

SUNDAY OF THE SAMARITAN WOMAN



Icon of Christ with the Samaritan Woman

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: 5/2/2026 – 5/10/2026

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

Saturday (Sun. Vigil)	2 May 4:30 PM 5:00 PM	Reciting of Rosary +WileyByers – Don & Helen Firment
Sunday	3 May 9:35 AM 10:00 AM	<i>SUNDAY OF THE SAMARITAN WOMAN. The Holy Martyr Timothy and His Wife Maura. The Passing of our Venerable Father Theodosius of the Pecherskaya Lavra.</i> Service of Third Hour +Nancy Danko – Paul Danko & family
Monday	4 May	<i>Post-festive Day of Mid-Pentecost. The Holy Martyr Pelagia.</i> No Divine Liturgy
Tuesday	5 May	<i>Post-festive Day of Mid-Pentecost. The Holy and Glorious Martyr Irene. Our Venerable Father Nicephor, Hegumen of the Medikion Monastery.</i> No Divine Liturgy
Wednesday	6 May 6:30 PM	<i>Leave-taking (otdanije) of Mid-Pentecost. The Holy and Just Job the Long-suffering.</i> +Dominic Albanese – SPP St. Vincent de Paul Workers
Thursday	7 May	<i>The appearance of the Sign of the Cross in the heavens at the third hour of the day in Jerusalem, before the Emperor Constantius. The Holy Martyr Acacius.</i> No Divine Liturgy
Friday (Church)	8 May 9:00 AM	<i>The Holy Apostle and Evangelist John the Theologian. Our Venerable Father Arsenius the Great.</i> +Betty Vazur – Mary Pakulniewicz
Saturday (Vigil Liturgy)	9 May 5:00 PM	<i>The Holy Prophet Isaiah. The Holy Martyr Christopher. Translations of the Relics of our Holy Father Nicholas to Bari.</i> All Mothers, Mothers-to-be, Grandmothers, Godmothers, and Women of the Parish – Fr. Miron
Sunday	10 May 10:00 AM	<i>SUNDAY OF THE MAN BORN BLIND. The Holy Apostle Simon the Zealot.</i> All Mothers, Mothers-to-be, Grandmothers, Godmothers, and Women of the Parish – Fr. Miron

Attentive to the Word



SUNDAY OF THE SAMARITAN WOMAN

John 4: 5 - 42

Follow directions on Pages 186 - 188



A number of years ago a newspaper ran an article entitled: "In Times of Stress, Just Call on Rover". It goes like this: When it comes to times of stress, the most reassuring companion isn't your sweetheart - it's your schnauzer. A study has found that people who were under stress showed the least amount of tension when accompanied by their dog. The stress levels were highest when the people were with their husbands or wives. "I think that dogs are non-evaluative, and they love us", said Karen Allen, a research scientist at State University of New York at Buffalo's medical school.



This item caught my attention, not because of what it says about stress and our spouses. NO, it caught my attention because of what it asserts about how dogs love us - and of the benefits that kind of love has. There is something very biblical in the assertion made by Ms. Allen that non-evaluative love, non-judgmental love, reduces tension. In fact the scriptures testify that this kind of love does far more than reduce tension - it in fact gives life - it gives hope - it gives assurance - to all who receive it. Non-judgmental - accepting - all embracing love is the essence of the gospel message: it lies behind such statements as: "Do not judge others lest you be judged - for the judgment you give will be the judgment you receive" and it is at the root of what has happened

whenever we find Jesus being criticized by the Scribes and Pharisees for the company that He keeps.

Jesus accepts and embraces those whom others find wanting. He loves those who seem unlovable - to others - and to themselves. I'm not much of a gardener, but one thing I do know is that every plant needs water to grow. And I know this as well - the plants that are in the driest soil: - the ones that are struggling the hardest and beginning to wither - the ones whose leaves are beginning to curl and which look worse than the rest, need more water than those who are in damp ground and whose leaves are rich and full of moisture. And I know

too that dry plants respond better to water than they do to added heat – that they thrust down their roots to where they can find it or turn their leaves over so that they better receive it - and receiving it - they change - they begin to look better – they begin to grow - and at length - they produce the fruit that they have been designed to produce.

We are the plants in God's garden - placed here for a reason and a purpose - and some of us are awfully dry - and some of us aren't. But each one of us, whether we be dry or moist at this very moment, needs the living water that Jesus says he has come to give: - that water which wells up to eternal life, - that water which overflows and brings life to other plants near to it. I give thanks to God today for his love - for that love shown by Christ - that love which was poured out upon me when I was withering and perishing as a young person, and which even now is poured out upon me – even though I am far from perfect. I give thanks for His love which has given me hope that I never had, a peace that at one time I could only long for, and an assurance that I thought I would never see at work in my life. In giving thanks, I do what thousands, indeed millions of people have done before me. I do what the woman at the well did after first encountering Jesus: I point to the one who is the Savior promised from long ago. I point to the one who has accepted me - the one who calls me brother and does not hold my human failings against me, - the one who encourages me and challenges me, and never rejects or condemns me even when I argue with him.

