



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.

<b>Epistle Readers Schedule</b>			
<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>	<u>Sunday, April 9</u>	<i>Alyssa Murphy</i>
<b>Eastern Christian Formation Program</b>			
<u>Sunday, March 19</u>	Troitsja: <i>Issabella Crum</i>	<u>Bulletins:</u> <i>Christina Goral &amp; Issabella Crum</i>	
<u>Sunday, March 26</u>	Troitsja: <i>Sydney Leturgey</i>	<u>Bulletins:</u> <i>Hunter Whitcomb &amp; Cierra Goral</i>	
<u>Sunday, April 2</u>	Troitsja: <i>Gabrielle Cimba</i>	<u>Bulletins:</u> <i>Evan Lenz &amp; Sydney Leturgey</i>	



### **The Second Sunday of the Great Fast – Veneration of the Holy Cross**

The veneration of the Cross of our Lord Jesus Christ brings us to the middle of the Lenten season. The Cross placed in the middle of the church decorated with flowers as if to suggest a crown of victory. This indicates that the emphasis of today's *Veneration of the Cross* is expressed in terms of victory and joy. The hymns of the Liturgy on this day demonstrate this:

*"No longer does the flaming sword guard the gates of Eden,  
for the tree of the cross has come to quench it wondrously.*

*The sting of death and the victory of Hades have been driven out.*

*For you, O my Savior, stood and called out to those in Hades: Enter again into paradise."*

[Kontakion, Sunday of the Veneration of the Cross]

*"Joy reigns on earth and in heaven today, for the sign of the Cross has shone over the world; its thrice-blessed image is a fountain of eternal Joy for those who venerate it."*

[Matins, Sunday of the Veneration of the Cross]

This note of joy, the reminder of the victory of which the Cross is an emblem, serves as a measure of encouragement to strengthen us at this juncture in the Lenten journey. During the Great Fast we try to apply the words of Jesus in today's Gospel, *"If any man would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me"* [Mark 8:34]. Following the first three weeks of the Great Fast, there may occur weariness in sustaining our Lenten efforts.

Now we arrive at the second half of the Lent. Our focus of attention gradually becomes the events of the Passion and death of our Lord and ultimately his Resurrection. This is reflected in the Apostolic Reading for today [Hebrews 4:14-5:6] which brings out the role of Christ as the *high priest* whose offering of sacrifice is the offering of himself. Today's lesson opens by encouraging us with the reminder: *"Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast to our confession"* [Hebrews 2:13].

As we begin to move toward the time of the Passion, we are offered a measure of encouragement during our veneration of the Cross as we sing:

*"We bow to your Cross, O Lord, and we glorify you holy Resurrection."*

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.

[Adapted from Father Alexander Schmemmann, Great Lent, pp. 76-77]

### **Mystery of Repentance--Confessions**

The **Mystery of Repentance [Confession]** will be available Monday, April 3 at 7:00 pm. **Father Robert Oravetz** from Holy Trinity, Conemaugh will be here with Father Jim for Confessions.

Confession is available at 6:30 pm before the Liturgy of Presanctified Gifts on Wednesday, and at 3:00 pm on Saturday. Also, you may call the rectory to schedule an appointment. Please avail yourself to these opportunities in preparation for Holy Week at your earliest convenience

### **Feast of the Annunciation of the Theotokos**

Saturday, March 25 is the feast of the *Annunciation of the Theotokos*. The celebration of this feast brings before us the Incarnation of the Divine Word in the womb of the Virgin Mary. From this derives the title most expressive of Mary's role, *Theotokos*, she who gave birth to God.

The story of the Annunciation [[Luke 1:26-38](#)] especially demonstrates Mary's receptivity to God. The Archangel Gabriel revealed to her the news that she would be the virgin mother of the Most High God. Mary freely chooses, without hesitation, to cooperate with God's will and his plan for our salvation. In this Mary becomes the example for all believers.

