



# Saints Peter & Paul Byzantine Catholic Church

431 GEORGE STREET \* BRADDOCK, PENNSYLVANIA 15104 \* TELEPHONE (412) 461-1712

E-mail: [stspeterpaulbc@gmail.com](mailto:stspeterpaulbc@gmail.com)

**YOU CAN WATCH US ON:**

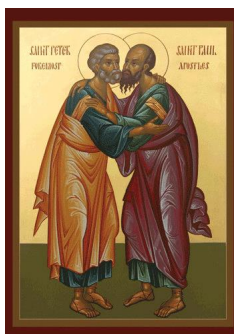
<https://www.facebook.com/SSPeterPaulBraddock/> or

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

**YOU CAN SEND YOUR CONTRIBUTION TO PARISH OFFICE**

ADMINISTRATOR: FATHER VITALII STASHKEYVYCH

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



## LIVE STREAM VIEWING

On Friday 03/10/2023 was 130; on Sunday 03/12/2023 was 95.

## 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, David Lydon.*

**\*\*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.**

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

Sunday	03/19/2023	11:00 AM	<i>4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of The Great Fast</i> +Olga Savko – Dave, Steve & Cathy
Wednesday	03/22/2023	07:00 PM	<i>(St Elias Byzantine Catholic Church)</i> <i>Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts</i>
Friday	03/24/2023	06:30 PM	<i>Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts</i>
Sunday	03/26/2023	11:00 AM	<i>5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of The Great Fast</i> +Richard Martin – Barbara & Kristin

## 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

On March 19 <sup>th</sup>	On March 26 <sup>th</sup>	On April 2 <sup>nd</sup>	On April 9 <sup>th</sup>
Team B	Team C	Team D	Team A

## DIVINE SERVICES ATTENDANCE

On Friday 03/10/2023 was 14; on Sunday 03/12/2023 was 32.

## 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.

## EASTER KIELBASA



The Duquesne Men's club of Saints Peter and Paul is selling Christmas Kielbasa. Order by March 19<sup>th</sup>. Delivery to the Church will be on Sunday April 2<sup>nd</sup>. **The order sheet will be in the vestibule if you are interested.** Thank You.

## MARCH BIRTHDAYS

03 JOAN SKINTA  
05 MARY STASHKEVYCH  
21 MONICA GAZZO  
25 EDWARD LEISER  
29 MARJORIE NOVOTNY  
31 BARBARA MARTIN

## CANDLES FOR SOMEONE SPECIAL MARCH 12<sup>TH</sup> 2023

Myron Drabik	For Peace in Family For Good Health For Special Favor
Barbara Martin	Special
Bobbi Vaccaro	For Good Health
Rich Trankocy	+Lee
Kim Krivda	For Good Health Other
Anonymous	Special

## 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:

<b>March 19<sup>th</sup></b>	<b><i>Saints Peter &amp; Paul Church, Duquesne</i></b>	<b><i>Homilist: Fr. Michael Kunitz;</i></b>
March 26 <sup>th</sup>	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

## THE SEVEN GIFTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

We turn now to the Seven Gifts of the sanctifying category. They are: wisdom, understanding, knowledge, counsel, fortitude, piety and fear of the Lord.

They each perfect certain basic virtues. Four of them perfect the intellectual virtues. Understanding gives an intuitive penetration into truth. Wisdom perfects charity, in order to judge divine things. Knowledge perfects the virtue of hope. The gift of counsel perfects prudence.

The other three gifts perfect virtues of the will and appetites. The gift of piety perfects justice in giving to others that which is their due. This is especially true of giving God what is His due. Fortitude perfects the virtue of fortitude, in facing dangers. Fear of the Lord perfects temperance in controlling disordered appetites.

To illustrate the difference between things done with the Gifts and those done with the ordinary virtues, we will take up the gift of counsel.

There are three kinds of guides a person may follow in making his decisions:

1) The whim of the moment. Aristotle in his Ethics 1. 5 says that to act that way is a life fit for cattle, who do just what they happen to feel like doing.

2) Reason, which in practice is always aided by actual graces, which God gives so generously. For example suppose I see three options open to me, all of which are moral. Ideally I would make at least mentally a list of the good points and of the bad points of each. The I would look over the whole board, and pick what gives the best effect for me. Or if I come to think I need penance for my sins, I would ask: How much have I sinned, so I can know how much penance? what kind of penance will fit with my health? with the obligations of my state in life? And after several steps, a decision is reached. This method is called discursive, since it moves from one step to another.

