

# SUNDAY OF THE FATHERS OF THE FIRST SIX ECUMENICAL COUNCILS



*Icon of the Holy Fathers*

## 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: 5/16/2026 – 5/24/2026

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

Saturday (Sun. Vigil)	16 May 4:30 PM 5:00 PM	<b>Reciting of Rosary</b> <b>+Pat Sudik (40<sup>th</sup> day) – Harry &amp; Elaine Vislosky &amp; family</b>
Sunday	17 May  9:30 AM 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> <b>Reciting of Rosary</b> <b>+Brian “Fio” Koehn – Mom &amp; Mike</b>
Monday	18 May	<i>Post-festive Day of Ascension. The Holy Martyr Theodotus of Ancyra. The Holy Martyrs Peter, Dionysius and their Companions. The Holy Seven Virgins.</i> <b>No Divine Liturgy</b>
Tuesday	19 May	<i>Post-festive Day of Ascension. The Holy Martyr Patrick, Bishop of Prusa and His Companions.</i> <b>No Divine Liturgy</b>
Wednesday	20 May	<i>Post-festive Day of Ascension. Holy Martyr Thaleleus.</i> <b>No Divine Liturgy</b>
Thursday	21 May	<i>Post-festive Day of Ascension. The Holy Emperor Constantine and His Mother Helen, Equals to the Apostles.</i> <b>No Divine Liturgy</b>
Friday	22 May  6:30 PM	<i>Leave-taking (otdanije) of Ascension. The Holy Martyr Basiliscus. The Holy and Righteous Melchisedek, King of Salem. Our Holy Mother Rita of Cascia.</i> <b>Vigil Fifth All Souls’ Liturgy with Reading of Diptychs (Page 428) – Intention of Faithful Departed</b>
Saturday (Vigil Liturgy)	23 May  5:00 PM	<i>Fifth All Souls’ Saturday. Memory of all the Faithful Departed. Our Venerable Father and Confessor Michael, Bishop of Synnada..</i> <b>+Sister Helen Labosh – Benedictine Sisters</b>
Sunday	24 May 10:00 AM 4:30 PM	<i>PENTECOST SUNDAY.</i> <b>Intention of Parish Family</b> <b>Pentecost Vespers</b>

## Attentive to the Word



### ***SUNDAY OF THE FATHERS OF THE 1ST ECUMENICAL COUNCIL***

***John 17: 1 - 13***

***Follow Directions on Pages 196 - 202***



The Sunday which follows the Feast of the Ascension, in addition to being the Seventh Sunday after Easter, also commemorates the Holy Fathers of the Council of Nicea. This Ecumenical Council, held in 325 A.D., affirmed the divinity of Christ. Our celebration this weekend pays respect to the collective witness that the Bishops gave to Christian truth. We are already looking towards Pentecost and how the power of the Holy Spirit can give courage to speak for Christ and the truth.

In the Epistle for this Sunday from Acts (20:16-18, 28-38), St. Paul is on his way to Jerusalem as the end of his ministry begins. He charges the leaders of the Church of Ephesus to keep watch for wolves who would lead the flock astray. It might be said that what causes corrosion in the Church is both on the universal and local levels.

As this Sunday of the Fathers of the Nicaean Council testifies, theological error is part of this corrosion. However, studies have shown that other people drop out of the church for a number of reasons: mobility without deep religious roots, too little or too much change, deterioration of Catholic family life, diminishing loyalty to a specific parish, impersonalism of the large parish, a quarrel with or perceived insult from a priest or sister. To be honest, the major reasons that people drop out of the Church are more personal than theological.

This Epistle Reading is a real warning to us to be honest with God and ourselves as well as to constantly make the effort to be active members of the Body of the Christ, the Church!

In the Gospel Reading for St. John (17:1-13) we have one of the most intimate sections of his Gospel. It is the prayer of Jesus as He looks back over His

ministry. He also used all the opportunities the Lord gives us by always living in the future. “Tomorrow, I will get down to my spiritual life.” “Tomorrow, I will start spending more time with my family.” “Tomorrow, we’ll reconcile.”

Or, we can live in the past as we re-fight old battles and rehearse old hurts. It is, however, in the *present* that the dynamics of salvation take place! God’s Word is spoken to us in the now. Christ’s offer of peace and the healing power of the Resurrection are available to us now. The time of salvation and of the experience of God’s presence are now. *It is in our particular parish, this Archdiocese, this neighborhood, with these people, that God is present and calling us to respond.*

*Fr. Gary Powell, O.F.M. Cap.*



## NICEA I



On this day, the Church celebrates the memory of the three hundred and eighteen God-bearing Fathers who attended the First Ecumenical Council of Nicea (325), in the course of which the Catholic doctrine of the Holy Trinity was defined.

