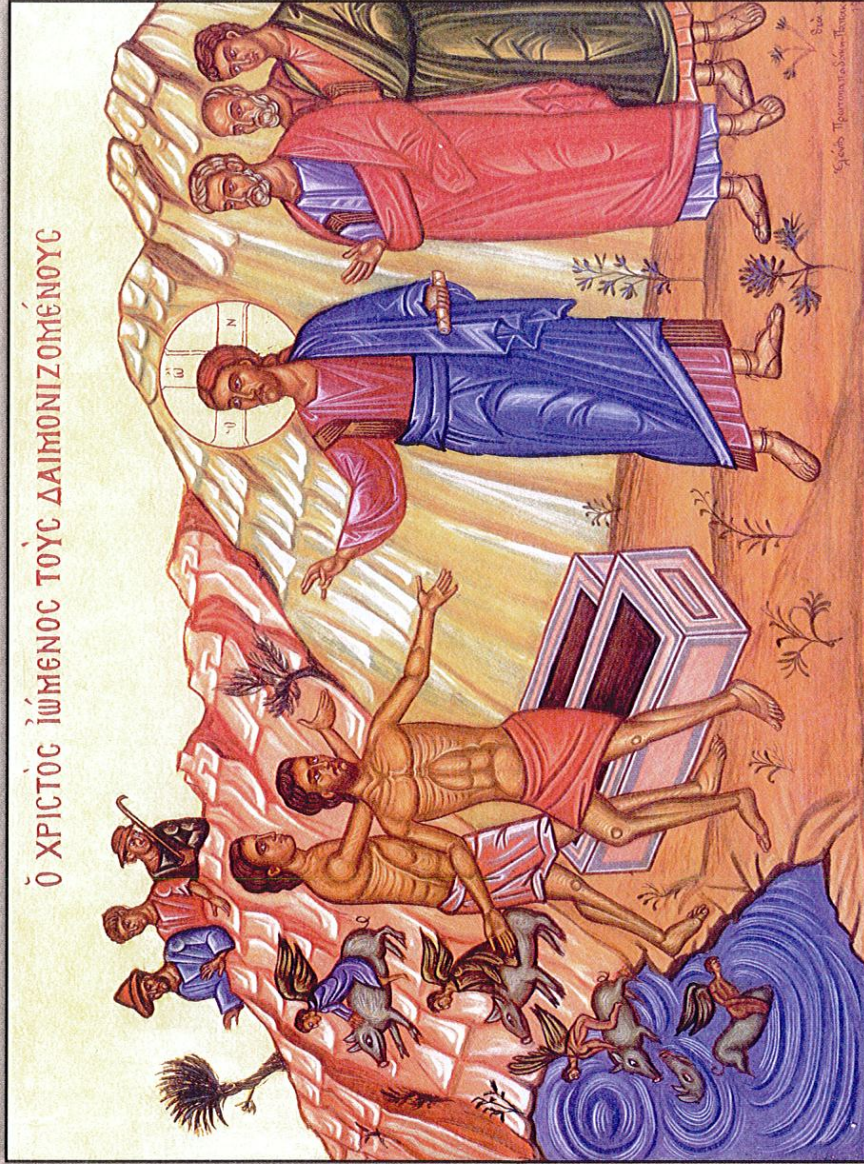


FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST



Icon of the Healing Gadarene Demoniacs

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: 6/27/2026 – 7/5/2026

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

Saturday (Sun. Vigil)	27 June 4:30 PM 5:00 PM	Reciting of Rosary +Charles “Buddy” Hite, Jr. – Bob, Sharon & Brad Darno
Sunday	28 June 9:30AM 10:00 AM	FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST. Translation of the Relics of the Holy Unmercenary Physicians Cyrus and John. Reciting of Rosary Vesa family – Janet Vesa
Monday	29 June 6:30 PM	THE HOLY, GLORIOUS AND ILLUSTRIOUS PRE-EMINENT APOSTLES PETER AND PAUL (pgs. 338 - 340). Intention of Parish Family
Tuesday	30 June	Synaxis of the Twelve Apostles. No Divine Liturgy
Wednesday	1 July	The Holy Unmercenary Healers and Wonder-workers Cosmas and Damian. No Divine Liturgy
Thursday	2 July	Deposition of the Venerable Robes of our Most Holy Lady, the Theotokos, at Blachernae. No Divine Liturgy
Friday	3 July 9:00 AM	The Holy Martyr Hyacinth. +Dolly Pehanich – Mary & Charles Nader
Saturday (Vigil Liturgy)	4 July 5:00 PM	Our Holy Father Andrew of Jerusalem, Archbishop of Crete. Our Venerable Mother Martha, Mother of St. Simeon the Venerable. Our Venerable Father Procopius of Sazava. +Pat Sudik – Parish Guild
Sunday	5 July 10:00 AM	SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST. Our Venerable Father Athanasius of Mt. Athos. George Bodajlo, Jr. – John & Irene Chekan



