



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

<u>Sunday, April 30</u>	<i>Alex Bisaha</i>	<u>Sunday, May 7</u>	<i>Alyssa Murphy</i>
<u>Sunday, May 14</u>	<i>Maddy Single</i>	<u>Sunday, May 21</u>	<i>Alex Bisaha</i>

Eastern Christian Formation Program

<u>Sunday, April 30</u>	Troitsja: <i>Christina Goral</i>	<u>Bulletins:</u> <i>Hunter Whitcomb & Cierra Goral</i>
<u>Sunday, May 7</u>	Troitsja: <i>Cierra Goral</i>	<u>Bulletins:</u> <i>Evan Lenz & Sydney Leturgey</i>
<u>Sunday, May 14</u>	Troitsja: <i>Issabella Crum</i>	<u>Bulletins:</u> <i>Ryan Lenz & Christina Goral</i>



An Empty Tomb...Wonder and Proclamation

On this Third Paschal Sunday, *the Sunday of the Ointment bearing Women*, the Gospel reading [Mark 15:43-16:8] first returns us to the events of Good Friday. The account of the burial of Jesus by Joseph of Arimathea provides an important feature of the faith of the Church. It is clear from these events that Jesus really died. Pilate even inquires of the centurion at the scene to certify that in fact Jesus is dead. In the Creed, there is the affirmation that Christ *“was crucified, died, and was buried”*. Only if this is really the case can there truly be the wonder and miracle of the Resurrection.

Also noteworthy is the comment at Mark 15:47, *“Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Joseph saw where he was placed.”* In this way, the women who go to the tomb, *“very early, on the first day of the week”* [Mark 16:2] to anoint the body of Jesus, would in fact know which tomb to visit.

But another dimension of this Gospel has to do with what is not included. Nowhere in any of the four gospels is Jesus actual emergence from the tomb described. The resurrection is a unique and supremely marvelous event which defies words or any attempt at description. Iconographers, those who write or paint icons, in following the Scriptures refrain from attempting to portray the resurrection. The icon traditionally known as the Resurrection icon is more specifically the *“Descent into Hades”* [cf. 1 Peter 3:19, 4:6]. This tells us the effect and the meaning of the Resurrection. Jesus' descent into *“Hades”* refers to his encounter with death, Satan, and all the powers of evil. He overcame these by his death and burial, and this victory is made manifest in the Resurrection.

The words of the angel to the women, *“He is risen; he is not here”* [Mark 16:2] is the message and the charge entrusted to us. We have encountered the risen Christ in the Liturgy, and we hear, today and each Sunday, the announcement of the good news of his Resurrection.

[Adapted from Fr. John Custer, The Holy Gospel—A Byzantine Perspective, pp. 369-372]

Mother's Day/Father's Day Breakfast—Sunday, May 7

The *Annual “Mother's Day/Father's Day” Breakfast* is next 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.

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.

Questionnaire For the Upcoming Synod of Bishops

The Vatican has issued a questionnaire in order to gather information for the forthcoming Synod of Bishops to be held in Rome, October, 2018. Metropolitan William will attend the Synod, and he asks for your participation in completing the questionnaire.

The Questionnaire for the 2018 Synod of Bishops on *“Young People, The Faith and Vocational Discernment”* can be completed on line.

Go to: archpitt.org; and then to <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/archpitt>. Metropolitan William’s Invitation is on the home page, directly under the banner and the questionnaire can also be accessed from there. Follow the directions. Thank You!

There will also be printed copies of the survey in the narthex for your convenience.

PARISH NEWS & COMING EVENTS

Annual Festival Preparations

- At the meeting for the Annual Festival on Thursday, April 27 a schedule for cooking and kitchen responsibilities was determined. This will involve making some of the foods items during the third and fourth weeks in June and freezing them. The variety of tasks is to be shared among a number of volunteers. This schedule will be listed in the bulletin as we approach these dates in June.
- There is still a need for those with specific areas of responsibility from last year’s Festival to inform Fr. Jim whether or not you are able to continue this responsibility for this year's event.
- Also, additional help is needed for responsibility for the *children’s games and activities*. Please let Fr. Jim know if you are interested in helping with this area.
- The next meeting for the Festival is scheduled for Wednesday, May 10 at 7:00 PM in the social room of the church hall.

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. A note of thanks to the volunteers for the monthly Church Cleaning and for this weekend’s Work Party.

