

TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST



Icon of Saint Luke -- October 18th

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 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: Shirley Wade is in the Parish office from 2:00 PM – 5:00 PM on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. Father Miron is available on other days and times by appointment.

SCHEDULE OF DIVINE SERVICES: 10/17/2026 – 10/25/2026

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

Saturday	17 Oct.	<i>The Holy Prophet Hosea (Osee). The Holy Venerable Martyr Andrew of Crete</i>
(Sunday Vigil)	4:30 PM 5:00 PM	Reciting of Rosary + Sister Agnes Knapik, O.S.B. – Vesa Family
Sunday	18 Oct.	<i>TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST. The Holy Apostle and Evangelist Luke.</i>
	9:30 AM 10:00 AM	Service of Third Hour + Father Simeon Sibenik – Mr. & Mrs. James Basista
Monday	19 Oct.	<i>The Holy Prophet Joel. The Holy Martyr Varus. Our Venerable Father John Rilsky.</i> No Divine Liturgy
Tuesday	20 Oct.	<i>The Holy Great Martyr Artemius.</i> No Divine Liturgy
Wednesday	21 Oct. 6:30PM	<i>Our Venerable Father Hilary the Great.</i> + Betty Vazur – Ruth Grinata
Thursday	22 Oct.	<i>The Holy Bishop Abercius, Equal to the Apostles, Wonder-Worker. The Holy Seven Children of Ephesus. Our Holy Father John Paul II, Pope of Rome.</i> No Divine Liturgy
Friday	23 Oct. 9:00 AM	<i>The Holy Apostle James, the Brother of God.</i> No Divine Liturgy
Saturday (Vigil Liturgy)	24 Oct. 5:00 PM	<i>The Holy Martyr Arethas and His Companions.</i> + Carl & Marialice Verney – Daughter Carla
Sunday	25 Oct.	<i>Twenty-Second Sunday After Pentecost. The Holy Martyrs and Notaries Marcian and Martyrius. The Holy and Just Tabitha the Merciful.</i> 10:00 AM + Steve Zombar – Mary Anne Karchut & Bob Fejko



Attentive to the Word
TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Luke 8: 5 - 15

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One of the most fertile areas in Galilee is the Plain of Gennesaret. It lies on the northwest shore of the Sea of Galilee, near Capernaum. Jesus often spoke to large crowds in these fields, and the plain's abundance inspired many of His stories about the nature of God's kingdom. In this setting, such a parable was related in today's Gospel (Luke 8: 5-15) about a Sower. It is quite likely that Jesus may have been looking at some sower sowing his seed as He spoke, using a familiar scene from Palestinian life.

Farming methods in the Near East were and still are crude and primitive. Having broken the soil by surface plowing, the sower simply walked through the field scattering seed on either side of him by the handful. He did not expect all

of it to take root. Some would inevitably fall on the beaten path instead of the plowed area and thus remain on the surface to be trampled on by passersby or eaten by birds. Some would be scattered in areas where there is only a thin layer of soil over bedrock: this is the geological condition of much of the land of Palestine. In such ground the rain does not seep away quickly into the ground so that the excess moisture would cause the seed to germinate immediately and begin to grow. But it would be a premature growth that could not last; the sun and the plant's lack of roots would soon finish it off. Still other seed would fall among thorns, which rob the soil of its nourishment and choke off the growth of the grain. Finally the rest of the seed – the bulk of it – would fall where the sower wanted it to fall, in his good ground where it would germinate successfully in good measure.

This parable was a riddle to the disciples and the Jews. Jesus developed His teaching by solving the riddle. The fate of the word of God depends on the disposition of its receptor.

The hardened pathway represents the closed mind which shuts out God's instruction. The shallow, rocky ground represents those who accept the word but who never reflect on it, who fail to realize its consequences and who, therefore, collapse (wither) when challenged.

The thorny ground stands for those whose lives are so busy that the things of God are crowded out by cares, responsibilities, selfish pleasures, human projects – a whole multiplicity of occupation which an individual may allow to stifle God's voice.

The good ground is a fertile disposition in the hearer to do three things. First, to listen attentively. Second, to keep what he heard in his mind and heart and think it over until he discovers its meaning for himself. Third, he puts what he has heard into action.

Jesus' exclamation, "Listen, anyone who has ears to hear" (Vs. 8), is a fitting invitation to respond to the message of the parable, positively or negatively: either spiritual fruitfulness or barrenness; spiritual abundance or poverty; eternal salvation or reprobation. The fascinating parable of the Sower is an exhortation to perseverance and an encouragement to banish any thought of despair in the conviction that no setback, disappointment or loss can trouble us when our faith is well-rooted in God's word.

The word as seed invites the hearer to examine self and test self in terms of the seeds' bearing fruit.

