



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, 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, April 2</u>	<i>Troitsja: Evan Lenz</i>	<u>Bulletins: Evan Lenz & Sydney Leturgey</u>
<u>Sunday, April 9</u>	<i>Troitsja: Hunter Whitcomb</i>	<u>Bulletins: Ryan Lenz & Christina Goral</u>
<u>Sunday, April 16</u>	<i>PASCHA—Please Volunteer</i>	



Holy Mystery of Repentance--Confession

The Holy Mystery of Repentance, or Confession, is familiar to us. We are taught as a child how to prepare for and make a confession of our sins. Hopefully we grow in this practice over our lifetime so that we appreciate more fully its benefits and significance.

As we approach Holy Week, it is timely to reflect on preparing for and taking part in this Mystery [Sacrament] of the Church. Preparation is important to benefit most fully from the gifts of healing, forgiveness and renewal which it offers. We spend some time in prayer and review the patterns and behaviors of our life. There are various writings and guides to help us. We might also read portions of Scripture; for example the Sermon on the Mount [Mathew 5-7]; the First Epistle of Saint John; I Corinthians 13; Romans 12-14. These and other selections from the Bible focus sharply on what is expected of Christians in their daily behavior. Also, Psalm 50 is highly recommended before Confession.

Some may not have been to Confession for a period of time, even years. They may feel uncomfortable, that they will not know what to do. Father can easily and readily guide you to help in this instance. The prayers are printed on a card for those who may not know them.

There are times when reconciliation of grave sins is needed. Before we return to communion we seek reconciliation with the Church by confession of our offense. Confession is also a means of facing and eradicating our daily sins. It serves to heal and remove the tendencies toward sin that impede our spiritual progress. The priest is in the role of the "spiritual father", to offer direction and guidance.

[Adapted from Father Thomas Hopko, *Lenten Spring*, pp. 53-56; Father David Petras *Light for Life*, II, pp. 80-82]

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 Friday, and at 3:00 pm on Saturday. Please note *change from regular time* next weekend:

- **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 by TODAY--Sunday, April 2.**



Urgent Need for Annual Festival

A meeting for the **Annual Festival** this past Monday, March 27. The date scheduled for this year's Festival is **Sunday, July 9, 2017.**

The meeting was devoted primarily to the need for someone to take the responsibility for cooking and kitchen duties. On February 9, Marge Tigyer, who cooked for many years, fell asleep in the Lord. There is an urgent need for someone to assume this responsibility and task.

The consensus of those attending the meeting was that without someone to fulfill this task, we cannot continue the Annual Festival. The food which we serve is really the anchor for all the other aspects of the festival.

If you are able to take on this task and responsibility, or if you have a suggestion, please contact Father Jim. A decision is need to be made within the coming weeks as to whether or not the Annual Festival will be held this year.

PARISH NEWS & COMING EVENTS

Coffee Social for April – *TODAY*

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

Church Cleaning & Work Party for April

- The ***Church Cleaning*** for April is scheduled for **Monday, April 3,** at 9:00 am.
- A note of thanks to those who volunteer for the monthly ***Work Party*** and ***Church Cleaning.***

Pastoral Visits to the Homebound

Visits to homebound parishioners and in nursing homes for the holy Mysteries of Confession and the Eucharist will begin this week and during Holy Week. Fr. Jim will call for an appointment to visit. Please notify the parish office of family or relatives who are not presently on the list of those visited.

Parish Advisory Council Meeting

The ***Parish Advisory Council*** meeting for Saints Peter and Paul, Portage is 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 are included in today's bulletin.

Remember In Prayer

Please pray for the health of ***Fred Tutsock*** [Lee Campus--Select Specialty]; ***June Nezeski*** a resident at Maple Winds; ***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 ***Donetta Gilbert,*** wife of our neighbor John Gilbert, who fell asleep in the Lord on March 25. *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.

Catechists Meeting Today...

There is a meeting for the **Catechists** for our **ECF** program meeting **today--Sunday, April 2** immediately following this morning's ECF classes.

Financial Reports for 2016

Enclosed in today's bulletin are the **Financial Reports for 2016** for each parish community. They are presented with a comparison for 2015. Thank you for your generosity and support reflected in the 2016 Financial Reports.

A word of grateful acknowledgment to those who have prepared these statements and who take care of the parish accounting throughout the year: **Mary Lou Perich** for Beavertdale and Dunlo; and **Rochelle Schlemmer** for Portage.

Liturgical Chant –The Great Fast and Palm Sunday

- **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.
- The Troparion and other parts of the Divine Liturgy for **next Sunday, April 9**, for the **Entrance of Christ into Jerusalem** on pages 235-241.
- The "Our Father", in Tone 4 Podoben may be found on p. 74. Please note instructions at the beginning of the Liturgy for opening hymns, and other alternate melodies etc.

Sanctuary Candle

The Candle is offered this week in memory of **+Georgianna Walters**, requested by Patty Haschak.

OTHER NEWS & EVENTS

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. . Please 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.

Women's Day of Reflection

The Archeparchial Office of Religious Education will sponsor the 14th annual **Day of Reflection for Women** on **Saturday, May 6**, 9 am-2:30 pm, at the Cathedral of Saint John the Baptist, Munhall.

The theme is **"A Kaleidoscope of Gifted Women"**. Speakers include *Amy Brooks*; *Giselle Fetterman* and *Dee Ruckert* on a variety of inspirational topics. Proceeds from the Benefit Auction of baskets will be given to local women's shelters.

Brochures are in the narthex. The cost is \$25; includes lunch. To register [by April 20] use the form in the brochure, or call 412-322-8773.

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.

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 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.

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

Liturgical Schedule Sixth Week of the Great Fast—April 2, 2017

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]

Monday, April 3

No Lenten services scheduled

Tuesday, April 4

No Lenten services scheduled

Wednesday, April 5

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

7:00 PM **Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts**

Thursday, April 6

No Lenten services scheduled

Friday, April 7

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

7:00 PM **Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts**

Saturday, April 8

Portage 2:30 PM Mystery of Repentance [Confessions]
Beaverdale 4:15 PM Mystery of Repentance [Confessions]

Palm/Flowery Sunday

Entrance of Our Lord into Jerusalem

Saturday April 8

Beaverdale 5:00 PM Vigil Divine Liturgy]

Sunday April 9

Portage 9:00 AM Sunday Divine Liturgy [+Alice Mazur, by Husband, Michael Mazur]

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