Arius (280-336), an arch-priest of Alexandria, had taught the heresy that the Son was not equal to the Father, being neither of the same essence nor infinite nor eternal; that He was a creature, the most perfect creature of God, but yet not God, and that consequently his Mother was not the Mother of God.

Athanasius, Archbishop of Alexandria, opposed these errors with all his might. He eloquently exposed the true teaching, that the Word of God was indeed God in reality, and that through the incarnation He became a real man.

The controversy raged throughout the Roman Empire, throwing it into a state of turmoil. Emperor Constantine decided to submit the matter to the judgment of the Universal Church, and so he called a general council that convened in Nicea. From the discussion came the Nicene Creed in which the answer to Arianism is expressed in the following passage: *"I believe in Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, born of the Father before all ages. God of God, Light of Light, true God of true God, begotten not made, of one substance with the Father."*

*By Archbishop Joseph Raya*



- **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. Last “Rule for Life” Class 6:00 PM in Social Hall.
- **Fri. & Sat., May 22 & 23** Cemetery Clean-up Days. See below for details.
- **Mon., May 25** PENTECOST MONDAY. Divine Liturgy with Panachida 10:00 AM in Church.
- **Mon., May 25** The office will be closed for Memorial Day. Lisa will be in the office Tues., Wed., and Fri.
- **Sat., May 30** Parish Retreat at 9:00 AM in Social Hall. See back page.
- **Sun., May 31** Baptism of Ignatius Cleopa at St. Nicholas. See back page.



### **IMPORTANT: PICTURES FOR COMMEMORATIVE BOOK THIS WEEKEND**

If you didn't get your pictures taken in November for the 100<sup>th</sup> 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 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>, 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.

### **FATHER'S DAY REMEMBRANCES – Deadline for submission is Sun., May 31st.**

By the Church entrances, there are envelopes with forms enclosed for Father's Day Remembrances. If you are interested, please fill in the form and enclose it with \$5.00 per name in the envelope. ***Please don't forget to mark if Living or Deceased and if you will be attending Saturday or Sunday's Liturgy.*** Please drop off envelopes in the collection basket. Father's Day is Sunday, June 21st.



## Happy Birthday to Parishioners with Birthdays this week:

May 18 – Patty Vislosky & James Elbon

May 19 – Kurt Valenta; May 21 – Sue Johnson & Dora Zandarski

May 23 – Lisa Mosko

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* 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 another priest.

### **PRAYERS OF GRATITUDE**

We pray to God with gratitude for **+Marion Yurtin**. Love for her Church ruled her life, and even in death she remembered her Church in her will with a very generous gift!

Blessed Repose and Eternal Memory, Marion!

### **CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

You can pick up an updated 2026 Calendar of Events in the Social Hall.



**Divine Liturgy Attendance weekend of May 9:**

5:00 PM: 56; 10:00 AM: 92

**Our return to the Lord for all He has given us: . . . \$3,903.78**

## 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

Please forward this bulletin to family and friends. Remind them to sign-up for weekly email delivery on our [home page](#).



MAY 16 & 17 - AFTER LITURGY  
**Coffee & Donuts!**

### *Authority of the Council – Authority of the Church*

The authority of the Councils is based also on their ecclesiological grounding. A council is not an independent, autonomous body, additional, coming from outside, acting unilaterally. It is not the product of accidental circumstances in history and imposed afterwards. It is closely, or rather organically, related with the very essence of the Church. This body of Christ is a living organism, destined to grow, to face difficulties during this process, to be implanted in other regions of the world needing inculturation and a certain adaptation.

Such embodiment and multifaceted ministry creates problems, tensions, even divisions and in spite of the good will of the local

bishop and pastors, the convocation of as a major assembly is considered as a natural instrument, salutary and indispensable.

The official voice of the catholicity and the koinonia of all the other sister churches, in harmony and guided by the Spirit, would only provide the new assessments, possible remedies and solutions. The functioning of such a council was such that the opinions and requests at issue found expression from the very womb of the Church. Once the decision was made, the people had a part in receiving it and publicizing it (Acts 15:22) as is seen in the first assembly of Jerusalem.

*Metropolitan Emilianos*