



431 George St.
Braddock, PA 15104
412-461-1712

web-page: <https://stspeterpaulbcc.com/>

E-mail: stspeterpaulbc@gmail.com

Parish Office: 4200 Homestead Duquesne Rd,
Munhall, PA, 15120

Administrator: Fr Vitalii Stashkevych

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:

Mark Fialkovich, Richard Paloscko, Nancy Pcolar, Rebecca McCullough, Will McCullough, Marie Churley, John Gegick, Emily Cox, Mary Pat H, Gale Joscak, Mary Ann Badar, Rose Petruska, Judy Kosar, Mason Stern, Shawna Lynn Beluscak, Ronald Dusetzina, Connie Leary, Mary Anne Ference Mistick, Mario Peticca, Leah Fitchwell, Agnes McGuire, Matthew Dickun, Betty Macik, Lauren McQuillan, Chris M, David Mall, Karen Perkins, Joan Kovalycsik, Maureen Angel, Anna Marie Choma, Dave S., Michelle Costello, Gina Paglialonga, Jim Petruska, Mary Harbadin, Marci Laskey, Lynn Lightfoot, Matthew C, Terri S., Georgette Dusatzian, Linda Halchak, Mark Jensen, Jim Speranza, Marky Zvolensky, Georgeann Zvolensky, John Halchak, Celine Mitchell, Joe Spadaro, Sharon Junker, Harmony Elizabeth Hairston, Barb and Chuck Egan, Ryan Wypych, Royann McCarthy, Teddy Horwist, Joe Kelly, Joanna Spisak, Denise M, Liz DeLong, Kyle Asti, Don Gazzo and Those serving in the Armed Forces



SCHEDULE OF DIVINE SERVICES FOR THIS WEEK:

Sunday	06/21/2026	11:00 AM	4th Sunday after Pentecost <i>Father's Day</i>
Wednesday	06/24/2026	09:00 AM	<i>Birth of John the Baptist at St Elias</i>
Sunday	06/28/2026	11:00 AM	5th Sunday after Pentecost/ Feast of Sts Peter and Paul <i>Deceased members of the Fisher Family – John Fisher</i>

DIVINE SERVICES ATTENDANCE

Sunday 06/14/2026 was 35.

LIVE STREAM VIEWING

Sunday 06/14/2026 was 102.

UPDATES

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

June 14 th	June 21 st	June 28 th	July 5 th
Team C	Team D	Team A	Team B

JUNE BIRTHDAYS

06/03 JERRY SPYNDA
06/05 MARY KAEFER
06/09 JOHN SKINTA
06/10 STEVE KRIVDA
06/16 BILL MISTICK
06/27 MARLENE TORBICH
06/27 KIM KRIVDA
06/28 JEREMY DRABIK

ANNIVERSARIES

06/03 WANDA & RONALD HODOBA
06/28/1986 SHARI & THOMAS FIALKOVICH

Each week, a candle will be lit for our shut-ins and all those remembered on our prayer list. May its gentle light be a reminder that they are never forgotten, but are lovingly remembered in the hearts and prayers of our parish family.



CANDLES FOR SOMEONE SPECIAL June 14th, 2026

Myron Drabik	For Good Health Foe Special Favor
Barbara Martin	Special Favor
David Savko	For Good Health Bobbi Vaccaro For Special Favor Al Savko Jr
Donna Torbich	For Good Health Louise Seaman
Don Kerr	Juliana Health of Patty Polce, Denise Still
John Skinta	For Peace in Family For Happy Death For Good Health For Special Favor
Lori Downey	For Good Health Don Downey
Monica Gazzo	For Special Favor
Jim Fitzgerald	For Good Health Michael Benjamin
Arleen Jama	Health of Jeff Krama Health of MaryAnn Mistik
Patti Wypych	Special
Anonymous	Special

Tetrapod candle:

June 7, 14, 21, 28 – Arleen Jama (Special intention)

July 5, 12, 19, 26 – Brother & Uncle Joseph by Barbara & Krestine

August 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 - Arleen Jama (Special intention)

September 6, 13, 20, 27 – John Skinta for +Joseph & Joan Skinta

October 4, 11, 18, 25 – For Special Intention of Mark & Linda Fialkovich

November 1st, 8, 15, 22, 29 – Husband & Father Richard by Barbara & Krestine

December 6, 13, 20, 27 – Mary Joscak (Special intention)

Dear Parishioners,



As the warm embrace of summer draws near, may it bring with it moments of rest, reflection, and spiritual renewal for each of you. Amidst the joys and adventures that summer promises, let us not forget the sacred call to honor the Sabbath day, to keep it holy.

