



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 November 19</u>	<u>Troitsja:</u> Evan Lenz	<u>Bulletins:</u> Ryan Lenz & Hunter Whitcomb
<u>Sunday November 26</u>	<u>Troitsja:</u> Sydney Leturgey	<u>Bulletins:</u> Cierra Goral & Christian Goral
<u>Sunday December 3</u>	<u>Troitsja:</u> Ryan Lenz	<u>Bulletins:</u> Evan Lenz & Issabella Crum



A Prayer of Thanksgiving

*God, source and giver of all things,
we give you thanks on this
Thanksgiving Day for the
beauty of the whole of creation.
We give you thanks for the blessings
of family and friends: both those
gathered around this table and those
who are present only in our hearts.
We give you thanks for this food,
prepared by loving hands, and
for the graces you provide to nourish
our bodies, minds and hearts
so that we might better serve you.
Help us to be faithful stewards
of all that has been given us.
May we reflect that which
we have received to all we meet,
especially the less fortunate in our midst*

Happy Thanksgiving

On ***Thanksgiving Day***—Thursday, November 23—the Divine Liturgy will be at 9:00 am. Do make the effort to begin this day in prayer and worship, giving thanks to God for all of His gifts.

My prayerful wishes for a wonderful and memorable Thanksgiving Holiday!

Pilgrim Vocation Icon Program

This week, ***Susan O'Toole*** will have the ***Pilgrim Vocation Icon*** Program to pray for vocations to the priesthood, diaconate, monastic and religious life. The ***Pilgrim Vocation Icon*** program is an opportunity to have this icon in your home for the week to pray for and encourage vocations. Please sign up on the sheet in the narthex to have the Pilgrim Vocation Icon in your home.

Portage Community Thanksgiving Service

The Portage Area Ministerial Association's ***Thanksgiving Service*** for the Portage community will be on Wednesday, November 23 at *Portage CMA [Christian Missionary Alliance Church]*, 905 Johnson Avenue, Portage, at 7:00 pm.

The ***Community Thanksgiving Service*** is a wonderful opportunity to join with the Portage community and to worship together in a spirit of Christian unity while giving thanks for God's blessings on our nation, our communities, and our families. You are encouraged to attend.

Feast of the Entrance into the Temple of the Theotokos

The *Feast of the Entrance of the Theotokos into the Temple* is observed this week on November 21. This feast commemorates Mary being brought to the Temple as a young girl, *“since she is the holy Temple of our God.”* This is seen to have significance for us all as, *“He has sanctified all creation because of her entrance, and He has deified our fallen human nature”* [Stichera of Vespers]. By celebrating this feast, and reflecting on this event in the life of the Theotokos, we also are given insight and understating into the meaning of our salvation.

Giving Tree Project & Food Pantry Donations

Our *Giving Tree* provides gifts at Christmas for children in need. When you select one of the decorations on the tree please sign on the list next to the tree [in the back of church], to keep track of the Christmas wish requests. The gifts are to be brought by Sunday, December 10.

A request for assistance has also been received of a *family of five* who suffered a recent fire. Household needs are sincerely requested: 12” skillet; two sets of twin sheets [for twin girls]; phone; sweeper; blankets; dish clothes; towels; band aids; shampoo; deodorant; antiseptic cream; wash clothes. Any help is appreciated. Please bring items to the ushers’ room.

Food Pantry Donations

During the Philip’s Fast donations of canned goods and non-perishable food will be collected for either the *Portage Food Pantry* or to the *Forest Hills Food Pantry* [from Beaverdale and Dunlo]. *Please do not bring food past the expiration dates.* There will be containers in the narthex of each church where you may place your donations. Donations of cash may also be made.

Remembrance of Homebound Parishioners for Christmas

A Christmas remembrance is being prepared for our homebound parishioners. Please consider donating suggested gift items: *Seasonal/non-seasonal door decorations; tissues* [dollar store boxes]; *light scent body spray; word search books; lotions; lap blankets; shampoo.* You may also have ideas of your own. There will be a box in the narthex of each church to collect these items. Please bring gift items by Sunday, November 26. Thank you.

