

There is a *Coffee and Donut Social* **TODAY--Sunday, February 5**, following the 9 am Divine Liturgy. Please take this opportunity to greet fellow parishioners and enjoy the coffee and refreshments.



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
Phone: 814-736-9780 Fax: 814-736-8701
Website: www.ByzantineCatholic.net

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 Gospel of the Publican and Pharisee...

The *Publican and Pharisee* [Luke 18:10-14] focuses our attention on the dynamics of prayer in our life of faith. It follows another parable on prayer in Luke 18:1-8. Here the story of the “Unjust Judge and Persistent Widow” is told to encourage us to learn hope and persistence in prayer. Saint Luke introduces the parable with the prelude, “*He told them a parable about the necessity to pray always without becoming weary.*”

The *Publican and Pharisee* parable compares the prayer of the Pharisee to that of a tax-collector. After beginning, “I give you thanks”, the words of the Pharisee cease to be prayer. He boasts of his religious practice of fasting, tithing. Self-deception guides him as he compares himself to others, then declares him innocent of certain sins. Filled with such prideful attitudes, there is no room for God in his prayer nor in his life as well.

While this Pharisee is self-sufficient and asks nothing from God, the tax-collector [or “publican”] merely repeats a prayer for mercy. It is this tax-collector who goes home justified. His prayer was totally honest: he admitted who he really is and turned to God as the only source of mercy to save him. Our Church presents us with the contrast of the Publican and Pharisee as we prepare for our renewed efforts at prayer, fasting, almsgiving in the season of Lent which approaches within several weeks. The sincere repentance and humility of the publican are to motivate us for the efforts we will make on our own journey of repentance and return.

[Adapted from Father John Custer, The Holy Gospel: A Byzantine Perspective, pp. 190-192]

Welcome...

Father Robert Karl is the celebrant for the Divine Liturgy on the weekends of February 4-5 and February 11-12. 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. Father Jim is receiving chemotherapy treatment for a blood condition from January 31-February 7. Weekly schedules and meetings or other pastoral tasks will be adjusted accordingly. Thank you for your prayers at this time and for your consideration.

Happy 100th Birthday—Pauline Valko

Pauline Valko of Saints Peter and Paul, Dunlo, celebrates her **100th Birthday** on Monday, February 13, 2017. Birthday greetings may be sent to her at **Forest Hills Personal Care** where she resides:

Pauline Valko; Forest Hills Personal Care, 313 Humbert Road, Sidman, PA 15955

Our congratulations and prayerful best wishes to **Pauline Valko**. Many, happy years!



Coffee Social for February – TODAY

All Souls Commemoration: The first *All Souls Commemoration* is **Saturday, February 18 [Meatfare Saturday]**. Please use the *All Souls Commemoration* envelope to enter names of deceased family members or relatives 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.

PARISH NEWS & COMING EVENTS

Statements of Parishioners' 2016 Offerings: Statements of offerings for 2016 for parishioners of Saints Peter and Paul, Portage are available in the narthex. Please also take with you statements for family members or neighbors who may not be present today. For inquiries regarding your statement please call the parish office [814-736-9780]. Thank you.

Church Cleaning for February: The *Church Cleaning* for February is re-scheduled for **Monday, February 13, at 9:00 am.** A note of thanks to the volunteers for the monthly Work Party and Church Cleaning projects.

The Byzantine Catholic World: The *Byzantine Catholic World [BCW]* is published once-a-month and provides news of our Archeparchy, parishes, and news of the church throughout the world. There are feature articles on the faith and spirituality of the Byzantine Catholic Church and on topics of interest and importance. The annual subscription rate is \$14. There is an envelope in your packet of offering envelopes which you may use to begin or renew your annual subscription. *Thank you!*

Epistle Readers Schedule

Sunday, February 5 Alyssa Murphy

Sunday, February 19 Alex Bisaha

Sunday, February 12 Maddy Single

Sunday, February 26 Alyssa Murphy

Eastern Christian Formation Program

Sunday, February 5 Troitsja: Evan Lenz

Sunday, February 12 Troitsja: Gabriella Cimba

Sunday, February 19 Troitsja: Ryan Lenz

Bulletins: Gabriella Cimba & Ryan Lenz

Bulletins: Evan Lenz & Sydney Leturgey

Bulletins: Christina Goral & Issabella Crum

Liturgical Chant –Pre-Lenten Cycle

- The Troparion and other prescribed parts for **Sunday, February 12, Resurrection Troparion Tone 6**, may be found on p. 152-153; and for the **Sunday of the Prodigal Son**, on p. 216
- The "Our Father", in **Tone 6** may be found on p. 71.
- 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; Marian Simala; 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**, Saint John's Lyndora PA, who is a resident at St. Barnabas Nursing Home, Gibsonia; and all the ill & homebound.

Please pray for the repose of the soul of **+Hazel W. Lascelles**, mother of Father William Lascelles, St. Anne Church, Clymer, Pennsylvania, who fell asleep in the Lord on January 26. *Eternal Memory*

Sanctuary Candle

The Candle is offered this week in memory of **+Catherine & +Michael Puch**, requested by John Puch.

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 Ebsenburg:** Edward Andrykovitch [Beaverdale]; *Father Ronald Borsuk*

Liturgical Schedule 34th Week—February 5, 2017

The Sunday of the Publican and the Pharisee Postfestive Day of the Encounter

Saturday February 4

Beaverdale **5:00 PM**

Vigil Divine Liturgy

[+Anna Andrykovitch, requested by Elaine Kachmar]

Sunday February 5

Portage **9:00 AM**

Sunday Divine Liturgy

Monday, February 6-Friday, February 10

No Divine Liturgy scheduled

Saturday February 11

Portage 3:00 PM

Mystery of Repentance [Confessions]

Dunlo 4:30 PM

Mystery of Repentance [Confessions]

The Sunday of the Publican and the Pharisee

Saturday February 11

Dunlo **5:00 PM**

Vigil Divine Liturgy

[*Health & Intention of Pauline Valko—100th Birthday, requested by Family*]

Sunday February 12, 2017

Portage **9:00 AM**

Sunday Divine Liturgy