

SUNDAY AFTER THE  
EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS



*Icon of the Holy Martyr Eustace and his Companions -- September 20th*

**SCHEDULE OF DIVINE SERVICES: 9/19/2026 – 9/27/2026**

**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.

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

|                                 |                                                      |                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
|---------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Saturday<br>(Sun. Vigil)        | 19 Sept.<br><b>4:30 PM</b><br><b>5:00 PM</b>         | <b>Reciting of Rosary</b><br><b>+Marilyn Norris (40<sup>th</sup> day)</b>                                                                                                                                        |
| Sunday                          | 20 Sept.<br><br><b>9:35 AM</b><br><b>10:00 AM</b>    | <i>SUNDAY AFTER THE EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS. The Holy Martyr Eustace and His Companions.</i><br><b>Service of Third Hour</b><br><b>+John &amp; +Margaret Kostrub – Rosemarie, John, Mary Ann &amp; Paul</b> |
| Monday                          | 21 Sept.                                             | <i>Leave-taking (otdanije) of the Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross. The Holy Apostle Codratus of Magnesia.</i><br><b>No Divine Liturgy</b>                                                              |
| Tuesday                         | 22 Sept.                                             | <i>The Holy Martyr Phocas, Bishop of Sinope.</i><br><b>No Divine Liturgy</b>                                                                                                                                     |
| Wednesday                       | 23 Sept.                                             | <i>The Conception of the Holy Prophet, Forerunner and Baptist John.</i><br><b>No Divine Liturgy</b>                                                                                                              |
| Thursday                        | 24 Sept.                                             | <i>The Holy Martyr, First Among Women, and Equal to the Apostles, Thecia.</i><br><b>No Divine Liturgy</b>                                                                                                        |
| Friday                          | 25 Sept.<br><b>8:00 AM</b><br><br><b>10:00 AM</b>    | <i>Our Venerable Mother Euphrosyna.</i><br><b>+Carl &amp; +Marialice Verney – daughter, Carla</b><br><br><b>Divine Liturgy with Parastas</b><br><b>+Richard Perhacs – wife, Sylvia and Family</b>                |
| Saturday<br><br>(Vigil Liturgy) | 26 Sept.<br><br><b>10:00AM</b><br><br><b>5:00 PM</b> | <i>The Falling Asleep of the Holy Apostle and Evangelist John the Theologian.</i><br><b>Funeral – +Virginia Pipa</b><br><br><b>+Richard Pinti – wife, Anna Marie</b>                                             |
| Sunday                          | 27 Sept.<br><br><b>10:00 AM</b>                      | <i>EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST. The Holy Martyr Callistratus and His Companions.</i><br><b>+Fio Nuzzi – Janice &amp; Mike</b>                                                                              |



Attentive to the Word  
SUNDAY AFTER THE EXALTATION OF THE CROSS

Mark 8: 34 – 9: 1

Tone 8 – Troparian Pg. 161 and  
follow directions on Pgs. 258 –260



In the Gospel reading after the Feast of the Exaltation 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 is it 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 mild 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 his son on the subject of his relations with an immoral woman. I took my 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?

What is it that makes you blush and be 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



- **Sat. & Sun., Sept. 19 & 20** Coffee & donuts after Liturgies
- **Sun., Sept. 20** Safe-Environment Training after Liturgy. See below.
- **Sun., Sept. 27 (4<sup>th</sup> Sunday)** Reciting of Rosary 9:30 AM.
- **Mon., Sept. 28** Church Cleaning Party 9 AM – Noon. Come lend a helping hand.
- **Wed., Sept. 30** Vigil Divine Liturgy 6:30 PM – **Protection of the Theotokos.**
- **Fri., Oct. 2** Divine Liturgy 9:00 AM.
- **Sun., Oct. 4** Blessing of ECF Children and Teachers.
- **Mon., Oct. 5 – Thurs., Oct. 8** Father will be attending an Annual Clergy Retreat.
- **Wed., Oct. 7** St. Vincent de Paul Meals Program 9 AM – 2 PM.
- **Fri., Oct. 9** Father will be out of town.
- **Sun., Oct. 11** The start of ECF classes.



