



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
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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

<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>	<u>Sunday, April 16</u>	<i>PASCHA--Cantors</i>

Eastern Christian Formation Program

<u>Sunday, March 26</u>	<i>Troitsja: Sydney Leturgey</i>	<u>Bulletins:</u> <i>Hunter Whitcomb & Cierra Goral</i>
<u>Sunday, April 2</u>	<i>Troitsja: Evan Lenz</i>	<u>Bulletins:</u> <i>Evan Lenz & Sydney Leturgey</i>
<u>Sunday, April 9</u>	<i>Troitsja: Hunter Whitcomb</i>	<u>Bulletins:</u> <i>Ryan Lenz & Christina Goral</i>



The Journey of the Great Fast—Mileposts & Markers...

The weeks from the beginning of the Great Fast to Holy Week is a significant length of time. Having begun this journey, to remain faithful to its disciplines and efforts requires a measure of endurance. Today's Apostolic Lesson [[Hebrews 6:13-20](#)] mentions Abraham, who "*having endured, obtained the promise*". [[Hebrews 6:15](#)]. Today on this Lenten Sunday we are encouraged to endurance to continue along this path of repentance and renewal.

The Great Fast in our liturgical calendar is also arranged in a way to assist us psychologically in our Lenten efforts. By offering certain "mileposts" and "markers" along the way, the structure of Lent orientates us to our destination. We are also reminded of our progress. Last week we venerated the Cross and passed the "*mid-point*" of Lent. The veneration of the Cross pointed us ahead to the goal of Lent, Christ's suffering and death on the cross.

So also today, there is presented to us even more clearly the destination of the Lenten journey as the time of the Passion of our Lord. Both today's Gospel--[Mark 9:17-31](#)—and next Sunday as well, we hear Jesus speaking plainly and specifically of his approaching Passion:

"They went on from there and passed through Galilee. He would not have any one know it; for he was teaching his disciples saying to them 'The Son of man will be delivered into the hands of men and they will kill him; and when he is killed, after three days he will rise'." [[Mark 9:30-31](#)]

Another feature of this movement toward the time of the Passion and Holy Week may be seen in today's lesson from [Hebrews 6:13-20](#). The title "*High Priest*" has been applied to Jesus from the beginning of this letter and occurs multiple times through its content. And today's lesson ends by speaking of Jesus as "*a high priest for ever after to the order of Melchizedek*" [[Hebrews 6:20](#)].

It is Christ's death on the Cross which is his offering, his sacrifice. In his human nature, by offering his flesh and blood he offered himself as a perfect sacrificial victim. His priesthood refers of course to his offering of himself on the Cross. It is this to which we draw near in the remaining days and weeks of the Great Fast.

This week the **Liturgy of Presanctified Gifts** will be on Wednesday and Friday at 7:00 pm. The Wednesdays and Fridays throughout the Great Fast are days of abstinence from meat.

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. Please note *changes from regular time* in early April:

- **Saturday, April 1:** Portage (**2:30 pm**) Dunlo (**4:15 pm**)
- **Saturday, April 8:** Portage (**2:30 pm**) Beaverdale (**4:15 pm**)

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.

PASKA Baking Activity for ECF Students

The *Paska Baking Activity* for ECF Students and Youth will be on Saturday, April 8 beginning at 10:00 am. Each year our students learn about baking *Paska*—Easter bread—and help to prepare Easter baskets for our parishioners who are homebound and in nursing homes.

Please sign-up on the list in the narthex for this activity by next Sunday, April 2.



Coffee Social for April – Next Sunday

There will be a *Coffee and Donut Social* next Sunday, April 2, following the 9 am Divine Liturgy. Please take this opportunity to greet fellow parishioners and enjoy the coffee and refreshments.

PARISH NEWS & COMING EVENTS

Meeting for Annual Festival

There is a meeting to prepare for the *Annual Festival* this Monday, March 27 at 7:00 pm in the social room of the church hall. As was noted in preparing for last year's Festival, it is important to have people committed to assume responsibility for the various specific areas of the Festival. Everyone is welcome to attend the meeting on Monday and to help share the responsibility to prepare for this annual event.

