

SUNDAY OF THE MAN BORN BLIND



Icon of the Gospel of the Man Born Blind

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: 5/9/2026 – 5/17/2026

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

Saturday (Sun. Vigil)	9 May 4:30 PM 5:00 PM	Reciting of Rosary All Mothers, Mothers-to-be, Grandmothers, Godmothers, and Women of the Parish – Fr. Miron
Sunday	10 May 9:35 AM 10:00 AM	<i>SUNDAY OF THE MAN BORN BLIND. The Holy Apostle Simon the Zealot.</i> Service of Third Hour All Mothers, Mothers-to-be, Grandmothers, Godmothers, and Women of the Parish – Fr. Miron
Monday	11 May	<i>The Foundation of Constantinople (330). The Holy Priest- Martyr Mocius. Our Holy Fathers Cyril and Methodius, Apostles of the Slavs. Our Holy Father Basil (Hopko).</i> No Divine Liturgy
Tuesday	12 May	<i>Our Holy Fathers Epiphanius, Bishop of Cyprus and Germanus, Patriarch of Constantinople.</i> No Divine Liturgy
Wednesday	13 May	<i>Leave-taking (otdanije) of Pascha. Holy Martyr Glyceria.</i> No Divine Liturgy
Thursday	14 May 6:30 PM	<i>THE ASCENSION OF OUR LORD AND GOD AND SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST (pgs. 191 – 195).</i> Intention of Parish family
Friday	15 May	<i>Post-festive Day of the Ascension. Our Venerable Father Pachomius the Great. Our Venerable Father Isaiah the Wonderworker, Bishop of Rostov.</i> No Divine Liturgy
Saturday (Vigil Liturgy)	16 May 5:00 PM	<i>Post-festive Day of the Ascension. Our Venerable Father Theodore the Consecrated, Disciple of St. Pachomius.</i> +Pat Sudik (40th day) – Harry & Elaine Vislosky & family
Sunday	17 May 10:00 AM	<i>SUNDAY OF THE FATHERS AT THE FIRST NICEAN COUNCIL. Post-festive Day of the Ascension. The Holy Apostle Andronicus and His Companions.</i> +Brian “Fio” Koehn – Mom & Mike

Attentive to the Word



SUNDAY OF THE MAN BORN BLIND

John 9: 1 - 38

Follow directions on Pages 189 - 191



SUNDAY OF THE MAN BORN BLIND

If a healing miracle were to happen to us or to some member of our family, we would certainly be excited about it and quite proud of the fact that God *has* touched our life and the life of our family. Yet, in the Gospel story of the man born blind, we hear of a mother and father who experienced such a miracle in their blind son, but they refused to acknowledge any such event except for the fact that their son was blind from birth. The man's parents were devout worshipers and their reluctance to defend their son was not because they were weak in faith, but because of their fear of the Jews and their neighbors. As the Gospel clearly points out, the Pharisees threatened to expel anyone from the synagogue who acknowledged Jesus as the Messiah.

Miracles may not always be as obvious such as suddenly being able to physically see or hear or talk, but more importantly, they take place in our hearts and in the lives of those around us. A miracle takes place in our heart when we are suddenly able to see God active in our life. A miracle takes place when we are suddenly able to hear or to accept a particular instruction or teaching about God, which we were taught all of our life but were unable to understand. A miracle takes place when we take an opportunity to use our ability to speak and explain to someone a particular teaching about God, or encourage someone to follow God's Commandments.

At the beginning of the Gospel, Christ states that there is no sin involved that the man should be born blind. Rather, it was to let God's works show forth through His Son, Jesus, the Messiah. Sin is not found in physical blindness but rather in our refusal to allow ourselves to open up to God's ways, such as in the spiritual blindness of the Pharisees. As religious authorities, the Pharisees can no longer threaten us with expulsion, but their threats of loneliness may be felt, when the "peer-pressure" of our classmates, co-workers and neighbors pressure us into silencing our own Christian values, and following them in their own spiritual blindness.

