

FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST



Icon of the Nativity of the Theotokos, the Mother of God -- September 8th

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: 9/5/2026 – 9/13/2026

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

Saturday (Sun. Vigil)	5 Sept. 4:30 PM 5:00 PM	Reciting of Rosary +John J. Koza, III – Barry & Amy Lamer
Sunday	6 Sept. 9:35 AM 10:00 AM	<i>FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST. Memory of the Miracle of the Holy Archangel Michael at Colossae in Chionia. The Holy Martyr Eudoxius and his Companions.</i> Service of Third Hour +Charles “Buddy” Hite, Jr. – Garry Peacock
Monday	7 Sept.	<i>Pre-festive Day of the Feast of the Birth of the Theotokos. The Holy Martyr Sozon.</i> No Divine Liturgy
Tuesday	8 Sept. 6:30 PM	<i>FEAST OF THE BIRTH OF THE THEOTOKOS.</i> <i>(pgs. 243 - 246)</i> +George Bodaajlo, Jr. – Baci Carpico
Wednesday	9 Sept.	<i>Post-festive Day of the Birth of the Theotokos. The Holy and Just Grandparents of God Joachim and Anna.</i> No Divine Liturgy
Thursday	10 Sept.	<i>Post-festive Day of the Birth of the Theotokos. The Holy Martyrs Menodora, Mitrodora and Nymphodora.</i> No Divine Liturgy
Friday	11 Sept. 9:00 AM	<i>Post-festive Day of the Birth of the Theotokos. Our Venerable Mother Theodora of Alexandria.</i> +Betty Vazur – Ruth Grinta
Saturday (Vigil Liturgy)	12 Sept. 5:00 PM	<i>Leave-taking (otdanije) of the Feast of the Birth of the Theotokos. Saturday before the Exaltation of the Holy Cross.</i> Health & God’s Blessings for Sr. Barbara Pavlik - 71 years of Religious Life – Parish family
Sunday	13 Sept. 10:00 AM	<i>SUNDAY BEFORE THE EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS. The Commemoration of the Dedication of the Church of the Resurrection of our Lord in Jerusalem.</i> +Patricia Sudik – Byers family



Attentive to the Word FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Matthew 22: 35 – 46

Tone 6 Pages 152 – 153



Jesus silenced the Sadducees when they taunted him over a hypothetical problem. A woman married the brother of her dead husband, and then when he died, she married another brother, going through seven brothers. Whose wife would she be in heaven? Jesus demolished their argument, based on equating this lifetime with eternity. Surely they should know that heaven is not a continuation of life as we know it. Life in the beyond is not to be compared with this world.

What is religion all about? This is what Jesus is explaining. One theologian quite popular in the last century, Paul Tillich, trying to widen the definition of religion said it is a person's "ultimate concern." The artist's religion is his painting, the composer's his music, the architect's his building. This is using the term religion beyond the boundaries of theology. Jesus makes clear the true meaning of religion: Ultimate love of God, and love for all humanity. And He places them in proper perspective.

You must love God with everything that is within you. St. Augustine wrote, "Love God; then do as you please." If a person does just that and thinks through the implications, he cannot make an error, for he will thereby love everything else that God has created. Some, however, find a way to base their beliefs on God, and then appoint themselves His defense attorney. They make a lifetime of hating what they perceive as variation from their definition of God. The infamous Inquisition of the Middle Ages was such a distortion of faith. We all know the type who has enough religion to hate what God hates, but cannot find it within their hearts to love what He loves.

Another opposite extreme is to reject a deity who would allow suffering on earth. The famous Dostoevsky novel *Brothers Karamazov* takes up this theme. Ivan is an atheist. He cannot make himself believe in a God who would permit innocent suffering to happen. Why does God permit men to torture others, or to bring agony to children? Such a God is either impotent or unconcerned. Suffering is indeed a deep mystery. Jesus Himself does not offer any explanation other than to share the suffering of mankind on the Cross. Love is always an ongoing challenge. Obstacles arise on the journey through life that cause us to pause at times and measure the love we say we have for others.

The Sadducees based their religion on ritual observances, formulas of prayer and sacrifices they felt pleased the Lord. But David's prayer reminds us: "You do not desire sacrifice, else I would give The Pharisees built their faith on observance of laws. They made a religion of legalism, following rules that they imposed on others, harnessing God's freedom into a system. But Jesus offers a faith that transcends all human limits to His grace and glory.

By Fr. Vladimir Berzonsky



BIRTH OF THE MOTHER OF GOD - SEPTEMBER 8



Tradition is the source for details surrounding the birth of the Mother of God. While the birth of our Lord and St. John the Baptist are recorded in Sacred Scripture, the birth of the Mother of God has come to us only from non-Scriptural sources. The Icon of the Feast is based upon these sources.