During your well-deserved vacations, I encourage you to seek out the Byzantine or Roman Catholic churches wherever your travels may take you. In the beauty of these ancient liturgies, you will find a familiar refuge, a spiritual home away from home, where the Divine Liturgy unfolds with timeless grace.

If circumstances prevent you from physically attending a church, consider joining online services to partake in the communal worship and to honor the commandment of keeping the Sabbath holy. Through modern technology, distance does not have to separate us from the blessings of collective prayer and worship.

In the teachings of the Catholic Church, we find guidance and wisdom to navigate life's journey with faith and grace. Remember that the Sabbath is not merely a day of rest but a sacred opportunity to deepen our relationship with God, to nurture our souls, and to strengthen our bonds with one another as members of the Body of Christ. As we enter this season of warmth and light, may the love of God accompany you wherever you go, illuminating your path with peace and joy. May your summer be a time of spiritual growth, filled with moments of grace and communion with the Divine.

Yours in Christ, Fr V

KENNYWOOD PARK: BYZANTINE CATHOLIC FAMILY DAY



The Annual GCU & Byzantine Catholic Family Day will be celebrated on Thursday, July 23, 2026. GCU is offering prepaid discounted tickets to members, parishioners and guests.

Deadline for these discounted tickets is JULY 5th. Details at www.GCUusa.com. Gates open at 11:00 a.m. until close. Come join in the fun and set the day aside. Let Fr Vitalii know by July 5th 2026

A CELEBRATION OF MARRIAGE - 3 P.M. – SEPTEMBER 20TH, 2026 – ST ELIAS

This will take place at St Elias in Munhall on September 20th. A Divine Liturgy will be celebrated at 3:00 p.m., followed by a dinner in the Social Hall. If you are celebrating or have already celebrated your wedding anniversary of 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, 35, 40, 45, 50 or additional years that are multiples of five during this year of 2026, contact Fr. Vitalii. Dead line is July 26th 2025.

THE CLEANSING POWER OF THE WORD OF GOD

Many Christians hesitate to open the Holy Scriptures because they fear they will not understand what they read. They encounter unfamiliar names, difficult passages, and profound mysteries that seem beyond their comprehension. As a result, they close the sacred book and deprive themselves of one of God's greatest gifts. Yet this fear is unnecessary, for the Word of God accomplishes its work even before we fully understand it.

Our Lord Jesus Christ says to His disciples, "*You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you*" (John 15:3). These words reveal a profound spiritual reality. Christ does not say that they are clean because they have mastered every teaching or comprehended every mystery. Rather, they are clean because His divine word has entered into their hearts. The word itself possesses power, because it proceeds from the mouth of God.

The Holy Fathers teach that the Scriptures are not merely a collection of religious writings. They are inspired by the Holy Spirit and bear within them the life-giving energy of God. Just as sunlight illuminates a room even when a child does not understand the nature of light, so the Scriptures enlighten the soul even when the reader does not grasp every meaning. The grace of God works through the sacred text in ways that often remain hidden from our eyes.

Consider a person standing beside a river. He may not understand the science of water, but if he washes himself in it, he is cleansed. In the same way, a Christian who reads the Scriptures may not understand every verse, yet his soul is washed by the divine words. The Word of God penetrates the heart, softens its hardness, and gradually transforms the inner person.

This is why the Church constantly surrounds her faithful with Scripture. During the Divine Liturgy, Vespers, Matins, and the other sacred services, the faithful hear passages from the Holy Bible. The Church does not first examine whether every person understands every phrase. Rather, she knows that the hearing of God's Word is itself a means of sanctification. The words enter the ears, descend into the heart, and bear fruit according to God's providence.

Of course, understanding remains important. We should study the Scriptures diligently, listen to the teachings of the Church, and seek guidance from the Holy Fathers. Growth in understanding deepens our faith and enriches our spiritual life. Yet understanding is not the doorway through which the Word enters the soul. Faith, humility, and perseverance open that door. A person who reads faithfully receives benefit long before he becomes a scholar.

Many saints began their journey with only a simple knowledge of Scripture. What distinguished them was not intellectual mastery but faithful devotion. They listened to the Word, treasured it, and allowed it to shape their lives. Through continual exposure to the divine message, their hearts became fertile ground for the seeds of grace.

