

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.



OCTOBER 1 - THE PROTECTION OF THE THEOTOKOS

The Feast of the Protection celebrates the day, over one thousand years ago, when St. Andrew, Fool for Christ, and his disciple, St. Epiphanius, stood in church during the Vigil Service and beheld the Most-pure Virgin. Accompanied by St. John the Baptist, the Holy Apostle John, and other Saints, she stood tearfully praying for the people. Contemplating that event, we pause to consider the church building, to consider who is present, and who prays in, the church

We have become accustomed to seeing clergy, choir, and parishioners in attendance, but we have completely forgotten that others are invisibly present: God's holy Angels, His holy Saints, the Most-holy Virgin, and our Lord Himself, are there as well. St. Andrew, St. Epiphanius, Venerable *batiushka* St. Seraphim of Sarov, and many other righteous ones could see this. We do not see, because it is "the pure in heart [who] see." It is only the pure in heart who are capable of beholding what mystically transpires within the church; only they behold those who stand alongside us in church. I suppose that we could not bear the actual sight of the spiritual world as it really is. The more one grows spiritually, the more one can see and understand. For our part, we occasionally hear "Now the Hosts of Heaven invisibly worship with us." The Feast of the Protection of the Mother of God reminds us that Heaven reaches all the way to the earth.

In times of national misfortune, as in times of individual trials and sorrows, Russian people rush to God's temples, rush to the Protection of the Mother of God, and ask of the Queen of Heaven her defense and assistance: "Remember us in your supplications, O Virgin Lady and Theotokos, that we not perish because of the multitude of our sins. Protect us from all evil and grievous perils, for in you we put our trust, and honoring the feast of your protection, we magnify you."

Today, at a time when the whole world is deeply worried by the recent tragic events of ISIS we would all do well to come to church and ask of the Theotokos her grace-filled intercession.

O Most holy Theotokos – Cover us with thy wondrous omophorion, and preserve us from all evil!

Divine Liturgy Attendance weekend of 20 September:

5:00 PM: 75; 11:00 AM: 93

Our return to the Lord for all He has given us: \$3,296.00



- **Mon. Sept. 28** Church Cleaning Party – 9 AM – Noon
- **Sat. Oct. 3** WORK PARTY beginning at 9 AM
- **Wed. Oct. 7** St. Vincent de Paul Meals Program – 9AM to 2 PM – we can use your help!



REASSIGNMENT

As was announced last weekend, Metropolitan William has relieved me of my pastoral duties here at Ss. Peter and Paul Parish and St. Michael the Archangel Parish and has appointed me pastor of St. Elias Parish, Munhall, PA effective 22 October 2015. My final weekend at the parishes will be 18 October 2015. Metropolitan William has appointed Fr. Simeon Sibenik, presently pastor of Ss. Peter and Paul Parish, Punxsutawney, PA as pastor of Ss. Peter and Paul Parish, Warren and administrator of St. Michael the Archangel Parish, Newton Falls, also effective 22 October 2015.

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.

27 SEPTEMBER 2015

SCHEDULE OF DIVINE SERVICES

| | | |
|-----------------|-----------------|---|
| 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> |
| (Vigil Liturgy) | 5:00 PM | +Margaret Temar – Bill & Alexis Fusselman & grandsons |
| (SM) | 8:30 AM | +George Simko – wife, Millie |
| (PP) | 11:00 AM | +Barbara Ochtyun – Michael & Rexi Chamer |
| Monday, | 28 September | <i>Venerable Father & Confessor Chariton. Wenceslaus, Prince of the Czechs. Holy Prophet Baruch. Passing of our Blessed Father and Confessor Nicetas Budka. Synaxis of the Holy Fathers of the Pecherskaya Lavra who repose near the Venerable Anthony.</i> |
| | | No Divine Liturgy |
| Tuesday, | 29 September | <i>Venerable Father Cyriacus the Anchorite.</i> |
| | | Chancery |
| Wednesday, | 30 September | <i>Holy Martyr Gregory, Bishop of Armenia.</i> |
| (Chapel) | 8:30 AM | +Tom James – Mark & Florence Sedlak, Marian Snyder |
| Thursday, | 1 October | <i>FEAST OF THE PROTECTION OF THE THEOTOKOS.</i> |
| (PP) | 9:00 AM | Sp. Int. Sr. Marion Dobos – Benedictine Sisters |
| Friday, | 2 October | <i>Holy Bishop-Martyr Cyprian. Holy Martyr Justina. Holy Andrew, Fool for Christ.</i> |
| (Chapel) | 8:30 AM | +Stefan Karchut – Dave & Patty Hartman |
| Saturday | 3 October | <i>Holy Bishop and Martyr Denis the Areopagite.</i> |
| (PP) | 5:00 PM | +Sr. Julia Rohaly (40th Day) – St. Benedict Auxiliary |
| Sunday, | 4 October | <i>NINETEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST. Holy Martyr Hierotheus, Bishop of Athens. Venerable Father Francis of Assisi.</i> |
| (SM) | 8:30 AM | Prayer Intentions of Rosary Society |
| (PP) | 11:00 AM | +Rose Ann Fetsko – Richard E. Koziel |



