



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.

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### **Troitsja & Bulletin Schedule**

<b><u>Sunday November 26</u></b>	<u>Troitsja:</u> Sydney Leturgey <u>Bulletins:</u> Cierra Goral & Christian Goral
<b><u>Sunday December 3</u></b>	<u>Troitsja:</u> Ryan Lenz <u>Bulletins:</u> Evan Lenz & Issabella Crum
<b><u>Sunday December 10</u></b>	<u>Troitsja:</u> Hunter Whitcomb <u>Bulletins:</u> Ryan Lenz & Sydney Leturgey



### **2018 Assembly: Concern for our Future**

In the July 2017 issue of the Byzantine Catholic World, Archbishop William Skurla announced the **2018 Assembly: Concern for our Future**. This Assembly will be held on May 29 – 31, 2018 in Pittsburgh. Six themes were identified for the Assembly: 1) ***Diversity***, 2) ***Technology and Social Media***, 3) ***Mixed Marriages***, 4) ***Education***, 5) ***Social Activities***, and 6) ***Outreach to members who have left the church***.

To prepare for the Assembly, the Commission was charged to collect information on the above themes from various sources including the clergy, laity, seminarians, parishioners and others. At the May 2017 Clergy Days, questions for each theme were presented to the clergy. Working in small groups, rich ideas were generated. Now an effort is to be made to reach out to the parishes to ask the same questions. The pastors are asked to share the Clergy Days responses with their parish members, to discuss, identify, and gather additional ideas for each theme. This is being done so that these may have a positive impact on the vitality of our churches.

The six themes and the questions that were presented to the clergy are to be provided for discussion groups at the parishes. Upon receiving the responses from the parishes, the Commission will review all the ideas and compile a second list which will be shared with all parishes. Parish communities will use this information to decide which responses will be the best suited for implementation at their parish. At the 2018 Assembly opportunities will be provided for the participants to share information with one another regarding the best practices that have impacted the growth and vitality of their church. Pastors from each parish are to send responses from their parish by December 13, 2017 to the Archeparchy.

There will be a meeting regarding the **2018 Assembly** themes here at Saints Peter and Paul Church in Portage on Sun. Dec. 10 at 3:00 pm. The meeting is for parishioners of each parish-- Saints Peter and Paul, Portage; Saint Mary's, Beaverdale; and Saints Peter and Paul, Dunlo. We will consider and discuss both the themes and the ideas generated at the Clergy Days in May 2017. Our responses regarding further suggestions and ideas will then be forwarded to those planning the **2018 Assembly**.

### **Pilgrim Vocation Icon Program**

This week, **Steve & Marge Fleck** 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 for the week to pray for and encourage vocations. Please sign up on the sheet in the narthex to have the Pilgrim Vocation Icon.

### **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.

## Giving Tree Project & Food Pantry Donations

Thanks for responding so generously to the *Giving Tree* requests for Christmas gifts for children in need. The gifts are to be brought by Sunday, December 10. We have also received a request for a *family of five* who suffered a recent fire for household needs: 12" skillet; two sets of twin sheets [twin girls]; phone; sweeper; blankets; dish clothes; towels; band aids; shampoo; deodorant; antiseptic cream; wash clothes. Please bring items to the ushers' room.

## Food Pantry Donations

During the Philip's Fast donations of canned goods, non-perishable food are collected for the **Portage Food Pantry** and the **Forest Hills Food Pantry**. *Please do not bring food past the expiration dates*. Containers are in the narthex for your donations. Cash donations may also be made.

## Remembrance of Homebound Parishioners for Christmas

For our *Christmas Remembrance* for homebound parishioners, suggested gift items are: *Seasonal/non-seasonal door decorations; tissues; light scent body spray; word search books; lotions; lap blankets; shampoo*. Please bring gift items by Sunday, November 26. Thank you.

## PARISH NEWS & COMING EVENTS

### Liturgical Chant –Sundays after Pentecost

- The Troparion and other prescribed parts of the Divine Liturgy for the **Twenty-sixth Sunday after Pentecost [December 3]**, Resurrection Troparion Tone 1, may be found on p. 125-127.
- The "Our Father", Tone 1 may be found on p.66.
- 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. If you have suggestions or comments for the festival and cannot attend the meeting you may forward these to Father Jim.

