



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

August 13

Alex Bisaha

Sunday, August 20

Maddy Single

Troitsja & Bulletin Schedule

Sunday August 13

Troitsja: *Evan Lenz*

Bulletins: *Cierra Goral & Christina Goral*

Sunday, August 20

Troitsja: *Sydney Leturgey*

Bulletins: *Issabella Crum & Evan Lenz*

Sunday, August 27

Troitsja: *Ryan Lenz*

Bulletins: *Sydney Leturgey & Ryan Lenz*



The Feast of the Dormition of the Theotokos

“The Feast of the Dormition is one of the twelve Major Feasts of the Byzantine Rite and is celebrated with uncommon solemnity. In preparation for the feast, a two weeks period of fasting is prescribed for the faithful, called the Fast of Dormition ("Uspenskij Post"), which begins on the first day of August. Since the Feast of the Transfiguration of Our Lord, popularly known as "Spasa," fell within this time, this fast came to be referred to as the "Spasovka," meaning the Savior's Fast. Historically, the Fast of Dormition can be traced to the ninth century but it was officially introduced into the Byzantine discipline by the Synod of Constantinople in 1166.

“Liturgically speaking, the Feast has one day of pre-festivity and eight days of post-festivity during which time the mysteries of Mary's wondrous death and her glorious assumption to heaven are celebrated. The Vespers of the Feast, celebrated with Litija, repeatedly implore the intercession of the Mother of God: ***"O Lady, do not forget the ties of kinship with those who commemorate your all-holy Dormition with faith."*** [Stichera of Litija]

“According to an old custom, flowers and medicinal herbs are blessed after the Divine Liturgy on the Feast of the Dormition. This custom most probably originated from the traditional belief that after Mary's glorious assumption into heaven, her holy tomb was filled with a ‘heavenly fragrance’ and flowers [St. Germanus, Homily]. The herbs, used by people as natural medicine, are blessed in commemoration of the numerous healings and extraordinary graces bestowed on the pilgrims at Mary's tomb. [St. John Damascene, Homily on Dormition].

Preaching at the tomb of Mary, St. John Damascene reminded the people that: ***"Divine power is not circumscribed by any place and neither is the inexhaustible goodness of the Mother of God. For if the graces were restricted only to her tomb, only a few people would gain them. Now her graces are poured out in every place throughout the world."*** [Homily on Dormition]

[From The Dormition, Byzantine Leaflet Series, Byzantine Seminary Press, 1979]

Celebrating the Feast of the Dormition...

The Icon of the Dormition represents the Virgin lying on her deathbed, surrounded by the Apostles, with Christ in glory receiving her soul into His arms. All hints of black sorrow are overcome by a certain colorful sobriety. This mood is expressed in the Kontakion:

"The grave and death did not detain the Theotokos. She intercedes without rest and is our unfailing hope of protection; for He Who dwelt in the womb of the Ever Virgin transferred to life the Mother of Life." [Kontakion of the Feast of the Dormition]

For the ***Feast of the Dormition*** [a *feast of obligation*], there will be ***Vespers with Divine Liturgy*** on Monday, August 14, at 6:00 pm at Saint Mary, Beaverdale; and the ***Divine Liturgy*** on Tuesday, August 15, at 9:00 am and at 7:00 pm at Saints Peter and Paul, Portage.

Flowers brought to church for this feast will be blessed following each of these services

Charter Bus to Annual Pilgrimage In Honor of Our Lady of Perpetual Help

The *83rd Annual Pilgrimage to the Shrine of Our Lady of Perpetual Help* takes place during the Labor Day Weekend, September 2-3, 2017. Transportation by charter bus to the Pilgrimage to Mount Saint Macrina is being scheduled for **Sunday, September 3**. The bus departs from our parking lot at **7:00 am**. Departure from Mount Saint Macrina will be at about 9:00 pm [following the candlelight procession]. There is a list in the back of church where you may sign up to reserve a seat on the bus. Please do so by **Sunday, August 27st**.

Please Note: Mlaker Transportation requires that all passengers must provide an emergency contact telephone number. This number must be someone who will not be on the bus. *Thank you* for your cooperation.

An invitation is extended to those who have never attended the pilgrimage. Families are also encouraged to take advantage of this opportunity to attend the Pilgrimage.

