



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

Rectory: 143 Church Drive Portage, PA 15946
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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.



“Shadowlands” Film to be Viewed Next Sunday...

An afternoon of adult education and reflection will be offered next Sunday, January 22 at 3:00 pm. The film **“Shadowlands”** will be shown in the social room of the church hall. This 90-minute film is described on the DVD case thus:

“He cried out, ‘Where is God when I really need him?’ This film is about the agonizing spiritual crisis of C. S. Lewis when his wife died from cancer. The love, grief, pain and sorrow were so shattering to Lewis that his basic Christian beliefs, magnificently communicated in his many books, were now called into serious doubt. But he picked up the pieces and moved out of the depressing ‘shadowlands,’ realizing that ‘real life has not even begun yet’.”

“Shadowlands” is the winner of over a dozen prestigious awards including the International Emmy for Best Drama and two British Academy Awards. A review comment offers this insight: *“It explores the deepest spiritual values. It is about love and death in a very real way. I found it completely compelling...so different, about the kind of things television drama doesn’t usually tackle. It is, we should perhaps warn viewers, immensely harrowing at some stages. But it is in the end immensely uplifting.”*

This film, both inspirational and thought providing, will be followed by an opportunity for reflection and discussion. We will allow some time to consider the topics and questions explored in the film and also to reflect upon our own insights from our faith and personal experiences.

Please consider this opportunity for adult education and reflection and plan to come for this film and the opportunity for this time of encouraging one another in our journey of faith.

Presidential Inauguration

Donald Trump is inaugurated as the **45th President of the United States** on Friday, January 20, 2017. We join in prayer for the newly elected President and our nation on this occasion:

“Remember, O Lord, those who govern us; give them profound and enduring peace. Instill into their hearts what is beneficial for your Church and for all your people that, in their tranquility, we may lead a calm and quiet life in all piety and holiness.”
[Anaphora, Liturgy of Saint Basil the Great]

A Note of Thanks...

A word of grateful acknowledgment to all who enhanced our celebration of Christmas and Theophany with the gifts of their time and talent. Our thanks to those who helped decorate, those who care for the altar and sacristy, Deacon Daniel Perich, our cantors and choir members, readers, servers, and ushers, as well as those who clean and help maintain the church facilities at this time and throughout the year.

A personal note of thanks for your cards, gifts, and other remembrances during this season.

Happy 100th Birthday—Mrs. Anna Garanich

Mrs. Anna Garanich from the former Saint Michael's Parish South Fork, celebrates her **100th Birthday** on Friday, January 20, 2017. Birthday greetings may be sent to her at her home where she resides: **Anna Garanich; 1012 Locus Street; Box 171; Saint Michael, PA 15951**

Our congratulations and prayerful best wishes to **Anna Garanich**. Many, happy years!

All Souls Commemoration for 2017

The first **All Souls Commemoration** is **Saturday, February 18 [Meatfare Saturday]**. Please use the envelope provided for the **All Souls Commemoration** in your packet of offering envelopes to enter names of deceased family members or relatives. They will be remembered at the Divine Liturgy and Panachida on the All Souls Saturdays. You may also confirm or renew your list of previous years. Returning this envelope at your earliest convenience will be helpful in updating and maintaining the All Souls listing.

PARISH NEWS & COMING EVENTS

Statements of Parishioners' Offerings

Statements of 2016 parishioner offerings for each parish will be prepared in the next few weeks and are to be made available by the end of January. If you have need of your 2016 offerings sooner please call the rectory [814-736-9780] or request by e-mail to james_armand_spontak@verizon.net

Donation from Father Bayusik Estate

We gratefully acknowledge a donation in the amount of \$1,124.66 from the Estate of **+Father Robert Bayusik**. This represents the 2016 distribution from Father Robert Bayusik's Plant Patent. A word of acknowledgement also to Attorney George Raptosh, Administrator of the Bayusik Estate.
Eternal Memory!

Liturgical Chant—Sundays after Pentecost

- The Troparion and other prescribed parts for **Sunday, January 22, Resurrection Troparion Tone 3**, may be found on p. 135-137.
- The *"Our Father"*, in Tone 3 may be found on p. 68.
- Please note instructions at the beginning of the Liturgy for opening hymns, alternate melodies etc

Blessing of Homes

To request the blessing of your home by Father Jim, place this form 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: _____

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

Almost 500 years ago, the movement known as the “Reformation” was launched in Germany by Martin Luther, a Roman Catholic monk, priest, and scholar. The 16th century Reformation, a movement which continues today, had some very positive results, including: The encouragement of the laity to read the Bible in their own language, promoting the dignity of all vocations (not just those to the priesthood and religious life), and nudging the late medieval Roman Catholic Church towards reforms instituted by the Council of Trent, including ending abuses associated with practice of indulgences, and the institution of the modern seminary system. The Reformation also had the unfortunate, unintentional result of giving rise to the fracture of western Christianity. Today, in many homes, extended families, workplaces and communities, people experience misunderstanding, mistrust, hurt, and division among the followers of Jesus Christ.

