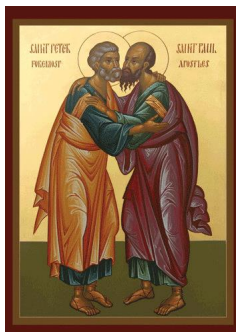




Saints Peter & Paul Byzantine Catholic Church



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YOU CAN WATCH US ON:

<https://www.facebook.com/SSPeterPaulBraddock/> or

on our web-page: <https://stspeterpaulbcc.com/on-line/>

YOU CAN SEND YOUR CONTRIBUTION TO PARISH OFFICE

ADMINISTRATOR: FATHER VITALII STASHKEVYCH

PARISH OFFICE: 4200 HOMESTEAD DUQUESNE RD, MUNHALL, PA, 15120

SCHEDULE OF DIVINE SERVICES FOR THIS WEEK: (COULD BE CHANGED)

Sunday	01/22/2023	11:00 AM	<i>Sunday of Zacchaeus</i> +Joseph & Eleanor Simchak – Barbara & Kristen
Sunday	01/29/2023	11:00 AM	<i>Sunday of the Publican and Pharisee</i> +Michael Fialkovich – wife Anna

UPDATES

Joan Skinta is at Woodhaven Care Ceeter, Room 107, 2400 McGinley Rd., Monroeville PA 15146

Rose Petruska is at Concordia at Cranberry, 10 Adams Ridge Blvd, Mars PA 16046

DIVINE SERVICES ATTENDANCE

On Sunday 01/15/2023 was 35

LIVE STREAM VIEWING

On Sunday 01/15/2023 was 98

On January 22 nd	On January 29 th	On February 5 th	On February 12 th
Team B	Team C	Team D	Team A

SICK AND SHUT-INS



Please remember in your prayers our parishioners who are sick, homebound, hospitalized, living in nursing facilities, or need your prayers for their personal intentions:

Anna D. Fialkovich, Mark Fialkovich, Benjamin Kaefer, Jr., Sylvia Kopay, Richard Paloscko, Nancy Pcolar, Bob Newton, Rebecca McCullough, Will McCullough, Marie Churley, Joanne Skinta, John Gegick and Those serving in the Armed Forces, Emily Cox, Mary Pat H, Gale Joscak, Mary Ann Badar, Robert Crowley, Rose Petruska, Gary Fall, Andrew Torbich, Judy Kosar, Mason Stern, Shawna Lynn Beluscak, Ronald Dusetzina, Connie Leary, Eleanor & Bob Rodrigues, Mary Anne FERENCE Mistick, Mario Peticca, Leah Fitchwell, Agnes McGuire, Matthew Dickun, Jan FERENCE, Betty Macik, Lauren McQuillan, Chris M, Dennis Saccomano, Dan & Nancy Pratkano, James Engleson, David Mall, Monica Gazzo, Karen Perkins, subdeacon Iyrii Holiba, Joan Kovalytsik.

***If you have a family member in the hospital or other facilities, and would like us to remember them in prayer, contact Father Vitalii and we will be glad to publish their name in the bulletin – even if they are not a parishioner of Saints Peter & Paul Parish.*

LITURGY REQUESTS FOR 2023

It is a beautiful part of our Byzantine Catholic tradition to have the Divine Liturgy celebrated for the repose of the soul of a departed one, or for the health and personal intentions of an individual. The Liturgy request calendar book for 2023 is now in. **IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO REQUEST A SPECIFIC DATE, PLEASE DO SO NOW.** Please know that we will work to provide the dates requested, but we cannot guarantee it. The dates are assigned on a first come first served basis and are reserved upon receipt of the offering. To make your request, please fill out your request and drop it in the collection basket or send it to Parish Office.

BCW



Dear parishioners who currently receive the BCW please submit your envelope provided for you. We are working on our new list for 2023. The cost is \$15.00 and the deadline is end of February 2023. Only

those who submit and pay for subscription will receive. Any questions please call the office number.

ALL SOULS SATURDAYS – HRAMOTAS

The first All Souls Saturday is February 11th. The remaining Saturdays will be March 4th, 11th, 18th and May 27th. We will celebrate a Divine Liturgy with a Panahida on each of the Fridays at 06:30 p.m. If you wish to remember deceased loved ones, please use the envelopes provided in your envelope box.

