



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.

Epistle Readers Schedule

<u>Sunday, February 12</u>	<i>Maddy Single</i>	<u>Sunday, February 19</u>	<i>Alex Bisaha</i>
<u>Sunday, February 26</u>	<i>Alyssa Murphy</i>	<u>Sunday, March 5</u>	<i>Maddy Single</i>

Eastern Christian Formation Program

<u>Sunday, February 12</u>	Troitsja: <i>Gabriella Cimba</i>	<u>Bulletins:</u> <i>Evan Lenz & Sydney Leturgey</i>
<u>Sunday, February 19</u>	Troitsja: <i>Ryan Lenz</i>	<u>Bulletins:</u> <i>Christina Goral & Issabella Crum</i>
<u>Sunday, February 26</u>	Troitsja: <i>Hunter Whitcomb</i>	<u>Bulletins:</u> <i>Hunter Whitcomb & Cierra Goral</i>



“The Prodigal Son” and the Journey to the Great Fast...

Although readily known as the parable of the *Prodigal Son*, it is the role of the “*forgiving father*” which is really the characteristic theme of today’s Gospel parable [Luke 15:11-32]. The younger son demonstrates clearly and with detail the immature and selfish character of sin quite clearly. To ask for an inheritance of a father who is still alive is extremely self-centered and callous. It suggests that the Father is more useful to him dead rather than alive!

And yet here is a remarkable story of conversion. It is true that the conversion begins from selfish motives. This younger son is hungry, broken, despairing: his father’s house offers food and comfort. But the response and behavior of his father leave a lasting impression. It appears that the father has been looking to the horizon, awaiting his son’s return, ever since he left [Luke 15:20]. He runs out to meet him, then welcomes him with an extravagantly lavish reception: a splendid banquet, music, dancing.

On this third Pre-Lenten Sunday the Gospel brings before us the Father’s love and mercy for repentant sinners which exceeds all bounds. Even when repentance is not perfect, the mercy of God is more than sufficient. We are reminded of the nature of sin as foolish, adolescent rebellion. The false freedom we too often seek is in truth an exile from our true home which is with God. [Adapted from Father John Custer, *The Holy Gospel: A Byzantine Perspective*, pp. 186-188]

Welcome...

Father Robert Karl is the celebrant for the Divine Liturgy this weekend. Father Bob Karl served here in Portage from 1998-2004. He is retired and in residence at Saint Andrew Church in Gibsonia, north of Pittsburgh. Please extend a warm welcome to Father Bob.

Schedule Change

For the weekends of February 18-19 and February 25-26, there will be only one Divine Liturgy. The Divine Liturgy at 9:00 am at Saints Peter and Paul, Portage on Sunday, February 19 and on Sunday, February 26 will be the only Divine Liturgy. Parishioners of Saint Mary, Beavertown and of Saints Peter and Paul, Dunlo, are asked to attend the Sunday Divine Liturgy in Portage.

This adjustment is being made as part of the follow-up to Father Jim’s recent chemo-therapy treatment. Thank you for your consideration and for your prayers at this time

First All Souls Saturday—February 18

The first ***All Souls Commemoration*** is **Saturday, February 18**. The ***Divine Liturgy*** and ***Panachida*** at Saints Peter and Paul, Portage is on Saturday at **9:00 am**. The ***All-Souls Commemoration*** for Saint Mary, Beavertown and of Saints Peter and Paul, Dunlo will be deferred to the Second All Souls Saturday.

To enter names of deceased family or relatives to be remembered at the All Souls Divine Liturgy and Panachida, please submit them to the rectory at your earliest convenience.

Parish Advisory Council: *Parish Advisory Council* meetings scheduled in February for Saints Peter and Paul, Portage [Thursday, February 9] and for Saint Mary, Beaverdale and Saints Peter and Paul, Dunlo [Thursday, February 16] are being rescheduled. Members will be informed of the rescheduled dates, which will be later in February or in early March.

PARISH NEWS & COMING EVENTS

Statements of Parishioners' 2016 Offerings: Statements of offerings for 2016 for parishioners are available in the narthex. For inquiries regarding your statement please call the parish office [814-736-9780]. Thank you.

Church Cleaning for February: Because of the funeral on Monday, the *Church Cleaning* for February is re-scheduled for **Monday, February 20**, at 9:00 am.

The Byzantine Catholic World: The annual subscription rate is \$14. The envelope dated January 29 in your packet of offering envelopes may be used to begin or renew your subscription to *The Byzantine Catholic World [BCW]*. Published once-a-month, the *BCW* provides news of our Archeparchy, parishes, and news of the church throughout the world.

Offerings for January

	<u>Jan 1</u>	<u>Jan 8</u>	<u>Jan 15</u>	<u>Jan 22</u>	<u>Jan 29</u>
Portage:	\$2,765.00	\$1,815.00	\$2,438.66	\$1,803.00	\$1,153.00
Beaverdale:	\$ 419.00	\$ 326.00	\$ 245.00	\$ 470.00	\$ 386.00
Dunlo:	\$ 214.00	\$ 149.60	\$ 117.00	\$ 265.00	\$ 355.00

Eternal Memory

You are asked to pray for the repose of the soul of **+ Margaret Tigyer** who fell asleep in the Lord on February 9. We extend our deepest sympathy and prayerful support to her son Daniel, daughter Susan, and to all of her family.

Liturgical Chant –Pre-Lenten Cycle

- The Troparion and other prescribed parts for the *All Souls Saturday—February 18* may be found on pages 202 and 428; and for the Panachida on page 432.
- The Troparion and other prescribed parts of the Divine Liturgy for Sunday, February 19, The Sunday of the Last Judgment--Meatfare Sunday are: Resurrection Troparion Tone 7 on p. 156-158, and for Meatfare Sunday on p. 217-218.
- The “*Our Father*”, in Tone 7 may be found on p. 72.
- Please note instructions at the beginning of the Liturgy for opening hymns, alternate melodies etc.

Remember In Prayer: Please pray for the health of **June Nezeski; Barbara Raptosh** [Memorial]; **Sasha Yetsko; George Yatsky; Ruby Moore; Charles and Joan Plishka; Frank Alberts; Tom Goncher; Joan Ditko; Cliff Inman; Shawn Crum; Jessi Tomko; Msgr. Raymond Balta; Basil**, infant from St. Mary’s, Cambria City; **Abbot Leo Schlosser**, [St. Barnabas Nursing Home]; **Deacon Michael George**, St. Gregory, Upper St. Clair; and all the ill & homebound.

Homebound and Nursing Home Residents—Remember in Prayer

At Home: *SS Peter & Paul (Portage)*: Dorothy Billy; Louise Halovich; Joseph Mandichak; June Nezeski; 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*

Liturgical Schedule Meatfare Week—February 12, 2017

The Sunday of the Publican and the Pharisee

Saturday February 11

Dunlo **5:00 PM** **Vigil Divine Liturgy**
[In Thanksgiving—for Pauline Valko—100th Birthday, requested by Katherine Sabo and Family members]

Sunday February 12, 2017

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

Monday, February 13

Portage **10:00 AM** **Funeral Liturgy of +Margaret Tigyer**

Tuesday, February 14-Friday, February 17

No Divine Liturgy scheduled

First All Souls Saturday

Saturday February 18

Portage **9:00 AM** **Divine Liturgy** followed by **Panachida**
Reading of the Names of the Deceased
Portage **3:00 PM** **Mystery of Repentance [Confessions]**

The Sunday of Meatfare

Sunday February 19, 2017

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