



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  
Rectory: 143 Church Drive Portage, PA 15946  
Phone: 814-736-9780 Fax: 814-736-8701  
Website: [www.ByzantineCatholic.net](http://www.ByzantineCatholic.net)

**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**

<b><u>Sunday, May 21</u></b>	<i>Alex Bisaha</i>	<b><u>Sunday, May 28</u></b>	<i>Maddy Single</i>
<b><u>Sunday, June 4</u></b>	<i>Alex Bisaha</i>	<b><u>Sunday, June 11</u></b>	<i>Maddy Single</i>

### **Troitsja & Bulletin Schedule**

**Please Note:** Schedule will be interrupted until new Troitsja candle arrives.



## **Sunday of the Man Born Blind**

Today's Gospel is a rather engaging story. The account of the man who was blind and given sight by Jesus [[John 9:1-38](#)] moves quickly from scene to scene. The dialogue between the blind man and several others holds our attention and moves the story ahead. Through a series of conversations there develops and is manifested the faith of this man. The story concludes with his profession of faith: *"He said, 'Lord, I believe'; and he worshipped him."*

[[John 9:28](#)]

The Gospel account of this event dramatizes the confrontation of the blind man particularly with the Pharisees as a trial. In this way he demonstrates that the Christian life entails the willingness to profess openly and publically our faith in Jesus Christ. At times, this may need to be done in hostile circumstances, or in an environment of being tested or tried. The situation of being on trial, having to defend oneself or one's belief, is suggested through the drama and dialogue of this Gospel.

We find a parallel to this Gospel in today's lesson from [Acts 16:16-34](#). Paul and Silas are brought before the magistrate, accused, beaten with rods and imprisoned. Each of us, as followers of Christ, will also know some measure of such testing and trial, to the degree that we seek to live faithfully as followers of Christ.

## **Feast of the Ascension of our Lord**

We celebrate the feast of the *Ascension of our Lord* this week, on [Thursday, May 25](#). The Ascension is designated a feast of obligation for Byzantine Catholics.

*"In his human body the Lord returned to the glory he has at the right hand of his Father on high. In this way, he lifts our human nature of deification and is enthroned as the High Priest who has suffered human death, yet is risen for the sake of human life. We glorify the Lord and await his coming again in glory."* [[Typicon](#), p. 44]

## *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.

## **Graduates 2017**

We would like to acknowledge Graduates of the Class of 2017 from our parish family. Please submit the names of parishioners who are graduating in 2017 from high school, college, or technical and professional schools, and include degrees earned and any special awards, recognitions, etc.



Please place information in an envelope in the offering basket, or call the rectory [736-9780].  
**Please submit by Sunday, May 28.**

## Parish 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

During 2017 Saints Peter and Paul Church, Portage, observes the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of its founding. The cornerstone from the original church building is inscribed with the year 1917 indicating the year of the establishment of the parish.

An observance of the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary is being planned for Sunday, November 5. An initial meeting to plan for this observance is scheduled for Wednesday, June 7 at 7:00 pm in the social room the church hall. Anyone who is willing to take part in the planning and to assist with the various details of this celebration is welcome to attend this meeting. Additional details will be provided in the weeks ahead.

## PARISH NEWS & COMING EVENTS

### Church Cleaning & Work Party for June

- The Work Party for June is scheduled for Saturday, June 3, at 10:30 am, following the Divine Liturgy and Panachida for the *Fifth All Souls Saturday*.
- The Church Cleaning for June is scheduled for Monday, June 12, at 9:00 am. *Please note* this change in schedule from the usual first Monday, due to the *Feast of Pentecost Monday* on June 4

### Annual Festival Preparations

The annual festival is scheduled for Sunday, July 9 2017. A schedule for cooking and kitchen responsibilities, with various tasks shared among a number of volunteers, has been prepared. This schedule will be listed in the bulletin as we approach these dates in June.

Please begin to plan for donations of baskets for the **Basket Raffle**, and baked goods for the **Bake Sale** to provide adequate display for these areas. Help is needed for responsibility for some of the **children's games**. Please let Fr. Jim know if you are interested in helping with this area. The next meeting for the Festival is scheduled for Wednesday, June 14 at 7:00 PM in the social room of the church hall. Thank you for your cooperation.

### New Troitsja Candle

A new **Troitsja**—*three branch candle*—is being purchased. Since the current one is mostly depleted, we will suspend using the Troitsja at the Divine Liturgy until the new candle arrives. The schedule for the junior high and high school students to hold the Troitsja will resume whenever the new candle has arrived. Shipment is expected in about four weeks.

If anyone would like to consider donating the new Troitsja, perhaps as a memorial donation to honor the memory of a deceased relative or family member, please contact Father Jim. The cost of the ornamented, 33" high new Troitsja is about \$300.

### Byzantine Catholic Seminary

Enclosed within today's bulletin are copies of "**Joyful Light**" the semi-annual newsletter of the Byzantine Catholic Seminary of Saints Cyril and Methodius. If you did not receive the newsletter in the bulletin, "**Joyful Lights**" is also available at [www.bcs.edu](http://www.bcs.edu). The annual offering envelope for the **Byzantine Catholic Seminary of Saints Cyril and Methodius** is dated May 7, 2017. *Thank you* for your generosity in supporting the Byzantine Catholic Seminary.

