



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 Gospel of Zacchaeus...

The Gospel account of the calling and repentance of Zacchaeus leaves a distinct impression. Zacchaeus's physical stature—he is short—is combined with his role as a public figure as a tax collector. We smile when we imagine a public official of some prominence running, gathering the hem of his long garment, then climbing the sycamore tree. But all of this lends itself to an appreciation of the sincerity and intensity of his desire to see Jesus.

In the commentary of the Church Fathers, Zacchaeus' short stature is taken symbolically to represent his spiritual defects and indeed these are obvious. Tax collectors were notorious for dishonesty and greed, using their office to take advantage of others.

But in his seemingly reckless efforts to climb the sycamore tree, Zacchaeus is seen as making an effort to rise above his weakness, and the earthly desires and concerns that had tethered him thus far. For all of Zacchaeus' failings and frailties, which are real, Jesus is able to perceive and affirm Zacchaeus's good intentions, his desire to establish and restore a sense of righteousness, goodness in his life. By his willingness to come to the house of Zacchaeus, Jesus responds favorably to these intentions of Zacchaeus's heart.

The *Prayer of Blessing of Homes* used for house blessings after Theophany recalls this event: *"O God our Savior, the true Light, who was baptized in the river Jordan by John to renew the human race by the waters of regeneration, and who condescended to enter under the roof of Zacchaeus to bring salvation to him, and to all his household, keep safe also from all harm those who dwell here..."*

The Gospel concludes with the purpose for Jesus coming into the world, into our lives: *"The Son of Man has come to seek and to save the lost"*. We are reminded in the Prayer of Blessing of homes, and in so many other ways, that Christ has indeed entered into our homes, our lives so as to save us. Likewise, it is the desire which prompted Zacchaeus which is needed for us to begin and persevere on the path of a joyful change of heart and in following Christ.

Feasts of our Church This Week...

The ***Feast of the Three Holy Hierarchs Basil the Great, Gregory the Theologian and John Chrysostom*** is Monday, January 30. This celebration began in 1100 when a quarrel arose in Constantinople as to which of these three was the greatest theologian. They appeared in a dream to then Patriarch John and told him that they were equal before God, and each had his special gifts and talents. John chose Jan. 30 to commemorate all three of them together, and composed the office.

The Encounter of Our Lord Jesus Christ with Simeon and Anna, is celebrated forty days after the Birth of the Savior, Thursday, February 2, as Christ comes to his believing and exultant people, as *"a light to enlighten the nations and the glory of his people Israel."* St. Sophronius of Jerusalem wrote about this feast: *"Let us all hasten to meet (encounter) Christ. Everyone should be eager to join the procession and to carry a light. Our lighted candles are a sign of the divine splendor of the One who comes to expel the dark shadows of evil and to make the whole universe radiant with the brilliance of his eternal Light."*

This Week...

During the coming week, Father Jim will have medical treatment for a blood condition. The chemotherapy treatment will be administered at home from January 31-February 7. This treatment was used in 2010 for the same medical condition. Since it tends to compromise the immune system, weekly schedules and availability for meetings or other pastoral tasks will be adjusted accordingly.

Thank you for your prayers at this time and for your consideration.

Welcome...

Father Robert Karl will be here for the Divine Liturgy on the ***Feast of the Encounter of our Lord*** on Thursday, February 2, and also for the weekends of February 4-5 and February 11-12.

Father Bob Karl served here in Portage from 1998-2004. He is now retired and in residence at Saint Andrew Church in Gibsonia, north of Pittsburgh. Please extend a warm welcome to Father Bob for the services during the coming weeks.

All Souls Commemoration for 2017

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



Coffee Social for February – Next Sunday

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

Statements of Parishioners' 2016 Offerings

Statements of offerings for 2016 for parishioners of Saints Peter and Paul, Portage are available in the narthex today. Please also take with you statements for family members or neighbors who may not be present today. Statements of offerings for Beavertdale and Dunlo were distributed last week.

Thank you for your generosity shown through your contributions, and for the many donations of time and talent which are also an expression of your commitment to your parish and love for God.

For inquiries regarding your statement please call the parish office [814-736-9780]. Thank you.

