



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.

Troitsja & Bulletin Schedule

Sunday September 10 Troitsja: *Cierra Goral*

Bulletins: *Issabella Crum & Christina Goral*

Sunday September 17 Troitsja: *Christina Goral*

Bulletins: *Sydney Leturgey & Evan Lenz*

Sunday September 24 Troitsja: *Issabella Crum*

Bulletins: *Ryan Lenz & Hunter Whitcomb*



Feast of the Exaltation of the Venerable Cross...

This week, on September 14, we celebrate the **Exaltation of the Life-Giving Cross of our Lord**. A description of the origins of this feast is given in the Synaxarion

"A tradition which took shape early and was definitely established in the sixth century reports that Saint Helen, the mother of Emperor Constantine, rediscovered near Golgotha the three crosses which served to execute Christ and the two thieves. The healing of a dying woman permitted Bishop Makarios to recognize as, being the Lord's Cross, the one whose contact effected the miracle.

"The Holy Cross was preserved in the Basilica of the Resurrection [in Jerusalem] until May 4, 614, the date on which the Persians carried it away after having taken the city of Jerusalem and destroying the Basilica. In 628, Emperor Heraclius defeated Chosroes and brought the Holy Cross back to Jerusalem. Heraclius took the venerable wood upon his shoulders and carried it back to Calvary with great pomp. According to the legend, upon reaching the door of the church, the Emperor, magnificently dressed and wearing gold, was stopped by an invisible force. Zachary, the Bishop of Jerusalem, said to him: 'Be careful, Emperor, that with these ornaments of triumph, you don't imitate sufficiently the poverty of Jesus Christ and the humility with which he carried His Cross.' The Emperor laid aside his splendid clothes to dress himself in an ordinary cloak, and with bare feet, he was able to continue on his way.

"The site where tradition places the discovery of the Holy Cross by Saint Helen is venerated in the crypt of the Holy Resurrection Basilica, in Jerusalem. This commemorative chapel was made part of an ancient drain which existed in the time of our Lord in Jerusalem. Filled up later on, it was used by Constantine's architects in the crypt of the basilica.

"A part of the Cross, brought to Rome in the Sixth century, was exposed for the veneration of the faithful by order of the oriental Pope Sergius I [687-701], in the Church of the Savior.

"That is why, equally in the East and the West, the feast of the Holy Cross had a considerable importance in the liturgical calendar from this period. It is made on Good Friday which is a direct reference. But, whereas Good Friday insists more on the historic event of Christ's Redemption, in His sufferings and death, today's feast more particularly represents for us the glorious aspect of this event, consequently, the instrument of execution on which the Lord died.

"The Church calls to mind for us in the hymns of this feast the Old Testament signs, the heralds of the Cross: the tree of Eden by which we were lost [the Cross was meant to save us]; Noah's ark which accomplished the salvation of the just [the Cross effected the same to sinners]; Jacob crossing his hands to bless his son Joseph; Moses extending his arms to open in the Red Sea a door of salvation to the Israelites, then throwing some wood into the waters of Mara to sweeten their bitterness; the same Moses striking the rock with his staff to make life-giving water spring forth; and praying, with hands crossed, for the victory of the Jewish people over Amalek."

[Archbishop Neophytos Edelby, Synaxarion, pages 12-13]

Many, Happy Years!

Today, Metropolitan William Skurla honors those who observe Jubilee Wedding Anniversaries of **10, 25, 40, 50, 55, 60, 65 years** in 2017. The Divine Liturgy at Saint Elias Church in Munhall will be followed by a dinner and presentation of an anniversary certificate to each.

Congratulations to those from our parish communities celebrating Jubilee Wedding Anniversaries:

Saints Peter and Paul, Portage

<i>Frederick and Elaine Vrabel</i>	65 Years	September 13
<i>John and Bonnie Rakar</i>	45 Years	June 24
<i>Brian and Billie Bisaha</i>	35 Years	February 20
<i>Edward and Kim Rocker</i>	35 Years	May 22
<i>Alan and Valerie Pcola</i>	25 Years	September 12

Saints Peter and Paul, Dunlo

<i>Jonathan and Irene Gindlesperger</i>	55 Years	August 19
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If there are others we are not aware of please inform Father Jim.

PARISH NEWS & COMING EVENTS



Coffee Social for September – TODAY

Our monthly *Coffee & Donut Socials* for September is **TODAY--Sunday, September 10** [instead of the usual first Sunday of the month]. Please plan to come and enjoy this opportunity for conversation and refreshments with fellow parishioners.

Parish 100th Anniversary

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 will meet on Sunday, September 17, following the Divine Liturgy. **Catechetical Sunday** is scheduled for Sunday, September 24. Our Students and Catechists will take part in a prayer of blessing to begin the **2017-2018 Eastern Christian Formation** program. We ask the grace of the Holy Spirit to guide the students and Catechists as we begin our classes that day.

Recruitment of candidates to serve as Catechists and in other support tasks for the Eastern Christian Formation program is an ongoing need. 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.

Work Party & Church Cleaning for September

- **Church Cleaning for September** will be Monday, September 11, at 9:00 am.
- Our thanks to those who volunteer for the monthly **Work Party** and **Church Cleaning**.