Therefore, let no one say, "*I do not read the Bible because I do not understand it.*" Instead, let him open the sacred pages with reverence and prayer. Let him read a little each day. Let him listen attentively in church. Let him trust that God is at work through His Word.

Read the Word. Hear the Word. Embrace the Word. Even when its mysteries seem hidden, the grace of God is present. The Word that created the heavens and the earth is powerful enough to cleanse the soul, enlighten the mind, and lead every faithful believer into the kingdom of God.

4TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Have you ever noticed how difficult it is to ask for help? Many people would rather struggle alone than admit they need someone. We live in a culture that praises independence. From childhood we are taught to be strong, self-sufficient, and capable of handling our own problems. Yet sooner or later life humbles us. A sickness comes. A family problem appears. A child causes us concern. A marriage struggles. A burden weighs heavily on our heart. Suddenly we discover that we are not as strong as we thought.

One of the greatest lessons of the spiritual life is learning that we need God.

This sounds obvious, but many Christians spend years trying to solve everything by themselves. We pray only after all our plans have failed. We turn to God as a last resort rather than our first refuge. We trust our abilities, our money, our experience, or our connections more than we trust the Lord.

Summer is often a season when this temptation becomes even stronger. Life slows down. Vacations begin. School is finished. Many routines are interrupted. We tell ourselves that we can take a break from prayer, a break from church, a break from our spiritual discipline. Yet our soul never takes a vacation from its need for God.

The truth is that every day we stand before the Lord as people in need. We need His mercy. We need His wisdom. We need His strength. We need His forgiveness. We need His guidance. Without Him, we may be busy, successful, and entertained, but our hearts remain restless.

Faith begins when we stop pretending that we can save ourselves.

The saints understood this well. Their greatness did not come from believing they were strong. Their greatness came from knowing that God was strong. They placed their confidence not in themselves but in Christ. That is why they could endure persecution, suffering, disappointment, and even death. Their strength was borrowed strength, the strength of God working through them.

Perhaps this week each of us should ask a simple question: What am I carrying alone that I should be bringing to God?

Maybe it is a fear about the future. Maybe it is concern for a child or grandchild. Maybe it is a secret struggle that nobody else knows about. Maybe it is a sin that keeps returning despite our efforts to overcome it.

Whatever it is, Christ is not waiting for us to become perfect before we approach Him. He is waiting for us to trust Him.

Every Divine Liturgy is an invitation to that trust. We gather not because we have everything figured out. We gather because we need the Lord. We come with empty hands so that He may fill them. We come with wounded hearts so that He may heal them. We come with weak faith so that He may strengthen it.

The greatest danger in the spiritual life is not weakness. The greatest danger is believing that we do not need God.

As we continue through this summer season, let us not drift away from prayer, from the Scriptures, from the Holy Mysteries, or from the Divine Liturgy. Instead, let us draw closer to Christ. Let us place our worries, our families, our work, our future, and our entire lives into His hands.

For when we trust ourselves, we discover our limits. But when we trust God, we discover that His mercy, His power, and His love have no limits at all.

WHY DOES THE CHURCH CELEBRATE FEASTS THAT ARE NOT EXPLICITLY FOUND IN THE BIBLE?



Many people wonder why the Church celebrates certain feast days that are not directly commanded in Holy Scripture. One example is the Nativity of Saint John the Baptist, celebrated on June 24. The Gospel tells us about the birth of John (Luke 1:57-80), yet nowhere does the Bible command Christians to celebrate this event annually. Similar questions arise regarding many other feasts of the Church. Why does the Church keep them? Are they additions to the faith?

To answer this question, we must first understand what the Church is. The Church is not merely a community that reads a book. The Church is the living Body of Christ, guided by the Holy Spirit. Before a single book of the New Testament was written, the apostles preached, baptized, celebrated Holy Eucharist, and handed down the faith through both written and unwritten traditions. As Saint Paul himself writes: *“Stand firm and hold to the traditions which you were taught by us, either by word of mouth or by letter”* (2 Thessalonians 2:15).

The Bible is the inspired heart of Holy Tradition, but it was never intended to be the entirety of the Church’s life. The Gospel of John even concludes by saying that Jesus did many other things which were not written down (John 21:25). The life of the Church, therefore, is larger than the written text alone. The Church remembers, preserves, and celebrates the saving acts of God throughout history.

