

## 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.



- **Mon. Sept. 21** St. Benedict Auxiliary Meeting – 7 PM in the Social Hall – Bring a prospective member and a small wrapped gift for the dice game.
- **Tues. Sept. 22** St. Vincent de Paul Pizza Day – 9 AM to 2 PM – We can use your help.
- **Mon. Sept. 28** Church Cleaning Party – 9 AM - Noon

## EASTERN CHRISTIAN FORMATION (ECF) 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. Parents & Guardians: The success of our religious education program depends upon the cooperation and support of all of us. Our children are the future of our parish & our Church. Help us to assist you in the spiritual education of your children. **Classes begin Sunday, 4 October 2015. Those who have not yet registered, we ask that you to call the office on Monday and leave a message, so that we can get the books ordered.**

## ETHNIC DINNER AND BASKET RAFFLE

The Ladies Guild will be sponsoring an Ethnic Dinner and Gift Basket Raffle on **SUNDAY, OCTOBER 11, 2015**. 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. **Dinner tickets will be available beginning the weekend of 27 September 2015. Adults: \$10.00 Children: (6 and under) \$5.00. Carry-outs are available.** Hope to see you there!

## ANNUAL CHINESE AUCTION

Sunday October 4, 2015 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 13 September:

5:00 PM: **73**; 11:00 AM: **84**

Feast of the Elevation of the Cross: **24**

**Our return to the Lord for all He has given us: ..... \$2,899.00**

What is it that makes you blush and ashamed? Is it the pornographic images in print and on screen, or the words of the Holy Book: “*Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable - if anything is excellent or praiseworthy - think about such things*” (Phil. 4:8)?

What is it that makes you blush? Some of us in this perverted time find it impossible to blush or be ashamed at anything anymore except our faith. How about you?

Would it make you blush if people found out you were a Christian? The people you work with, the people you party with, the people you go to school with? Would it embarrass you if people found out you were a follower of Jesus? “*If any man is ashamed of Me and my words in this adulterous generation, of him will the Son also be ashamed.*”

By Fr. John Duranko



### NATIONAL PRAYER FOR THE PAPAL VISIT

“Almighty God of Mercy and Father of all, we give thanks for the apostolic visit of Pope Francis. Keep him safe and guide him on this pilgrimage to the United States. Allow us to be a nation eager to listen and learn from his ideals and faith in You. During his visit, allow Your servant, Pope Francis, to advance social justice, promote religious freedom and inspire families in their mission of love. Let him preach Your Holy Gospel, reach out to the marginalized and poor and emphasize the value and dignity of every human life in our society. Let us pray for Pope Francis, the Universal Pastor of our Church. May he achieve a successful journey, giving encouragement and hope to the Catholic faithful and those who strayed from the faith. May *everyone* experience Your graces through his example of love for others, serenity of spirit and genuine humility. *Through the good pleasure of Your only-begotten Son, and Your all-holy and life-giving Spirit. Amen.*”

### ETERNAL MEMORY



Grant, O Lord, eternal rest to the soul of your departed servant, **+Sister Dorothy Louise Balock, OSBM** who fell asleep in the Lord 10 September 2015 in her 65<sup>th</sup> year of her monastic life. Please remember her and her family in your prayers.

20 SEPTEMBER 2015

### SCHEDULE OF DIVINE SERVICES

Sunday,	20 September	<i>SUNDAY AFTER THE ELEVATION 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) 5:00 PM</b>	<b>+Anne Slovinsky – Husband John and Family</b>
	<b>(SM) 8:30 AM</b>	<b>+Sally Johnson – Bob &amp; Marianne Cabosky</b>
	<b>(PP) 11:00 AM</b>	<b>+Mary Reese – Becky Prest</b>
Monday,	21 September	<i>Leave-taking of the Feast of the Elevation of the Holy Cross. Holy Apostle Condratus of Magnesia</i>
		<b>No Divine Liturgy</b>
Tuesday,	22 September	<i>Holy Martyr Phocas, Bishop of Sinope. Holy Prophet Jonah. Venerable Father Jonah the Priest, Father of Theophane the Hymnographer and Theodore the Artist.</i>
		<b>Chancery</b>
Wednesday,	23 September	<i>Conception of the Holy Prophet, Forerunner and Baptist John.</i>
		<b>No Divine Liturgy</b>
Thursday,	24 September	<i>Holy Martyr, First Among Women and Equal to the Apostles, Thecla.</i>
		<b>No Divine Liturgy</b>
Friday,	25 September	<i>Venerable Mother Euphrosyna. Synaxis of the Holy Fathers of the Pecherskaya Lavra who repose ner the Venerable Anthony.</i>
		<b>No Divine Liturgy</b>
Saturday	26 September	<i>Falling Asleep of the Holy Apostle and Evangelist John the Theologian.</i>
	<b>(PP) 5:00 PM</b>	<b>+Margaret Temar – Bill &amp; Alexis Fusselman &amp; grandsons</b>
Sunday,	27 September	<i>EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST. Holy Martyr Callistratus and His Companions. Venerable Father Nilus, Founder and Hegumen of the Grottaferrata Monastery.</i>
	<b>(SM) 8:30 AM</b>	<b>+George Simko – wife, Millie</b>
	<b>(PP) 11:00 AM</b>	<b>+Barbara Ochtyun – Michael &amp; Rexi Chamer</b>



