



Ss. 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.

Epistle Readers Schedule

Sunday, April 23 Maddy Single **Sunday, April 30** Alex Bisaha
Sunday, May 7 Alyssa Murphy **Sunday, May 14** Maddy Single

Eastern Christian Formation Program

Sunday, April 23 Troitsja: Ryan Lenz **Bulletins:** Christina Goral & Issabella Crum
Sunday, April 30 Troitsja: Christina Goral **Bulletins:** Hunter Whitcomb & Cierra Goral
Sunday, May 7 Troitsja: Cierra Goral **Bulletins:** Evan Lenz & Sydney Leturgey



Scripture Reflections...Thomas Sunday

On Pascha, the feast of the Resurrection of our Lord, the Scripture lessons began the continuous reading of the Acts of the Apostles and the Gospel of Saint John. Both of these offer instruction and enlightenment harmonious with this paschal season. The Acts of the Apostles charts the remarkable growth of the early church. This growth was sparked by the events of Pentecost and the bestowal of the gift of the Holy Spirit. The Apostles, authorized as the chief spokesmen and agents for the church's mission, were identified especially as "*witnesses to his resurrection*" [Acts 1:22].

Today's lesson from Acts 5:12-20 is one of many moments which register this tremendous growth, event amidst opposition and attempts to restrict the apostles. The impact of the witness, prayer and preaching of the Apostles is clearly manifest: "*the people held them in great honor. And more than ever believers were added to the Lord, multitudes of both men and women*" [Acts 5:14]. At the same time the Apostles face hostility from Jewish religious authorities who arrest them and put them in prison [Acts 1:22].

This second Sunday of Pascha is called *Thomas Sunday*, The significance and role of the Apostle Thomas in giving expression to faith in the Resurrection is demonstrated in today's Gospel [John 20:19-31]. It is also highlighted in the Kontakion sung during the Divine Liturgy.

When Jesus appears to the Apostles gathered on the evening of the Resurrection, he bestows the Holy Spirit as he breathes upon the Apostles [John 20:22]. Also, he empowers them to forgive sins [John 20:23]. Thus, important elements of the sacramental life of the church are shown to be closely linked with the Resurrection and the presence of the risen Christ within the church. Also important to the life of the Church is that the appearance of Jesus to the Apostles occurs on the *first day* of the week, the day on which we now assemble for the Divine Liturgy.

[Adapted from Fr. John Custer, The Holy Gospel, pp. 385-386]

Blessing and Breaking of the "Artos" Today

The loaf of Paska bread carried in procession at the Paschal Matins, and placed on the tetrapod is the **Artos**. "*Artos*" is a Greek word which means bread made with yeast. It is blessed on Pascha, and broken and shared **today**, on **Thomas Sunday**.

A note of thanks to the team who coordinated baking Paska and the *Artos* at Saints Peter & Paul, Portage: **Sharon Bolvin**, **Carol Goral**, and **Sandy Lenz**; and **Irene Gindlesperger** of Saint Peter and Paul, Dunlo for baking the *Artos* for the Vigil Liturgy in Beaverdale.

The Paschal Season

- We share the greeting "**Christ is risen!**", "**Indeed He is risen!**" from now until Ascension, which is derived from the greeting of the disciples [Luke 24:34].
- Through the fifty days from Pascha [Sunday of the Resurrection] until Pentecost, there is no kneeling at any time of prayer.

Annual “Mother’s Day/Father’s Day” Breakfast—Sunday, May 7

The *Annual “Mother’s Day/Father’s Day” Breakfast* is scheduled for Sunday, May 7 following the Divine Liturgy. A sign-up list is in the back of the church. Please sign up by Sunday, April 30.

Also at the breakfast will be the presentation of the 2016-2017 *Attendance Awards* for our *Eastern Christian Formation* students.

Grateful Acknowledgments...

We acknowledge with gratitude all of those who have shared in the many preparations for and forms of service in our observance of Holy Week and Pascha. We are grateful to Deacon Daniel Perich; those who prepare the altar and sacristy; altar servers; ushers; cantors, choir and readers. The prayerful and faithful participation in the services of the Great Fast, throughout Holy and Great Week, and the splendid celebration of *Pascha—the Resurrection of our Lord* have been inspiring. We are grateful to God for this time of renewal and strengthening of our faith and for the joyful spirit shared among the members of our parish families.

PARISH NEWS & COMING EVENTS

Urgent Need for Annual Festival

There is a meeting for the Annual Festival this week, on Thursday, April 27 at 7:00 pm in the social room of the church hall. Included in this meeting will be the need to organized and arrange the duties for cooking and the kitchen responsibilities. There has been some interest and response to the announcement of this need over the past several weeks.

Also, it will be necessary for those who have had responsibility for certain aspects of the festival, such as ticket booth, beer tent, children's games, etc. to attend. If you are not able to attend Thursday’s meeting, please inform Fr. Jim whether or not you are able to continue this responsibility for this year’s event. The date scheduled for this year’s Festival is Sunday, July 9, 2017.

Thank you for your cooperation and support for the annual festival.

Parish Advisory Council Meetings

- The next meeting of the *Parish Advisory Council* for *Saints Peter & Paul, Portage* is scheduled for Thursday, May 4 at 7:00 pm in the conference of the rectory.
- The next meeting of the *Parish Advisory Council* for *Saint Mary’s, Beavertdale and Saints Peter & Paul, Dunlo* Thursday, May 18 at 7:00 pm in the conference of the rectory.

