



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

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.

Troitsja & Bulletin Schedule

<u>Sunday, August 20</u>	Troitsja: Sydney Leturgey	<u>Bulletins:</u> <i>Issabella Crum & Evan Lenz</i>
<u>Sunday, August 27</u>	Troitsja: <i>Ryan Lenz</i>	<u>Bulletins:</u> Sydney Leturgey & Ryan Lenz
<u>Sunday September 3</u>	Troitsja: <i>Hunter Whitcomb</i>	<u>Bulletins:</u> <i>Cierra Goral & Hunter Whitcomb</i>



A Parable of Forgiveness

Christian faith means following our Lord Jesus Christ within the context of the Church. It involves a very different “environment”, a very different understanding by which to evaluate and direct our lives. Because of this, parables were often used by Jesus to introduce us to this distinct set of values and purposes which are so unfamiliar to our human expectations and resources. By using features that are familiar to our lives and circumstances, the parables would then lead us to insights and hopefully to some grasp of the Kingdom of God, and its meaning and intention for our lives.

Today’s parable [Matthew 18:23-35] employs a contrast of a hopelessly large debt which is forgiven of a servant, and a very small debt owed to him by a fellow servant which he does not forgive. Forgiveness is the “*native language*” of the Kingdom of God and the life of the Church. Today’s parable serves to remind us that the forgiveness we have received from Christ is the only way out of the “dead end” of sin. And yet to accept this forgiveness of Christ requires that we likewise share forgiveness with others. [From Fr. John Custer, *The Gospels*, pp. 135

Many, Happy Years!

Congratulations and prayerful best wishes are extended to **Randy Paul Spaid** and **Angelica Theresa Fedorko** who were united in the Mystery of Crowning in Marriage at Saints Peter & Paul Church, Portage on Saturday, August 19.

“O God, our God, You came to Cana in Galilee and blessed the marriage there; now bless your servants who through your providence are united in the common life of marriage. Bless the daily course of their life; fill their life with good things; and accept their crowns into your kingdom, keeping them pure, blameless, and above reproach.”

[Blessing, *Holy Mystery of Crowning in Marriage*]

A Prayer of Blessing for Students and Teachers

We offer our prayers and encouragement as students return to classes in the coming weeks to begin the new academic year. We also remember teachers and others who assist in educating students at this important time in their lives. We offer this prayer for our students that the coming school year be blessed with growth in wisdom, knowledge and maturity:

“O Lord our God and Creator, you have honored humanity with your own image. Now, O Lord, open the hearts, the minds, and the lips of your servants, our students who are beginning a new school year, so that they may receive the power of your law, and may understand the knowledge which shall be taught them, to the glory of your all-holy name and for the building up of your holy Church. Deliver them from every hostile power; preserve them in the true faith and in holiness all the days of their lives, that they may increase in wisdom and in the fulfilling of your commandments. And so, being prepared in this manner, they may also glorify your all-holy name, and become an heir of your kingdom. For you are God, mighty in mercy, and gracious in strength, and to You is due all glory, honor and worship Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and ever and forever. Amen”

This Week...

Father Jim will be away on vacation this week from August 21- 25. **Father Robert Oravetz** of Holy Trinity Byzantine Catholic Church in Conemaugh [814-535-5231] is available for any funerals during this period. In the event of an emergency for the Holy Anointing, you may contact any of the local Catholic priests.

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.

Eastern Christian Formation

Catechists have been meeting together with Father Jim and Deacon Dan to prepare 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.

Mustang Pride Tailgate Party

The Portage Public Library celebrates *Mustang Pride*, with a *Tailgate Party* on Friday, September 1, from 4:00 pm-6:30 pm. The event will be held under the tents by the Library and features "Portage Style Chicken" by WOW Meats & More.

Cost: Adult Meal: \$8.00; Kid's Meal: \$6.00. Meals include entrée and two sides. Soda and water are available for purchase. Food tickets will be available at the library or on the day of the event

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!

Liturgical Chant –Sundays after Pentecost

- The Divine Liturgy for Sunday, August 27, the *Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost*, Resurrection Troparion Tone 3 may be found in the Divine Liturgy book on p. 135-137.
- The "Our Father", Tone 3 may be found on p.68.
- Please note instructions at the beginning of the Liturgy for opening hymns etc.

Offerings for July

	<u>July 2</u>	<u>July 9</u>	<u>July 16</u>	<u>July 23</u>	<u>July 30</u>
Portage:	\$1,737.00	\$1,093.00	\$1,959.00	\$1,280.00	\$1,598.00
Beaverdale:	\$ 333.00	\$ 295.00	\$ 290.00	\$ 236.00	\$ 279.00
Dunlo:	\$ 87.00	\$ 290.90	\$ 65.00	\$ 218.00	\$ 150.00

Remember In Prayer

Please pray for the health of *Moose Pyo* [UPMC-Altoona]; *Carol Slifko*; *George Yatsky*; *Barbara Raptosh*; *Roseann Chappell*, Tammy Whitcomb's mother; *Kathryn Mackovyak*; *Pauline Barelich*; *Ruby Moore*; *Charles* and *Joan Plishka*; *Charles Martin Plishka Tom Goncher*; *Patrick & Joan Ditko*; *Cliff Inman*; *Shawn Crum*; infant *Carson James*; infant *Basil*; *Ellen Colwell*; *Jessi Tomko*; *Very Rev. Archpriest Dennis Bogda* [UPMC Presbyterian]; *Father Edward Lucas*. [Forbes Hospital, Monroeville]; and all the ill & homebound.

Sanctuary Candle

The Sanctuary Candle is offered this week in memory of *+Elizabeth Harrigal*, requested by Doug & Marcy Roxby.

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

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 Ebensburg:** Edward Andrykovitch [Beaverdale]; *Father Ronald Borsuk*
- **John Paul II Manor, Cresson:** Kathryn Mackovyak

Dormition of the Theotokos

"Let us joyfully celebrate the holy Dormition of the Theotokos since it was for all creation. She offers her glorious, bright, and truly divine gifts. Her faith, hope, and joyful charity, her chastity, holiness, and justice are her adornment. May He make us worthy to be her companions in the heavenly kingdom."

of the Dormition,

Vespers, Postfestive Day

Liturgical Schedule 12th Week After Pentecost — August 20, 2017

Eleventh 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]

Monday, August 21

No Divine Liturgy scheduled

Tuesday, August 22

No Divine Liturgy scheduled

Wednesday, August 23

No Divine Liturgy scheduled

Thursday, August 24

No Divine Liturgy scheduled

Friday August 25

No Divine Liturgy scheduled

Saturday, August 26

Portage 3:00 PM Mystery of Repentance [Confessions]

Beaverdale 4:30 PM Mystery of Repentance [Confessions]

Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

Saturday August 26

Beaverdale **5:00 PM** Vigil Divine Liturgy [+Elizabeth Harrigal, by Doug & March Roxby]

Sunday August 27

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