Attentive to the Word
FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Matthew 8: 28 - 9:1

Tone 4 Pages 141 - 142



Imagine yourself with Jesus in the boat that came ashore on the far side of the Sea of Galilee. It's twilight. Night approaches. Nearby swine herders are tending their pigs. From a cemetery a wild man emerges, ranting and flailing his arms about, nearly naked. He babbles and screams, speaking at times for himself, at other times as though he were a large body of people. To drive out the demons from such a sick person was not simple, not even for the Lord. He starts by ordering the demons out. Still, they remain. He then demands that the demon possessing the man reveal his name. The

answer: I'm not alone in here. There are thousands of us, indeed as many as 6,000 - the number of soldiers that comprised a Roman legion. What can He do to set the poor soul free from so many foul spirits? What to do with the demons? They cannot be exterminated.

God never destroys whatever He creates, no matter how far they may stray from His original intent when they were made — not humans, not angels, not even the demons. So He orders them to occupy the nearby swine rather than the demoniac, and to set him free from their occupancy. Does it mean that the Lord had no affection for pigs? Not at all. It shows us how precious each human soul is to the loving Lord. That man, that sad creature who had until then spent his life apart from all relatives and former friends, was dear to Jesus. And when the local residents learned what had happened, rather than praise the Lord for the miracle, they pleaded with Him to go away, back where He had come from. They must have loved their pigs more than the Lord of love and life.

By Fr. Vladimir Berzonsky

**THE HOLY, GLORIOUS & ILLUSTRIOUS PRE-EMINENT APOSTLES,
PETER AND PAUL**



We call Saints Peter & Paul “Leaders of the Apostles and Teachers of the World” in the troparion for their feast day. They are known as the pillars of the Church, because they had a major role in establishing the early Church. They preached about Jesus Christ and baptized many people in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

After the Apostles received the Holy Spirit, Saint Peter “stood up with the Eleven, raised his voice and proclaimed” (Acts 2:14) to the Israelites that Jesus Christ is the Son of God. We read in this story about Saint Peter’s sermons that people wanted more about Jesus. They wanted to know what they must do to become followers of Jesus. Saint Peter told them they must give up their old ways to follow Jesus, in return they would receive the Holy Spirit. He said, “Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit” (Acts 2:38). By the end of the day, about 30,000 people accepted Saint Peter’s invitation to be baptized.

In the New Testament are many stories about Saint Paul teaching the people about Jesus. In one story he asked the people who were baptized, about John, “Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you became believers?” (Acts 19:2). They did not know of the Holy Spirit and asked to be baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. “And when Paul laid [his] hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied” (Acts 19:6). This story is just one of many that took place as Saint Paul traveled to different cities and established many churches for the people he baptized. We can read about his travels in his letter that are included in the New Testament.

Both Saints devoted their life to preaching about Jesus Christ and inviting people to be baptized members of the Church. Also both were martyred for this belief in Jesus Christ. In Rome, probably in 67 A.D., Saint Peter asked to be crucified with his head downward when he was told he was to be put to death. In 65 A.D. Saint Paul was beheaded because he was a Roman citizen and could not be crucified.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- **Mon. – Wed., June 29 – July 1** Lisa will be in the office.
- **Mon., June 29** Feast of Saints Peter and Paul – Divine Liturgy 6:30 PM. Refreshments 7:30 PM; Iconography Presentation and Q&A session starting at 7:45 PM.
- **Wed., July 1** St. Vincent de Paul Meals Program 9 AM – 2 PM. Ss. Peter and Paul Feast Day Dinner 6:00 PM at DiLucia’s.
- **Wed., July 8** Divine Liturgy 6:30 PM.
- **Fri., July 10** Divine Liturgy 9:00 AM.



GOD BLESS AMERICA!



AMERICA - BLESS GOD!