## SAFE-ENVIRONMENT TRAINING

Dear Parish Family,

Our church will be going through safe-environment training on **Sunday, September 20<sup>th</sup>**. 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 27<sup>th</sup>.**

The October Fun Fest will be held on **Sunday, October 11<sup>th</sup>, 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 week:

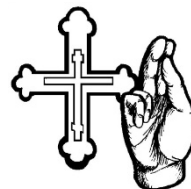
*Sept. 21 – Mary Toumazos & Patty James*

*Sept. 22 – Cathy Lazor; Sept. 23 – Mercedes Sutyak*

Missed your birthday? Please let us know!



## THE SIGN OF THE CROSS



In the beginning, the cross was represented without the figure of the crucified Christ on it, because of the shame that was associated with the cross. Later when the persecution of Christians ceased, crosses appeared in many public places. The cross is the most widely used Christian symbol.

The sign of the cross was originally made by tracing the thumb or index finger over one's forehead (2<sup>nd</sup> century). Later, signing of the breast as well as the forehead began to take place. In the East, the practice of making the sign of the cross with two or three fingers was begun in the sixth century, to combat those who denied that Christ was both man and God – the number two signifying the two natures of Christ, or three, meaning the Trinity. This custom passed over to the West in the 9<sup>th</sup> century. Pope Leo gives this directive to his clergy: “Sign the Chalice and the Host with the proper cross ... with two fingers outstretched and the thumb hidden within them, by which the Trinity is symbolized...” In the 13<sup>th</sup> century, Pope Innocent III directed most explicitly that the sign of the cross be made with three fingers from the forehead to the breast and from the right to the left shoulder, the way that it is made by the majority of Eastern Christians. The West kept this custom until the 14<sup>th</sup> century. **Which is correct?** Both are – according to the tradition to which you belong. The Eastern is simply more ancient! This explanation is given that we all may realize that people may legitimately do things differently, and yet not be wrong.



Some people come into our lives  
and quickly go. Some stay for  
awhile and leave footprints  
on our hearts and  
we are never the same.



**Divine Liturgy Attendance weekend of September 12:**

5:00 PM: 42; 10:00 AM: 66

**Birth of the Theotokos: 36**

**Our return to the Lord for all He has given us: . . . \$2,128.50**



**SAINTS PETER & PAUL**  
BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH



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## ***Saints Peter and Paul Byzantine Catholic Parish***

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Metropolitan William Skurla  
*Metropolitan Archbishop of Pittsburgh*

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

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*Infant of Prague Manor: 330-372-4700*



**Glory to Jesus Christ!**  
**Slava Isusu Christu!**

**Glory Forever!**  
**Slava na viki!**

### ***Exalting the Cross***

For each of us, salvation means no more and no less than taking up daily the same cross of Christ, accepting each day what it brings as the will of God, offering back to God each morning all the joys, works, and sufferings of that day. But those are abstract words. What it means, in practice, is spelled out as always by the poor old body. It means getting up each morning and going to bed exhausted. It means the routine, not the spectacular. It can mean drudgery, pain, putting aside pleasures, happiness, or the love the human heart craves until another time, so that what is necessary at the moment can be done.

It means working for others, touching the lives of others, through the medium of the body. How many times, tired and worn

out and near collapse from the slave labor conditions of the camps, did I think I could not ask another step of the body, did I think in pain and irony of those words "The spirit indeed is willing but the flesh is weak"? Truly, man is a creature composed of body and soul, and we work out our salvation in this vale of tears through the medium of the flesh.

It is the first gift God and our parents fashion for us; it sustains and supports us through a long life and makes possible both joys and sorrows; and when at last we are parted from it in death, it surely deserves whatever rest it can get before it rises to be glorified at the last judgment.

*Father Walter J. Ciszek, S.J.*