 PM. Admission and refreshments are only \$5.00. Let's give them our support.

### Divine Liturgy Attendance weekend of 7 September:

5:00 PM: **89**; 11:00 AM: **116**

Feast of the Nativity of the Theotokos: **20**

**Our return to the Lord for all He has given us ..... \$3,690.75**



- **Sun. Sept. 14** First meeting of Oblates of St. Benedict – 2:00 to 4:00 PM at the Monastery. Please ring #301. The Oblates of St. Benedict are open to both men and women. Meetings are held monthly on Sunday afternoons at the sisters’ monastery. Come and see if this group might help support you in your desire for a deeper relationship with Christ.
- **Mon. Sept. 15** Meeting of St. Benedict’s Auxiliary – 7 PM in the Social Hall. Please bring a small wrapped gift for the “dice” game. Bring a friend also.
- **Sun. Sept. 21** Eastern Christian Formation (ECF) classes begin for our young people – Kindergarten thru 12<sup>th</sup> grade – from 9:30 AM to 10:45AM.



**REMINDER: E.C.F. BEGINNING CLASSES ...**

...are just around the corner. Letters and registration forms have been sent to parents of the children who have attended classes in the past years. If you have not received a registration form for your child or are in need of one, please call the office. We are still awaiting return forms for some of our children. We ask that you return the forms, so that we can order and receive the text books before the start of classes. Remember, our young people are the future of our Church. They need to have a good understanding of our Byzantine faith, spirituality and worship. Please enable them to become an integral part of our Byzantine Catholic Church by bringing them to Church with you and enrolling them in our catechetical program.

**ETHNIC DINNER AND BASKET RAFFLE**

The Ladies Guild will be sponsoring an Ethnic Dinner and Gift Basket Raffle on **SUNDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2014**. Mark your calendars and plan to attend this delicious home-made dinner, invite your friends and relatives and give your support to our Ladies Guild, who do so much for us. More information will be forthcoming. Hope to see you there!

*“From the cross, Christ teaches us to love even those who do not love us.”*

Tweet of Pope Francis, 28 August 2014

14 SEPTEMBER 2014

SCHEDULE OF DIVINE SERVICES

Sunday,	14 September	<i>FEAST OF THE EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS. The Passing of our Holy Father John Chrysostom, Archbishop of Constantinople.</i>
<b>(Sat. Vigil)</b>	<b>5:00 PM</b>	<b>+Sandra Bishop – St. Benedict’s Auxiliary</b>
<b>(SM)</b>	<b>8:30 AM</b>	<b>+Michael Guinaugh – Harry &amp; Marjorie Reynolds</b>
<b>(PP)</b>	<b>11:00 AM</b>	<b>+Greg Alex – Margaret Gnat</b>
Monday,	15 September	<i>Postfestive of the Exaltation of the Cross. Holy Great Martyr Nicetas. Venerable Father Symeon, Archbishop of Thessalonica.</i>
		<b>Chancery</b>
Tuesday,	16 September	<i>Postfestive Day of the Exaltation of the Cross. Holy Great Martyr Euphemia.</i>
<b>(Chapel)</b>	<b>8:30 AM</b>	<b>+John &amp; +Josephine Wargo – daughter, Elizabeth</b>
Wednesday,	17 September	<i>Postfestive Day of the Exaltation of the Cross. Holy Martyr Sophia (Wisdom) and her three children, Faith, Hope and Charity.</i>
<b>(Chapel)</b>	<b>8:30 AM</b>	<b>+Sr. Mary John Semon – Andrew &amp; Linda Deskevich</b>
Thursday,	18 September	<i>Postfestive Day of the Exaltation of the Cross. Venerable Father Eumenius the Wonder-worker, Bishop of Gortyna.</i>
		<b>Chancery</b>
Friday,	19 September	<i>Postfestive of the Exaltation of the Cross. Holy Martyrs Trophimus, Sabbatius, and Dorymedont.</i>
<b>(Chapel)</b>	<b>8:30 AM</b>	<b>+Michael Begeny – Joseph &amp; Maria Nemeth</b>
Saturday	20 September	<i>Saturday after the Exaltation of the Holy Cross. Holy Martyr Eustace and his companions. Holy Martyrs and Confessors, the Great Prince Michael and his Counsellor Theodore, Wonder-workers of Chernigov.</i>
<b>(Vigil Liturgy)</b>	<b>5:00 PM</b>	<b>+Anne Slovinsky – Huband, John and Family</b>
Sunday,	21 September	<i>SUNDAY AFTER THE EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS. Otdanije (Leave-taking) of the Exaltation of the Cross. Holy Apostle Codratus of Magnesia.</i>
<b>(SM)</b>	<b>8:30 AM</b>	<b>+George Simko – wife, Millie</b>
<b>(PP)</b>	<b>11:00 AM</b>	<b>+Mary Mosko – Mary Brown</b>



