

This week the *Liturgy of Presanctified Gifts* will be on Wednesday at 7:00 pm. 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.



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 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, $\frac{1}{2}$ 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, March 12</u>	<i>Alex Bisaha</i>	<u>Sunday, March 19</u>	<i>Alyssa Murphy</i>
<u>Sunday, March 26</u>	<i>Maddy Single</i>	<u>Sunday, April 2</u>	<i>Alex Bisaha</i>

Eastern Christian Formation Program

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



Epistle & Gospel Reflection—Second Sunday of the Great Fast

A parallel may be seen between the setting and events in today's Gospel and our own experience of faith as members of the Church. We hear today of Jesus having returned to his home in Capernaum. There assembles with and around him a large crowd: "*And many were gathered together*" [Mark 2:2a]. As they came together, Jesus "*was preaching the word to them*" [Mark 2:2c]. Here we can see a description, symbolically and yet very succinctly of the Church and especially in the Liturgy and worship. Weekly, on Sunday and on other occasions also the Christian faithful gather in the presence of Christ. A very important purpose and reason for this coming together in his presence is the Word of God announced and made present to us.

As the story unfolds, something else very significant occurs. A curious development of a man paralyzed who is carried by four men becomes the focus of attention. The men carrying him want very much for the man who is paralyzed to come into the presence of Jesus. Prevented from accessing the room by the crowd, they open the roof, and lower the man on his pallet. The scene of such extraordinary efforts and concern captures our imagination and attention.

Father Alexander Schmemmann, in his classic book Great Lent, takes note of this and suggests something that is especially pertinent to our Lenten observance. Lent involves effort and desire. To adhere to the disciplines of fasting prescribed by the Church and to take Lent with some seriousness in our own daily life, some measure of desire and effort is required. The four men carrying their companion must have struggled and exerted themselves to reach the roof. And they had to take extra measure to remove the roof covering then lower safely and carefully the man on the pallet or stretcher.

Lent is like that. At times, the Lenten practices may be inconvenient, or seem taxing or wearying. We need to keep in mind that our aim, too is simply to come into the presence of Jesus. We come before him to hear his word, to be forgiven and to be healed as happened in today's Gospel.

The Apostolic Reading today [Hebrews 1:10-2:3] reinforces this. It also adds motivation by a reminder of the nature of our salvation:

"Therefore we must pay the closer attention to what we have heard, lest we drift away from it. [...] How shall we escape if we neglect such a great salvation" [Hebrews 2:13].

From this Gospel scene we might also draw a note of reminder and encouragement for those with "*Prayer Partners*" during this Lenten journey. By our prayers of intercession we bring before the presence of Christ the one for whom we are praying. Like the four men carrying the man paralyzed on a stretcher, we place before Christ in prayer our prayer partners, asking that he or she experience the mercy, forgiveness and healing of Christ in a particular way, each day of the Great Fast.

Third All Souls Commemoration

Saturday, March 18, is the *Third All Souls Commemoration*. We pray for the deceased and remember by name parishioners and family members, at the Divine Liturgy and Panachida on Saturday morning and at the Vigil Liturgy and Panachida in Dunlo on Saturday evening.

Schedule Notes...

The Saturday *Vigil Divine Liturgy* will resume on **Saturday, March 18** at 6:00 pm at Saints Peter and Paul, Dunlo. Schedules for *Parish Advisory Councils* meetings and other pastoral concerns have been adjusted during my time of recuperation. These will be rescheduled gradually in the weeks ahead as circumstances allow.

Thank you for the many cards and your prayerful support in recent weeks, and for your consideration and cooperation at this time.

PARISH NEWS & COMING EVENTS

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 the **Third All Souls Saturday** [March 18] are on p. 428; and for the Panachida on p. 432.
- The Troparion and other parts of the Divine Liturgy for **Sunday, March 19, Resurrection Troparion Tone 3**, are on p. 135; and for the **Third Sunday of the Great Fast—Veneration of the Holy Cross** on page 223-225.
- The “*Our Father*”, in **Tone 3** may be found on p. 68. Please note instructions at the beginning of the Liturgy for opening hymns, and other alternate melodies etc.

Offerings for February

	Feb 5	Feb 12	Feb 19	Feb 26
Portage:	\$1,862.00	\$1,760.00	\$1,425.00	\$1,410.00
Beaverdale:	\$350.00	\$600.00	\$150.00	\$270.00
Dunlo:	\$155.00	\$641.00	\$10.00	\$10.00

Sanctuary Candle

The Candle is offered this week in memory of **+Tyler Cimba**, requested by Julie Brenna.

Remember In Prayer

Please pray for the health of **Fred Tutsock; 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.

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, transfers, 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 over all other Lenten Devotions. The *Divine Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts* is to only 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.

