



**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**

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

### **Eastern Christian Formation Program**

<b><u>Sunday, February 26</u></b>	Troitsja: <i>Hunter Whitcomb</i>	<b><u>Bulletins:</u></b> <i>Hunter Whitcomb &amp; Cierra Goral</i>
<b><u>Sunday, March 5</u></b>	Troitsja: <i>Cierra Goral</i>	<b><u>Bulletins:</u></b> <i>Evan Lenz &amp; Sydney Leturgey</i>
<b><u>Sunday, March 12</u></b>	Troitsja: <i>Christina Goral</i>	<b><u>Bulletins:</u></b> <i>Ryan Lenz &amp; Cierra Goral</i>



### **Gospel Reflection—The Sunday of Cheese-fare**

Accompanying and guiding our entry into the journey of the Great Fast is the Gospel reading from Matthew 6:14-21. Today's lesson is a portion of a teaching on pious practices required of Jews in Jesus' day. These three pious practices—*prayer, fasting, almsgiving*—also form the cornerstone of our Lenten observances. Earlier [Matthew 6:1-13] *almsgiving* and *prayer* were presented. Our Gospel today highlights *fasting* [Matthew 6:16-18] and offers important teachings of what is to motivate us in this discipline.

In reference to each of these, Jesus affirms the basic value of the practice. But he insists on the condition of quiet, unobtrusive activity. In too many instances in Jesus' day, and our own as well, people would perform practices with an eye to being noticed by an audience. But genuine prayer, almsgiving, fasting is undertaken with the understanding that the true audience is your "*Father who is in secret*". Then, "*your father who is in secret will reward you*". [Matthew 6:18].

Today's Gospel instruction on *fasting* is introduced with the reminder of the need for forgiving others, so that we will then be receptive to the forgiveness that the Father gives [Matthew 6:14-15]. And the concluding words of instruction [Matthew 6:19-21] offer straightforward teaching on the contrast of the fragile security of earthly wealth and the true riches of possessing God. A basic choice for or against God is presented as the most fundamental need or concern, of our lives. The Great Fast offers opportunity to put into focus the need for this choice. It also allows us to become aware of the status of our own mind and heart in this regard.

*This week*, we begin the Great Fast on Monday February 27, a day of *strict abstinence* [fast] from meat and dairy products. The Wednesdays and Fridays throughout the Great Fast are days of abstinence from meat. Please consult the more complete *Regulations for the Great Fast* elsewhere in today's' bulletin.

### **Schedule Notes...**

I appreciate your prayers and kind concern for my recent medical treatments. Please note that some adjustments in schedules are being made. For the weekend of March 4-5, there will be only one Divine Liturgy. The Divine Liturgy at 9:00 am at Saints Peter and Paul, Portage on Sunday, March 5 will be the only Divine Liturgy.

Meetings for the **Parish Advisory Councils** and for other pastoral matters will be rescheduled in the coming weeks. Thank you once again for your prayers and consideration at this time.

### **Events in March...**

- The **Work Party** for March will be on Saturday, March 4, beginning at 9:00 am.
- There will be a **Coffee and Donut Social next Sunday—March 5**, following the 9am Divine Liturgy. Please take this opportunity to greet fellow parishioners and enjoy the coffee and refreshments
- The **Church Cleaning** for March is scheduled for Monday, March 6, at 9:00 am.

**Lenten Pastoral Letter**  
**Byzantine Catholic Metropolitan Archeparchy of Pittsburgh**

The Sunday of Zacchaeus begins our planning for our Lenten efforts to open our hearts for the celebration of the Resurrection of our Lord. For all there are the pastoral guidelines for fasting and attendance at weekend Divine Liturgies and Pre-sanctified and Holy and Great Week services. As always, there is the goal that we do something extra to spiritually help us to grow closer to God during the Season of the Great Fast.