Liturgical Chant –Sundays after Pentecost

- The Troparion and other prescribed parts of the Divine Liturgy for the ***Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross [September 14]***, may be found on p. 253-258.
- The Troparion and other prescribed parts of the Divine Liturgy for the ***Sunday after the Exaltation of the Holy Cross [September 17]***, Resurrection Troparion Tone 6, may be found on p. 152-153; the and for the ***Sunday after the Exaltation of the Holy Cross***, on p. 258-260.
- The “*Our Father*”, Tone 6 may be found on p.71.
- Please note instructions at the beginning of the Liturgy for opening hymns etc.

Remember In Prayer

Please pray for the health of ***Moose Pyo*** [UPMC, Altoona]; ***Carol Slifko; George Yatsky*** [Memorial]; ***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; Archpriest Dennis Bogda; Father Edward Lucas*** [Forbes Hospital]; and all the ill & homebound.

Sanctuary Candle

The Sanctuary Candle this week offered at Saints Peter and Paul, Portage, in memory of ***+Kiril & +Mary Garlina***; at Saint Mary, Beavertdale, in memory of ***+Mary Novak***; at Saints Peter and Paul, Dunlo, in memory of ***+Helen Single***; each requested by John and Donna Novak, Erie, Pennsylvania.

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 Tuesday, September 13, at 6:30 P.M. In the gardens at Mount Assisi. In case of inclement weather they will be at the Basilica of St. Michael the Archangel. The singing will be led by Prince of Peace Choir from Northern Cambria and the sermon will be delivered by Fr. Mark Moretti, from the Diocese of Arlington Virginia. We would like to extend a cordial welcome to all.

Vendor Party/Basket Raffle

OGT Competition Dance Team is hosting a ***Vendor Party/Basket Raffle*** on Saturday, September 23 at the Portage Elementary Gym, 10 am - 3pm. Come take a chance on some baskets, shop through some great vendors, and eat some good food.

Chicken BBQ Dinner and Mini-Bazaar

St. Demetrius Parish, Gallitzin will hold its annual ***Chicken BBQ Dinner and Mini-Bazaar*** Sunday September 24, in the parish Activity Center (rear 616 Church St.), Gallitzin. Dinners for Adults: \$10.00; Children 6-12: \$6.00; Children aged 5 and under: free. Takeouts: \$10.00.

A flea market will also be featured, as well as baked goods, games, and baskets. Dinner will be served from 11 a.m. until - ?

Community Lab Blood Screen

Sponsored by **Portage Rotary Club** on Saturday, September 16, 7:00 AM-10:00 AM, at **Senior Citizen's Center**, 506 Farren Street, Portage. The cost is \$45 for 39 test profile. Optional additional testing also available.

At **Resurrection Roman Catholic Church Hall** 324 Chestnut Street, Johnstown in conjunction with Chan Soon-Shiong Medical Center at Windber, Saturday, September 23, 7-9 a.m.. The cost is \$30; additional tests offered: PSA - \$20 • Hemoglobin A1 C - \$20 • Vitamin D Level - \$35 Please call 814-467-3961 to schedule an appointment. A 12-to-14-hour fast is recommended.

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. To register, 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.

Used Magazines

Used *magazines, merchandise catalogues, etc.* [especially with pictures] may be brought to the ushers' room and placed in the box there. They are needed by a family with a family member with special needs and are very much appreciated. *Thank you.*

Register NOW for Byzantine Online Classes

The Byzantine Catholic Seminary of Saints Cyril and Methodius, Pittsburgh **Fall 2017 CERTIFICATE COURSE--September 11 to November 4, 2017.** Contact **Byzantine Online** at online@bcs.edu.

Byzantine Christian Catechesis and Christ Our Pascha: a study of the Ukrainian Greek-Catholic Catechism taught by Fr. Deacon Daniel Dozier.

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

Hurricane Harvey and Hurricane Irma

Please continue to remember in your prayers the victims and all who have suffered loss because of Hurricane Harvey in Texas, and also those at risk with the approach of Hurricane Irma in Florida and neighboring states.

Liturgical Schedule 15th Week after Pentecost — September 10, 2017

Sunday Before the Exaltation of the Holy Cross Postfestive Day of the Birth of the Mother of God

Saturday September 9

Beaverdale **5:00 PM** Vigil Divine Liturgy [+Agnes Kuska, by Jon Gindlesperger Family]

Sunday September 10

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

Monday, September 11

No Divine Liturgy scheduled

Tuesday, September 12

No Divine Liturgy scheduled

Wednesday, September 13

No Divine Liturgy scheduled

Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross

Wednesday, September 13

Dunlo **6:00 PM** *Great Vespers with Litija*

Thursday, September 14

Portage 8:45 AM The Third Hour
9:00 AM **Divine Liturgy**

Friday, September 15

Portage 7:45 AM The Third Hour
8:00 AM **Divine Liturgy** [+Peg Chulick, by Andy Pcola]

Saturday, September 16

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

Sunday After the Exaltation of the Holy Cross

Saturday September 16

Dunlo **5:00 PM** Vigil Divine Liturgy [+Walter Prozialeck, by Betty Sekela]

Sunday September 17

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