3) In the third and highest way a soul does not go from one step to another, in a discursive process, but the answer is, as it were, dropped fully made and complete into his mind by the Gifts. This was the case of Our Lady, for example at the annunciation. If she had been operating in the ordinary mode, she might well have reasoned: Now my people have been waiting for centuries for the Messiah (as soon as Gabriel said He would reign over the house of Jacob forever, even any ordinary Jew would have known that He was the messiah). Now he is here. I should share this news with others, especially the authorities in Jerusalem. And what about my husband Joseph? In a short time he will not be able to avoid dark thoughts. But the Gospel shows she did none of these things. God needed to send a special angel to tell Joseph. so the Gifts can lead souls to points not contrary to reason, but far more lofty than what reason would suggest.

Cf. the following from St. John of the Cross: (Ascent 3.2.10; cf. Living Flame 1.4; 1.9 and 2.34): "God alone moves the powers of these souls . . . to those deeds which are suitable, according to the will and plan of God, and they cannot be moved to others. . . . Such were the actions of the most glorious Virgin, our Lady, who, being elevated from the beginning [of her life] to this lofty state, had never the form of any creature impressed on her, nor was moved by such, but was always moved by the Holy Spirit."

But there is a danger: a soul could mistake its own desires for action of the Gifts, since the reasons are not clear to it. Two points must be kept in mind: 1) The full and apparent action of these gifts does not appear until one is well advanced in the spiritual life (hidden assistance by them can come earlier). 2) Ordinarily an inspiration via the Gifts leaves the soul not fully certain--a signal to consult a director or superior. Uncommonly they will give certitude, but only when a decision must be made on the spot, and there is no time to consult.

When a soul acts with usual actual graces God is the most important actor, yet the faculties of the human do churn out the result--hence it is easy to suppose the work is done basically by that soul. But under the action of the Gifts, the soul is more passive, and its own faculties contribute even less.

## ACT OF CHARITY



Since Bishop Milan Sasik died unexpectedly, our mother church in Uzhhorod has been experiencing severe financial distress. Even worse, many priests with families are not being paid any salary. In the poor mountain parishes, their entire salary was stipends that Bishop Sasik solicited from donors in the wealthier countries of western Europe. I very much would like to help these priests through this difficult time and difficult winter.

If you choose to participate, use EASTER BASKET ENVELOPE, God will bless you doubly, for the prayers and also

for helping those in need.

## FOURTH SUNDAY OF THE GREAT FAST

In today's gospel reading, the Lord bemoaned the spiritual weakness of the disciples because they were unable to deliver the boy from the power of evil. He identified their lack of faith, prayer, and fasting as the reason they were not able to help him. The point was not that they had simply failed to keep up their spiritual disciplines, but that they had failed the young man by not developing the strength to offer themselves for his salvation.

All of us have relationships in which we are just like those disciples. We lack the spiritual health to offer ourselves to others for their healing and blessing. Whether in our own homes, at work, or in passing encounters with strangers, we treat and speak to others in ways that have little in common with our Lord's Self-offering for the salvation of the world. We do that because we have not offered ourselves to Christ in humble faith and repentance for the healing of our souls.

The boy's father cried out with tears to the Savior, "*Lord, I believe; help my unbelief!*" Humbled by his son's suffering and his own inadequacy to help him, this man was not trying to use religion to glorify himself in any way. With painful honesty, he confessed his imperfect faith to the Lord for the sake of his son. His concern was not about himself, but about his boy. He was not afraid to expose his deep pain to Christ, and that was when his son was healed.

In the remaining weeks of Lent, we must be on guard against the temptation to view our spiritual disciplines in self-centered ways. We must use them to unite ourselves more fully to the Savior's Self-offering for the salvation of the world. As we pray, fast, and repent, we open ourselves to the Lord's gracious healing of our souls, by which He will enable us to manifest His blessing to the people we encounter every day.

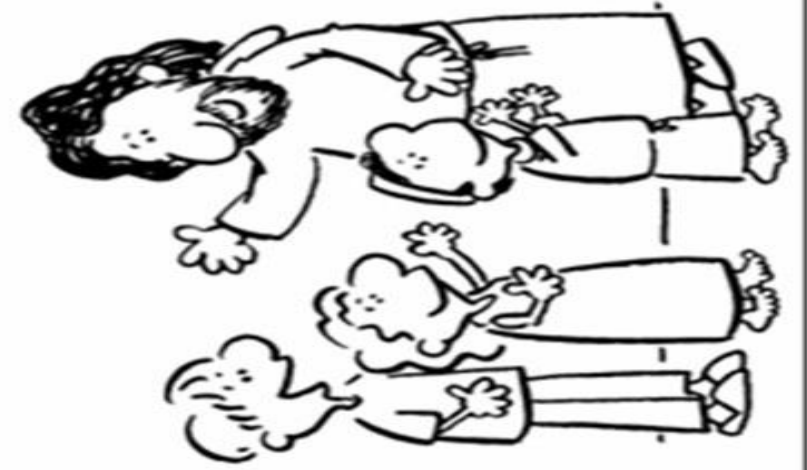
When we recognize that we lack the spiritual strength, we must make the plea of the father our own: "*Lord, I believe; help my unbelief!*" Through such painfully honest humility, we will turn our attention away from how well we think we are doing in our Lenten observance. For this blessed season of repentance is not focused merely on making us more religious, but on enabling us to enter into the awesome mystery of the Savior's Passion. We must offer ourselves in repentance in order to follow Him to His great Self-offering.

