



Ss. Peter & Paul Byzantine Catholic Church (Portage)
St. Mary Byzantine Catholic Church (Beaverdale)
Ss. Peter & Paul Byzantine Catholic Church (Dunlo)
Byzantine Catholic Archeparchy of Pittsburgh
Metropolitan Archbishop William C. Skurla, D.D.

Served by: Very Rev. Fr. James A. Spontak
Fr. Deacon Daniel F. Perich

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Mysteries of Christian Initiation: There is to be **preparatory instruction** for parents and godparents prior to the celebration of the **Mysteries of Christian Initiation – Baptism, Chrismation, and Eucharist**. It is desirable that Christian Initiation be celebrated together with the Sunday Divine Liturgy, as the entire faith community welcomes its newest member. Those selected to be sponsors must be persons who are qualified to be a sponsor according to the norms of Church law and practice.

Crowning in Marriage: A **six month period of preparation** is to precede the marriage. Couples are to meet with the pastor before other arrangements are scheduled. The **Pre-Cana Program** offered by the Archeparchy in the spring of each year is a **required** part of the marriage preparation for all couples.

Holy Anointing & Pastoral Care of the Ill: Please contact the pastor prior to surgery or in the event of illness to require the **Mystery of Holy Anointing**. When you or a family member are hospitalized or enter a nursing home or other facility, **please inform the pastor**. Due to privacy regulations, hospitals and other facilities do not always notify the pastor; and it is best for the family.

Mystery of Repentance (Confessions): **Saturdays: 3:00 pm (Portage) and 4:30 pm (Beaverdale/Dunlo)**. Also, **½ hour before services [except Sunday]**, and by appointment. Confessions are in the priest's sacristy area, before an icon of Christ, before whom we are confessing our sinfulness.

Opportunities for Stewardship: Parishioners are asked to make a commitment of **Time, Talent, and Treasure...** **Work Parties** are scheduled the first Saturday of each month, and **Church Cleaning** is scheduled the first Monday, unless a Church Feast Day falls on the same date.

VOCATION PRAYER: Holy Father You call each of us by name and ask us to follow you. Bless your Church by raising up dedicated and generous leaders from our families who will serve your people as priests, deacons, and nuns and the monastic life. For you our God are holy and we give glory to You, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, now and ever and forever. Amen.



Happy New Year!

Circumcision of our Lord; Feast of Saint Basil the Great

Today is **New Year's Day**, a day that holds particular meaning both on the civil calendar and in our liturgical year as well. The New Year is welcomed with festivities, traditions and customs throughout the world. A **Happy New Year, 2017** to all of our parishioners and your families, with best wishes and prayers for health, happiness, and many blessings of God's goodness and providence throughout this year.

We observe today the Feast of the **Circumcision of our Lord**, described in today's Gospel from [Luke 2:20-21, 40-52](#), on the eighth day of his birth. Also, today we honor the memory of our **Holy Father Basil the Great**, who died on January 1 in the year 379. And this is also the **Sunday before Theophany**, as we prepare for this great feast of our Church later this week.

The day of the Circumcision of a child was also the day on which he received his name. And so it is that the Gospel notes that when Jesus was circumcised "**he was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb**" [[Luke 2:21](#)]. Mary had shown herself to be completely open to God's will and purpose from when she expressed her consent to the Archangel Gabriel [[Luke 1:38](#)]. And so she does not give a name of her own choosing or from her family. Instead the child is named Jesus, as the angel directed.

This occasion of the Circumcision also provides for the Church to continue our reflection on the mystery of the Incarnation, which is manifest in the event of the Birth of Christ. The liturgical hymns of Vespers, for example, invite us to ponder the mystery and the wonder present in all that we have celebrated and continue to celebrate during these days:

*"In his love for the human race, the Savior condescended
and willed to be wrapped in swaddling clothes.*

*Eight days old according to his mother and eternal according to his Father,
He did not look down upon the circumcision of the flesh.*

Therefore, O believers, let us cry out to Him: You are our God; have mercy on us!"

[Stichera at Vespers, Feast of the Circumcisions of our Lord]

Saint Basil the Great was one of the most remarkable bishops and teachers of the earliest centuries of the Church. He was shepherd of the Church of Caesarea for eight years. He also left for the church a wealth of theology, ascetical writings [i.e., disciplines and virtues of the Christian life], and monastic rules. He was a keen interpreter of the Holy Scriptures and a skillful and effective preacher.

