

SUNDAY BEFORE THE EXALTATION
OF THE HOLY CROSS



Icon of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross -- September 14th

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 Father Miron Kerul’-Kmec, Jr. to schedule.

Mystery of Crowning: Must be a registered, active, supporting member of the Parish Family. Must meet with Father Miron before setting date and reserving your banquet hall. Pre-Cana program is required and three sessions with Father Miron. The ceremony will be celebrated according to the prescription of the liturgical book of the Byzantine rite.

Mystery of Reconciliation: Father Miron is always available for confessions 1 hour before each Divine Liturgy, 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: Parishioners who are hospitalized are visited when Father Miron is notified. It is especially important that a family member contact Father Miron whenever a loved one is hospitalized.

Funerals: Families of the deceased or the funeral director must contact Father Miron before setting and publishing the day and time of the funeral.

Parish Membership: We welcome anyone to become a parishioner of Saints Peter and Paul Parish. Registration is done only through the Pastor. Only those who are registered are considered members of the Parish. Registered parishioners are those who have received contribution envelopes, and assume the responsibility of rendering stewardship of time, talent and treasure to SS. Peter and Paul Parish. Worship at this parish is always expected. 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: Lisa Mosko is in the Parish office from 11:30 AM – 2:30 PM on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. Father Miron is available on other days and times by appointment.

SCHEDULE OF DIVINE SERVICES: 9/12/2026 – 9/20/2026

Fr. Miron is always available for confessions 1 hour before each Divine Liturgy.

Saturday (Sun. Vigil)	12 Sept. 4:30 PM 5:00 PM	Reciting of Rosary Health & God’s Blessings for Sr. Barbara Pavlik - 71 years of Religious Life – Parish family
Sunday	13 Sept. 9:35 AM 10:00 AM	SUNDAY BEFORE THE EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS. The Commemoration of the Dedication of the Church of the Resurrection of our Lord in Jerusalem. Service of Third Hour +Patricia Sudik – Byers family
Monday	14 Sept. 6:30 PM	FEAST OF THE EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS. The Passing of our Holy Father John Chrysostom, Archbishop of Constantinople {pgs. 253 – 258). Private Intention – Fr. Miron & family
Tuesday	15 Sept.	Post-festive Day of the Exaltation of the Cross. The Holy Great Martyr Nicetas. Our Venerable Father Symeon, Archbishop of Thessalonica. No Divine Liturgy
Wednesday	16 Sept.	Post-festive Day of the Exaltation of the Cross. The Holy Great Martyr Euphemia. No Divine Liturgy
Thursday	17 Sept.	Post-festive Day of the Exaltation of the Cross. No Divine Liturgy
Friday	18 Sept. 9:00 AM	Post-festive Day of the Exaltation of the Cross. Our Venerable Father Eumenius the Wonder-worker. +Helena Smith
Saturday (Vigil Liturgy)	19 Sept. 5:00 PM	Saturday after the Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross. +Marilyn Norris (40 th day)
Sunday	20 Sept. 10:00 AM	SUNDAY AFTER THE EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS. The Holy Martyr Eustace and His Companions. +John & +Margaret Kostrub – Rosemarie, John, Mary Ann & Paul

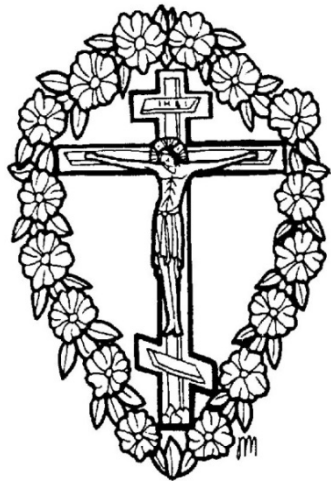


Attentive to the Word
SUNDAY BEFORE THE EXALTATION
OF THE CROSS

John 3: 13 – 17

Tone 7 Pgs. 156 – 158 &

Pgs. 249 – 251



On the Sunday which precedes the great and important feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross (September 14), our Church prescribes a portion of Saint Paul's letter to the Galatians (6:11-18) and a few short verses from Saint John's Gospel (3:13-17) for our reflection and spiritual consideration.

Saint Paul tells his readers that the cross of Christ is what gives his life focus and perspective. At the time Saint Paul wrote to the Galatians, there were individuals in the community forcing pagan converts to follow the old Jewish practices which they then bragged about having the converts observe. Saint Paul corrects these individuals and tells them that what really matters is having been made new all over again in Christ through His cross. The Cross opened again

the gates of Paradise closed by Adam's sin when he ate the forbidden fruit. The tree of the cross stands forever as the sign of God's great love for fallen mankind.

