

# HOLY TRINITY BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH

February 1, 2026

Sunday of the Prodigal Son – Prefeast of the Encounter of Our  
Lord

Contact Us

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Facebook @ Holy Trinity Byzantine  
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Office Hours

9am–5pm Tuesday–Friday

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Weekend Services

5pm Saturday Vigil Divine Liturgy

9am Sunday Divine Liturgy

Confession

6–6:30pm Wednesday

4–4:30pm Saturday

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*O faithful, let us recognize the figure of Christ \* foreshadowed in the letter of the Law which says: \*  
Every male child who opens the womb is sanctified to God. \* Therefore, the first-born Word \* and  
Son of the Father without beginning, \* the first-born Son of the mother who had not known man: \*\*  
him let us extol.*

Irmos of the Feast of the Encounter (February 2)

# Week at a Glance

Our return to God for His abundant gifts (1/25): \$1,027

Online giving: <https://holyltrinitysykesvilles.org/onlinegiving>

Sat, Jan 31 5pm Vigil Divine Liturgy (+ Eleanor Haky, given by Shannon Shaffer)

Sun, Feb 1 Sunday of the Prodigal Son – Prefeast of the Encounter

9am Divine Liturgy

2pm Great Vespers with Litija and Blessing of Candles

Mon, Feb 2 Feast of the Encounter of Our Lord with the Elder Simeon

9am Festal Divine Liturgy and Blessing of Candles (N)

Wed, Feb 4 6:30pm Vespers

Fri, Feb 6 6:30pm Parastas with reading of *hramoty* (N)

Sat, Feb 7 First All Souls' Saturday

4:30pm Panichida with reading of *hramoty*

5pm Great Vespers

6pm Potluck and Adult Enrichment Presentation

Sun, Feb 8 Meatfare Sunday

9am Divine Liturgy

Coffee Social Bakers for February 8: Rachel Kennis, Rita Grasso



Troy and Rebecca Pennington (February 6)

Gregory J. and Rachel Kennis (February 7)

# CANTORS' CORNER

Saturday	Sunday
<p><u>1/31</u> Cantor: Victor K. Propers: Start 104; “O Lord, I have cried” and 3 stichera in tone 1 (123); closing hymn “Now you may dismiss” (452)</p>	<p><u>2/1</u> Sunday of the Prodigal Son Cantor: Zeb B. Lector: Mike K. (1 Cor 6:12-20) Propers: Paper supplement</p>
<p><u>2/7</u> First All Souls’ Saturday 4:30 Panichida 5pm Great Vespers Cantor: Zeb B. Propers: Paper supplement</p>	<p><u>2/8</u> Meatfare Sunday Cantor: Victor K. Lector: Joseph C. (1 Cor 8:8-9:2) Propers: Troparion Tone 2 (156), the rest is for Meatfare Sunday (217ff)</p>
<p><u>2/14</u> 5pm Vigil Divine Liturgy Cantor: Victor K. Propers: Start (104); propers in paper supplement; closing hymn, “Now you may dismiss” (452)</p>	<p><u>2/15</u> Cheesefare Sunday Cantor: Zeb B. Lector: Corey M. (Rom 13:11-14:4) Propers: Troparion Tone 3 (135), the rest is for Cheesefare (218ff)</p>
<p><u>2/21</u> 5pm Vigil Divine liturgy Cantor: Victor K. Propers: Start (104); propers in paper supplement; closing hymn, “Now you may dismiss” (452)</p>	<p><u>2/22</u> First Sunday of the Lent Cantor: Victor K. Lector: Mike K. (Heb 11:24-26, 32-12:2) Propers: Troparion Tone 4 (141); the rest is for the First Sunday of Lent (219ff)</p>
<p><u>2/28</u> Second All Souls’ Saturday 4:30pm Panichida 5pm Vigil Divine Liturgy Cantor: Victor K. Propers: Start (104); propers in paper supplement; closing hymn, “Now you may dismiss” (452)</p>	

# LENTEN SERVICES

<p><u>2/15</u> Cheesefare Sunday 2pm Forgiveness Vespers Cantor: Victor K.</p>	<p><u>2/16</u> Clean Monday 6:30pm Great Compline with the Canon of St. Andrew of Crete Cantor: Shared Lector(s): Ryan and Joseph C.</p>
<p><u>2/18</u> Clean Wednesday 6:15pm 9<sup>th</sup> Hour 6:30pm Presanctified Liturgy Cantor: Zeb B., Natalia T. Lector: Joseph C.</p>	<p><u>2/25</u> 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of Lent 6:15pm 9<sup>th</sup> Hour 6:30pm Presanctified Liturgy Cantor: Victor K. Lector: Mike K.</p>

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## ✠ Dates to Remember

- Monday, February 2: Feast of the Encounter of Our Lord with the Elder Simeon. We will observe this feast with Great Vespers and the blessing of candles on Sunday, February 1 at 2pm. Divine Liturgy will be served at Nativity on February 2 at 9am.
- Sunday, February 8: Meatfare Sunday. By tradition, we say goodbye to meat on this day until Pascha!
- Sunday, February 15: Cheesefare Sunday. Forgiveness Vespers will be held in the afternoon on 2pm to inaugurate the Great Fast.
- Monday, February 16: Beginning of the Great Fast (Clean Monday). To inaugurate this season of repentance and renewal, we will be celebrating Great Compline with the Canon of St. Andrew at 6:30pm.

