



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
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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

<u>Sunday December 3</u>	<u>Troitsja</u> Ryan Lenz	<u>Bulletins:</u> Evan Lenz & Issabella Crum
<u>Sunday December 10</u>	<u>Troitsja</u> Hunter Whitcomb	<u>Bulletins:</u> Ryan Lenz & Sydney Leturgey
<u>Sunday December 17</u>	<u>Troitsja</u> Cierra Goral	<u>Bulletins:</u> Hunter Whitcomb & Cierra Goral



Feast of Saint Nicholas & Feast of the Maternity of Saint Anna

Our Holy Father Nicholas, Archbishop of Myra in Lycia, the Wonderworker [December 6]:

A native of Lycia, he became a monk at the New Sion monastery. When his parents died, *he* gave his entire inheritance to the poor. Ordained a priest in Patara, he was famous for his almsgiving. He was chosen as archbishop of Myra, and was a model shepherd in his care for the people of his flock. He was present at the First Ecumenical Council (Nicea, 325).

Maternity of the Holy Anna, Mother of the Mother of God, Ever-Virgin Mary: [December 8]:

According to tradition, Joachim and Anna were childless for fifty years of their married life. In their old age, they were promised that a daughter would be born to them. After nine months, St. Anna bore a daughter, blessed by God and by all subsequent generations of humanity: the most holy Theotokos, the ever-virgin Mary

Mystery of Repentance [Confession]

To prepare for Christmas, the ***Mystery of Holy Repentance*** [Confessions] will be available **Monday, December 18**, at Saints. Peter & Paul, Portage at 7:00 pm. **Father Robert Oravetz** from Holy Trinity, Conemaugh will be present with Father Jim for Confessions. A Penance Service begins at 7:00 pm, followed by Confessions. Additional times will be listed in next Sunday's bulletin. You may also call the parish office to schedule an appointment.

Parish Saint Nicholas Celebration

We invite all of our parishioners to our Parish ***Saint Nicholas Celebration*** on Sunday, December 17 following the Divine Liturgy. Our Eastern Christian Formation Students will present the "***Jaslickari***"—***Bethlehem Carolers*** play. This enactment of a visit of shepherds to a family home was once popular in parishes.

Parents are asked to take note that practice sessions for this presentation will be held at the end of ***Eastern Christian Formation*** classes on **Sundays, December 3 & 10**. There will be a *later dismissal* on these days at 11:30 am.

Please come to enjoy this event, the program and also refreshments that will be served.

Pilgrim Vocation Icon Program

This week, ***Ken*** and ***Connie Crum*** 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

2018 Assembly: Concern for our Future

Archbishop William Skurla has announced the **2018 Assembly: Concern for our Future**, which 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, information on the above themes is being solicited 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 will be reviewed at a meeting here Saints Peter and Paul Church in Portage on Sunday December 10 at 3:30 pm. We will have an opportunity to discuss the various themes and suggestions that were made. In turn participants will be asked to propose further suggestions and ideas in response to these questions. These will be forwarded to the commission which is preparing the **2018 Assembly**

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.

Prior to the meeting on Sunday, December 10, the **Emmanuel Moleben**, a prayer service of preparation for Christmas, will be offered at 3:00 pm. Parishioners of each parish-- Saints Peter and Paul, Portage; Saint Mary's, Beavertdale; and Saints Peter and Paul, Dunlo, are invited to attend, to discuss both the themes and the ideas generated at the Clergy Days in May 2017. Our responses and suggestions will then be forwarded to those planning the **2018 Assembly**

Liturgical Chant –Sundays after Pentecost

- The Troparion and other prescribed parts of the Divine Liturgy for the **Feast of our Holy Father St. Nicholas of Myra [December 6]**, may be found on p. 274-276.
- *Vespers with the Divine Liturgy* for the **Feast of the Maternity of Holy Anna** 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 the **Feast of the Maternity of Holy Anna [December 8]**, may be found on p. 277-280
- The Troparion and other prescribed parts of the Divine Liturgy for the **Twenty-seventh Sunday after Pentecost [December 10]**, Resurrection Troparion Tone 2, may be found on p. 130-132.
- The *"Our Father"*, Tone 2 may be found on p.67.
- Please note instructions at the beginning of the Liturgy for opening hymns etc.