Miracles take place in the lives of each of us regardless of our age. We do not necessarily have to be parents, such as the parents in the Gospel, to be afraid to acknowledge miracles in our lives. We may be senior citizens or teenagers and be afraid to acknowledge the miracles which happen to us every day.



ASCENSION THURSDAY



This holy day is celebrated on the fortieth day after the Resurrection of Christ, on the Thursday of the sixth week of Pascha.

The Church's celebration of the Ascension, as all such festal celebrations, is not merely the remembrance of an event in Christ's life. Indeed, the Ascension itself is not to be understood as though it were simply the supernatural event of a man floating up and away into the skies. The Holy Scripture stresses Christ's *physical departure* and His *glorification with God the Father*, together with the great joy which His disciples had as they received the *promise of the Holy Spirit* who was to come to assure the Lord's presence with them, enabling them to be His witnesses to the ends of the earth. (Luke 24:48-53; Acts 1:8-11; Matthew 28:16-20; Mark 16:16-19)

In the Church the believers in Christ celebrate these very same realities with the conviction that it is for them and for all people that Christ's departure from this world has taken place. The Lord leaves in order to be glorified with God the Father and to glorify us with himself. He goes in order to "prepare a place" for us, and to take us also into the blessedness of God's presence. He goes in order to send the Holy Spirit, who proceeds from the Father, to bear witness to Him and His gospel in the world, by making Him powerfully present in the lives of His disciples.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- **Mon., May 11** “Rule for Life” Class 6:00 PM in Social Hall..
- **Tues., May 12** Parish Guild Meeting 6:00 PM. All are welcome.
- **Sat. & Sun., May 16 & 17** Coffee and Donuts after Liturgies. Pictures to be taken for Commemorative Book. See below for more information.
- **Mon., May 18** Church Cleaning Party 9:00 AM – Noon. “Rule for Life” Class 6:00 PM in Social Hall.
- **Fri. & Sat., May 22 & 23** Cemetery Clean-up Days. See below for details.
- **Fri., May 22** Vigil Fifth All Souls’ Remembrance w/Reading of Diptychs – 6:30 PM – Page 428.
- **Mon., May 25** PENTECOST MONDAY. Divine Liturgy with Panachida 10:00 AM in Church.



HAPPY MOTHER’S DAY TO ALL OF OUR MOTHERS!



MOTHER’S DAY CARNATIONS

For all the ladies of the Parish, please pick up a carnation for all mothers, mothers-to-be, grandmothers, godmothers, and single women.

IMPORTANT: PICTURES FOR COMMEMORATIVE BOOK

If you didn’t get your pictures taken in November for the 100th Anniversary Commemorative Book, Rudinec & Associates will be here again on the following dates: ***Saturday, May 16th – 4 PM – 7 PM & Sunday, May 17th – 11 AM – 1 PM.***

Please plan to be here and wear your Sunday best. ***All parishioners need to have their pictures included in the Commemorative Book!***

2026 CEMETERY CLEAN-UP DAYS



We will be cleaning SPP Cemetery grounds on ***Friday and Saturday, May 22nd and 23rd, from 9 AM until mid-afternoon.*** Everyone is welcome to come and lend a helping hand. Bring a lawn chair for breaks during the day. We will provide light refreshments and snacks. Also bring lawn care tools such as rakes, gloves, shovels, wheelbarrows, trimmers or whatever you like to use to maintain gravesites and do light yard work.

We ask that you get to the cemetery before these dates and remove any items from your family gravesites that you want to keep. We will be removing all remaining items during the clean-up days. Please see details of the Cemetery Rules and Regulations by the church entrances.

Please contact Tim Byers (419-577-8993) with any questions or suggestions.

GRADUATES

Please notify the office of any Parishioners that are 2026 High School or College Graduates.

Happy Birthday to Parishioners with Birthdays this week:

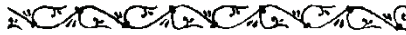


May 10 – Donna Bodajlo

May 12 – Suzanne Susko & Miron Kerul'-Kmec (5 yrs.)