PARISH NEWS & COMING EVENTS

Parish 100th Anniversary

In the coming weeks, invitations are to be prepared so that these may be sent out in early September. There are a variety of tasks related with planning and preparation for the 100th Anniversary for which help will be needed. These will be communicated in the coming weeks.

The celebration of the 100th Anniversary of Saints Peter and Paul Church, Portage is scheduled for **Sunday, November 5**. The *Hierarchical Divine Liturgy* with Metropolitan Archbishop William will be at 3:00 pm. The Anniversary Banquet will follow the Hierarchical Divine Liturgy.

The next meeting to plan for this observance is Monday, September 11 at 7:00 pm in the social room of the church hall. If you would like to help with the details of this celebration, please come.

Faith and Fun Day for Altar Servers

Faith and Fun Day for Altar Servers is Thursday, August 24. Open to all active altar servers (elementary through college), sponsored by the Office of Vocations to say "thank you" to active altar servers for volunteering time and service to the Church. The day begins with Divine Liturgy, and includes lunch, a visit to the Carnegie Science Center, and a Pittsburgh Pirates Baseball Game at PNC Park. Space is limited. Contact Father Jim to sign up!

Eastern Christian Formation

Last Sunday, our Catechists met with Father Jim and Deacon Dan in preparation for the **2017-2018 Eastern Christian Formation**. A need that is both current and ongoing is the recruitment of candidates to serve as Catechists and in other support tasks for the Eastern Christian Formation program. We ask for your prayers in support of this important area of parish life. If you might be willing to help with the ECF program, or may have questions, you may contact Fr. Jim.

Catechists are to meet again in September, with the date and time to be announced to continue planning the classes for the **2017-2018 Eastern Christian Formation** classes.

Liturgical Chant –Sundays after Pentecost

- For Vespers with the Divine Liturgy for the ***Feast of the Dormition of the Theotokos***, the *Vigil Divine Liturgy* is in the Divine Liturgy book on p. 104; Vesper stichera will be in a separate handout.
- The Troparion and other prescribed parts of the Divine Liturgy for the ***Feast of the Dormition of the Theotokos [Tuesday, August 15]*** may be found on p. 352-355.
- The Divine Liturgy for **Sunday, August 20**, the ***Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost, Resurrection Troparion Tone 2***, may be found in the Divine Liturgy book on p. 130-132; and for the ***Post-festive of the Feast of the Dormition*** may be found on p. 352-355.
- The “*Our Father*”, Tone 2 may be found on p.67.
- Please note instructions at the beginning of the Liturgy for opening hymns etc.

Remember In Prayer

Please pray for the health of ***Carol Slifko***, Beaverdale; ***George Yatsky; Marian Simala; Barbara Raptosh; Roseann Chappell***, Tammy Whitcomb’s mother; ***Kathryn Mackovyak; Pauline Barelich; Ned Moore; Ruby Moore; Charles and Joan Plishka; Charles Martin Plishka Tom Goncher; Joan Ditko; Cliff Inman; Shawn Crum***; infant ***Carson James***; infant ***Basil; Ellen Colwell; Jessi Tomko; Father Joseph Borodach; Father Edward Lucas***; and all the ill & homebound.

Sanctuary Candle

The Sanctuary Candle is offered this week in memory of ***+Jenny Letzo***, requested by Julie Brenna.

Cemetery Care

Maintaining our cemeteries during the summer months is a particular need for each of our parish communities. We gratefully acknowledge those who volunteer their services in cutting grass, weed trimming, etc. in the cemeteries in the respective parishes. Your financial offerings for cemetery are of course vital to this care, with includes grass cutting, trash removal services, etc. Thank you for your generosity. Envelopes for the care of cemeteries are in your box of offering envelopes.

OTHER NEWS & EVENTS

Fatima Devotions in Loretto

The Franciscan Friars, T.O.R., Loretto, invite you to participate with them in celebrating Fatima Devotions **Sunday, August 13 6:30 P.M.** in the gardens at Immaculate Conception Chapel on the campus of Saint Francis University. The singing will be led by the choir from St. Benedict’s in Johnstown and the sermon will be delivered by Fr. Richard Davis, T.O.R. A cordial welcome to all.

“Groovin at the Grove”

Resurrection parish is sponsoring “***Groovin at the Grove***” at their grove in Tanneryville Each Groovin will start with an Outdoor Mass at 5:30 PM, food will be available after Mass. Music from 7 PM to 10 PM. Saturday, August 19: ***Flood City Brass***.