That is what Jesus did with the woman at the well. He accepted her. He accepted her, even though she was a Samaritan and an enemy to His people. He spoke to her of God, though she was a woman and not thought worthy of such conversation. Jesus offered her His blessing - even though she debated with Him and questioned His statements. He regarded her as a dear sister - and gave her the same title of endearment He gave Mary when He called her woman, and asked her to believe His words concerning how “the time is coming when true worshippers will worship the Father in Spirit and in Truth.” That is why the woman sang Jesus’ praises in her village. Because of His acceptance - because of His love! It was not just because He knew her past. It was not just because He could tell her things that no stranger should know that she spoke of him to her friends and neighbors. It was because in knowing her -- in knowing her nationality, her gender, her religious attitudes, and the mixed history of her marriages, Jesus none-the-less treated her as if she were an equal, as if she were a person worthy of respect, worthy of affection, worthy of love!

When we treat others as we ourselves would like to be treated - when we can talk to kings and to beggars and not show preference to one over the other, - when we can debate with sinners and with saints - and have both feel that they are respected - when we can open our homes to both friends and strangers - and have both feel welcome - when we can encounter people and not judge them - not put them down or patronize them – then, we **know** something of God's love. Then, we **show** something of God's love.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- **Mon., May 4** “Rule for Life” Class 6:00 PM.
- **Wed., May 6** St. Vincent de Paul Meals Program 9 AM – 2 PM.
- **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.
- **Thurs., May 14** **ASCENSION OF OUR LORD** – Divine Liturgy 6:30 PM.
- **Fri., May 15** Divine Liturgy 9:00 AM in Church.
- **Sat. & Sun., May 16 & 17** Coffee and Donuts after Liturgies. Pictures to be taken for Commemorative Book. See below for more information.



DIVINE LITURGY TIME CHANGE

I am changing our Weekly and Feast Day Evening Divine Liturgy times from **6:00 PM to 6:30 PM**. From my past experiences and from keeping my ear out, the 6:00 PM time is not accessible to those who still work. My hope is that adding 30 minutes will be enough time for those who wish to come but cannot due to time restraints. If you have any questions, please contact me directly.

Thank you, Fr. Miron

MOTHER’S DAY REMEMBRANCES – Deadline for submission is Sun., May 3rd.

By the Church entrances, there are envelopes with forms enclosed for Mother’s Day Remembrances. If you are interested, please fill in the form and enclose it with \$5.00 per name in the envelope. Please drop off in the collection basket.

Mother’s Day is Sunday, May 10th.

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.



Happy Birthday to Parishioners with Birthdays this week:

May 7 – Julia Richards and John Dudt (10 yrs.)

May 8 – April Tomsich

Missed your birthday? Please let us know!



Save the Dates:

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

Join us on Saturday, May 30th, at 9 AM at Sts. Peter and Paul Byzantine Catholic Church for a retreat with Fr. Nathan Symeon, host of Searchers of the Lost podcast.

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 Fr. 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.



Kolachi/Paska Fundraisers

Spring Kolachi Sale Profit: \$5,936.00

Paska Profit: \$723.00

Thank you for your support and for making these successful fundraisers!



Divine Liturgy Attendance weekend of April 25:

5:00 PM: 58; 10:00 AM: 75

Feast of St. George: 18

Our return to the Lord for all He has given us: \$2,782.00

Updated Total for Easter. \$11,350.00



Saints Peter & Paul Byzantine Catholic Church

180 Belvedere Avenue, NE

Warren, OH 44483

Office: 330-372-1875

Office Email: hello@stspeterpaulbyz.com

stspeterpaulbyz.com

The Samaritan Woman

The Fourth Gospel, attributed to Saint John the Evangelist, is used exclusively from Easter until Pentecost for the Sunday readings. The first chapter of John's Gospel is the proclamation used for the Divine Liturgy on Easter itself. This week, we are reminded of the story of Christ's encounter with the Samaritan woman at the well of Jacob, and thereby Christ's fulfillment of the Old Testament. In one of the many unique stories of the Fourth Gospel not found in the Synoptics (Matthew, Mark or Luke), Jesus reveals himself as Messiah to this woman of Samaria and talks with her about the "water that I will give will become ... a spring of water gushing up to eternal life."

In the early days of His ministry, Jesus travels back and forth between Galilee and Jerusalem, and must pass through Samaria. The Samaritans

were outcast Jews because they were not subject to the Babylonian exile of the Israelites from other provinces. Therefore, when Jesus talks with this Samaritan woman, His disciples are surprised and in shock that He would carry on a conversation with a woman at the well, let alone a Samaritan. But as the story is explained, the woman's testimony about Jesus spreads through the nearby town, and because of her many come to hear His teachings. After hearing His word, they come to believe in Him, and proclaim Him "the Savior of the world." (Jn 4:42)

With water as the focal point of this encounter, we are once again reminded of our Baptism, and that Christ's Baptism is that of "eternal life" through "living water."

Archbishop Vsevolod of Scopelos