Church Cleaning & Work Party for May

- The Church Cleaning for May is scheduled for Monday, May 1, at 9:00 am.
- The date for the Work Party for May will be announced in next Sunday’s bulletin.

Eastern Christian Formation Program

- Next Sunday, April 30, is the final class for the 2016-2017 Eastern Christian Formation year.
- On Sunday, May 7, *Attendance Awards* will be presented to Eastern Christian Formation students at the Mother’s Day and Father’s Day Breakfast.

Liturgical Chant – Sunday of the Ointment-Bearers

- The Troparion and other parts of the Divine Liturgy for **next Sunday, April 30**, for the **Sunday of the Ointment-Bearers** are on pages **175-177**.
- The Magnification following the Anaphora may be found on **page 167**.
- The *Our Father* in the **Paschal Tone** may be found on **page 167**.
- Please note instructions at the beginning of the Liturgy for opening hymns etc.

Offerings for March

	<u>March 5</u>	<u>March 12</u>	<u>March 19</u>	<u>March 26</u>
Portage:	\$2,504.00	\$1,578.00	\$1,218.00	\$1,718.00
Beaverdale:	\$ 275.00	\$ 200.00	\$ 562.00	\$ 353.00
Dunlo:	\$ 30.00	\$ 105.00	\$ 367.00	\$ 436.00

Eternal Memory

Please pray for the repose of the soul of **+Frank Albert**, the father of Mary Lou Paluch of Saint Mary's, Beaverdale, who fell asleep in the Lord on April 13. We extend our deepest sympathy and prayerful support to Mary Lou & Steve, and to all of her family.

Also, please pray for the repose of the soul of **Fr. Paul Volda** of St. Mary Romanian Byzantine Catholic Church, McKeesport, who fell asleep in the Lord on April 17; and **+Wayne Lascelles**, brother of Father William Lascelles of Saints Peter and Paul, Punxsutawney, who fell asleep in the Lord on April 16.

Remember In Prayer

Please pray for the health of **Kathryn Mackovyak** [UPMC< Altoona]; **Walter Prozialeck**, **Helen Zaher** [Cambria Care]; **Fred Tutsock** [Maple Winds, Portage]; **Pauline Barelich**; **George Yatsky**; **Ruby Moore**; **Charles** and **Joan Plishka**; **Frank Alberts**; **Tom Goncher**; **Joan Ditko**; **Cliff Inman**; **Shawn Crum**; infant **Basil**; **Ellen Colwell**, Fr. Jim's sister; and all the ill & homebound.

OTHER NEWS & EVENTS

Byzantine Catholic Seminary—17th Annual Cyril & Methodius Lecture

Very Rev. Peter Galadza will be the speaker at the 17th annual Ss. Cyril and Methodius Lecture of the Byzantine Catholic Seminary on **Thursday, May 11, 2017** at 7:00 pm. Fr. Peter will speak on "**Vatican Guidelines for Church Music: Eastern Christian Prospects and Problems.**" The lecture will be held at St. John Cathedral Center, 210 Greentree Road, Munhall, PA 15120.

For more information, please call the Seminary office at 412-321-8383 or visit the website www.bcs.edu.

St. Demetrius Parish, Gallitzin Roast Beef Dinner/Spring Festival

St. Demetrius Parish in Gallitzin will hold its fourth **Annual Roast Beef Dinner/Spring Festival** on **Sunday, April 23**. It will feature games, baskets, a bake sale, and of course our delicious roast beef dinner. Location: Church hall (former St. Patrick building) at the top of Church Street. Time: 11:00 a.m. to...? Tickets: Adults (eat-in or take-out) \$10.00; Children 6-to-12, \$6.00; 5 and under FREE.

Spring Basket Auction

G.C.U. Lodge 93 is sponsoring the annual **Spring Basket Auction** at St. John the Baptist Byzantine Catholic Church, Northern Cambria on **Sunday, April 30** from 11:30 am until 3:30 pm, with basket drawings beginning at 3:00 pm. Along with the baskets there will be special raffles, free desserts and beverages. Tickets will be available for purchase at the Church Hall.

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 use the form in the brochure, or call [412-322-8773](tel:412-322-8773).

Genealogy Workshop in Pittsburgh Area

The "Nashi Predky -- Our Ancestors" Family History Group hosts its **Annual Spring Genealogy Workshop** **Saturday, May 6**, 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the Ukrainian American Citizens' Club in Carnegie, Pennsylvania. The goal of this workshop is to help people research their family roots in Ukraine and adjoining countries, including Poland, Slovakia, Romania, Belarus, and Russia. Anyone having roots in this region, no matter how they may identify, is welcome.

Registration information is on the flyer on the bulletin board, or at www.mashipredb.org. For information via e-mail at genealogy@ukrhec.org.

Fatima Pilgrimage

100th Anniversary Pilgrimage to the Shrine of Our Lady of Fatima, Portugal, three dates in October 2017. The all land inclusive cost: \$2149 in twin accommodations. For further information please call Mr. James Adair at 1-855-564-1008 toll free or simply email pmadalr@thecatholictour.com.

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; Fred Tutsock
- **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:** Helen Zaher;

