

SUNDAY OF THE PRODIGAL SON 2/17/19

Saturday: 5:30 PM (E) For the Parish Family

Sunday: 8:30 AM (G) ✕ Fr. Myron Horvath (req. by Christine Simkovitch Skidmore)

11:00 AM (E) ✕ Peter and ✕ Margaret Plavcan (req. by Mary Lou Scottino)

1ST ALL SOULS SATURDAY 2/23/19

Friday: 6:30 PM (G) All Souls Divine Liturgy

Saturday: 9:00 AM (E) All Souls Divine Liturgy

SUNDAY OF MEATFARE 2/24/19

Saturday: 5:30 PM (E) For the Parish Family

Sunday: 8:30 AM (G) ✕ John Aranyos (req. by Paula & Larry Reinhart)

11:00 AM (E) ✕ Rose Marie Molnar (req. by Delores Patrick)

YOUR RETURN TO THE LORD FOR ALL HE HAS GIVEN US:

02/10/19

\$ 396.00

ATTENTION: The church office phone line is out of order. To contact the church, use the email: eriecountybyzantines@verizon.net or in an emergency, contact our secretary, Jennifer at 866-6341

B.C.W. SUBSCRIPTIONS

The Byzantine Catholic Archeparchy of Pittsburgh publishes a newspaper every month called the “Byzantine Catholic World.” To subscribe please use the BCW envelope dated February 17. A one year subscription is \$14. Make checks payable to Sts. Peter & Paul Church or Sts. Cyril and Methodius Church. We will send in a list of subscribers from each parish. The newspaper is mailed directly to your home.

BYZANTINE CATHOLIC FAMILY BINGO NIGHT

Sts. Peter and Paul is hosting a family bingo night from 6:30 – 8:30 PM on Friday, March 1. Bingo cards and daubers will be provided. Everyone invited. Prizes for all ages!!! Pizza and beverages will be provided. Bring a snack or appetizer to share. It’s FREE!! Sign up in the narthex. See Jen Troncone with questions.

LENTEN DINNERS

St. Peter and Paul will host three Lenten Dinners this year – March 8 & 22 and April 5 from 4:30 -7 PM. All dinners include choice of baked cod, pirohi or combo with green beans, coleslaw, potato salad, roll, cake and free coffee. Tickets are \$10/adult, \$5/children 6-12, free for children under 6. Take-out available.

MEN’S SPIRITUALITY CONFERENCE

The 6th Annual 2232 Men’s Conference will be held on Saturday, March 2nd, at Our Lady of Peace Parish in Erie. The 2019 conference theme is from John’s gospel: “*Jesus turned and saw them following and said to them, ‘What do you seek?’*”. The speakers will address various aspects of that question. **Luke 22:32:** “*But I have prayed for you that your faith may not fail. And when you have turned back, strengthen your brothers.*” For more information and how to register, go to www.2232men.com

“Maranatha!”

Christ’s return was welcome news to the early Christians. It has always been welcome news to sincere followers of Jesus down through the ages. Christ will return. He will return as Conqueror to deliver His people. In a new heaven and a new earth, God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes. There shall be no more death, no more sorrow, no more crying, no more pain – for the former things have passed away.

If things seem difficult now, or painful, the message of the Second Coming is: don’t give up. Don’t despair. Trust God. Put your life in his hands. Accept his forgiveness. Hold onto your faith. One day you will discover what others have discovered before you, that the sufferings of this present moment are not worthy to be compared with the glory that will be revealed to you when the Lord comes again.

The early Christians used a one-word greeting, “Maranatha.” We find it in I Cor.16:22. It means “Come, O Lord!” It must have been a slogan or watch word, perhaps a kind of secret password and identification which the persecuted Christians whispered to each other and by which they recognized each other. “Come, O Lord!” They cheered one another with it at the beginning of a new day. They comforted one another with it when they set out bravely to face martyrdom. Here is a word that we, too, can live by and die by and throw out over all the unknown and ominous future. The Lord said, “I will come again.” The Christian replies, “Maranatha!” “Come, O Lord!”

CALL IT BY ITS NAME

One of the great tricks of Satan – the great deceiver – has always been: “Never call a sin by its right name. Call it by a nice, fair, innocent name.” We see this in the parable of the Prodigal Son. When he left home and was wasting his substance, he was merely “seeing the world.” When he was bankrupt through riotous living, he called it “being a little wild.” It was only when he landed in the barnyard with the pigs that he found the right name for his behavior. “I have sinned against heaven and before you,” he said to his father. And that was the beginning of his salvation. He saw himself as he really was and called his behavior by its right name: sin.

Salvation will never come to us unless we face our sin, call it by its right name and surrender it to God. Salvation for David began when he said, “Against you, You only, I have sinned, O Lord, and done that which is evil in Your sight.”

God is a Verb

When someone asked Mr. Averill Harriman, the veteran of so many European conferences, how his French was, he said, “My French is excellent, all except the verbs.” It often happens that our Christianity is excellent, “all except the verbs.” The nouns of our Christian faith are wonderful: “Master, Savior, Redeemer, Light of Light, very God of very God.” The adjectives of our Christian faith are inspiring: “noble, divine, holy, sacred.” Nouns, pronouns, adjectives are nice words. With them you can describe a thing in all its beauty. But nouns don’t do anything; they just sit there. You can’t have a full sentence with just nouns. You need verbs. Verbs make things happen.

Christianity is not just nouns; it is also verbs. Some people feel that God is a verb, not a noun. He loves. He creates. He saves. He blesses. He helps. Many Christians feel that the best verb to practice is to love. Other Christian verbs are: come, go, serve, give, share. The verb Jesus gives all of us is: follow. “Follow me.”