PARISH NEWS & COMING EVENTS

Liturgical Chant –Sundays after Pentecost

- *Vespers with the Divine Liturgy* for the *Feast of the Entrance of the Theotokos into the Temple* begins 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 Tuesday, November 21, the *Feast of the Entrance of the Theotokos into the Temple* on p. 268-271.
- The Troparion and other prescribed parts of the Divine Liturgy for the *Thanksgiving Day, Thursday, November 23*, are on pages 271-273.
- The Troparion and other prescribed parts of the Divine Liturgy for the *Twenty-fifth Sunday after Pentecost [November 26]*, Resurrection Troparion Tone 8, may be found on p. 161-163.
- The *“Our Father”*, Tone 7 may be found on p.73.
- Please note instructions at the beginning of the Liturgy for opening hymns etc.

Work Party & Church Cleaning for December

- The **Work Party** for December will be on **Saturday, December 2**, at 9:00 am.
- **Church Cleaning** will be on **Monday, December 4**, at 9:00 am.

Festival Meeting—Review & Planning

A meeting to review and evaluate the 2017 Annual Festival will be held on Wednesday, November 29 at 7:00 pm in the social room of the church hall. Everyone is welcome.

The meeting was delayed due to the planning for the 100th Anniversary celebration. If you have suggestions or comments for the festival and cannot attend the meeting you may forward these to Father Jim. Thank you!

Eastern Christian Formation Program...

There are no **ECF** classes **next Sunday, November 27** as we observe the Thanksgiving Holiday.

Our **Eastern Christian Formation** classes are preparing for our parish Saint Nicholas celebration in December. **Parents are asked to take note** that practice sessions for this presentation will be held at the end of ECF classes on Sundays, December 3 & 10 and that there will be a *later dismissal* on Sundays, December 3 & 10 at 11:30 am.

Sanctuary Candle

The Sanctuary Candle this week is offered at Saints Peter and Paul, Portage, for the **Health of Helen A. Ditko**; requested by Patrick & Joan Ditko.

Remember In Prayer

Please pray for the health of **Alina Rusnak; Dorothy Majer; Elaine Kachmar; Margaret Prudhoe; Carol Slifko; George Yatsky; Barbara Raptosh; Roseann Chappell**, Tammy Whitcomb's mother; **Kathryn Mackovyak; Pauline Barelich; Ruby Moore; Charles** and **Joan Plishka; Tom Goncher; Patrick & Joan Ditko; Helena Ann Ditko; Cliff Inman; Shawn Crum**; infant **Carson James**; infant **Basil; Ellen Colwell; Archpriest Dennis Bogda; Father Edward Lucas**; and all the ill & homebound.

OTHER NEWS & EVENTS

Basket Raffle/Vendor Party for Alina Rusnak

Alina Elizabeth Rusnak is the daughter of William J. and Nicole Rusnak and also great-granddaughter of our neighbor on Church Road, Frank Jubara. Born Friday, September 8, 2017 Alina was diagnosed with .a Neuroblastoma tumor in her chest that has also spread to her liver. Alina is undergoing chemotherapy treatments and is inpatient during most of this time.

A **Basket Raffle/Vendor Party for Alina Rusnak** will be held at the Portage Area High School Cafeteria/Auditorium Lobby on Saturday, December 2, from 10:00am -3:00pm. All donations will go to the Rusnak family for Alina's medical costs. There will be chances to win Baskets; Bake Sale; Food to eat; and Venders to shop. If you would like to be a vendor or make a donation, please call Kelli at 241- 6783 or Jen at 421-4807.