Attentive to the Word

Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Luke 5:1-11

Tone 1 Pages 125 - 127



Simon Peter turns from a hearer to a doer. Imagine his boat serving as a primitive church. He and his fellows had just returned from an exhausting night's fishing. They are not just weary; they are a bit discouraged. As he listens to Jesus explaining the wonders of God and a world that is hidden from ordinary eyes, suddenly the Lord turns to him and says that He would like Simon to go back out into the sea. There are fish out there that he missed catching. Was it a test? Quite! Impulsive Simon

Peter must have thought: What can He teach me about fishing, I who had been doing this all my life? Besides, he wanted only to be lulled by comforting words about God, not ordered to return to the sea.

It explains something about Jesus. His sermon was a show and tell lesson. He told Simon what He expected, and when the disciple obeyed, then He showed him where the fish were. Our Lord is the God who acts, and He does so through us. True Christianity is not for spectators. The world is a field, we are in a contest, and every one of us is a player.

Then Simon Peter says: Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord! At another occasion he was not averse to rebuking Jesus (Matt. 16:23). Here he realizes that this Teacher is no ordinary human being. His Lord is of one essence with the Lord Almighty. Here is a moment in his lifetime that he will never forget. May each of us have some-thing similar happen to us in our days on this earth.

To understand what happened to Peter that day is to grasp the essential difference between true, or Eastern Christianity and all other varieties. At first, Peter loved, honored, and was ready to obey Jesus. He saw Him as a special human being, which many Christians and even non-Christians would agree with. But until the net of Christ's true nature caught him, recognizing God at work in Him, he was only an

admirer. In time Peter would understand much more about Christ; but at the moment he saw God in Him. The Byzantine Church never tires of explaining the inexplicable mystery - Jesus Christ is the only-begotten, unique Son of God, true God of true God, as the Creed proclaims. God alone is capable of saving us from sin and death. Because Christ is God, it is not only possible. Salvation has become the supreme goal of our lives.

By Fr. Vladimir Berzonsky



OUR TRUE VOCATION

In Today's Gospel, Jesus calls Simon Peter to become an Apostle, to be a fisher of men. The church has always believed that a vocation is something that only certain people receive; that is, those who are called to the priesthood or religious life. In God's providence, however, everyone is called to a vocation, to the vocation of sanctity. It was our Lord Himself who said, "This is the will of God: your sanctification!" Here we have a call to imitate Christ and to grow in His likeness, a call to duplicate in our lives the virtues Jesus practiced. Holiness, therefore, is our end, our goal, our true vocation.

There are certain means by which we attain this goal, a specific vocation to which each of us is called. Not all are to use the same means to holiness, not all are to have the same state in life. St. Paul tells us we are not all to be prophets, not all are to be evangelists. What was true then is also true now. Not all are called to the priesthood or to religious life. Some are called to marriage, while others prefer to remain single in their quest for holiness. God calls all to serve Him and sanctify themselves in different ways. These different ways are part of God's infinite wisdom. It is worthwhile to remember the distinction between vocation as an end (holiness), and vocation as a means (different states of life). Each of us is called to follow in Jesus' footsteps and to be animated by the same love that inspired Him. But, each of us is to do so according to the special vocation we have received. It takes humility to recognize the means by which God calls us to holiness. Fidelity to this call is the condition for happiness here and for all eternity.