GALILEE DEATH SON THREE

TWELVE HOUSE MAN SERVANT

WELCOMES LAST RISE CHILD

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## **THE NECESSITY OF REGULAR PARTICIPATION IN THE DIVINE LITURGY**

The Divine Eucharist, which is sanctified during the Divine Liturgy, is the greatest of the Holy Mysteries of the Church. It is the Eucharist that sanctifies and spiritually renews the Christian who participates. It is a gift of divine Grace, as well as an entrance into communion with His Holy Church, with the divine-human Sacred Body of our Lord Jesus Christ.

The 80<sup>th</sup> Canon of the 6<sup>th</sup> Ecumenical Council declares how important and necessary it is for the Byzantine Christian to participate regularly in the Divine Liturgy and to partake of the Eucharist: *"In case any Bishop, or Presbyter, or Deacon, or anyone else on the list of the Clergy, or any layman, without any grave necessity or particular difficulty compelling him to absent himself from his own church for a very long time, fails to attend church on Sundays for three consecutive weeks, while living in the city, if he be a Cleric, let him be deposed from office; but if he be a layman, let him be removed from Communion."* St. Nicodemos of the Holy Mountain explains that a person who is absent from the Liturgy in such a way reveals themselves to be faithless or lacking a complete understanding of the Faith. In any case, they seemingly despise the common worship of the Church and so have no living relationship with Christ and the Church. Indeed, they lack the spiritual life in Christ.

The offering of the Divine Liturgy is necessary for the believer to keep their communion with our Lord Jesus Christ (the head of the Church) alive, as well as other baptized Catholic Christians and the whole angelic world. Please note: During the Divine Liturgy the greatest of the Mysteries is completed, namely the Holy Eucharist, which was established by the Lord Himself. The Church itself is revealed in this act, in order to continue its presence on earth. Put simply: If the Lord had not done this, bringing the faithful into living communion with Him and among ourselves, then the Church would have remained obscure and even disappeared.

To understand more clearly, let us look at a theoretical example of a situation which sadly has occurred many times in Church history: If all Byzantine Churches in a given area are destroyed, the Bishops and priests killed, and the faithful scattered, with no way to serve the Liturgy for years, can we even talk about the existence of a Church there? This was a truth that was well understood by the persecutors of the early Christian Church, which is the reason why in their fury they rushed even into the underground catacombs of Rome, in order to root out and kill the Christians taking refuge there. As we know from Church history, this has happened repeatedly all over the world, through the centuries to the present day. That is why there are only ruins in the

places where past Christian Churches flourished. As many of you will remember, nearly 70 years of atheistic propaganda prevailed in the Soviet Union, with the main goal being to close the monasteries and churches. With that came the execution and exile of bishops and priests, to prevent the celebration of the Divine Liturgy. Additionally, they strictly forbade church attendance, especially for children and young people, to prevent them from praying and receiving communion. At the same time, the Divine Liturgy was being served in any way possible.

During the Soviet era, a special propagandist wanted to ridicule the Divine Liturgy during one of his atheistic speeches. He addressed a priest who had been forced to be present, and said with contempt: *"Well, what is the Liturgy that you Christians perform? It is a theatrical performance. Like the actors, you wear special costumes, you shape the church with the appropriate decoration and you perform acts!"* The priest, remaining calm from this insult and disregarding the danger to his life, replied: *"Comrade, if you could introduce me to a theatrical performance, which has been performed for two thousand years in a row, at least every Sunday, on the five continents of the earth and 'sells' millions of 'tickets' each time, then you may be right. But because what happens in the Divine Liturgy is unique in the world, it should probably make you reconsider your ideas! ...* The propagandist became silent, since he did not know what to answer!