The text taken from Saint John's Gospel emphasizes that great love. Saint John writes, "God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him may not perish but may have everlasting life." This short verse (3:16) is often quoted. Sometimes you may see it on T-shirts, in sports arenas and other public places. It is a stirring reminder that our Creator did not abandon us to perdition but kept His promise to send a Redeemer Who came in the Person of His own Son, Jesus – our Lord.

Verse 16, however, must be linked with the dramatic and challenging words of our Lord recorded further on in Saint John's Gospel (15:13):

"There is no greater love than this - to lay down one's life for one's friends." Here Jesus talks about what He would do for us when He was nailed to His cross – there to give His life that we might have life.

The feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross marks the occasion of its discovery by Saint Helen, mother of Emperor Constantine in the early fourth century. In our churches, a cross, after solemn ceremony, is prominently displayed on the tetrapod, decorated with arrangements of beautiful flowers to remind us as Saint Paul did the Galatians, of the proper focus we must keep as we walk behind our Lord bearing the burdens, the hurts, the disappointments, the suffering and sadness which can be and is sometimes part of our human condition.

Our Church also reminds us that behind the darkness of the Cross shines a bright promise and hope of the new life gained by it because Jesus gave His life for us: "Come, O people, let us contemplate the marvelous wonder; let us bow before the power of the Cross. For the tree of Paradise gave rise to the reign of death, and now a Tree has made our life blossom forth when the sinless Savior was nailed upon it. And now, all the nations that are nourished by this incorruptible food sing praises: You destroyed death by Your cross and set us free. O Lord, glory to You." (Veneration hymn at Matins)

The cross is venerated for eight days during which the troparion, "We bow to Your Cross, O Lord, and we glorify Your holy resurrection" is sung at all Services. Cross and Resurrection are never separated. Although the cross meant death, by His death Jesus brought and bought us unending life. May we live our lives to merit and gain life eternal.

By Msgr. John T. Sekellick



VENERATION OF THE HOLY CROSS

The Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross is celebrated on September 14th. Veneration of the Holy Cross became public with the discovery of the true Cross of Christ about the year 326. It was discovered during excavation operations under Archbishop Macarius of Jerusalem (314-335). Tradition credits St. Helena with the discovery of the true cross of Christ. St. Helena sent a large portion of the Holy Wood to her son, Emperor Constantine the Great, in Constantinople. Another portion was sent to Rome, which was later deposited in the Basilica of the Holy Cross of Jerusalem.

The first public veneration of the Holy Cross took place in Jerusalem on September 14, 335. The annual observance of the veneration of the Holy Cross attracted a great multitude of pilgrims. To enable the many pilgrims to view and venerate the Holy Cross, the Bishop elevated the relics of the Cross. This was the beginning of the feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross. "We bow to Your cross, O Lord, and we glorify Your holy resurrection."



- **Sat. & Sun., Sept. 19 & 20** Coffee & donuts after Liturgies
- **Sun., Sept. 20** Safe-Environment Training after Liturgy. See below.
- **Wed., Sept. 23** Divine Liturgy 6:30 PM.
- **Fri., Sept. 25** Divine Liturgy 9:00 AM.
- **Mon., Sept. 28** Church Cleaning Party 9 AM – Noon. Come lend a helping hand.
- **Thurs., Oct. 1** Divine Liturgy 6:30 PM – **Protection of the Theotokos.**
- **Fri., Oct. 2** Divine Liturgy 9:00 AM.



NOTE:

There will not be a Retreat in September.

SAFE-ENVIRONMENT TRAINING

Dear Parish Family,

Our church will be going through safe-environment training on **Sept. 20th**. The training will take place after the Divine Liturgy in our social hall. All those who are “active volunteers” (ECF teachers, cantors, money counters and those who are frequently volunteering) need to be at the training.

If you have any questions regarding this or if you are unsure if you need to participate in this training, please contact Fr. Miron.

Thank you!

OCTOBER FUN FEST



Please sign up for the October Fest in the Social Hall by Sunday, September 27th.

The October Fun Fest will be held on **Sunday, October 11th, from 11 AM – 4 PM.**

The cost is \$10 per person. Children 12 and under are free. Extra items are individually priced.

There is also a sign-up sheet for help with set-up, prep work, serving, clean-up and miscellaneous tasks.

Any help and/or desserts will be greatly appreciated. See flyers in the Social Hall for more information.