May 14 – Jonathan Dudt

Missed your birthday? Please let us know!



HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY!

“A Mother like yours is more than a memory. She is a living presence.”

Your Mother is always with you. She's the whisper of the leaves as you walk down the street; she's the smell of bleach in your freshly laundered socks; she's the cool hand on your brow when you're not well. Your Mother lives inside your laughter. And she's crystallized in every teardrop. She's the place you came from, your first home; and she's the map you follow with every step you take. She's your first love and your first heartbreak; and nothing on earth can separate you – not time, not space – not even death!

Save the Dates:

Sat., May 30th - Using the Scripture for the Love of God Retreat

Join us on *Saturday, May 30th, at 9 AM* in the Social Hall for a retreat with Fr. Nathan Symeon, host of Searchers of the Lost podcast. ***Please sign up in the Social Hall.***

St. Augustine taught that reading the Bible is about learning to love God and others, not just understanding words, so when we read it, we should try to see the meaning behind the story, know a little bit about the time and people it talks about, and think about how it teaches us to live holy lives. He said it helps to notice what is literal and what is symbolic, ask for guidance, be humble when we don't understand, and remember that all parts of the Bible lead to learning about Jesus, so by reading patiently, thinking about right and wrong, and trying to love like God wants, anyone can grow in wisdom and goodness.

Sun., May 31st - Baptism of Ignatius Cleopa at St. Nicholas

Fr. Miron and Sarah are inviting all of you to come for the Baptism of Ignatius. Because of the extended family reasons, the Baptism will be held in their home parish: ***St. Nicholas Byzantine Catholic Church, 1051 Robinson Ave., Barberton, Ohio 44203.***

First part of the Baptism (exorcism) starts at 9:00 AM. The Divine Liturgy starts at 9:30 AM. Please let Father know if you are planning to come. We hope to see you there.

Liturgy on Sunday at St. Peter and Paul will be covered by Fr. Thomas Sikora.

MANY THANKS!

A huge thank you goes out to all who made this year's rummage sale a big success! A profit of \$4,212.67 was made. May God bless all who helped out in any way.



Divine Liturgy Attendance weekend of May 2:

5:00 PM: 66; 10:00 AM: 74

Our return to the Lord for all He has given us: . . . \$2,666.30

Upcoming Retreat

Topic: Using Scripture to Grow in God's Love



SAINTS PETER & PAUL

may 30

FROM LAS VEGAS
Fr. Nathan Symeon
HOST OF SEARCHERS OF THE LOST PODCAST



SAINTS PETER & PAUL

MAY 16 & 17 - AFTER LITURGY
Coffee & Donuts!

A Link to Baptism

The cure of the blind man also symbolizes mankind's means for its recovery from its blindness. It symbolizes the Sacrament of Baptism. Baptism is called holy enlightenment. Those who have been recently baptized are called the newly enlightened. This gospel from Saint John was read in the ancient Church on Holy Saturday when Catechumens were baptized. As this man is cured of his blindness when he washes in the waters of the pool of Siloam, as Jesus tells him to do, so are we brought out of darkness into a new life when we are baptized as Christ instructed us to be. Jesus restores His creation, mankind, with the potential to become what it was meant to be before the fall of Adam.

We also hear in the reading that after this man was cured many of those who knew him before did not recognize him. He is still the same man

but something has significantly changed about him. He is no longer blind. So when we are illuminated we are also new persons, though our outward appearance might be the same. To symbolize this newness a white garment is put on us to show the purity with which we start this new existence. We must, however, become different and unrecognizable in our inward and outward actions also. We must manifest our new existence to those around us through these actions. We must radiate this new found light to others by the way we live our lives. We must say to the world, "I am he who was blind but now my eyes are opened." Credit must be given to Him who has cured us of our darkness by living our lives according to the lessons of the illumination we have received and the continued guidance we get with the reception of the Holy Spirit.