ECF Students—Troitsja and Bulletins

A *note of thanks* to our junior high and high school students for their participation at the Divine Liturgy in holding the Troitsja at the Divine Liturgy and distributing bulletins. We would like to continue to schedule the students over the summer months. Please let Father Jim know the Sundays or weeks when you will not be available [vacations, etc.]. *Thank you*

Eastern Christian Formation Program

- 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 Paschal Season

- The Troparion and other parts of the Divine Liturgy for next Sunday, May 7, the *Sunday of the Paralyzed Man* may be found in the Divine Liturgy books from pages 181-183.
- The Magnification [The Angel Exclaimed] and the *Our Father* in the Paschal Tone are on page 167.
- Please note instructions at the beginning of the Liturgy for opening hymns etc.

Remember In Prayer

Please pray for the health of *Kathryn Mackovyak* [Health South, Altoona]; *June Nezeski* [Memorial Hospital]; *Walter Prozialeck, Helen Zaher* [Cambria Care]; *Pauline Barelich; George Yatsky; Ruby Moore; Charles and Joan Plishka; Tom Goncher; Joan Ditko; Cliff Inman; Shawn Crum*; infant *Basil; Ellen Colwell*, Fr. Jim's sister; and all the ill & homebound.

OTHER NEWS & EVENTS

Fatima Devotions in Loretto

The Franciscan Friars, T.O.R., from Loretto, invite you to participate with them in celebrating the *Fatima Devotions* on Saturday, May 13, 6:30 P.M. at the Basilica of St. Michael the Archangel. The singing will be led by the choir from the Basilica of St. Michael the Archangel and the sermon will be delivered by Fr. Jonathan St. Andre, T.O.R. We would like to extend a cordial welcome to all.

Summer Church Music Program for Cantors at Seminary

A regular summer church music program for cantors and choir directors is being inaugurated. For 2017, the program will consist of a three-day master class and workshop to be held on July 12-14 at Saints Cyril and Methodius Byzantine Catholic Seminary in Pittsburgh, PA.

The program is open to experienced cantors and choir directors in the Byzantine Catholic Church; some experience with reading music is required. The program will show church singers:

- **How to improve the flow, pacing, and effectiveness of liturgical singing**
- **How to use extemporized natural harmony to enhance plain chant**
- **How to renew liturgical music in the parish, and increase participation**

In addition to classroom instruction, students will receive individualized vocal coaching and the opportunity to lead services, with credit toward cantor certification. The program is directed by Deacon Jeffrey Mierzejewski, with additional instructors from the Archeparchy of Pittsburgh and the Eparchy of Parma. A registration fee of \$200, due by July 1, covers all materials, meals, and instruction for the three day course. Lodging at the seminary is available for an additional \$100; both men and women can be accommodated, on separate floors of the seminary.

For more information, or to register, please contact: Deacon Jeffrey Mierzejewski, mci@archpitt.org; (412) 735-1676.

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.

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.

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

***Christ is risen! Indeed He is risen!
Christos Voskrese! Voistinnu Voskrese!
Christos Anesti! Alithos Anesti!***

Liturgical Schedule Third Paschal Week—April 30, 2017

Third Paschal Sunday--Sunday of the Ointment-Bearers

Saturday April 29

Dunlo **5:00 PM** Vigil Divine Liturgy

Sunday April 30

Portage **9:00 AM** Sunday Divine Liturgy

[+Audrey Pyo, by Husband, George Pyo; Wedding Anniversary]

Monday May 1

Portage 7:45 AM The Third Hour
 8:00 AM **Divine Liturgy** [+Irene Timura, by Don Timura]

Tuesday May 2

No Divine Liturgy scheduled

Wednesday May 3

Portage 7:45 AM The Third Hour
 8:00 AM **Divine Liturgy** [+George Raptosh, by Tim & Terri Kinsella]

Thursday May 4

No Divine Liturgy scheduled

Friday May 5

No Divine Liturgy scheduled

Saturday May 6

Portage 3:00 PM Mystery of Repentance [Confessions]
Beaverdale 4:30 PM Mystery of Repentance [Confessions]

Third Paschal Sunday--Sunday of the Paralytic Man

Saturday May 6

Beaverdale **5:00 PM** Vigil Divine Liturgy [+Helen Sasek, by Agnes Zibura]

Sunday May 7

Portage **9:00 AM** Sunday Divine Liturgy