If you wish to remember loved ones, write them on a piece of paper and enclose in the envelope provided in your box of envelopes (*first names only*). You ***MUST*** make up a new list. **PLEASE SUBMIT YOUR LIST BY SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 5TH.**

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

01/06 ARLEEN JAMA
01/14 DOLORES TOMKO
01/15 JOHN PAUL FISHER
01/20 VICTORIA VARGO
01/22 PAULA SPYNDA
01/23 DIANE POPP
01/23 RICHARD TRANKOCY
01/24 KRISTIN MARTIN
01/25 SHARON LEISER

ORDINATION

01/14 FATHER VITALII

WE BELIVE

Original sin

God had given to Adam and Eve, our first parents, three levels of gifts: 1) basic humanity, consisting of a body and soul, with mind and will. Each has within it certain natural drives and needs. No one of these is evil in itself, but without the help of some added gift to coordinate them, they tend to get out of order, to rebel. 2) God gave to our first parents an added gift, which is just such a coordinating gift, which made it easy to keep each drive in its place. (It is sometimes called the gift of integrity). When Adam and Eve sinned, the lower flesh began to get out of line, to rebel. Hence Adam felt the need of cover; before the fall, he did not feel that, for the flesh was easily docile. God gave them also exemption from physical death, which otherwise would be natural to a being composed of parts, body and soul, which can come apart, and so die. 3) He gave them the life of grace, a share in His own life, which made the soul basically capable of the vision of God in the life to come.

God clearly intended they should pass on all these gifts to their children, including us. Through the narrative of the forbidden fruit, however, the Sacred author tells us that God gave our first parents some kind of command, whether it was about a tree or something else. Whatever it was, they violated His orders, and fell from His favor, losing sanctifying grace and the coordinating gift. Hence they transmitted to us only that basic humanity, without the other gifts.

Except for Jesus and Mary, all the descendants of Adam and Eve were conceived without sanctifying grace. Without that grace, the soul is not capable of the vision of God in heaven.

Each new baby arrives without the grace God willed it should have. An adult who sins mortally also lacks that grace: hence both can be said to be in the "state of sin", they lack the grace they should have, except that the adult is that way by his own fault, the baby without any fault. John Paul II explained, in a General Audience of October 1, 1986: "... it is evident that original sin in Adam's descendants has not the character of personal guilt. It is the privation of sanctifying grace..." Privation means the lack of what ought to be there. So when we speak of transmission of original sin, it would be more accurate to speak of non-transmission of sanctifying grace.

Original sin also resulted in a darkening of the mind and weakening of the will, in comparison to what it might have been. Hence John Paul II also said in a General Audience of October 8, 1986: "According to the Church's teaching it is a case of a relative and not an absolute deterioration, not intrinsic to the human faculties . . . not of a loss of their essential capacities even in relation to the knowledge and love of God." In other words, original sin took our race down only to the essential level, the first level we described. It did not make it positively corrupt, surely not totally corrupt as Martin Luther thought.

Right after the fall, God promised to send a Redeemer. God said to the serpent in Genesis 3:15: "I will put enmity between you and the woman, between her descendants and yours. He will strike at your head, you will strike at his heel." The Church, as did the Jews, interprets this as a prophecy of the Messiah.

CANDLES FOR SOMEONE SPECIAL JANUARY 15th 2023

Myron Drabik	For Good Health For Special Favor
Rich Trankocy	Special
Ann Whitehead	For Health (Pat Fallon) Decd. (Andy Novotny)
Bobbi Vaccaro	For Good Health
Karen Clark	For Special Favor
Barbara Martin	Special

WE WELCOME YOU HOME!



There are often people who have been raised as Byzantine Catholics and through the years have become separated from the Church. Perhaps, there has been someone in your family or your friends or your neighbors who was raised Byzantine Catholic, but no longer actively participates in a Parish. Please invite your friends or who used to be a member of our parish to come and enjoy again our parish family. Together we can accomplish everything. Sharing with one another always increases joy and diminishes sorrow! With faith, hope, and love as we continue our journey together.

LENT is around the corner, the GREAT FAST will start Monday, February 20, 2023. We will have our annual FASIANGY (haluski, kielbasa and dessert) after Sunday Liturgy, February 19th.

SUNDAY OF ZACCHAEUS

This Sunday we learn that we are like Zacchaeus himself: we strain on tip-toes to look over the busyness of our lives to see Christ, but we cannot, due to our short spiritual stature. We all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. On our own we cannot see past our sins and passions. So the Church gives us a means to arise: we climb the tree of Great Lent that the Church has given us in order to see the resurrection of Christ at Pascha. In the process we discover that Christ is seeking us.