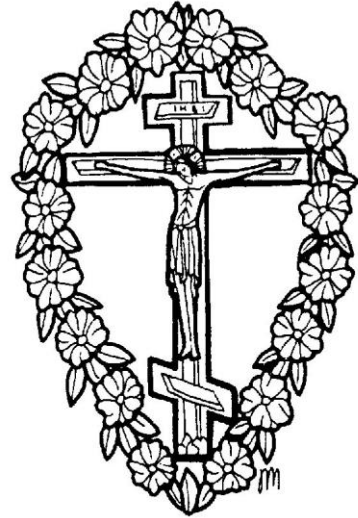
## Attentive to the Word

### *Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross*

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We hear sung throughout the year the troparion or hymn for the Holy Day which is known as the Elevation or Exaltation of the Cross. In many parishes it is sung as a recessional throughout the year. When it is sung in English, there are slight differences in the words at the end; in the Slavonic it is standard. "O Lord, save Your people and bless Your inheritance, granting victory to your Church over their enemies and protect Your people by Your Cross."

This is the first time in the Church Liturgical Year that we will see the Cross decorated with flowers and resting in the center of the church. The second time will be on the third Sunday of Great Lent.



This Holy Day celebrated on September 14 commemorates two separate events. After the death of Christ on the Cross, the place and cross was scorned by the pagans. When the Roman Emperor Titus conquered Jerusalem in 70 AD, he completely destroyed the city as is told in Mark 13:1-2 not leaving one stone upon another. Emperor Hadrian (117-138) completed the project by building a new city called Helio-Hadrianopolis upon the area of destroyed Jerusalem. He directed that an idol be raised upon the spot where Our Lord had been buried; a temple dedicated to Venus be built on Golgotha on the spot where Jesus was crucified; and an idol to Adonis should be placed on the place in Bethlehem where Jesus was born. Hadrian sought to wipe out all memory of Christ by supplanting the places where He had lived, died and arose with glory – with idols.

About two hundred years later when Constantine ascended the throne (306-337), his mother Queen Helena influenced him to restore Jerusalem and to remove all

the pagan idols and to re-consecrate the areas to Christ. The elderly queen left Constantinople for Jerusalem with a large amount of gold to pay for the restoration and a letter of introduction from the Emperor Constantine to Patriarch Macarius in which he asked that aid be given for the task of restoring the Christian holy places.

Upon arriving in Jerusalem, the queen set upon accomplishing her task. However, she set as her prime priority the finding of the Cross upon which Jesus had been crucified. Unwittingly, Hadrian had helped pin-point the spot when he built the temple to Venus on the spot. Queen Helena had the area dug up and found the Grave of the Lord, the place of execution, three crosses, and the sign board which read "THIS IS JESUS THE KING OF THE JEWS" which had been nailed to the cross over His Head. She used various methods to ascertain which cross was the one on which Jesus had been crucified. When the right one was identified, with great joy, Queen Helena and the Patriarch Macarius together lifted up (elevated) the Cross so that all could see it. This is where the Holy Day got its name.

Later, the Church of the Holy Sepulcher was built on the site enclosing within its walls the place of the crucifixion of Our Savior, as well as His tomb. This is designated as a strict fast day, "O Lord, save Thy people and bless Thine inheritance."

### **THE VENERATION HYMN**

*"We bow to Your Cross, O Lord, and we glorify Your Holy Resurrection."*

This central hymn of the Elevation of the Cross which lasts for eight days in the Church is sung many times. It replaces the Thrice-Holy of the Divine Liturgy. The normal antiphons are also replaced by special verses from the psalms which have direct reference to Christ's crucifixion on the Cross. (Psalms 22, 74, 99) At the Matins, in the gospel reading from St. John, Christ says that when he is elevated on the Cross he will draw all men to himself. (John 12:28-36) The long gospel reading at the Divine Liturgy is the passion account from this same gospel.

Thus, at the Elevation of the Cross the Christians make their official rededication to the crucified Lord and pledge their undivided allegiance to him by the adoration of his holy feet nailed to the life-creating Cross. This is the meaning of this holy day of fasting and repentance in the Church today.