Pennsylvania State Senate Citation for 100th Anniversary

We have received a Citation of Congratulations on the occasion of the **One Hundredth Anniversary** of Saints Peter and Paul Church, sponsored by State Senator Wayne Langerholc, Jr. The Citation of Congratulation was issued on October 26, 2017 and reads in part:

“Now therefore, the Senate of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania rejoices with Saints Peter and Pau Byzantine Catholic Church as it recommits itself to the spiritual ideal's and traditions which have sustained it for one hundred years; offers best wishes for continued service to God and humanity; and directs that a copy of this document, sponsored by Senator Wayne Langerholc, Jr., be transmitted to Saints Peter and Paul Byzantine Catholic Church, Portage, Pennsylvania.”

The Senate Citation is displayed in the narthex. Also, a note of congratulations was received from State Representative Frank Burns

PARISH NEWS & COMING EVENTS

Visits to the Homebound

In preparation the Feasts of Christmas and Theophany, Father Jim will schedule visits to homebound parishioners or those in nursing homes and other care facilities. If you or a family member would like to be added to the list of those visited for the Mysteries of Confession and the Eucharist, please call the rectory at your earliest convenience.

Eternal Memory

You are asked to pray for the repose of the soul of **+Fred Tutsock** who has fallen asleep in the Lord on Monday, November 27. We extend our deepest sympathy and prayerful support to his children Gregory; Timothy; and Renee, and to all of his family.

Giving Tree Project & Food Pantry Donations

The gifts the *Giving Tree* 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.

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 bring donations by Sunday, December 17 in Portage; and by Sunday, December 10 in Beaverdale or Dunlo. Cash donations may also be made. Thanks for responding so generously to these efforts on behalf of those in need.

Remember In Prayer

Please pray for the health of **Elaine Kachmar** [Crichton Center]; **Alina Rusnak; Barbara Koban; 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 Ditko; Cliff Inman; Shawn Crum**; infant **Carson James**; infant **Basil; Ellen Colwell; Archpriest Dennis Bogda; Father Edward Lucas**; and all the ill & homebound.

Work Party & Church Cleaning for December

- Church Cleaning will be on **Monday, December 4**, at 9:00 am.
- **A note of thanks** to those who come for the monthly **Work Party** and **Church Cleaning**.

OTHER NEWS & EVENTS

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.*

Christmas Community Choir Fest

The Portage **Christmas Community Choir Fest** is **Sunday, December 17** 6 PM at Bethany United Methodist Church. Everyone attending is asked to bring a non-perishable food item for the local food bank. Contact Joy at Bethany's office [736-8651] or bethany700@comcast.net for 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-Nut Rolls** and **Poppy Seed Rolls**, \$10/roll. Make Checks payable to: Saint Mary's Parish Guild. Payment due when you pick up Order. Order forms in the narthex. For Pick-up Times, contact: Elaine [467-8647] or Shirley [467-8816]. Deadline for ordering Baked Goods is December 4.

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***

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 Yetzko
- **Autumn View:** June Nezneski
- **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

Sanctuary Candle

The Sanctuary Candle this week is offered at Saints Peter and Paul, Portage for the health of *Barbara Koban*; requested by Charles and Joan Plishka.

Liturgical Schedule 27th Week after Pentecost — December 3, 2017

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]

Monday, December 4

No Divine Liturgy scheduled

Feast of our Holy Father Nicholas Archbishop of Myra & Wonderworker

Tuesday, December 5

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

Wednesday, December 6

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

Feast of the Maternity of Holy Anna

Thursday, December 7

Beaverdale **6:00 PM** *Vespers with the Divine Liturgy*

Friday, December 8

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

Saturday, December 9

Portage 1:00 pm *Mystery of Crowning in Marriage*
Joshua Edward Goral and *Jeanette Marie Yuhas*

Portage 3:00 PM Mystery of Repentance [Confessions]

Dunlo 4:30 PM Mystery of Repentance [Confessions]

Twenty-seventh Sunday after Pentecost

Saturday December 9

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

Sunday December 10

Portage **9:00 AM** Divine Liturgy [+Elena Pieraccini, by Barbara & John Havrilla & family]

Portage **3:30 AM** *Emmanuel Moleben*—Pre-Nativity Service