## ✠ Fasting Regulations for the Great Fast

With the Great Fast approaching in just a couple weeks, it is good to review our eparchy's fasting regulations and traditions. According to the Archeparchy of Pittsburgh's *Pastoral Handbook*, simple abstinence (refraining from meat) and strict fast (refraining from meat, eggs, and dairy) is binding on all Byzantine Catholics who receive the Eucharist. Simple abstinence is observed on all Wednesdays and Fridays of the Great Fast (or whenever else a "fish" appears on the church calendar) and strict fast is observed the first day of the Great Fast (Monday, February 16) and Holy Friday (April 3). These are, of course, the minimum regulations, as by tradition, strict fast is observed every day of the Great Fast. If you'd like to learn more about why we fast, see Fr. Nate's presentation from November 8, which is posted under the Resources tab of the website.

## ✠ Inquiry about Envelopes

Each year, as folks join, pass away, or move away from the area, we reexamine our list of parishioners who receive donation envelopes to see if any need to be added or removed. If, for whatever reason, you would no longer like to receive envelopes (perhaps you donate online, or by check), write name and fill out the box on the small form towards the end of the bulletin and leave it in the collection basket in the following two weeks. If you do not receive envelopes, but would like to, you may use the same form.

✠ Donation statements for 2025 are now available in the narthex. Parishioners who donated online through Tithely will also receive a statement electronically.

## ✠ All Souls' Saturdays

The First All Souls' Saturday is February 7. The names of the departed will be remembered aloud in a *panichida* before the Saturday evening service and during the *proskemia* commemorations of the Divine Liturgy on Sunday. If you would like to add more names to your family's list, please indicate this on your collection envelope; otherwise, the list of names from previous years will be used.

## ✠ "Called by Name" Vocation Awareness Program

In the early years of the Church, individual Christian communities would often identify and nominate worthy members of their communities for service in leadership positions in the church, such as in the role of priest. The Called by Name program continues this tradition of nominating members of the community for ministerial service. This program offers an opportunity for us to pray for vocations; to recognize gifts and potential for leadership and service in members of our parish; and finally, to call forth and encourage these members to share their gifts in the priesthood, diaconate, and monastic life (both men and women). Perhaps you know a man or woman (senior high school age or older) who would, in your opinion, have the qualifications to become a priest, deacon, monk, or sister. Please recommend this person by filling out the nomination brochure form (available in the *narthex*) and send it directly to the Office of Vocations.

## ✠ *Life and Liturgy* Adult Catechesis Series

- Next Session: The next instalment of *Life and Liturgy* will take place on February 7. Fr. Roland Nosov, a priest of the Greek Catholic Eparchy of Košice, Slovakia and a talented, self-taught iconographer, will be giving a presentation on the theology and creation of traditional Byzantine icons.
  - 5pm Great Vespers
  - 6pm Potluck and Presentation
- Session Recordings
  - Parish website: <https://www.holytrinitysykesville.org/resources>
  - YouTube: Search "Holy Trinity Byzantine Sykesville" and find the "Life and Liturgy Adult Enrichment Series 2025–2026" playlist  
<https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PLhMUIKohjH84WPLgf3eWj1stcEvZr7d26&si=CLkimL6ToHBx-XXV>
- As a reminder, these sessions will take place on a monthly basis until June 2026. This is a wonderful opportunity to gather for beautiful liturgical prayer outside of the Divine

Liturgy and to learn more about why we do what we do at church and how it relates to the rest of our lives.

#### ✠ Standing Reminder

After Pentecost 2026, we will be celebrating Great Vespers or Vigil only on Saturday evening (no longer with Divine Liturgy). Until then, any change in the Saturday schedule is only on those dates when a session of *Life and Liturgy* takes place.

#### ✠ Lenten Retreat

This year on Saturday, March 14, Holy Trinity will be hosting an all-day Lenten retreat. The day will include common prayer, multiple talks by a guest speaker, opportunities for silent prayer, confession, and fellowship. More details will be announced soon; for now, mark your calendars, as it will be a powerful experience!

#### ✠ Youth Events in 2026

Registration for the ByzanTEEN Rally is now open! Please check with Fr. Nate about registration and payment. Registration can be accessed either through the QR code on the flyer, or through this link: <https://form.jotform.com/YouthArchPitt/byzanteen-rally-2026-participant-fo>

EARLY  
BIRD  
(BEFORE  
APRIL 1)  
&  
SIBLING  
DISCOUNT  
**\$350**

# BYZANTINE RALLY

AGES 13 THROUGH HIGH SCHOOL

## “TAKE COURAGE!

I HAVE OVERCOME  
THE WORLD.”