Happy Birthday to Parishioners with Birthdays this past week:

Sept. 11 – Loretta Greskovich; Sept. 12 – Ron Mosko

There are no birthdays the week of September 13th.

Missed your birthday? Please let us know!



THE EXALTATION OF THE CROSS

Where is your power? Where do you get your strength? Where do we, as Christians, seek power?

If we read the Gospels, if we follow St. Paul, we have to say with him, I glory in the cross of Jesus. I find my strength in the Cross. It is a sign of contradiction to our world. For the world seeks power in authority over others. Jesus says, those who are greatest among you serve the rest! The world seeks power in money. Jesus says, give to Caesar what is Caesar's and to God what is God's. Money is not the measure of our status or goodness. The world seeks power in fame. Jesus lived completely unknown. He preached in a far distant and impoverished land, which was under the power of the Romans. He was no rock star or sports figure, yet more people have given their lives for Him than for any other person. He is the Son of God who came down to lift us up.

Like Moses in the Desert who lifted the bronze image of the serpent and saved the people from the bites of the serpents, Jesus lifted up, saves us from the bite of sin, from the destruction of our souls, from the poison of hate and revenge because He says to us "forgive your enemies" as He Himself forgives from the Cross. He frees us from the constraints of this world, for from the Cross He opens the gates of Paradise to the thief. By the Cross Jesus restores the integrity of our souls and bodies, of our spirits and our life.

Jesus doesn't take away the reality of death. Jesus Himself went through the most horrible and painful death. But He leads us through death to eternal life by the Cross. That's why the Cross is power for us. That's why the Cross is strength for us in sickness or in temptation. That's why the Cross is courage for us to do right in spite of opposition. That's why the Cross is held up for us and given to us to lead us to a life of dedication and service, to teach us to forgive and accept forgiveness, to rescue us from fear and hopelessness.

Please come to kiss the cross and honor your Lord who died for you on it.

Embrace it for our Lord died on it for us. Embrace it for it is our Glory.

Embrace it for it is power and strength. Embrace it for it is hope.

Embrace it for it is salvation.

By Fr John Zeyack



Divine Liturgy Attendance weekend of September 5:

5:00 PM: 47; 10:00 AM: 80

Our return to the Lord for all He has given us: . . . \$2,085.95



SAINTS PETER & PAUL
BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH



Saints Peter & Paul Byzantine Catholic Church
180 Belvedere Avenue, NE
Warren, OH 44483

Office: 330-372-1875
Office Email: sppbyzchurch@gmail.com
Website: kurt.valenta@stspeterpaulbyz.com
stspeterpaulbyz.com



Saints Peter and Paul Byzantine Catholic Parish

180 Belvedere Avenue, N.E.
Warren, OH 44483

Metropolitan William Skurla
Metropolitan Archbishop of Pittsburgh

Served by: Father Miron Kerul'-Kmec, Jr.

Office Phone: **330-372-1875**

Father's Cell Phone: **216-538-0418**

FAX: **330-372-1896**

New Parish Webpage: stspeterpaulbyz.com

Email: sppbyzchurch@gmail.com

Infant of Prague Manor: 330-372-4700



Glory to Jesus Christ!
Slava Isusu Christu!

Glory Forever!
Slava na viki!

Drawing All to Himself

O the marvelous power of the cross, the glory of the passion! No tongue can fully describe it. Here we see the judgment seat of the Lord, here sentence is passed upon the world, and here the sovereignty of the Crucified is revealed.

You drew all things to Yourself, Lord, when You stretched out Your hands all the day long to a people that denied and opposed You, until at last the whole world was brought to proclaim Your majesty. You drew all things to Yourself, Lord, when all the elements combined to pronounce judgment in denouncement of that crime; when the lights of heaven were darkened and the day was turned into night; when the land was shaken by unwonted earthquakes, and all creation refused to serve those wicked people. Yes, Lord, you drew all things to Yourself. The veil of the temple was torn in two and the Holy of Holies taken away from those unworthy high

priests. Figures gave way to reality, prophecy to manifestation, law to gospel. You drew all things to Yourself in order that the worship of the whole human race could be celebrated everywhere in a sacramental form which would openly fulfill what had been enacted by means of veiled symbols in that single Jewish temple.

Now that the multiplicity of animal sacrifices has ceased, the single offering of your body and blood takes the place of that diversity of victims, since you are the true Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world, and in Yourself you fulfill all the rites of the old law, so that as there is now a single sacrifice in place of all those victims, so there is a single kingdom formed of all the peoples of the earth.

St. Leo the Great