



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

Sunday, April 2 *Alex Bisaha* Sunday, April 9 *Alyssa Murphy*
Sunday, April 16 *PASCHA--Cantors*

Eastern Christian Formation Program

Sunday, April 2 Troitsja: *Evan Lenz* Bulletins: *Evan Lenz & Sydney Leturgey*
Sunday, April 9 Troitsja: *Hunter Whitcomb* Bulletins: *Ryan Lenz & Christina Goral*
Sunday, April 16 *PASCHA—Please Volunteer*



Holy Week---"The Lord is near..."

Holy Week, also called "**Great Week**", forms the most important time in the church year. These days prepare us for "**Pascha**" our Christian *Passover* observed in commemoration of the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. A brief description given by Father David Petras offers some insight into the mood and significance of these days:

"In this week, the most solemn of the Church Year, we re-live the mystery of God's merciful loving-kindness, when he suffered death and burial for our salvation, and is risen for our hope of eternal life. During Holy Week, we do not only observe what happened in history, but through our acts of repentance, our prayers and fasting, our processions and veneration, take an active part in what we remember as having happened and what is happening now through divine remembrance. We die in Christ and rise in the fullness of life."

Typicon [p.27]

Today on Palm Sunday we celebrate the historical entry of our Lord into Jerusalem. We begin a time in which, as today's Epistle describes, "**The Lord is near**" [Philippians 4:5]. We are to make an effort to be with the Lord, in prayer and worship at the services of the church this week, and to be attentive to his words.

The Liturgy of Presanctified Gifts is offered on Holy Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday. At this service, a Gospel is read recalling the Lord's teachings in the temple during his final days on earth. On Wednesday at the Liturgy of Presanctified Gifts the holy anointing is offered to all those present.

We then continue to follow those events which took place during the week before Jesus' arrest. With Holy Thursday, the giving of the Eucharist and the betrayal and arrest of the Lord are remembered. Good Friday, the most solemn day of the year is devoted to the passion and crucifixion. The quiet of the tomb where the burial shroud of our Lord is placed is the hallmark of the mood of Holy Saturday.

May each of these days be truly uplifting and prayerful for you and your family and for our entire parish community.

"We have reached the time of your passion, grant us also to venerate your Resurrection, O Savior, eye which never sleeps." [Kontakion, Tone 8]

[Adapted from; Father David Petras *Light for Life*, II, pp. 36-37]

Journey Through Holy Week...

- **Fasting** and **Strict Abstinence** from meat and dairy products is prescribed for Great & Holy Friday [April 14]. **Fasting** and **Abstinence** from meat is prescribed on Wednesday and Saturday of the Holy Week, and is recommended for Holy Thursday.
- For the **processions** on Good Friday and Paschal Matins [Saturday evening], *battery operated LED* candles will be distributed. A switch on the bottom turns the light on/off.
- **Please note** that *two ushers* will be near the grave to be available for those who may need assistance as they approach or leave the veneration of the grave.

Mystery of Repentance – Confession

- On Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday at **6:00 pm**, before Liturgy of Presanctified Gifts.
- On Thursday at **1:00 pm** and **6:00 pm** in Portage.
- There are **no Confessions** scheduled *after Thursday of Holy Week*.
- You may also call the rectory to schedule an appointment.

PASKA Baking Activity for ECF Students - Thank You!

A note of thanks to those who took part in Saturday's **Paska Baking Activity**. Paska were made for homebound parishioners and for the Artos for the Paschal Divine Liturgy. Our thanks to our baking crew—*Carol Goral, Sandy Lenz, and Sharon Bolvin*; and to all the parents, **ECF** students, and Catechists for their help.

PARISH NEWS & COMING EVENTS

Eastern Christian Formation Program

There are no **ECF** classes on Sunday, April 16, Pascha—the Feast of the Resurrection of our Lord. Classes will resume on Sunday, April 23, *Thomas Sunday*.

Urgent Need for Annual Festival

At meeting for the **Annual Festival** on Monday, March 27 the need for someone to take the responsibility for cooking and kitchen duties was discussed. On February 9, Marge Tigyer, who cooked for many years, fell asleep in the Lord. 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. The date scheduled for this year's Festival is **Sunday, July 9, 2017**.