## Attentive to the Word

### *Sunday after the Exaltation of the Cross*

**Mark 8:34-9:1**

**Pages 161 and 258-260**

In the Gospel reading after the Feast of the Elevation of the Holy Cross, Jesus said: “If any man is ashamed of Me and my works in this adulterous generation, of him will the Son also be ashamed...” (Mk. 8:38).

What it is that makes you blush? The answer for many of us is, “*Not very much anymore. We’ve seen it all. Nothing shocks us. Nothing seems to be hidden or forbidden or even looked down upon anymore.*” When Elvis first appeared on television on the Ed Sullivan show, the cameras would only show him from the shoulders up. Compare that with MTV, where little is left to the imagination. When Clark Gable uttered a mile oath in “Gone With the Wind,” it was a nationwide sensation. Today obscenities spew forth from our televisions. Little children use words that would make sailors blush. When film star Ingrid Bergman abandoned her husband to live with Roberto Rossellini, her film career in this country plummeted. *Today, such behavior would not cause a ripple.*

What is it that makes you blush? Part of the problem is that we no longer have models of morality to inspire us. The philosopher Frederick Nietzsche once summed up morals and ethics in the question *Who are your heroes?* There aren’t very many heroes of morality around anymore. As Mark Twain said, “*It is curious that physical courage should be so common in the world and moral courage so rare.*”

“*That’s the media’s fault,*” you say, “*They take our heroes apart. They show them, warts and all. We no longer have fantasies about the existence of nearly perfect people. If our father and mother had known everything there was to know about their heroes, they would have been disillusioned, too.*” Well, yes and no.

Will Rogers, at one time, was the most popular and the highest paid entertainer in this country, perhaps in all the world. He was so popular that George M. Cohan produced a Broadway version of **Ah Wilderness**, a part was written just for Rogers - to take advantage of his popularity. The play was a smashing success. Mysteriously, though, in about the fifth week, the play suddenly closed down. Some faint excuse was given that Rogers was too busy with his film career and other responsibilities. Friends knew better. Rogers still had time for many other things that he wanted to do. Sometime later the truth came out about why **Ah Wilderness** closed that fifth week.

Will’s longtime friend Eddie Cantor explained what happened. He writes, “Will received a letter from a clergyman. Here is what the clergyman said: (Now remember that this is a **different** generation.) “Relying on you to give the public nothing that could bring the blush of shame to the cheeks of a Christian, I attended your performance with my 14-year daughter, but was deeply embarrassed when you did the scene in which the father lectures to son on the subject of his relations with an immoral woman. I took by daughter by the hand and we left the theater. I have not been able to look her in the eye since.”

Rogers saw nothing wrong with the part he was playing in **Ah Wilderness**. He never would have done the play if he’d seen something objectionable about it. But it bothered him deeply that a family could not sit through a performance of that play without embarrassment. And so Will Rogers closed down his very successful play rather than cause offense.

Certainly we live in a time of moral confusion. In the book “The Day America Told the Truth - What People Believe About Everything That Really Matters,” the authors did a survey in which they asked people about their real views on life. They discovered that in this time of moral uncertainty, people are fashioning their own moral codes.

For example, according to this survey only 13 percent of people today believe in **all** Ten Commandments. Nine out of ten people in this country **lie** regularly. One-third of all married Americans have been **unfaithful** to their spouses. One-fifth of American children have **lost** their virginity by the age of 13. Seven percent of Americans would **kill** a stranger, if enough money were offered! What are we to say about such a land?

There was an article recently about a very affluent stockbroker who was arrested in New York City for putting slugs in parking meters rather than coins. Perhaps it was his pitiful little rebellion against the straight life. Maybe it was a statement of arrogance. Maybe it was the conviction that he was above the law, that he had gotten so used to making his own rules that even when it didn’t matter, he cheated. What are we to say or do about such a society?

A group of mothers in Kenosha, Wisconsin, wrote an alternative health curriculum for their school stressing biblical morals. The plan calls marriage a real commitment. It urges youngsters to prepare to forgive daily and always to speak proudly and lovingly of their mate in public when they are married. The school board voted the curriculum down. What are we to say about such a society in which there are no longer any fixed and accepted rules?