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

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 dated January 29 which you may use to begin or renew your annual subscription. *Thank you!*

Liturgical Chant –Festal and Pre-Lenten Cycle

- The Troparion and other parts of the Divine Liturgy for the *Feast of the Three Holy Bishops* [Monday, January 30], may be found on pages 318-319.
- The Troparion and other parts of the Divine Liturgy for the *Feast of the Encounter of our Lord with Simeon & Anna in the Temple* [Tuesday, February 2], on pages 321-324.
- The Troparion and other prescribed parts for Sunday, February 5, Resurrection Troparion Tone 5, may be found on p. 146-148; for the *Postfestive Day of the Feast of the Encounter of our Lord* on pages 321-322; and for the *Sunday of the Publican and the Pharisee* on p. 215.
- The “*Our Father*”, in Tone 5 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

<u>Sunday, February 5</u>	Troitsja: <i>Evan Lenz</i>	Bulletins: <i>Gabriella Cimba & Ryan Lenz</i>
<u>Sunday, February 12</u>	Troitsja: <i>Gabriella Cimba</i>	Bulletins: <i>Evan Lenz & Sydney Leturgey</i>
<u>Sunday, February 19</u>	Troitsja: <i>Ryan Lenz</i>	Bulletins: <i>Christina Goral & Issabella Crum</i>

Epistle Readers Schedule

<u>Sunday, January 29</u>	<i>Alex Bisaha</i>	<u>Sunday, February 5</u>	<i>Alyssa Murphy</i>
<u>Sunday, February 12</u>	<i>Maddy Single</i>	<u>Sunday, February 19</u>	<i>Alex Bisaha</i>

Remember In Prayer

Please pray for the health of *June Nezniski* [Memorial]; *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*; *Msgr. Raymond Balta*; *Basil*, infant from St. Mary’s, Cambria City; and all the ill & homebound.

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.

Used Magazines Needed...

Please continue to bring *used magazines* or *merchandise catalogues* with photos at your convenience to ushers' room and place in the box designated for this purpose. Thanks to those who responded. A family with a family member with special needs requests these as an ongoing need.

Mount Aloysius College Admissions events

Mount Aloysius College provides an environment that encourages students to synthesize faith with learning, develop competence with compassion, put talents and gifts at the service of others, and to assume leadership in the world community. With academics foremost, Mount Aloysius also considers spiritual, cultural, and social development as essentials in personal growth, making Mount Aloysius a wonderful environment to continue to grow in your Catholic faith. The following admissions events are scheduled in the coming weeks:

Admissions Presentation, Saturday, February 18, 10:00 a.m.

Open House, Monday, February 20, 9:00 a.m.

Saint Patrick's Day Visitation, Friday, March 17 10:00 and 1:00.

Volunteer Opportunity

Volunteer Opportunities are available with the *Portage Service Unit* of the *Salvation Army* for both *Human Service Secretary [Voucher Writer]* and also *Red Kettle Campaign Chairperson*. There are fliers on the church bulletin board with description of Position, list of vital job functions, and requirements. Contact Linda Ferrero, Senior Field Representative: 412-916-2961 or Linda.ferrero@use.salvationarmy.org

Healthy Living and Weight Loss Program Offered Locally...

Bethany and Trinity United Methodist Churches in Portage will once again host the ***Bod4God Challenge*** on Thursday Evenings in February. The first meeting will be on Thursday, February 2 at Bethany UMC at 6:00 PM. If you would like to participate or have questions, contact Pastor Art Black a t814-736-4089 or ae6black@gmail.com.

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*
- **Brookside Manor, Portage**: Andrew Majer

Sanctuary Candle

The Candle is offered this week in memory of *+Elizabeth Harrigal*, requested by Doug & Marcy Roxby.

Liturgical Schedule 33rd Week—January 29, 2017

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 & Marcy Roxby]

Feast of the Three Holy Hierarchs

Sunday, January 29

Portage **5:00 PM**

Great Vespers with Litija

Monday, January 30

Portage 8:40 AM

The Third Hour

9:00 AM

Divine Liturgy

Tuesday, January 31

No Divine Liturgy scheduled

Wednesday, February 1

No Divine Liturgy scheduled

Feast of the Encounter of our Lord with Simeon and Anna

Thursday, February 2

Portage 8:40 AM

The Third Hour

9:00 AM

Divine Liturgy

Friday, February 3

No Divine Liturgy scheduled

Saturday February 4

Portage 3:00 PM

Mystery of Repentance [Confessions]

Beaverdale 4:30 PM

Mystery of Repentance [Confessions]

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, 2017

Portage **9:00 AM**

Sunday Divine Liturgy