When I ask someone how they feel about their physical health they are able to explain their list of illnesses and what medicines they take and their efforts to stay healthy. For young people, they are more active and unrestricted in what they can and can't do. As they get older the lists of drugs and operations gets longer and the efforts to stay healthy get shorter or more difficult to maintain. The measures of body weight and vital statistics give a clear indication of whether they are getting stronger or weaker physically.

When I ask someone how they feel about their spiritual health, most people look puzzled, but when you ask them the question if they feel like they are getting closer to God and what is holding them back, they are able to answer. They know how often they attend their church, how often they confess their sins, how they schedule their personal prayer and fasting, and what they do to serve their church and community. Like physical exercise, it gets harder for most to do the spiritual and community tasks as we get busy. The actual measures of spiritual health are less defined than physical health. But after explaining what they are doing, most people are able to say whether they are falling away from or growing closer to God. Whether you feel that you are growing closer or falling away from God the question remains the same. What are you going to do for the Great Lenten Fast?

For children and for beginners, we chose something to give up for during this Great Fast. Cutting out chocolate or some other food for children or even adults can still be an excellent daily reminder of our connection to loss and suffering of Christ, who died for our sins. The return of the missing treat on Easter Sunday can also remind us of the joy of Christ in the repentance of one sinner and the joy of the Resurrection and our hope of joining the Saints at the heavenly banquet in heaven

A deeper way of entering the spirit of fasting is to use the time of the Fast to attack a problem which you have not been able overcome in your life. Known to others or hidden in our hearts, most people have something wrong that is the perpetual stumbling block for their spiritual life. No matter how many times we confess and try to change, we are unable to let go of a bad habit or ill will toward someone

During this season of fasting, pray to be released from your most difficult problem. Offer the fasting and time of prayer to help you to let go of the habit or to escape the control which the problem has over you. The Sacrament of Reconciliation is a private and safe place to seek help. Sometimes the counsel of a spiritual director can help let go of our problem. Since the time of the Desert Fathers, many people have sought the life giving Word. Some would travel

great distances for months to receive direction from a holy person in some remote desert or wilderness location. The spiritual quest for healing and renewal continues today.

Clergy, seminarians, and religious are required to have a formal spiritual director. For most people, our pastors, parents, grandparents, or holy relatives have been the source of direction. Some find a wise and holy person in their church. Others find wise and holy persons at monasteries or convents. Once we have found someone to help us, we faithfully listen to their words of guidance for our lives.

Whether we are a beginner or we are committed to traveling deeper into our journey toward holiness. The Great Fast is a time to reform our lives and open our hearts and or minds to the Father's love for us.

*Most Reverend William C. Skurla.*  
*Metropolitan Archbishop of Pittsburgh*  
*& Apostolic Administrator of Parma*

### **Regulations for the Season of the Great Fast - 2017**

**Simple abstinence:** The law of simple abstinence forbids the use of meat, but permits the use of eggs and dairy products. All faithful of the Archeparchy who receive the Eucharist are obliged to observe simple abstinence when prescribed. Abstinence is obligatory all Wednesdays and Fridays of Great Fast.

**Strict abstinence:** The law of strict abstinence (fast) forbids the use and consumption of all meat, eggs and dairy products. All faithful of the Archeparchy who receive the Eucharist are obliged to observe strict abstinence when prescribed. Strict abstinence (fast) **is to be observed in 2017 on Pure Monday, February 27** (the first day of the Great Fast), **and on Great and Holy Friday, April 14.**

**Dispensations:** Priests and parents are to ensure that minors are educated in the authentic sense of penance. Pastors and administrators, with just cause and taking into account acceptable reasons due to personal circumstances, may grant to the individual faithful as well as to individual families, dispensations, transferals, or commutations of abstinence and strict fast into other pious practices. Superiors of religious houses or clerical institutions enjoy these same faculties relative to their constituents.

**Liturgical Services:** The *Divine Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts* takes precedence overall other Lenten Devotions. The *Divine Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts* is to only to be celebrated on Wednesdays and/or Fridays evenings of the Great Fast and also on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday of Holy Week.