## Parish Advisory Council Meeting Minutes

Minutes of the meeting of November 10, 2016 for the *Parish Advisory Council* for *Saint Mary's, Beaverdale and Saints Peter & Paul, Dunlo*; are inserted in today's bulletin.

## Liturgical Chant: Ascension & Sunday of the Fathers of 1st Council

- The Divine Liturgy for the *Feast of the Ascension* may be found from [pages 191-195](#).
- The Troparion and other parts of the Divine Liturgy for next Sunday, May 28, the *Sunday of the Fathers of the First Ecumenical Council* are on [pages 196-202](#).
- The *Our Father* in the [Tone 6 Samohlasen](#) may be found on page [71](#).
- Please note instructions at the beginning of the Liturgy for opening hymns etc.

## Eternal Memory

You are asked to pray for the repose of the soul of *Sister Jean Marie Cihota, OSBM* of Mount Saint Macrina and presently serving at Saint Stephen's Cathedral in the Eparchy of Phoenix who fell asleep in the Lord Friday, May 18 in the 61<sup>st</sup> year of her monastic life.

## Remember In Prayer

Please pray for the health of *Kathryn Mackovyak* [John Paul II Manor, Cresson]; *Walter Prozialeck, 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

### Helping Hands Day 2017

The *Greek Catholic Union [GCU]* and the Sisters of St. Basil the Great invite you to *Helping Hands Day*, Mount Saint Macrina, Uniontown Saturday, June 3 at 9:30 am to help beautify the grounds. Monetary contributions toward the purchase of flowers at Mt. St. Macrina may be made to: *Helping Hands Day [Mt. St. Macrina]*; GCU Fraternal Department; 5400 Tuscarawas Rd.; Beaver, PA 15009.

### 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](http://archpitt.org); then to <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/archpitt>. Metropolitan William's Invitation is on the home page, directly under the banner; the questionnaire can also be accessed from there. Follow the directions. Printed copies are in the narthex for your convenience.

### 21<sup>st</sup> Annual Great Portage Yard Sale

This year's sale is Saturday, June 10, 8am--3pm, rain or shine. Participants have a numbered sign and balloons to mark sale site and are listed on the event map. Maps available at Portage Station Museum, 400 Lee Street, Tuesdays through Saturdays Noon to 4 pm, or on the day of the event.

## **Fatima Pilgrimage**

100<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:pmadalr@thecatholictour.com).

## **Register for Summer Online Credit and Certificate Classes**

These *Summer 2017 Certificate Courses* are offered online June 12 to August 4, 2017:

**The Seven Ages of the Kingdom: Salvation History and the Bible**, Fr. Deacon Daniel Dozier. Explores the main elements of the Bible's great story of the Kingdom of God from Genesis to Revelation, in light of the Byzantine Christian theological and liturgical tradition.

**History of the Eastern Churches in America**, Joel Brady, PhD. This course explores the history of the Eastern Churches-Eastern Catholic, Eastern Orthodox, Oriental Orthodox, and Assyrian-in the Americas, with a particular focus on the United States.

For registration, tuition information: [www.bcs.edu](http://www.bcs.edu), and under "Programs" go to Byzantine Online.

## **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.

- **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**

Includes classroom instruction, vocal coaching and the opportunity to lead services. The program is directed by Deacon Jeffrey Mierzejewski. Registration fee [\$200] due by July 1. Lodging at the seminary is available for an additional \$100; both men and women can be accommodated, on separate floors of the seminary. For information, or to register, contact: Deacon Jeffrey Mierzejewski, [mci@archpitt.org](mailto:mci@archpitt.org); (412) 735-1676.

### **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 Nezneski; 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*
- **John Paul II Manor, Cresson**: Kathryn Mackovyak

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

**Liturgical Schedule Sixth Paschal Week—May 21, 2017**

**Fifth Paschal Sunday--Sunday of the Man Born Blind**

**Saturday May 20**

Beaverdale **5:00 PM** Vigil Divine Liturgy [+Elizabeth Andrykovitch, by John Slivenik]

**Sunday May 21**

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

**Monday May 22**

No Divine Liturgy scheduled

**Tuesday May 23**

Portage 7:45 AM The Third Hour  
8:00 AM **Divine Liturgy** [+Emile Billy, Sr., by Joe & Donna Panek [rescheduled]]

**Wednesday May 24**

No Divine Liturgy scheduled

**Feast of the Ascension of Our Lord**

**Wednesday, May 24**

Beaverdale **6:00 PM** Vespers with Divine Liturgy

**Thursday, May 25**

Portage 8:45 AM The Third Hour

**9:00 AM** **Divine Liturgy**

Portage **7:00 PM** **Divine Liturgy**

**Friday May 26**

No Divine Liturgy scheduled

**Saturday May 27**

Portage 3:00 PM Mystery of Repentance [Confessions]

Dunlo 4:30 PM Mystery of Repentance [Confessions]

**Seventh Paschal Sunday-Sunday of the Fathers at the First Nicean Council**

**Saturday May 27**

Dunlo **5:00 PM** Vigil Divine Liturgy [+Marietta Kollar, by Husband & Family]

**Sunday May 28**

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