The Icon of the Nativity of the Mother of God shows St. Anne reclining on a bed with an attendant at her side. The Virgin is generally represented in swaddling clothes, and in the arms of a midwife who is seated on a stool. St. Joachim is presented speaking with his wife. The midwife is reduced in size to focus attention on the holy parents and infant. In icons, the importance of a person is indicated by size. Size is not a physical feature of a person, but a qualitative element relating to importance. St. Anne gazes downward upon her newborn daughter. The servant in the middle stands ready to assist the mother.

The liturgy rejoices in the Nativity of the Mother of God with hymns and chants of deeply spiritual and poetic character. The chant sung at Vespers of this Feast summarizes the Church's thinking about this event. "Indeed, some famous barren women have given birth by the will of God. But the birth of Mary surpasses all births in honor and splendor, as is worthy of the majesty of God. She was born of a barren mother in a miraculous way. Mary herself gave birth in the flesh to the God of All, incarnate in her womb without human seed, against the laws of nature ..." The liturgy and icon call us to praise and worship God in His wondrous presence in our lives.



- **Sat. & Sun., Sept. 5 & 6** Coffee & donuts after Liturgies.
- **Mon., Sept. 7** *HAVE A SAFE LABOR DAY!*
- **Tues. & Wed., Sept. 8 & 9** Lisa will be in the office.
- **Mon., Sept. 14** Divine Liturgy 6:30 PM – **Exaltation of the Holy Cross.**
- **Fri., Sept. 18** Divine Liturgy 9:00 AM.
- **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.



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!



WE WELCOME THE FOLLOWING NEW PARISHIONERS:

Daniel and Holly McNatt

Matthew and Rosemary Kalas



YOU SAY/ GOD SAYS:

You say: “I’m too tired.”

God says: I will give you rest. (Matt. 11:28-30)

You say: “I can’t do it.”

God says: You can do all things. (Phil. 4:13)

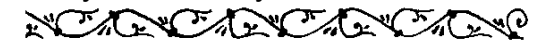


Happy Birthday to Parishioners with Birthdays this week:

Sept. 7 – Barbara Urchek; Katarina Meszaros; & Mike Biksey

Sept. 8 – Carol Nemeth

Missed your birthday? Please let us know!



WHY WORRY?

There are only two things to worry about:

Either you are well or you are sick.

If you are well, there’s nothing to worry about.

But if you are sick,

There are only two things to worry about:

Either you get well, or you die.

If you get well, there’s nothing to worry about.

But if you die, there are only two things to worry about:

Either you will go to heaven or hell.

If you go to heaven, there’s nothing to worry about.

But if you go to hell,

You’ll be so busy shaking hands with friends

You won’t have time to worry.

STILL SMILING



YOU DO NOT WALK ALONE

You do not walk a lonely road,

For God is always near –

He shares your heartbreak and your pain

And knows the things you fear.

His hand will guide you safely,

For his love is always there.

To give you strength and courage

If you ask for it in prayer.

By Mary Margaret Wittner



Divine Liturgy Attendance weekend of August 29:

5:00 PM: 46; 10:00 AM: 96

Vigil of Beheading of St. John the Baptist: 21

Our return to the Lord for all He has given us: . . . \$2,565.50



SAINTS PETER & PAUL
BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH



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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!

Treasury and Treasurer

Mary alone forms the boundary between created and uncreated nature, and no one can come to God except through her and the Mediator born of her, and none of God's gifts can be bestowed on angels or men except through her. As in the case with lamps on earth constructed of glass or some other transparent material, it is impossible to look at the light or enjoy its rays except through the lamp, so it is beyond the reach of all to look upwards to God or be helped by Him to make progress in any direction, except through the Ever-Virgin, this God-bearing lamp who is truly radiant with divine brightness. "God is in the midst of her," it says, "she shall not be moved" (Ps 46: 5).

If God requites us according to the measure of our love for Him, and he who loves the Son is loved by Him and by His Father, and becomes

in a mysterious way the dwelling of Both, as they make their home and walk in his soul, as the Lord promised (Jn 14: 23; cf. 2 Cor 6: 16), who could love Him more than His Mother? For not only was He her only Son, but she bore Him on her own without a spouse, so her parental love was naturally double, not being shared with a partner.

Thus she is both the treasury and the treasurer of the riches of the Godhead, and the highest ranks of Cherubim look to her and trust in her. They, above all others, are seized with longing for her, as, more than all others, they long for the outpouring of light and the granting of indescribable divine graces which come through her.

St. Gregory Palamas