This Sunday’s Gospel reading tells how Christ brought salvation to Zacchaeus the tax-collector, and how his life was changed when he “sought to see who Jesus was”. The desire and effort to see Jesus begins our whole movement through Lent towards Pascha. This is the first movement of salvation. Our Lenten journey begins with a recognition of our own sinfulness, just as Zacchaeus recognized his own. He promised to make restitution by giving half his wealth to the poor, and by paying to those he had falsely accused four times as much as they had lost. In this, he went beyond the requirements of the Law.

The example of Zacchaeus teaches us that we must first approach God without pride: for “God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble... Draw near to God and He will draw near to you”. And we must embrace repentance: turn away from our sins and make amends for them. The real proof of our sorrow and repentance is not just a verbal apology; rather it is when we correct ourselves and try to make amends for the consequences of our evil actions. When we set our hearts on reconciliation with God and with those we have wronged, then we are assured that God’s grace and mercy will heal us by Christ’s own words to Zacchaeus, “Today salvation is come to this house”.

Zacchaeus was short, so he climbed a tree in order to see the Lord. We too fall short in our spiritual stature, so we must climb the ladder of the virtues. In other words, we must prepare for spiritual effort and growth, in knowledge of our sin, of Christ’s mercy, and of God’s love for every person.

JERICHO	ZACCHAEUS	SENIOR	WEALTHY	SHORT	SYCAMORE	TREE	HOUSE	GROUND	PROPERTY	POOR	SALVATION								
H	O	H	S	S	E	C	A	C	H	A	E	V	E	U	S	H	R	E	Z
O	S	Y	C	A	C	H	O	V	E	U	H	S	R	E	S	H	T	A	S
S	S	E	N	I	C	O	A	E	S	O	R	T	E	S	H	O	R	A	Z
S	E	N	I	M	O	D	E	Y	O	S	H	O	R	E	S	H	O	R	Z
U	S	E	N	O	R	O	P	E	R	G	T	P	O	R	E	S	H	O	Z
O	N	D	N	U	O	L	R	A	E	W	P	O	R	E	S	H	O	R	Z
H	E	Y	H	T	L	A	E	E	T	P	O	R	E	S	H	O	R	A	Z

THE INITIAL BLESSING

The priest begins the Liturgy by proclaiming the Kingdom of God – Father, Son and Holy Spirit. The Father made the universe through the Son and Holy Spirit. The Son is eternally begotten of the Father and was incarnate of the Virgin by the will of the Father and the power of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit proceeds from the Father and sanctifies and enlightens all the believers and draws the non-believers to come to Christ. We encounter the Trinity when we meditate on creation and experience salvation. This is why all of our prayers conclude with a doxology glorifying the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. The Church is God’s Kingdom in an incomplete form. It began with the resurrection of Christ and will be completed when He comes again in glory. In the meantime we have a foretaste of the Messianic Banquet in the Divine Liturgy and we are called to bring in new members to share in salvation and the life of God.

HAPPY IN HEAVEN IF LOVED ONES NOT THERE?



The Bible is very clear that Heaven is wonderful. Scripture says that once people are in Heaven, the Lord “will wipe every tear from their eyes, and there shall be no more death or mourning, wailing or pain, for the old order has passed away” (Rev. 21:4).

The Bible also is very clear that not everyone will make it to Heaven. Jesus Himself said, “Enter through the narrow gate; for the gate is wide and the road broad that leads to destruction, and those who enter through it are many” (Matt. 7:13).

This got me wondering: How can I truly be happy in Heaven if some of my loved ones are in Hell? OK, that is a bit optimistic on my part. Let me rephrase it to a more likely scenario: How can my loved ones be happy in Heaven if I’m in Hell?

There are some folks who playfully say, “Well, Hell sounds like a lot more fun than Heaven, anyway. And besides, that’s where all my friends will be!”

I’m usually the first one to make smart-aleck comments about serious topics, but in this case even I know that is simply not funny. There is nothing playful or fun about being in a situation where your very soul is aching with torment and loneliness and regret—for all eternity.

So, I ask the question again: If a person makes it to Heaven, can he or she really be happy and joyful if precious loved ones reject the Lord during their earthly lives and as a result spend all of eternity separated from the joy of God?