The wisdom displayed in these works and the splendor and force of his words won for him the epitaph, "*Revealer of Heaven*" and the "*Great*". On his feast today, and on several other days throughout the year, we use the Anaphora of Saint Basil for the Divine Liturgy, which offers a taste of the magnificence and greatness of his theological knowledge and literary skills.

[From The [Synaxarion](#), page 83]

Feast of the Theophany—Baptism of our Lord

The *Feast of the Theophany*—Friday, January 6—commemorates the Baptism of our Lord Jesus Christ. It is highlighted by the Great Sanctification of Water. This is designated one of the Feasts of obligation of our Church. Please consult the schedule below and also listed in the weekly liturgical schedule for the services for this feast.

<i>Schedule of Services for the Theophany</i>		
Theophany Eve:	Thursday, January 5	
Dunlo	6:00 pm	Vespers with the Divine Liturgy of St. Basil with Great Sanctification of Water
Theophany:	Friday, January 6	
Portage	9:00 am	Divine Liturgy , with Great Sanctification of Water
Portage	6:00 pm	Divine Liturgy ,

The Vigil of Theophany

- The *Vigil of Theophany*--Thursday, January 5--by tradition may be observed as a day of strict abstinence from meat and dairy products.
- The Royal Hours for Theophany [Office of Readings] are celebrated at 8:00am on Thursday and include psalms; hymns; Old Testament, Epistle, and Gospel readings.

PARISH NEWS & COMING EVENTS

Church Cleaning & Work Party for January

- The Church Cleaning for January is scheduled for Monday, January 2, at 9:00 am.
- The Work Party for January is scheduled for Saturday, January 7, at 9:00 am.

Christmas Choir Fest--Cancelled

The *Community Christmas Choir Fest*, hosted by Bethany United Methodist Church that has been scheduled for Sunday, January 8, 2017 has been cancelled.

Blessing of Homes

To request the blessing of your home by Father Jim, please fill out this form, and place it in the offering basket or return by mail. In arranging an appointment, try to make it a convenient time for family members to be at home. Have a lighted candle and an icon on the table. Copies of the service for the blessing of the home will be provided for you to participate in this prayer.

I/we would like to have my/our home blessed:

Name: _____ Phone: _____



Coffee Social for January

The January *Coffee and Donut Social* will be **Sunday--January 8**, following the 9 am Divine Liturgy. Please take this opportunity to greet fellow parishioners and enjoy the coffee and refreshments.

Please Note this schedule change for the January Coffee Social due to the Christmas and New Year's holidays.

2017 Offering Envelopes

The **2017 Offertory Envelopes** are available. When you pick up your box of envelopes, please also take those for family or neighbors who may not be present. Because envelope numbers change, please **write your name and address** on your envelope for the first few weeks of the New Year. Please continue to **write your name on your envelope each week** to ensure proper credit. If you are not registered to receive envelopes, contact the parish office at-736-9780.

Sanctuary Candle

The Sanctuary Candle is offered this week in memory of **+George Haschak** and **+Mary Yacisin** requested by Patty Haschak.

Eastern Christian Formation Program

Sunday, January 8, 2017 Troitsja: *Cierra Goral*

Bulletins: *Gabriella Cimba & Ryan Lenz*

Sunday, January 15, 2017 Troitsja: *Christina Goral*

Bulletins: *Evan Lenz & Sydney Leturgey*

Sunday, January 22, 2017 Troitsja: *Issabella Crum*

Bulletins: *Christina Goral & Issabella Crum*

Epistle Readers Schedule

Sunday, January 8 *Alex Bisaha*

Sunday, January 15

Alyssa Murphy

Sunday, January 22 *Maddy Single*

Sunday, January 29

Alex Bisaha

Liturgical Chant—Feast of the Theophany of our Lord

- For the Vigil Divine Liturgy [Vespers with Divine Liturgy] on Thursday at 6:00 pm, a booklet including all the prescribed proper parts will be distributed for this service.
- The Troparion and other prescribed parts of the Divine Liturgy for the **Theophany of Our Lord** are on pages 312-316.
- The Troparion and other prescribed parts for **Sunday, January 8, Resurrection Troparion Tone 1**, may be found on p. 125-127; and for the **Sunday after Theophany**, on p.316-318.
- The "Our Father", in Tone 1 may be found on p. 66. Please note instructions at the beginning of the Liturgy for opening hymns, and other alternate melodies etc.

Hymnal for Nativity and Theophany

The "Byzantine Catholic Hymnal for Nativity and Theophany" contains the traditional hymns for Christmas particular to our church in English and Church Slavonic and the familiar Christmas Carols in English. The hymn booklets are on the table in the back of church. Please remember to take a copy before going to your pew and return the booklet to the table after the Divine Liturgy.