How well do we LISTEN as the entire Divine Liturgy – not only the Epistle and Gospel – speaks to us of the mysteries that should be the substance of our living in Christ Jesus?

By Rev. John T. Sekellick, J.C.L.



Top Ten Things I Have Learned from Gardening (The Sower went out to sow seeds)

Apply this to your life. What kind of soil are you? Can God's Life grow in your garden?

10. We really do "reap what we sow". Good seeds bear good fruit.
9. Without rains and storms there is no growth - no fruit is produced.
8. When weeding, be careful! We can't always tell the difference between a nasty weed and a beautiful flower.
7. Deep roots are a good thing. Without them, we'll wither and die.
6. Pruning and trimming, as painful as it seems, actually works to our advantage.
5. In gardening, as in life, cheating does not work. Short-cuts, slipshod efforts, and neglect always show up in the quality of your garden.
4. Like anything worthwhile, beautiful gardens require attention, hard work and commitment.
3. We cannot rush the harvest. Bearing fruit takes time and patience. Premature fruit is almost always sour.
2. Gardening and growing is a lifetime experience. We can experience growth and beauty until the day we die.
1. Fertilizer happens! In fact, nothing much grows without it.

SPECIAL EVENTS:

- Sun. Oct. 18 Class
- Wed. Oct. 21 Divine Liturgy 6:30 PM.
- Sun. Oct. 25 No Class – Saints and Snacks (Trunk or Treat)
- Sun. Nov. 1 Class
- Sun. Nov. 8 Class



2026 GCU HOLIDAY MATCHING FUND PROGRAM

Beginning October 1st through October 31st, our Parish will be participating in this program. The GCU will match donations up to \$500.00. St. Vincent de Paul, where we volunteer, is approved for this program. In addition, the Parish Guild will match all donations up to \$1,000.00.

Donation envelopes will be at the entrance ways and can be returned in the collection baskets. If donating by check, please make check payable to:

Ss. Peter and Paul Church
Memo: St. V. de Paul GCU Matching Fund.

Thank you in advance for your donations to St. Vincent de Paul, who helps feed so many in need in our community. God Bless You for your generosity!



GCU FUNDRAISER FOR OUR SEMINARY IN PITTSBURGH

The GCU St. Nicholas Virtualthon is holding a raffle ticket fundraiser with **all-cash prizes totaling \$2,000 in Holiday Cash**, to raise additional funding for the *Byzantine Catholic Seminary*. You have chances to win \$250 and \$1,500. *We only have 15 tickets to sell so it's first come, first serve*. Tickets are \$10.00 each. The winning numbers are based on the PA Daily 3-digit numbers drawn on Monday – Wednesday, December 7, 8, and 9 at 7 PM.

Tickets will be sold after Saturday and Sunday Liturgies until all sold.
Please support the Byzantine Catholic Seminary of Saints Cyril & Methodius!



Happy Birthday to Parishioners with Birthdays this week:

October 21 – Christine Hosono

Missed your birthday? Please let us know!



New Event!

SNACKS & SAINTS (Trunk or Treat)
Sunday, October 25

Trunk or Treat the Byzantine Way! **Children** of our parish are encouraged to dress as a saint or as someone from the Bible. Costumes may be worn to church. After Divine Liturgy everyone will convene in the parking lot where parishioners will treat our “saints” from the trunks of their cars!

Parishioners are more than welcome to participate/dress up or their trunks for the event as well! We hope everyone will participate!



Divine Liturgy Attendance weekend of October 10, 2026:
5:00 PM: **45**; 10:00 AM: **75**

Our return to the Lord for all He has given us: . . . \$1,899.50



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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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!

The Works of Jesus

Those who believe in one God the Father Almighty ought to believe in His only-begotten Son. Jesus says: "I am the door. No one can come to the Father but by me" (Jn 10: 9; 14: 6).

Anyone who does not accept the door cannot possibly reach the Father. Anyone who wishes to pray to the Father should adore the Son, or his prayer is not accepted.

The Son is called Christ, which means anointed, that is, consecrated. He was not anointed by human hands but consecrated by the Father to become a priest forever. He died, but He did not remain, as all human beings do, in the underworld. He is the only one free among the dead.

The Savior becomes all things to all, according to the need of each: to those who ask

for joy, he becomes the vine; to those who wish to enter, he becomes the door; to those who are under the weight of sin, he becomes a lamb, a lamb slain for them. He becomes all things to all, but He remains nonetheless what He is.

He is called by a twofold name: Jesus because He gives us salvation, and Christ because He is priest. He is the healer of bodies and the doctor of souls. As He made whole those who were physically blind, so He gave light to their minds. As He gave the lame the chance to walk, so He urges the steps of sinners in the direction of the way of penitence.

St. Cyril of Jerusalem