This is really not an academic exercise, since we all know that young adults are leaving the Church in droves now days. God is certainly a God of mercy and forgiveness, and regular church attendance is not absolutely mandatory for entrance into Heaven (although it truly helps a lot!), but you have to figure a sizeable percentage of those people who no longer attend church also have lost their faith in the Lord. They have either stopped believing altogether, or aren’t sure what to believe, and don’t really care anymore. And that is a scary thought, because the bottom line, according to Christ Himself, is faith and trust in the Lord.

I did a little research online. If you type this question in a Google search: “How can I be happy in Heaven if my family is in Hell?” you will get more than 5.4 million results. I’d say that indicates I’m not the only person concerned about this.

All the essays I read boil down to a few basic theories.

1. When we’re in Heaven, we will not have any memory of our loved ones, which will allow us to be perfectly happy and joyful. Hmm, I suspect Heaven’s joy will not be dependent on ignorance. That just doesn’t sound like God’s way of doing things.

2. In Heaven, we will be so keenly aware of God’s sense of Justice, that we will fully agree that our fallen-away loved ones deserve their fate, and we will be completely at peace with it. Whoa, I don’t think the guy who thought up this theory quite understands the love a parent has for a child. It doesn’t add up.

3. It’s a mystery that will not make sense to us until we’re in Heaven. It’s kind of like when Job demanded answers from God, and God finally spoke: “Who is this who obscures divine plans with words of ignorance?...I will question you, and you tell me the answers!” (Job 38:2-3). Basically, God said to Job: You’re on a need-to-know basis, pal, and right now you do not need to know!

Apparently, the faith that gets us into Heaven in the first place is the same faith we need to have regarding this question. God is in charge, and we must trust that His plans are perfect.

But I have to tell you, this question still bothers me. A lot.

ETERNAL MEMORY



Edward A. Bavolar, 91, of North Huntingdon, died Thursday, January 12, 2023. He was born February 09, 1931, in Braddock, a son of the late Andrew and Anna H. Koncerak Bavolar. After graduating from Scott HS in 1948, he joined the US Air Force for four years (1952) and earned the rank of Staff Sergeant. When he came back home, his interest in aircraft was ignited and he spent a year and a half at the Pittsburgh Institute of Aeronautics (PIA), graduating in late 1953. In 1966, Ed met Frances (Fran) Knasinsky in North Braddock, PA and they wed in 1967. Ed landed a career job in St. Louis as a aviation mechanic with Ozark Airlines and relocated there with Fran. In 1970 they had a son, Edward. After retiring in 1990, they moved to FL for several years. Ed was passionate for radio controlled (RC) airplanes. On his days off, he could often be found at a model airplane field with his son in St. Louis field, along with a bunch of his RC pals from Ozark Airlines who also had the yearning for flight. Ed also enjoyed attending polka dances in FL and in PA with Fran. He and Fran made everlasting memories dancing to their

favorite polka bands. Ed worked tirelessly at work with his mind and hands, even on holidays when he could. At home, like at work, he could repair anything with success. His family meant more to him than anything else in the world. He was unendingly proud of Frances and his son and always tried his best to support them. Anyone who knew Ed knew that he was the most loving father and husband a family could ask for. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his wife, Frances M. Knasinsky Bavolar; brother, Charles Bavolar; sister, Wilma Bavolar and nephew, Charles 'Butch' Bavolar. He is survived by his son Edward Bavolar, Jr. (Jennifer Daugherty and her daughter, Ashley Mikell) of North Huntingdon; niece, Kathleen Graff of North Carolina and numerous other nieces and nephews. At the family's request, there will be no public viewing.

In blessed repose, grant, O Lord, eternal rest to your departed servant Edward and remember him forever! Eternal Memory!

DEANERY PENITENTIAL VESPERS SCHEDULED

The Great Fast Deanery Vespers will be celebrated, *each Sunday during The Great Fast Season at 4:00 p.m.* preceded by The Holy Mystery of Reconciliation at 3:30 p.m.

The following churches have been selected to host a different week:

February 26 th	St. Pius X Church, Carrick	Homilist: Fr. Andrew Deskevich;
March 5 th	St. John the Baptist Cathedral, Munhall	Homilist: Fr. Valerian Michlik;
March 12 th	St. Andrew, Gibsonia	Homilist: Fr. Miron Kerul'-Kmec
March 19 th	Saints Peter & Paul Church, Braddock	Homilist: Fr. Michael Kunitz;
March 26 th	Saints Peter & Paul Church, Tarentum	Homilist: Fr. Frank Firko.

This will be a great penitential practice of prayer & self-denial if you wish to take it upon yourselves. Please make an effort to join us. Fellowship of meatless soups and bread will be served following the liturgical services