Following our general remarks, before we begin to contemplate the precious treasure contained in the Divine Liturgy, I hope we all can agree on the fact – even if we still can not fully understand it - that in the Divine Liturgy something extraordinary, something unique happens! After all, all of us have been forced many times to be deprived of the Divine Liturgy, when measures were taken by the authorities to protect us from the pandemic. It was especially painful to be deprived of the Liturgy of Pascha/Easter. How did the faithful experience the Resurrection, when watching the Liturgy from afar, without being able to approach the Risen Christ, to be united with Him through Holy Communion and to exchange with their brothers and sisters in spiritual joy the paschal greeting "CHRIST IS RISEN"!

Let us yet again repeat, that the Divine Liturgy does not act magically in the soul of the churchgoing faithful. The proper preparation and response of the believer is also needed.

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

An Eparchial Assembly, "Synodal Synthesis: A Mandate, Not an Option," will be held Saturday, April 29 at St. John the Baptist Cathedral in Munhall, Pa.

The purpose of the Assembly is to hear responses from all four eparchies of the Archeparchy of Pittsburgh so those gathered can discern the common joys, hopes and wounds. The Archeparchial Office of Religious Education is sponsoring the event.

All four eparchies in the Metropolia participated in the National Synthesis of the People of God in the USA for a Synodal Church: Communion, Participation & Mission.

Eparchies utilized a variety of opportunities for engaging people in the process, including local gatherings, listening sessions and surveys.

For more information on the Synod, see "Joy, gratitude, honest words continue in Synod's North American phase" at right.

**If you would like to attend, please let Fr Vitalii know by April 2<sup>nd</sup> 2023**

### SCHEDULES FOR EASTER TIME

#### AT ST PETER AND PAUL BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH:

Palm Sunday	04/02/2023	11:00 am	Divine Liturgy with Blessing of Palms
Holy Tuesday	04/04/2023	06:30 pm	Presanctified Liturgy with Holy Anointing
Holy Thursday	04/06/2023	07:00 pm	Divine Liturgy of St Basil the Great with Vespers <i>At St Elias in Munhall</i>
Good Friday	04/07/2023	05:00 pm	Burial service of Jesus with Solemn Vespers
Holy Saturday	04/08/2023	05:00 pm	<b>Matins of Resurrection with Divine Liturgy;</b> <b><u>Blessing of Easter baskets</u></b>

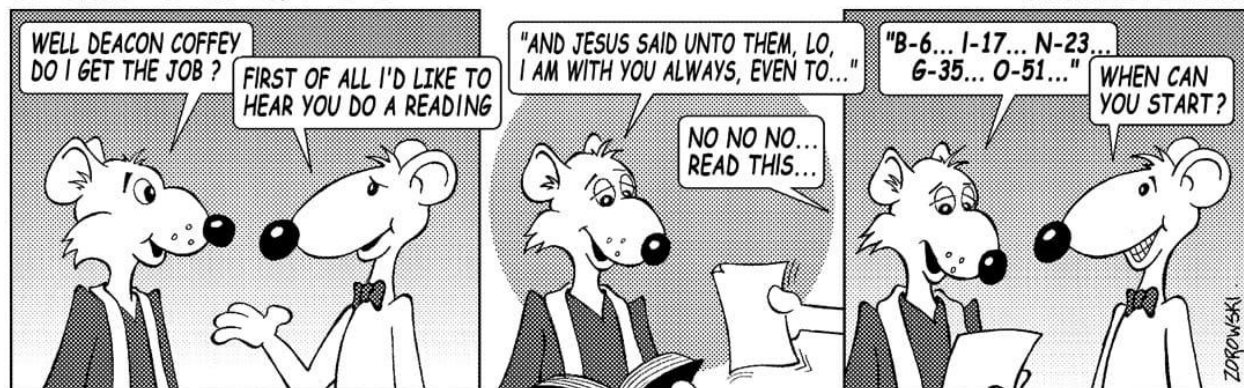
**Easter Sunday**      **04/09/2023**      **11:00 am**      **Divine Liturgy/ Blessing of Easter baskets**

Bright Monday      04/10/2023      11:00 am      Divine Liturgy

Thomas Sunday      04/16/2023      11:00 am      Divine Liturgy

*Come and join us to celebrate the Resurrection of Our Lord Jesus Christ*

## Church Mice



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St Elias Church:  
4200 Homestead-Duquesne Rd  
Munhall, PA 15120



**Fish sandwich**  
**Fish dinners**  
**Baked Fish**  
**Shrimp dinners**  
**Halusky**  
**Pirohi**  
**Csoroge**  
**Baked goods**

**ON FRIDAYS:**

**24<sup>TH</sup>, 31<sup>ST</sup> IN MARCH;**

**FROM 11:30 AM TO 6:00 PM**

*FOR PRE-ORDERS*

*Call between*

*10:00 AM and 2:00 PM*

**412-461-9271**