The feasts of the Church arise from this sacred memory. They are not inventions but acts of remembrance. Just as Israel remembered the Passover every year, so the Church remembers the mighty works of God revealed through Christ, His Mother, the apostles, the martyrs, and the saints.

The Nativity of Saint John the Baptist is a perfect example. John was not an ordinary man. Christ Himself declared, *“Among those born of women there has arisen no one greater than John the Baptist”* (Matthew 11:11). His birth was miraculous, foretold by the angel Gabriel, and filled with divine significance. Even before his birth, John leaped in his mother’s womb at the presence of the unborn Christ. The Church celebrates his nativity because it marks the beginning of the ministry of the Forerunner, the one sent to prepare the way of the Lord.

In fact, the Church celebrates the births of only three persons: our Lord Jesus Christ, the Most Holy Theotokos, and Saint John the Baptist. This reveals the unique role each played in the mystery of salvation. The Church does not celebrate these feasts because a biblical command requires it; rather, it celebrates them because they reveal God’s work in human history and strengthen the faith of the faithful.

The liturgical year itself teaches theology. Every feast is a sermon. Through hymns, prayers, icons, and Scripture readings, the Church proclaims the truths of the Gospel. Many believers throughout history could not read, yet they learned the faith through the cycle of feasts. The Church year became a living Gospel, leading Christians through the mysteries of Christ from His Nativity to His Resurrection, Ascension, and the sending of the Holy Spirit.

Therefore, when we encounter feasts that are not explicitly commanded in Scripture, we should not see them as additions to the faith. Rather, they are expressions of the faith once delivered to the saints. They are the Church’s way of remembering, proclaiming, and participating in the saving works of God.

The feasts remind us that Christianity is not merely a religion of reading about past events. It is a life of entering into those events through worship. The Church celebrates because she remembers; she remembers because she loves; and she loves because Christ is alive in her midst. Through the feasts, the faithful are invited not simply to recall the history of salvation, but to live it.

3rd Sunday after Pentecost

P	R	C	S	I	N	O	I	T	A	V	L	A	S	P	R
R	I	H	S	Y	R	P	P	Y	T	R	A	E	V	C	A
A	G	U	S	L	P	I	C	S	I	D	N	A	N	A	I
Y	H	R	E	I	R	P	E	A	C	E	I	A	S	E	O
E	T	C	R	T	C	S	E	I	L	I	L	S	T	R	B
R	E	H	R	H	E	R	U	S	A	E	R	T	L	I	R
N	O	H	R	O	O	N	E	V	A	E	H	L	F	D	R
F	U	I	E	R	R	M	W	O	L	L	O	F	A	S	D
N	S	E	C	N	E	D	I	V	O	R	P	A	I	T	S
T	N	L	E	P	S	O	G	Y	I	V	O	I	T	S	S
S	E	O	E	T	E	R	N	I	T	Y	V	T	H	U	R
I	S	E	P	I	H	S	R	O	W	O	R	H	T	R	T
R	S	H	M	O	D	G	N	I	K	S	C	T	T	R	T
T	H	G	I	L	B	L	E	S	S	I	N	G	G	T	T

- PROVIDENCE
- CHRIST
- PRAYER
- BIRDS
- LILIES
- HEART
- KINGDOM
- SALVATION
- TRUST
- RIGHTEOUSNESS
- DISCIPLE
- FAITH
- HEAVEN
- FOLLOW
- ETERNITY
- PEACE
- CHURCH
- BLESSING
- GOSPEL
- TREASURE
- WORSHIP
- LIGHT

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Y	H	R	R	I	R	P	E	A	C	E	I	A	I	E	O
E	T	C	O	T	C	S	E	I	L	I	L	S	T	E	B
R	E	H	R	H	E	R	U	S	A	E	R	T	L	R	I
N	O	H	R	O	O	N	E	V	A	E	H	L	F	H	D
F	U	I	E	R	R	M	W	O	L	L	O	F	A	O	R
N	S	E	C	N	E	D	I	V	O	R	P	A	I	O	S
T	N	L	E	P	S	O	G	Y	I	V	O	I	T	I	S
S	E	O	E	T	E	R	N	I	T	Y	V	T	H	S	I
I	S	E	P	I	H	S	R	O	W	O	R	H	T	S	R
R	S	H	M	O	D	G	N	I	K	S	C	T	T	R	T
T	H	G	I	L	B	L	E	S	S	I	N	G	T	T	T

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