



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.



The Sunday after Theophany: The Light Shines in the Darkness..

The Gospel that is read on this **Sunday after Theophany** establishes Jesus in the setting of his ministry. We have witnessed, in our celebration on the Liturgy, the birth of our Lord and now in feast of Theophany his baptism. The baptism of Jesus and the temptations which followed it [Matthew 4:-11; Luke 4:1-13; Mark 1:12-13] took place in the Judean desert, south of Jerusalem. Now his public ministry begins in the north, in the territory of Galilee. This was also the area where he was reared, in the village of Nazareth.

This move is associated with the arrest of John the Baptist, and subsequently his execution, by Herod. Saint Matthew has diligently attributed events in the Gospel to be a fulfillment of prophecy. He does this by finding a quotation from one of the prophets and applying it to the circumstances in which Jesus is placed. This was done frequently in his account of the Nativity.

And so the movement of Jesus from south to north, from Judea to Galilee, can be seen as being likewise in fulfillment of the prophecy of **Isiah 8:23-9:1**. Today's Gospel makes reference to this passage which speaks of the territory where Jesus has gone calling it, "*land of Zebulon, land of Naphtali...Galilee of the Gentiles*" [Matthew 4:15]. And in making reference to the second part of this passage quoted from Isaiah, St. Mathew shows even further the relevance or significance of this move:

*"The people who sat in darkness have seen a great light
and for those who sat in the region and shadow of death light has dawned."* [Matthew 4:16]

What we gather from the quotation of this passage is that Jesus came not only to bring light, but that he may be identified and acclaimed as the light of the world. And even more particular he is a *light shining in the darkness*. Here we might recall a feature of the icon of the Nativity. In the very center of the icon, the newly born Christ is depicted as light, with the radiance of the star directed toward him, and Christ himself as the very source of light. Yet this is a light which shines in the darkness, demonstrated by the darkness of the cave in which he was born.

We have received the light of the Gospel, have been illuminated by the light of faith, indeed, the light of Christ. It is a light not to remain concealed or enclosed within us. Rather, it is to be a light which shines in the darkness. The witness of faith, the example of our lives can be a light that dawns in those regions of darkness and shadows of our world, of our own lives, and the lives of others whom we meet.

Film Presentation..

An afternoon of adult education and reflection will be offered on Sunday, January 22 at 3:00 pm. A presentation of a film that is both inspirational and thought providing will be followed by an opportunity for reflection and discussion to follow.

There will be more information on the film and our presentation next Sunday. Plan to attend.



Coffee Social for January-- *TODAY*

The January *Coffee and Donut Social* is **today--~~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.

All Souls Commemoration for 2017

The first *All Souls Commemoration* is **Saturday, February 18 [Meatfare Saturday]**. There is an envelope provided for the All Souls Commemoration in your packet of offering envelopes. Please use this envelope to entering names of deceased family members or relatives who are to 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 office [814-736-9780] or send e-mail request to james_armand_spontak@verizon.net

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.

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: _____

Christmas Choir Fest--Cancelled

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

Eastern Christian Formation Program

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

Bulletins: *Evan Lenz & Sydney Leturgey*

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

Bulletins: *Christina Goral & Issabella Crum*

Sunday, January 29, 2017 Troitsja: *Sydney Leturgey*

Bulletins: *Hunter Whitcomb & Cierra*

Goral

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—Sundays after Pentecost

- The Troparion and other prescribed parts for **Sunday, January 15, Resurrection Troparion Tone 2**, may be found on p. 130-132.
- The “*Our Father*”, in **Tone 2** may be found on p. 67.
- Please note instructions at the beginning of the Liturgy for opening hymns, alternate melodies etc.

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. A note of thanks to those who responded to this request.

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.

Remember In Prayer

Please pray for the health of **Dorothy Majer** [Memorial Hospital]; **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.

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. A note of thanks to parishioners of Saint Mary’s who have responded generously to the appeal in response to this emergency need. You may use the envelope for this appeal at any time at your convenience. *Thank you.*

OTHER NEWS & EVENTS

Byzantine Online Offers Credit-Courses beginning in 2017

- The *Byzantine Catholic Seminary's On-Line Studies* will offer the following Credit Courses from January 16-May 4, 2017:

Theology of the Divine Praises (*Fr. David Petras, SEOD*)

This course will survey the theological, spiritual and historical elements of the daily official prayer of the Eastern Catholic churches. (2 credits)

Patristics II (*Kyle Washut, STL, STM*)

This course will introduce the history, theology, and spirituality of the patristic period from St. Athanasius of Alexandria to St. Symeon the New Theologian.

The rich ethnic and cultural diversity of early Christian thought will be highlighted through study of primary sources. (2 credits: *Patristics I* not a prerequisite).

- The *Byzantine Catholic Seminary's On-Line Studies* will offer the following Certificate courses from January 16-March 17, 2017:

The Bible for Eastern Catholics (*Deacon Daniel Dozier*)

The course will introduce students to the unique ways in which Eastern Catholic liturgy and tradition is steeped in the appropriation of Scripture.

Plainchant of the Byzantine Catholic Church (*Jeff Mierzejewski, 1 Metropolitan Cantor Institute*)

In this course, we will examine the *Prostopinije*, or plainchant, of the Byzantine I (Ruthenian) Catholic Church. Students from other churches or disciplines will be provided with a living example of a complete system of liturgical chant, and learn how it has been used in the past, and is used today.

Please contact the Seminary Registrar for registration and tuition information by calling 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 **+Catherine** and **+Susan Sekerak** and **+Robert Novotny**, requested by Kathy Sekerak.

Liturgical Schedule *Theophany of our Lord*—January 8, 2017

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

Monday, January 9

No Divine Liturgy scheduled

Tuesday, January 10

No Divine Liturgy scheduled

Wednesday, January 11

Portage 7:45 AM

The Third Hour

8:00 AM

Divine Liturgy [+Ed Raptosh, by Ron & Christine Cadwallader]

Thursday, January 12

Portage 7:45 AM

The Third Hour

8:00 AM

Divine Liturgy [+Peter Bulinsky, by Viola Kiel]

Friday, January 13

Portage 7:45 AM

The Third Hour

8:00 AM

Divine Liturgy [+Emile Billy, Sr., by Rick & Diane Worthy]

Saturday January 14

Portage 3:00 PM

Mystery of Repentance [Confessions]

Dunlo 4:30 PM

Mystery of Repentance [Confessions]

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]