A PRAYER THANKING OUR MILITARY

Our Father in heaven, lay your hands on the family and friends of our fallen men and women in uniform. Bless them with your peace that passes understanding, comforting their hearts as our great Comforter. Open their eyes to Your kingdom coming where there is no more crying or pain anymore, and fix their gaze on that hope, secured by Jesus our living hope. Father, please help them remember the sacrifices of their loved ones with tears of thankfulness – knowing their loved ones didn’t die in vain but secured our freedom for another generation. For each active military member, we ask for your mercy, protection, and provision. Thank you for inspiring these families to make the sacrifices they make every day. We pray in the name of Jesus Christ, who died to gain freedom for all. Amen.

A CELEBRATION OF MARRIAGE

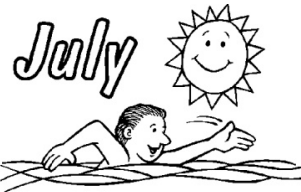
Metropolitan William and the Archeparchy of Pittsburgh will honor all those couples celebrating their milestone wedding anniversary of **10, 15, 20, 25, 30, 35, 40, 45, 50, or additional years that are multiples of five** during this year of 2026. *Please inform the Parish Office by July 12, 2026 if you are celebrating one of these milestone anniversaries so that your names can be submitted to the Chancery.* The Archieparchial celebration will take place at St. Elias Church, Munhall, PA on **Sunday, September 20, 2026 at 3:00 PM.** Certificates are sent to all couples, whether they are able to attend or not.

Please call the church office or drop your name and current phone number in the collection basket and we will call you. Thank you in advance for your prompt attention to this request.



Happy Birthday to Parishioners with Birthdays this week:

June 28 – Linda Gilmore & Fr. John Welch
July 1 – Marian McManus; Kimberly Biksey; & James Basista
Missed your birthday? Please let us know!



SUMMER IS HERE – and a time for Vacations – much needed vacations! A time to re-create and come back to the pilgrimage of life! It is a time of summer breezes, beautiful flowers, and many times – poor church attendance. We still have a need to gather as God’s people and to worship – even if we are on vacation or traveling, there are many opportunities to give time to the Lord!

As you leave, have a wonderful, safe and happy time! And when you return, know that you were missed and we are happy to see you back with us – with such renewed life.



SUMMER FESTIVALS:

St. Demetrios Greek Orthodox Church Festival – July 22 – 26
Wednesday & Thursday – 4 PM to 10 PM
Friday & Saturday – 4 PM to 11 PM
Sunday – 1 PM to 9 PM

Greek Dining and Greek Pastries; Greek Music; Greek dancers
Visit www.warrengreekfest.com for more information.

41st Warren Italian-American Heritage Festival – August 6 – 9
Courthouse Square – Downtown Warren

Entertainment, Cultural Exhibits, Games, Pageants, Wine-Tasting Competition, Contests, Parade, and much more. Italian Outdoor Mass, August 9th.
Visit www.warrenitalianfestival.com for more information.



FOOD FOR THOUGHT. . .

If you find yourself putting your trust in money, intelligence, beauty or success, remember that all these things come from God. Think about where your trust really belongs.

Don’t be so involved with the *when* that you miss the *now*.



Divine Liturgy Attendance weekend of June 20:

5:00 PM: **50**; 10:00 AM: **82**

Our return to the Lord for all He has given us: . . . \$2,422.00



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!

Asking Jesus to Leave

Of all the miracle stories of Jesus, the one recorded in today's Gospel reading stands out as unique. In most other occasions when Jesus healed or cured, the result was that more people came and asked to be cured. However, in the case of Jesus expelling demons from the man in the Gadarene territory, the result was that the whole village came out and asked Jesus to leave that area! (Matthew 8:34)

Ingratitude is certainly not the reaction we would expect the townsfolk to have since a member of their community restored to his right mind by the command of Jesus. Previously, he was prone to fits of madness and the source of his madness was understood to be demonic possession. Jesus commanded the demons to leave the man and restored the man to his right mind. Had this been the end

of the story, perhaps the people would have been filled with gratitude. However, Jesus sent the demons into a herd of swine, which then jumped over a cliff and drowned.

Why did Jesus send the demons into the swine? According to Jewish law, pork is considered to be an unclean product. Jews were to have no contact with pork. Because of this, the Jews of that town were breaking their own religious law.

By expelling the demons into the swine, Jesus not only healed a man, but also reestablished a forgotten value system in a town. Unfortunately, the inhabitants were not ready to receive this lesson. It is no surprise, then, why they met Jesus with such ingratitude and asked Him to leave their district.