2017 Christmas Holiday Bake Sale At Saint Mary's, Windber

Saint Mary Byzantine Catholic Church, 803 Somerset Avenue, Windber **2017 Christmas Holiday Bake Sale** is selling *Nut Rolls* and *Poppy Seed Rolls*, each \$10/roll. Make Checks payable to: Saint Mary's Parish Guild. Payment due when you pick up Order. Order forms in the narthex. For more information regarding orders and Pick-up Times, contact: Elaine: [467-8647] or Shirley: [467-8816]. **Note:** Deadline for ordering Baked Goods is December 4, 2017.

House of Prayer Programs at Mount Saint Macrina

Christmas Morning of Prayer: Father Stephen Wahal will present *"Bethlehem, Uniontown and Heaven"* on Saturday, December 9, 9:15 a.m.-1:00 p.m. Offering: \$35, includes Lunch. Registration Due: December 6; call 724-438-7149. *The Sacrament of Reconciliation will be offered.*

Prospect Cemetery Hosts National Wreaths Across America Ceremony

Prospect Cemetery, Portage will host a wreath-laying ceremony, on Saturday, December 16, at 12:00 p.m. for *National Wreaths Across America Day*. Coordinated and led by the local Daughters of a Union Veteran of the Civil War, the volunteers have raised money to place 149 wreaths on the headstones of our fallen service members. ***Please join us in honoring these Veterans***

Christ The Saviour Seminary Bookstore Open House

Christ The Saviour Seminary Bookstore Christmas Open House on Saturday, December 2, 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM, 225 Chandler Avenue Johnstown, Pa 15906. Call 814-539-0116. If this is not a good day, call for an appointment.

61st Annual St. Nicholas Celebration

The **61st Annual St. Nicholas Celebration**, Sunday, December 3 at St. John's Cathedral benefits the Byzantine Catholic Seminary of Saints Cyril and Methodius. There is an additional fundraiser to benefit the Seminary. Raffle tickets for *twelve \$50 gift cards* to popular national restaurants and in addition *\$1,500 in cash* are available for \$10. These are available in the parish office.

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:** Mary Yetsko
 - **Autumn View:** June Nezeski
 - **The Winds at Mattern Orchard, Duncansville:** Mary Vrabel
 - **Amber Hills Ebensburg:** Edward Andrykovitch [Beaverdale]; *Father Ronald Borsuk*
 - **John Paul II Manor, Cresson:** Kathryn Mackovyak
 - **Church of the Brethren Home, Windber:** Anna Garanich
-

The Philip's Fast – Preparation for Christmas

The *Philip's Fast* [November 15 - December 24] is our journey to the Feasts of Christmas and Theophany. This period of forty days is set aside for the disciplines of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. Observance of this penitential season is voluntary.

Liturgical Schedule 25th Week after Pentecost — November 19, 2017

Twenty-fourth Sunday after Pentecost

Saturday November 18

Beaverdale **5:00 PM**

Vigil Divine Liturgy [+Frank Albert, by Marie & Marty Johnson]

Sunday November 19

Portage **9:00 AM**

Sunday Divine Liturgy

Monday, November 20

No Divine Liturgy scheduled

Feast of the Entrance of Theotokos into the Temple

Monday, November 20

Beaverdale **6:00 PM**

Vespers with the Divine Liturgy

Tuesday, November 21

Portage 8:45 AM

The Third Hour

9:00 AM

Divine Liturgy

Wednesday, November 22

No Divine Liturgy scheduled

Thanksgiving Day

Thursday, November 23

Portage 8:45 AM

The Third Hour

9:00 AM

Divine Liturgy

Friday, November 24

No Divine Liturgy scheduled

Saturday, November 25

Portage 3:00 PM

Mystery of Repentance [Confessions]

Dunlo 4:30 PM

Mystery of Repentance [Confessions]

Twenty-fifth Sunday after Pentecost

Saturday November 25

Dunlo **5:00 PM**

Vigil Divine Liturgy

Sunday November 26

Portage **9:00 AM**

Haschak]

Sunday Divine Liturgy [+George & +Mae Haschak, by Patty