JOHN 16:33



Registration is  
OPEN now!

Deadline to  
register is  
Friday, May 15,  
2026

JULY  
9-12  
2026

FULL PRICE  
**\$380**  
AFTER APRIL 1

JOHN CARROLL UNIVERSITY  
CLEVELAND  
OHIO

More info & registration  
Scan QR code



Holy Trinity Byzantine  
Catholic Church

*Life and Liturgy Adult  
Enrichment Series*

# ICONS: WINDOWS TO HEAVEN

with Guest Speaker and Iconographer  
**FR. ROLAND NOSOV**



**7 February 2026**

5:00 PM Great Vespers

6:00 PM Potluck & Presentation

Joining us from Slovakia through Zoom, Fr. Roland will share from his experience as priest and iconographer about the symbolism of icons as windows into heaven.

YOUTH & YOUNG ADULT  
**EVENTS 2026**  
& more to come

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**FEB 7**

SATURDAY  
/TEENS

CALLED TO LOVE AND  
TO DANCE

St. John Chrysostom  
Byzantine Catholic Church  
Pittsburgh, PA

**FEB&MAR APR 11** ●

TUESDAYS  
/YOUNG ADULTS

GREAT FAST BIBLE  
STUDY

6:00 pm via Zoom

SATURDAY  
/TEENS& YOUNG ADULTS

2026 ARCHEPARCHIAL  
YOUTH AND YOUNG  
ADULT GATHERING

With the metropolitan  
archbishop William  
Holy Trinity Byzantine Catholic  
Church, Sykesville, PA

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**MAY 16**

SATURDAY  
/TEENS

2026 SPRING  
BYZANTEEN HIKE

Racoon State Park, PA

**JUNE 8-20**

13 DAYS  
/YOUNG ADULTS

MISSION TRIP TO  
ATHENS, GREECE

Athens, Greece

**JULY 9-12**

4 DAYS  
/TEENS

BYZANTEEN RALLY

John Carroll University,  
Cleveland, OH  
Eparchy of Parma

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**AUG 8**

SATURDAY  
/TEENS

2026 BYZANTEEN  
SPLASH BASH & MORE  
AND BYZANTEEN RALLY  
REUNION 😊

St. Nicholas Chapel, Beaver  
& Seven Oaks Country Club  
Swimming Pool, PA

**SEP 12**

SATURDAY  
/TEENS

2026 FALL BYZANTEEN  
HIKE & COOKOUT

Riverview Park and the  
Chancery, Pittsburgh, PA

**OCT 3**

SATURDAY  
/YOUNG ADULTS

2026 ARCHEPARCHIAL  
YOUNG ADULT  
PILGRIMAGE

Basilica and Shrine of Our Lady  
of Lebanon, North Jackson, OH

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The Office of Youth and  
Young Adult Ministry  
The Byzantine Catholic  
Archeparchy of Pittsburgh

[youth@archpitt.org](mailto:youth@archpitt.org)

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## Envelope Form

Name:

Please check one:     I would no longer like to receive donation envelopes.  
                               I would like receive donation envelopes.

# MYSTERIES OF THE CHURCH

**Parish Membership:** To be a parish member, you must (1) be registered in the parish; (2) demonstrate faithful and consistent participation in the liturgical life of the parish on Sundays and holy days; and (3) regularly offer time, talent, or treasure to the parish according to your ability. Parish membership is required for participation in the sacraments below (but exceptions may be made with Fr. Nate's discretion). All are welcome to become members after attending the parish for one year.

Contact Fr. Nate to register.

**Mysteries of Initiation (Baptism, Chrismation, and Eucharist):** Contact Fr. Nate to schedule pre-baptism instruction. Sponsors must be practicing Catholics.

**Mystery of Crowning:** Contact Fr. Nate before setting a date or reserving your reception hall (at least six months before the desired wedding date). Pre-Cana program and three sessions with Fr. Nate are required. The ceremony will be celebrated according to the Byzantine Rite.

**Mystery of Anointing and Visitation of the Sick:** This mystery may be celebrated upon request for anyone navigating spiritual or physical challenges. If you or your loved one is homebound or hospitalized, notify Fr. Nate as soon as possible to ensure they can be visited.

**Funerals:** Families of the deceased or the funeral director must contact Fr. Nate before setting the time and date of funeral. The deceased need not be a member in good standing. Cremation is discouraged but permitted within certain limitations.

**Liturgy Intentions** can be requested through the offertory envelopes provided or in person from Fr. Nate or Dcn. Luke. A liturgy may be requested with or without the conventional \$20 stipend, which is considered a donation not a requirement.