Annual Portage Summerfest

Annual Portage Summerfest concludes today, August 13 with events at Crichton McCormick Park, including Portage Area Cruisers Car Club Show. Information at www.portageareasummerfest.com.

Invitation to a Pilgrimage:

The Protection of the Blessed Virgin Mary Ukrainian Catholic parish in Revloc invites you to a pilgrimage to the ***Mother of God of Zarvanytsia*** on Sunday, August 20. The day of prayer and reconciliation begins at 11:00 A.M. with confessions and also includes rosary at 12:00 P.M., Divine Liturgy at 1:00 P.M., and a Moleben Service at 4:00 P.M.

There will also be time for private prayer and meditation. Food will be available for sale

Johnstown Slavic Festival Nutroll Throwdown

Johnstown Area Heritage Association invites you to compete in ***Johnstown Slavic Festival Nutroll Throwdown!*** The ***Third Annual Johnstown Slavic Festival*** is Saturday, September 23. If anyone has a Nutroll recipe that they think is the most scrumptious, the nuttiest, the most melt-in-your-mouth delectable dessert ever —then this is their contest! Enter your special Nutroll recipe in the Slavic Festival 2017 Baba's Famous Nutroll Contest in which a carefully selected panel of local Nutroll experts will put the entries to the taste test! In addition to holding this prestigious title, the winner, to be named at the Festival, will be granted a booth at Slavic Festival 2018 at no charge!

THE DEADLINE TO REGISTER IS SEPTEMBER 1, 2017. Simply go to www.jaha.org and enter to win **Baba's Famous Nutroll Contest!** Select "Special Events" and scroll down to JOHNSTOWN SLAVIC FESTIVAL on the left, print the entry form, mail or email it in to the addresses listed on the form.

Twenty-Sixth Annual Ukrainian Festival.

Twenty-Sixth Annual Ukrainian Festival will be Sun., Aug. 27, 12:00 PM at the Ukrainian American Sport Center Tryzub (County Line and Lower State Rds., Horsham, PA. Features outdoor Summer Concert of Ukrainian Dance, Music and Song; Ukrainian Social Dance (Zabava); Ukrainian ethnic foods and baked goods, a BBQ and cool refreshments will be plentiful. Visit vendors' grove and the kids' fun area. Info: 267-6643857; eluciw@comcast.net; www.tryzub.org

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.

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
 - **The Winds at Mattern Orchard, Duncansville:** Mary Vrabel
 - **Brookside Manor, Portage:** Andrew Majer
 - **Amber Hills Ebsenburg:** Edward Andrykovitch [Beaverdale]; *Father Ronald Borsuk*
 - **John Paul II Manor, Cresson:** Kathryn Mackovyak
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Liturgical Schedule 11th Week After Pentecost — August 13, 2017

Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

Final Day of the Feast of the Transfiguration

Saturday August 12

Beaverdale **5:00 PM** Vigil Divine Liturgy [+Dorothy Novak, by Catherine Prudhoe]

Sunday August 13

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

Feast of the Dormition of the Theotokos

Monday, August 14

Beaverdale **6:00 PM** *Vespers with the Divine Liturgy,*
Followed by Blessing of Flowers

Tuesday, August 15

Portage 8:45 AM The Third Hour
9:00 AM **Divine Liturgy,** [+Jenny Letzo, by Julie Brenna]
Followed by Blessing of Flowers

Portage **7:00 PM** **Divine Liturgy,** *followed by Blessing of Flowers*

Wednesday, August 16

No Divine Liturgy scheduled

Thursday, August 17

Portage 7:45 AM The Third Hour
8:00 AM **Divine Liturgy** [+Mary Bulinsky, by Mr. & Mrs. Steve Suchta]

Friday August 18

No Divine Liturgy scheduled

Saturday, August 19

Portage 1:00 pm ***Mystery of Crowning in Marriage***
Randy Paul Spaid and Angelica Theresa Fedorko
Portage 3:00 PM Mystery of Repentance [Confessions]
Dunlo 4:30 PM Mystery of Repentance [Confessions]

Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

Post-festive of the Feast of the Dormition of the Theotokos

Saturday August 19

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

Sunday August 20

Portage **9:00 AM** Sunday Divine Liturgy [+Delores Hollop, by Connie & Ken Crum]