**Other services** are encouraged during the season of the Great Fast, *but only those in keeping with the traditions of the Byzantine Catholic Church, namely:* Lenten Vespers. Lenten Hours, Akathist to the Passion, and Lenten Devotions. On Wednesday of Holy Week, the Office of the Holy Anointing may be incorporated into the Presanctified Divine Liturgy.

## PARISH NEWS & COMING EVENTS

### 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]***. *If you have entered a new subscription*, please allow several weeks for the beginning of your subscription to be delivered. Published once-a-month, the **BCW** provides news of our Archeparchy, parishes, and news of the church throughout the world.

### Remember In Prayer

Please pray for the health of **Fred Tutsock**, [Memorial Hospital]; **June Nezniski**, who is a resident at Amber Hills Ebensburg; **Barbara Raptosh**; **Sasha Yetsko**; **George Yatsky**; **Ruby Moore**; **Charles** and **Joan Plishka**; **Frank Alberts**; **Tom Goncher**; **Joan Ditko**; **Cliff Inman**; **Shawn Crum**; **Msgr. Raymond Balta**; **Basil**, infant from St. Mary's, Cambria City; **Abbot Leo Schlosser**; and all the ill & homebound.

### Eternal Memory

You are asked to pray for the repose of the soul of **+ Tyler Cimba** who fell asleep in the Lord on February 23. We extend our deepest sympathy and prayerful support to his parents, Darren & Danielle Cimba; his sisters Gabriella Cimba and Jenae & Gio Gallina; his grandparents, Ed and Mary Louise Cimba; and to all of his family.

### Cemetery Memorial Donations

We gratefully acknowledge donations to the cemetery fund for Saints Peter and Paul Portage in memory of **+John Batche**. These have been received from Dr. & Mrs. James & Gail Koban; and other family and friends of **+John Batche**, received from Larry & Diane Batche. Eternal Memory.

### **Homebound and Nursing Home Residents—Remember in Prayer**

**At Home: SS Peter & Paul (Portage):** Dorothy Billy; Louise Halovich; Joseph Mandichak; 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
- **Brookside Manor, Portage:** Andrew Majer
- **Amber Hills Ebensburg:** June Nezniski; Edward Andrykovitch [Beaverdale]; **Father Ronald Borsuk**
- **Cambria Care Ebensburg:** Barbara Raptosh

## **Liturgical Chant –The Great Fast**

- **2009 Edition of the Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts** includes propers for the first day; Wednesdays, and Fridays for all weeks of the Fast. Pages are given before the service.
- On the **Sundays of the Great Fast**, the *Typical Psalms* [p. 16-17] replace the First and Second Antiphons; the *Beatitudes* [p. 23-24] are sung in place of the Third Antiphon. The responses for the Anaphora of Saint Basil the Great are on p. 96-100.
- The Troparion and other parts of the Divine Liturgy for **Sunday, March 5, Resurrection Troparion Tone 1**, are on p. 125-127; and for the **First Sunday of the Great Fast**-on pages 220-222.
- The “*Our Father*”, in Tone 1 may be found on p. 66. Please note instructions at the beginning of the Liturgy for opening hymns, and other alternate melodies etc.

## **Liturgical Schedule First Week of the Great Fast—February 26, 2017**

### **The Sunday of Cheesefare**

**Sunday February 26, 2017**

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

### **Monday, February 27**

**First Day of the Great Fast:**  
***Strict abstinence and fasting required***  
No Lenten services scheduled

### **Tuesday, February 28**

No Lenten services scheduled

### **Wednesday, March 1**

Portage 6:30 PM  
**7:00 PM** *Simple abstinence and fasting required*  
Mystery of Repentance [Confessions]

**Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts**

### **Thursday, March 2**

No Lenten services scheduled

### **Friday, March 3**

*Simple abstinence and fasting required*  
No Lenten services scheduled

### **Saturday March 4**

Portage 3:00 PM Mystery of Repentance [Confessions]

### **First Sunday of the Great Fast**

***Sunday of Orthodoxy—Memory of the Holy Prophets***

**Sunday March 26, 2017**

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