The date scheduled for this year's Festival is Sunday, July 9, 2017.

Church Cleaning & Work Party for April

- The *Work Party* for April will be on Saturday, April 1, beginning at 9:00 am.
- The *Church Cleaning* for April is scheduled for Monday, April 3, at 9:00 am.

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.

Remember In Prayer

Please pray for the health of *Fred Tutsock* [Lee Campus--Select Specialty]; *Pauline Barelich*; *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; *Ellen Colwell*, Fr. Jim's sister; and all the ill & homebound.

Also, please pray for the repose of the soul of *+Richard Clapp*, brother-in-law of Deacon Daniel Perich, who fell asleep in the Lord on March 18. *Eternal Memory*.

Decorative Candles; Pussy-Willow Branches

- *Decorative candles* for the Blessing of Paschal foods are available from the ushers at each church. An offering of \$10 is requested for these candles.
- If you have *pussy-willow branches* for Palm-Flowery Sunday [Sunday, April 9], please bring them to the church in the week prior to Palm Sunday. Thank you.

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, April 2, Resurrection Troparion Tone 5**, are on p. 146-148; and for the **Fifth Sunday of the Great Fast—Venerable Mother Mary of Egypt** on page 230-232.
- The “*Our Father*”, in Tone 5 may be found on p. 70. Please note instructions at the beginning of the Liturgy for opening hymns, and other alternate melodies etc.

OTHER NEWS & EVENTS

Annual Spring Tea

The Saint Anne’s Society of Saint Bartholomew’s Church, Wilmore, PA invite you to the **Annual Spring Tea**, Sunday, April 30. 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. . A wonderful and joyful evening of enjoying 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.

Eggstravaganza

12th Egg Eggstravaganza at St. John the Baptist Byzantine Catholic Church, 201 East Main St., Uniontown Sunday, April 2, Noon until 5pm. Egg artists will display, demonstrate, and sell their unique styles of decorated eggs. Tables with supplies, kits, books, and videos, and hands-on opportunity to try Pysanky decorating. Items for traditional baskets available, bake sale, Lenten lunch menu served. Handicapped accessibility. Call 724-208-6771 [6-8 pm]. Free admission.

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 the mission: Sunday, March 26--Northern Cambria 5:00PM; Monday, March 27--Northern Cambria 6:00PM; Tuesday, March 28--Revloc 6:00PM.

Mount Saint Macrina House of Prayer Events

Men’s Evening Out: Reverend Don Bolls, Pastor, Resurrection Byzantine Catholic Church, Monroeville, Pa. Tues., Mar. 28, 7—9 p.m. Offering: \$20. *A time for men to gather, enjoy fellowship and be encouraged in their faith and daily living.* To register call 724-438-7149.

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, a priest of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Pittsburgh is a retired U. S. Navy Chaplain. Brochures are in the narthex. To register or for more information call 412-322-8773.

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.

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 Fifth Week of the Great Fast—March 26, 2017

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]

Monday, March 27 No Lenten services scheduled

Tuesday, March 28 No Lenten services scheduled

Wednesday, March 29 *Simple abstinence and fasting required*
Portage 6:30 PM Mystery of Repentance [Confessions]
7:00 PM Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts

Thursday, March 30 No Lenten services scheduled

Friday, March 31 *Simple abstinence and fasting required*
Portage 6:30 PM Mystery of Repentance [Confessions]
7:00 PM Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts

Saturday, April 1
Portage 2:30 PM Mystery of Repentance [Confessions]
Dunlo 4:15 PM Mystery of Repentance [Confessions]

Fifth Sunday of the Great Fast--Saint Mary of Egypt		
Saturday April 1		
Dunlo	5:00 PM	Vigil Divine Liturgy
Sunday April 2, 2017		
Portage	9:00 AM	Sunday Divine Liturgy [+Tyler Cimba, by Julie Brenna]

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