The concurrence of the Annunciation with the Great Fast points to a close connection between the mystery of the Lord's conception and his death. Both are manifestations of his love for us, of his "self-emptying" referred to by Saint Paul in [Philippians 2:6-7](#):

*"Who though he was in the form of God [...] emptied himself taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men."*

*The Fourth All Souls Saturday is omitted because of the Feast of the Annunciation.*

[Above adapted from [Synaxarion](#), p. 138; and [Light for Life](#), Part Two, p. 44]

## **PARISH NEWS & COMING EVENTS**

### **Parish Advisory Council Meeting**

The *Parish Advisory Council* meeting for Saints Peter and Paul, Portage is being rescheduled for Thursday April 6 at 7:00 pm in the conference room of the rectory. . Minutes of the previous meeting of November 3, 2016 will be included in next Sunday's bulletin.

### **Liturgical Chant –The Great Fast & Feast of the Annunciation**

- **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 **Feast of the Annunciation of the Theotokos, Saturday, March 25**, are on [p. 328-332](#).
- The Troparion and other parts of the Divine Liturgy for **Sunday, March 26, Resurrection Troparion Tone 4**, are on [p. 141-142](#); for the **Leave-taking of the Feast of the Annunciation** on [page 329-332](#); and for the **Synaxis of Gabriel the Archangel** on [page 361-362](#).
- The "Our Father", in Tone 4 may be found on [p. 69](#). Please note instructions at the beginning of the Liturgy for opening hymns, and other alternate melodies etc.

### **Remember In Prayer**

Please pray for the health of *Pauline Barelich* of Saints Peter and Paul, Dunlo [Memorial]; *Sasha Yetsko*; *George Yatsky*; *Ruby Moore*; *Charles* and *Joan Plishka*; *Frank Alberts*; *Tom Goncher*; *Joan Ditko*; *Cliff Inman*; *Shawn Crum*; *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, 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 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**

### **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].

### **Annual Spring Choir Fest Concert**

The ***Annual Spring Choir Fest Concert*** is scheduled for Sunday, April 2, 6:00 PM at Bethany United Methodist Church, 700 Farren Street, Portage. . Those who have attended found a wonderful and joyful evening and all those that participate enjoy the musical fellowship. This year we are also asking that all attendees bring a non-perishable food item for the community food bank. A love offering for the Food Bank will also be taken. The need is great.

### **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 considers spiritual, cultural, social development as essential.

***Open House--Saturday, April 22 9:00 a.m.*** Learn about MAC and your program of interest with other prospective students and their families. Hear from Admissions, Financial Aid, professors, and current students as you spend the day exploring campus

## **Return to the Father: Lenten Mission**

***Return to the Father: A Lenten Mission*** 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. Father Michael Polosky will present these 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 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.

### **Mount Saint Macrina House of Prayer Events**

***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.

### **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 Nezniski; Edward Andrykovitch [Beaverdale]; *Father Ronald Borsuk*
- **Cambria Care Ebensburg**: Barbara Raptosh

## Liturgical Schedule Fourth Week of the Great Fast—March 19, 2017

### Third Sunday of the Great Fast

#### Saturday March 18

Dunlo 5:00 PM

**Vigil Divine Liturgy**

*Followed by Panachida and Reading of the Names of the Deceased*

#### Sunday March 19, 2017

Portage 9:00 AM

**Sunday Divine Liturgy**

[+John Batche, by Sam & Dorothy Resconich]

#### Monday, March 20

No Lenten services scheduled

#### Tuesday, March 21

No Lenten services scheduled

#### Wednesday, March 22

Portage 6:30 PM

7:00 PM

*Simple abstinence and fasting required*

Mystery of Repentance [Confessions]

**Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts**

#### Thursday, March 23

No Lenten services scheduled

#### Friday, March 24

*Simple abstinence and fasting required*

No Lenten services scheduled

### Feast of the Annunciation of the Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary

#### Saturday, March 25

Portage 9:00 AM

**Divine Liturgy**

Portage 3:00 PM

Mystery of Repentance [Confessions]

Beaverdale 4:30 PM

Mystery of Repentance [Confessions]

### Fourth Sunday of the Great Fast

#### Leave-taking of the Feast of the Annunciation & Synaxis of Gabriel the Archangel

#### Saturday March 25

Beaverdale 5:00 PM

**Vigil Divine Liturgy**

#### Sunday March 26, 2017

Portage 9:00 AM

**Sunday Divine Liturgy** [+Steven Vrabel, by Fred & Elaine Vrabel]

### *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***