OTHER NEWS & EVENTS

Mount Saint Macrina House of Prayer Events

Lenten Morning of Prayer--Grace, Forgiveness and Groaning: Rev. Joseph Raptosh, Pastor, St. Michael Byzantine Catholic Church, Canonsburg, Pa. and Professor at Saint Cyril and Methodius Seminary; Sat., Mar. 18, 9:15 a.m.—1:00 p.m. Includes lunch. Offering: \$35. Registration due Mar. 14. *The Sacrament of Reconciliation will be offered*

Lenten Day of Prayer: The Feast and Fasting: Helen Anne Hochendoner, Bible Study Leader, St. Pius X Byzantine Catholic Church, Pittsburgh, Pa. Sun., Mar. 19 1:15 p.m.—5:00 p.m. Includes Supper. Offering: \$35. Registration due: March 15. *The Sacrament of Reconciliation will be offered.*

Healing Retreat: Reverend William Kiel, retired priest of the Greensburg Catholic Diocese. Sat., Mar. 25, 9:30 a.m.—3:30 p.m. Includes Lunch. Offering: \$35. Registration due: Mar. 20. *The afternoon will conclude with a Liturgy for Healing.*

Men's Evening Out: Reverend Don Bolls, Pastor, Resurrection Byzantine Catholic Church, Monroeville, Pa. Tues., Mar. 28, 7:00 p.m.—9:00 p.m. Offering: \$20. Registration due: March 24. *A time for men to gather, enjoy fellowship and be encouraged in their faith and daily living.*

To register for programs, or for more information call 724-438-7149.

Annual Spring Tea

The Saint Anne's Society of Saint Bartholomew's Church, Wilmore, PA invite you to join them for the **Annual Spring Tea** on Sunday, April 30, 2017. Rosary and Benediction are at 2:00 pm and refreshments afterwards in the church hall.

RSVP by April 23 to Ann Pershing [495-9298] or Margy Blaisdell [495-7020].

Return to the Father: Lenten Mission

Return to the Father: A Lenten Mission is being hosted by Immaculate Conception - St. Mary's Ukrainian Catholic Church 3711 Campbell Avenue Northern Cambria, and Protection of the B.V.M. Ukrainian Catholic Church 560 Cambria Avenue Revloc.

On our journey through the Great Lent, we need to look to God for our strength. Come listen to Father Michael Polosky as he speaks on God and His presence in our lives. *Nightly Themes*: Sunday: Looking for God; Monday: Things Are Not Always as They Appear If We Only Look Through Our Eyes. Tuesday: Turning to See God Waiting for Us!

The schedule for the Lenten Mission is: Sunday, March 26--Northern Cambria 5:00PM; Monday, March 27--Northern Cambria 6:00PM; Tuesday, March 28--Revloc 6:00PM.

Day of Reflection: "The Heart of a Catechist"

A **Day of Reflection** on Sat. April 1, 9:30am to 2:30pm at Saints Cyril and Methodius Seminary, Pittsburgh, PA sponsored by the Office of Religious Education. The Presenter, Reverend Thom Dansak, is a priest of 42 years ordained for the Roman Catholic Diocese of Pittsburgh. Fr. Thom was a Chaplain in the United States Navy for 30 years and is retired with the rank of Captain.

The Office of Religious Education extends an invitation to all Deacons, parents who homeschool their children in catechesis and those who teach adult faith formation in parishes. Brochures are in the narthex. To register or for more information call 412-322-8773.

Byzantine Catholic Serra Club Spring Retreat Day

The **Byzantine Catholic Serra Club** is hosting a **Spring Retreat Day**, Saturday, March 18. Fr. Don Ware, C.P. will present the Retreat Day on the theme "*Keeping Your Eyes on Jesus*". This day of prayer and meditation will take place at the Byzantine Catholic Seminary, 3605 Perrysville Avenue, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15214. For directions, please visit: www.bcs.edu.

To register for this event, please contact Patricia Bovee 412-462-6385. Cost is \$20

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; Helen Zaher
- **The Winds at Mattern Orchard, Duncansville:** Mary Vrabel
- **Brookside Manor, Portage:** Andrew Majer
- **Amber Hills Ebensburg:** June Nezeski; Edward Andrykovitch [Beaverdale]; *Father Ronald Borsuk*
- **Cambria Care Ebensburg:** Barbara Raptosh

Liturgical Schedule Third Week of the Great Fast—March 12, 2017

Second Sunday of the Great Fast		
Sunday March 12, 2017		
Portage	9:00 AM	Sunday Divine Liturgy

Monday, March 13 No Lenten services scheduled

Tuesday, March 14 No Lenten services scheduled

Wednesday, March 15 *Simple abstinence and fasting required*
 Portage 6:30 PM Mystery of Repentance [Confessions]
 7:00 PM **Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts**

Thursday, March 16 No Lenten services scheduled

Friday, March 17 *Simple abstinence and fasting required*
 No Lenten services scheduled

Third All Souls Saturday		
Saturday March 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]
Dunlo	4:30 PM	Mystery of Repentance [Confessions]

Third Sunday of the Great Fast		
Saturday March 18		
Dunlo	5:00 PM	Vigil Divine Liturgy
		<i>Followed by Panachida and Reading of the Names of the Deceased</i>
Sunday March 19, 2017		
Portage	9:00 AM	Sunday Divine Liturgy
		[+John Batche, by Sam & Dorothy Resconich]

Lenten Prayer of Saint Ephrem

The *Lenten Prayer of Saint Ephrem* is used at all the services of the Great Fast. It expresses the spirit and aims of the Lenten disciplines in a profound yet simple way.

Lord and Master of my life, spare me from the spirit of indifference, despair, lust for power, and idle chatter.

Instead, bestow on me, your servant, the spirit of integrity, humility, patience, and love.

Yes, O Lord and King, let me see my own sins and not judge my brothers and sisters; for you are blessed forever and ever. Amen