### Eastern Christian Formation Program...

There are no **ECF** classes today--Sunday, November 27 for the Thanksgiving Holiday. Our **Eastern Christian Formation** classes are preparing for our parish Saint Nicholas celebration. **Parents are asked to take note** that practice sessions for this presentation will be held at the end of classes on Sundays, December 3 & 10 and that there will be a *later dismissal* on these days at 11:30 am.

### Eternal Memory

You are asked to pray for the repose of the soul of **Sister Rita Keshock, OSBM** of Mount Saint Macrina who fell asleep in the Lord Sunday, November 19 in the 71<sup>st</sup> year of her monastic life.

## Donors—100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration

We gratefully acknowledge the following donations made on the occasion of the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Saints Peter and Paul Church, Portage on Sunday, November 5:

- **Jim Afton**, Saint Mary's Beavertdale
- **Julie Brenna**, Saint Mary's Beavertdale
- **Attorney Cathy Ann Chromulak** and **George Rumsey**, Meadow Lands, Pennsylvania
- **Helen DeGaetano**, Indiana, Pennsylvania
- **Jonathan** and **Irene Gindlesperger**, Saints Peter and Paul, Dunlo
- **Brother Sean Mary Fitzwater, TOR**, Saint Francis Friary, Loretto
- **Deacon John** and **Ruth Hanchin**, Charleroi, Pennsylvania
- **John Barbara Havrilla**
- **Dorothy Karl**, Endicott, New York
- **Jean Kinley**
- **St. Mary's Byzantine Catholic Church**, & **Father Michael Huszti**, Morgantown, West Virginia
- **Mark** and **Patty Serenko**
- **Father Stephen Wahal**, Saint Michael's Byzantine Catholic Church Donora, Pennsylvania

Our sincere thanks to these and also other donors acknowledge previously in the bulletin, for their generous support, encouragement and prayers on this joyous occasion.

## 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. Chances to win Baskets; Bake Sale; Food to eat; and Venders to shop. To be a vendor or make a donation, please call Kelli [241- 6783] or Jen [421-4807].

## 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.*

### **Open House at Religious Gift Shop—Mount Saint Macrina**

Looking for an inspirational gift? Come to **Open House** at the **Religious Gift Shop**, Mount Saint Macrina on Saturday December 2 and Tuesday, December 5, 10:00 am-4:30 pm. Receive a 10% discount; prizes, free wrapping. Open Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday, Saturday, 10:00 am-4:30 pm.

### **Christmas Community Choir Fest**

The Portage **Christmas Community Choir Fest** will be Sunday, December 17 6 PM at Bethany United Methodist Church. Everyone attending the concert is asked to bring a non-perishable food item that will be given to the local food bank.

Contact Joy at Bethany's office [736-8651] or [bethany700@comcast.net](mailto:bethany700@comcast.net) for any questions.

### **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.**

### **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.

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

## Sanctuary Candle

The Sanctuary Candle this week is offered at Saints Peter and Paul, Portage, in memory of **+Joseph** and **+Agnes Simala**; requested by Marian Simala on the 68<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of their wedding.

## Prayer for Vocations:

*O Master, send your Spirit that we may hear and recognize your voice in the deepest part of our beings. Give us the courage and strength to respond with the gift of our whole lives in witness to the person of Jesus Christ and the good news of the gospel. For You are holy our God, and we give glory to You, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, now and ever and forever. Amen*

## Liturgical Schedule 26<sup>th</sup> Week after Pentecost — November 26, 2017

### Twenty-fifth Sunday after Pentecost

#### Saturday November 25

Dunlo 5:00 PM Vigil Divine Liturgy

#### Sunday November 26

Portage 9:00 AM Sunday Divine Liturgy [+George & +Mae Haschak, by Patty Haschak]

#### Monday, November 27

No Divine Liturgy scheduled

#### Tuesday, November 28

Portage 7:45 AM The Third Hour  
8:00 AM Divine Liturgy [+Mary Cowher, by Jean Pollock]

#### Wednesday, November 29

No Divine Liturgy scheduled

#### Thursday, November 30

Portage 7:45 AM The Third Hour  
8:00 AM Divine Liturgy [+Helen Vrael, by Greg & Kathy Hilliard]

#### Friday, December 1

No Divine Liturgy scheduled

#### Saturday, December 2

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

### Twenty-sixth Sunday after Pentecost

#### Saturday December 2

Beaverdale 5:00 PM Vigil Divine Liturgy

#### Sunday December 3

Portage 9:00 AM Sunday Divine Liturgy [+Alick Prudhoe, by Gloria Prudhoe]