There has been some response to last Sunday's announcement. Please contact Father Jim if you are able to help with the responsibility for this task, or if you have a suggestion. A decision is to be made within the coming weeks regarding the status of this year's Annual Festival.

Remember In Prayer

Please pray for the health of **Joseph Mandichak** [UPMC, Presbyterian]; **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 **+Elizabeth Terlingo**, the aunt of Barbra Havrilla; and **+Ethel Fleck**, sister-in-law of Steve Fleck. *Eternal Memory*.

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 will be in the back of the church after Pascha.

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

Decorative Candles

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.

Acknowledgments & Thanks—Lent & Palm Sunday

A note of *Thanks* to

- Jon & Irene Gindlesperger for the palm spray decoration, donated In memory of their parents, *+Howard* and *+Agnes Gindlesperger* and *+Nicholas* and *+Ann Lazor*;
- Steve Paluch of Southerwood Gardens for the floral decorations on the wreath used for the Veneration of the Cross on the Third Sunday of Lent;
- To all who donated *pussy willow* branches for Palm Sunday in each parish.

Liturgical Chant—Holy Week and Pascha

- 2009 Edition of the Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts includes propers for Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday of Holy Week. The *Mystery of Holy Anointing* will be included on Wednesday.
- For the services of Holy Thursday and Good Friday and Paschal Matins on Saturday, booklets will be available in the back of church. Please return them after the service.
- The Propers for next Sunday, April 16, the *Feast of the Resurrection – Pascha* may be found in the Divine Liturgy books from pages 164-171.
- Please note instructions at the beginning of the Liturgy for opening hymns etc.

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.

OTHER NEWS & EVENTS

Community Good Friday Cross Walk

Good Friday Cross Walk on April 14, beginning at 12 Noon at *Hammers Street Church of God*; at *Portage Christian Missionary Alliance* at 1:00 pm; and at *Trinity UMC* at 2:00 pm. Concludes with erecting the Cross at *Decort Funeral Home Lawn* on Main Street at 3:00 pm.

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 [by April 20] use the form in the brochure, or call 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.

Regulations for Great and Holy Week - 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 Saturday of Holy Week and is recommended for Holy Thursday.

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 is to be observed on **Great and Holy Friday, April 14.**

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*

Liturgical Schedule Great and Holy Week —April 9, 2017

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]

Great & Holy Monday April 10

Portage **6:00 PM** Mystery of Repentance (Confessions)

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

Great & Holy Tuesday, April 11

Portage **6:00 PM** Mystery of Repentance (Confessions)

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

Great & Holy Wednesday April 12– *Simple abstinence and fasting required*

Portage **6:00 PM** Mystery of Repentance (Confessions)

Portage **7:00 PM** **Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts with Holy Anointing**

Great & Holy Thursday April 13– *Simple abstinence and fasting recommended*

Institution of the Eucharist & Betrayal of Our Lord

Portage **1:00 PM & 6:00 PM** Mystery of Repentance (Confessions)

Portage **7:00 PM** **Vespers with Divine Liturgy of St. Basil**

Great and Holy Friday--April 14 *Strict abstinence and fasting required*

Portage **10:00 AM** **Matins with Reading of Passion Gospels**

Dunlo **3:00 PM** **Solemn Vespers & Procession with Burial Shroud**

Portage **7:00 PM** **Solemn Vespers & Procession with Burial Shroud**

Vigil at the Tomb of our Lord following service until Midnight

Great & Holy Saturday April 15– *Simple abstinence and fasting required*

Vigil at the Tomb of our Lord continues throughout the day

Portage **Noon** **Vespers with Divine Liturgy of St. Basil**

Pascha – The Glorious Resurrection of Our Lord Jesus Christ

Saturday April 15

Portage **7:00 PM** **Resurrection Matins & Paschal Divine Liturgy**

Followed by Blessing of Paschal Food & Social

Sunday April 16

Dunlo **8:00 AM** **Procession & Paschal Divine Liturgy**

Followed by Blessing of Paschal Food

Portage **10:30 AM** **Paschal Divine Liturgy**