Eastern Christian Formation Calendar--Christmas & Theophany Season

Sunday, January 1 2017.....No ECF

Classes

Sunday, January 8 2017.....ECF Classes Resume

Used Magazines Needed...

A family with a family member with special needs requests *used magazines*, particular with photos, and also *merchandise catalogues* [from Christmas, etc.] also with photos. If you have used magazines, catalogues, etc., please bring them to the ushers' room and place on the box designated for this purpose. *Thank you.*

Saint Peter & Paul, Dunlo

The Postal Box for *Saints Peter and Paul*, Dunlo has been discontinued. Correspondence or other mail for Saints Peter and Paul, Dunlo may be sent to the Postal Box in Beaverdale: P.O. Box 610, Beaverdale PA 15921-0610.

Saint Mary's Beaverdale

Repairs to the heating system at Saint Mary's in Beaverdale were made necessary due to a hole in the boiler. This required purchase and installation of a new boiler. Parishioners of Saint Mary's are being asked to consider making a year end gift to the parish in response to this emergency need.

Remember In Prayer

Please pray for the health of *Sasha Yetsko*, granddaughter of David and Bonnie Yetsko; *Marian Simala*; *George Yatsky*; *Ruby Moore*; *Charles* and *Joan Plishka*; *Frank Alberts*; *Tom Goncher*; *Joan Ditko*; *Cliff Inman*; *Shawn Crum*; *Jessi Tomko*; *Father John Salko*; *Msgr. Raymond Balta*; *Basil*, infant from St. Mary's, Cambria City; *Archpriest Dennis Bogda* [St. Barnabas; Gibsonia]; and all the ill & homebound.

OTHER NEWS & EVENTS

Homebound and Nursing Home Residents—Remember in Prayer

At Home: *SS Peter & Paul (Portage)*: John Batche; Dorothy Billy; Louise Halovich; Joseph Mandichak; June Neznieski; Cathy Walters; Elsie Timura **St. Michael (South Fork)**: Michelle Maskal; Anna Garanich; Catherine Czapp **St. Mary (Beaverdale)**: Nancy Andrako; Catherine McGough; **SS Peter & Paul (Dunlo)**: Mary Louise Cimba; Walter Prozialeck.

Nursing & Other Care Facilities:

- **Saint Benedict Manor, Carrolltown**, Catherine Thrower [Dunlo];
- **Forest Hills Personal Care, Sidman**: Pauline Valko [Dunlo]
- **Meadow View Nursing Center [Berlin]**: Margaret Timura
- **Arbutus Park Manor**: Margaret Rachael [Dunlo]
- **Maple Winds**: Mary Yetsko
- **The Winds at Mattern Orchard, Duncansville**: Mary Vrabel
- **Amber Hills Ebsburg**: Edward Andrykovitch [Beaverdale]; *Father Ronald Borsuk*
- **Brookside Manor, Portage**: Andrew Majer

Liturgical Schedule *Circumcision of our Lord*—January 1, 2017

*The Sunday before Theophany
Circumcision of Our Lord--New Year's Day--
Feast of Saint Basil the Great*

Saturday December 31

Dunlo **5:00 PM** Vigil Divine Liturgy

Sunday January 1, 2017

Portage **9:00 AM** Sunday Divine Liturgy [+George Letzo, by Julie Brenna]

Monday, January 2

No Divine Liturgy scheduled

Tuesday, January 3

No Divine Liturgy scheduled

Wednesday, January 4

Portage 7:45 AM The Third Hour
8:00 AM **Divine Liturgy** [+Ann Patney, by Diane & Jerry Kinback]

Thursday, January 5

Portage 8:00 AM **Royal Hours of Theophany**

Feast of the Theophany of Our Lord

Thursday, January 5

Dunlo **6:00 PM** Vigil Divine Liturgy—Vespers with Liturgy of St. Basil
Great Sanctification of Water

Friday, January 6

Portage **9:00 AM** Divine Liturgy & Great Sanctification of Water
Portage **6:00 PM** Divine Liturgy

Saturday January 7

Portage 3:00 PM Mystery of Repentance [Confessions]
Beaverdale 4:30 PM Mystery of Repentance [Confessions]

The Sunday after Theophany

Saturday January 7

Beaverdale **5:00 PM** Vigil Divine Liturgy
[+Alex Afton--40th Day Observance, by Marty & Marie Johnson & Jim Afton]

Sunday January 8, 2017

Portage **9:00 AM** Sunday Divine Liturgy