This year, the Catholic Church and the churches of the Lutheran World Federation have joined together to mark the 500th anniversary of the launch of the Reformation. This joint commemoration is also being embraced in local Catholic dioceses and Archeparchy, and in the local synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA). Bishop Edward Malesic of the Diocese of Greensburg, Bishop Kurt Kusserow of the Southwestern Pennsylvania Synod of the ELCA, Archbishop William Skurla of the Metropolitan Archeparchy of Pittsburgh, and Bishop David Zubik of the Diocese of Pittsburgh have set forth in a joint letter their shared hope for and commitment to “an increase in mutual understanding, reconciliation, and a more visible unity of the Church....” They call upon all of us to pray both personally and communally that the Gospel of Jesus Christ will result in efforts towards common prayer, demonstration of mercy and the desire for peace with justice.

As part of this commemoration, the bishops encourage our participation in three special events. The first of these will be:

An Evening of Repentance --March 14, 2017, 7 p.m. at St. John the Baptist Byzantine Catholic Cathedral, Munhall. Evening Prayer, followed by dinner. Theme: **Repentance**

Information about other scheduled events will be announced during the coming months.

Offerings for December

	<u>Dec 4</u>	<u>Dec 11</u>	<u>Dec 18</u>	<u>Dec 25</u>	<u>Christmas</u>
Portage:	\$2,030.00	\$2,237.00	\$2,119.00	\$2,421.00	\$4,213.00
Beaverdale:	\$ 509.00	\$ 380.00	\$ 366.00	\$ 629.00	\$ 795.00
Dunlo:	\$ 114.00	\$ 169.00	\$ 15.00	\$ 265.00	\$
255.00					

Eastern Christian Formation Program

Sunday, January 22 Troitsja: *Issabella Crum*

Bulletins: *Christina Goral & Issabella Crum*

Sunday, January 29 Troitsja: *Sydney Leturgey*

Bulletins: *Hunter Whitcomb & Cierra Goral*

Sunday, February 5 Troitsja: *Evan Lenz*

Bulletins: *Gabriella Cimba & Ryan Lenz*

Epistle Readers Schedule

Sunday, January 15 *Alyssa Murphy*

Sunday, January 22

Maddy Single

Sunday, January 29 *Alex Bisaha*

Sunday, February 5

Alyssa Murphy

Remember In Prayer

Please pray for the health of **Dorothy Majer; 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**; Kindly remember your prayers **Deacon Gregory Haddad**, who underwent back surgery Monday, January 9; **Msgr. Raymond Balta; Basil**, infant from St. Mary's, Cambria City; and all the ill & homebound.

Used Magazines Needed...

A family with a family member with special needs requests *used magazines* or *merchandise catalogues* with photos. If you have used magazines, catalogues, please bring them to the ushers' room and place in the box designated for this purpose. A note of thanks to those who responded.

OTHER NEWS & EVENTS

Poustinia Retreat at Mount Saint Macrina House of Prayer...

Mount Saint Macrina House of Prayer will offer a **Poustinia Retreat** with Sr. Barbara Jean Mihalchick, OSBM February 24-26, 7:00 p.m. Fri. to 11:00 a.m. Sun. Offering: \$75. Registration due February 17. *A bible, an icon, a small loaf of bread and a jug of water are one's companions during this time of listening to and resting in the Lord.*

Breakfast is provided on Saturday and Sunday.

Byzantine Online Offers Credit-Courses beginning in 2017

- The **Byzantine Catholic Seminary's On-Line Studies Credit Courses** [January 16-May 4,]:
Theology of the Divine Praises (*Fr. David Petras, SEOD*)
Patristics II (*Kyle Washut, STL, STM*)
- The **Byzantine Catholic Seminary's On-Line Studies Certificate courses** [January 16-March 17,]:
The Bible for Eastern Catholics (*Deacon Daniel Dozier*)
Plainchant of the Byzantine Catholic Church (*Jeff Mierzejewski, MCI*)

For registration and tuition information call the Seminary at 412-321-8383; or at: online.bcs.edu

Homebound and Nursing Home Residents—Remember in Prayer

At Home: SS Peter & Paul (Portage): John Batche; Dorothy Billy; Louise Halovich; Joseph Mandichak; June Nezneski; 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 Ebensburg:** Edward Andrykovitch [Beaverdale]; *Father Ronald Borsuk*
- **Brookside Manor, Portage:** Andrew Majer

Sanctuary Candle

The Sanctuary Candle this week is in memory of *+Helen* and *Samuel Roman* requested by Margaret Puch.

Liturgical Schedule 36st Week—January 15, 2017

The Thirty-fifth Sunday after Pentecost

Saturday January 14

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

Sunday January 15, 2017

Portage **9:00 AM** Sunday Divine Liturgy [+John Havrilla, by John & Barbara Havrilla]

Monday, January 16

No Divine Liturgy scheduled

Tuesday, January 17

Portage 7:45 AM The Third Hour
8:00 AM **Divine Liturgy** [Health of Charles & Joan Plishka, by Mike Mazur]

Wednesday, January 18

Portage 7:45 AM The Third Hour
8:00 AM **Divine Liturgy** [+Mary Marsalko, by Steve & Margie Fleck]

Thursday, January 19

No Divine Liturgy scheduled

Friday, January 20

Portage 7:45 AM The Third Hour
8:00 AM **Divine Liturgy**
[+Helen Ference, by Walt, Mary Ann Hoberney & Mary Lesk]

Saturday January 21

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

The Thirty-sixth Sunday after Pentecost

Saturday January 21

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

Sunday January 22, 2017

Portage **9:00 AM** Sunday Divine Liturgy
[For the intention of the *Protecting Human Life—Annual March for Life—January 27*, requested by Julie Brenna]