



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.



The Blind Man on the Road to Jericho...

The incident of Jesus restoring sight to a blind man in today's Gospel [Luke 18:35-43] occurs on the road to Jericho. Perhaps the place seems only incidental. In the sequence of our Sunday Gospels, this reading is followed by the account of Jesus passing through Jericho, and there meeting Zacchaeus. The Gospel of Zacchaeus will be our entry into the *Pre-Lenten* cycle of several Sundays. Taking a cue from this we are reminded that we are on a journey.

From Jericho, a road ascending to Jerusalem begins. And so there is an added significance, suggesting something of our own journey. As Jesus walks with a crowd, he is on the course of an extended journey to Jerusalem in the Gospel of Saint Luke. This journey is of course for the purpose of arriving in Jerusalem for the events of his passion, death and Resurrection. It might also be seen as a journey of the Church.

The Gospel is not only a record of what happened, once long ago. Even more the Gospel is the pattern for us, for the life of the Church. The church journeys with Christ. We do so in the liturgical year and church calendar. And also this happens in our experiences of God's grace in our own journeys of faith, and in the events and concerns that make up our lives.

This event of Jesus opening the eyes of the blind man results in Jesus announcing, **"Receive your sight. Your faith has saved you"** [Luke 18:42]. And in turn once the man receives his sight, he follows Jesus and glorifies God. Here, too, is the pattern and type for us. The man's cry for "mercy" parallels our continual prayer at the Divine Liturgy, as we chant, "Lord have mercy" in the prayers of petition, and seek mercy in our reception of the Eucharist and the other Holy Mysteries. And we also continue along the path of following Christ and giving glory to God for the goodness shown to us.

"Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children"

January 22 has been designated as a day of prayer and penance, called the **"Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children"**. The over 56 million abortions since the 1973 decisions of *Roe v. Wade* and *Doe v. Bolton* reflect with heartbreaking magnitude of what Pope Francis means by a "throwaway culture." However, we have great trust in God's providence. We are reminded time and again in Scripture to seek the Lord's help, and as people of faith, we believe that our prayers are heard.

Also, we join our prayers with and on behalf of those travelling this week to our nation's capital, Washington DC, for the **Annual March for Life**, Friday, January 27.

"A great prayer for life is urgently needed, a prayer which will rise up throughout the world. Through special initiatives and in daily prayer, may an impassioned plea rise to God, the Creator and lover of life, from every Christian community, from every group and association, from every family and from the heart of every believer."

Pope Saint John Paul II, The Gospel of Life, no. 10

“Shadowlands” TODAY-3:00-5:00 pm

There is an afternoon of adult education today--Sunday, January 22, 3:00-5:00 pm. The 90 minute film **“Shadowlands”** will be shown in the social room of the church hall. It relates *“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.”*

Opportunities for education and growth in faith are a vital ingredient in parish life. Sometimes a different form of presentation and environment may be helpful to some to take part in these programs. Hopefully today’s viewing of **Shadowlands** may serve that purpose. This film 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.

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

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:** _____

Statements of Parishioners' Offerings

Statements of 2016 parishioner offerings for each parish are being prepared for distribution next week. 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.

Church Cleaning & Work Party for February

- The **Work Party** for February will be on **Saturday, February 4**, beginning at 9:00 am.
- The **Church Cleaning** for February is scheduled for **Monday, February 6**, at 9:00 am.
- Thanks once again to those who volunteer for these monthly projects.

The Byzantine Catholic World

Since 1955 The Byzantine Catholic World [BCW] has been the definitive source of news pertinent to the Archeparchy of Pittsburgh and an invaluable historical chronicle of events in the life of our Church. The BCW is published once-a-month and provides news of our Archeparchy, its parish communities, and news of the church throughout the world. There are also feature articles on the faith and spirituality of the Byzantine Catholic Church and other topics of interest and importance.

The annual subscription rate is \$14. There is an envelope in your packet of offering envelopes dated January 29 which you may use to begin or renew your annual subscription. *Thank you!*

Eternal Memory

You are asked to pray for the repose of the soul of **+ John Batche** who fell asleep in the Lord on January 17. We extend our deepest sympathy and prayerful support to son Larry and Diane Batche daughter, Debra and Mark Petryshak, and to all of his family.

Also please pray for the repose of the soul of **+Reverend Monsignor John T. Sekellick** of the Eparchy of Passaic who fell asleep in the Lord Friday, January 20.

Acknowledgments from Food Pantries, & Giving Tree Project

We have received acknowledgments from the **Portage Food Pantry** and the **Forest Hills Food Pantry** to thank our parish communities for donations of food items and cash during the Christmas season. Also, a note from Terri Doyka acknowledging the Giving Tree Project to provide gifts at Christmas for children in need expresses thanks *"to each one of you who bought gifts for needy children in our area. I heard back from most of the families and they were thankful and grateful that someone cared enough to help make the kids happy on Christmas. Each one of you are a light of Christ and a ray of hope for those who are struggling along life's sometimes rough road. Thank you for doing for the least of these my brethren, you have shown God's love to others."*

Liturgical Chant—Sundays after Pentecost

- The Troparion and other prescribed parts for **Sunday, January 29, Resurrection Troparion Tone 4**, may be found on p. 141-142.
- The *"Our Father"*, in Tone 4 may be found on p. 69.
- Please note instructions at the beginning of the Liturgy for opening hymns, alternate melodies etc.

Eastern Christian Formation Program

Sunday, January 29

Troitsja: *Sydney Leturgey*

Bulletins: *Hunter Whitcomb & Cierra Goral*

Sunday, February 5

Troitsja: *Evan Lenz*

Bulletins: *Gabriella Cimba & Ryan Lenz*

Sunday, February 12

Troitsja: *Gabriella Cimba*

Bulletins: *Evan Lenz & Sydney Leturgey*

Epistle Readers Schedule

Sunday, January 22

Maddy Single

Sunday, January 29

Alex Bisaha

Sunday, February 5

Alyssa Murphy

Sunday, February 12

Maddy Single

Remember In Prayer

Please pray for the health of **Barbara Raptosh** [Memorial]; **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**; **Deacon Gregory Haddad**; **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.

Homebound and Nursing Home Residents—Remember in Prayer

At Home: SS Peter & Paul (Portage): Dorothy Billy; Louise Halovich; Joseph Mandichak; June Nezniski; 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 Candle is offered this week for the intention of the *March for Life—January 22*, requested by Julie Brenna.

Liturgical Schedule 37th Week—January 22, 2017

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

Monday, January 23

No Divine Liturgy scheduled

Tuesday, January 24

No Divine Liturgy scheduled

Wednesday, January 25

Portage 7:45 AM The Third Hour
8:00 AM **Divine Liturgy** [+Tim Hanna, by Aunt Rose & Family]

Thursday, January 26

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

Friday, January 27

No Divine Liturgy scheduled

Saturday January 28

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

The Sunday of Zacchaeus

Saturday January 28

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

Sunday January 29, 2017

Portage **9:00 AM** Sunday Divine Liturgy
[+Elizabeth Harrigal, requested by Doug & March Roxby]