



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 December 31 Troitsja Sydney Leturgey Bulletins: Ryan Lenz & Hunter Whitcomb

Sunday January 7 Troitsja Ryan Lenz Bulletins: Christina Goral & Cierra Goral

Sunday January 14 Troitsja Hunter Whitcomb Bulletins: Issabella Crum & Evan Lenz



The Circumcision of our Lord & Feast of Saint Basil the Great

On January 1, New Year's Day, we celebrate both the ***Feast of the Circumcision of our Lord*** and also the ***Feast of Saint Basil the Great***. Our Lord Jesus Christ submitted to circumcision on the eighth day in fulfillment of the Mosaic Law. By this he demonstrated his willingness to enter our human condition. This commemoration, on the eighth day of the Nativity, allows us a further opportunity to ponder the mystery celebrated at Christmas, that God become man for the sake of our salvation.

"In his love for the human race, the Savior condescended and willed to be wrapped in swaddling clothes. Eight days old according to his mother and eternal according to his Father, He did not look down upon the circumcision of the flesh. Therefore, O believers, let us cry out to Him: You are our God; have mercy on us!"

[Stichera at Litija, Vespers for January 1].

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Saint Basil the Great was born around 329-330 AD. His influence and renown included his contributions to the character and development of monastic life in the Eastern Church, He also governed the Church of Caesarea as Archbishop for eight years. Finally he has left a wealth of writings on theology, scripture, and the ascetical or spiritual life. The splendor and force of his words have won for him the title, "*Revealer of Heaven*" and of the "*Great*".

"With your life of purity, O holy Basil, you attracted Christ, the fountain of life, to dwell in your soul. You channeled streams of inspired teachings to the world. The faithful people of the Church drink from them and acknowledge the teachings of your lips and offer good works to Him who glorified your memory for all ages"

[Stichera at Litija, Vespers for January 1].

[Stichera at Litija, Vespers for January 1].

Happy New Year!

My sincere and prayerful best wishes to all in our parish communities and to your families, for a Happy and blessed New Year in 2018. Thank you for your generosity, your faithfulness and your service and commitment in so many ways during the past year 2017. In the celebration of the New Year, may we be renewed in hope and strengthened in faith as we enter the New Year!

The Vigil of Theophany

- The *Vigil of Theophany*--Friday, January 5--by tradition may be observed as a day of strict abstinence from meat and dairy products.
- The Royal Hours for Theophany [Office of Readings] are celebrated at 8:00am on Friday, and include psalms; hymns; Old Testament, Epistle, and Gospel readings.

"Byzantine Catholic Hymnal for Nativity and Theophany"

The "***Byzantine Catholic Hymnal for Nativity and Theophany***" are available for services for Theophany, on the table in the back of church. Please remember to take a copy before going to your pew and return the booklet to the table in the back after the Divine Liturgy.

Schedule of Services for the Theophany

You may attend any of the scheduled Liturgies for this Feast of Obligation

Friday,, January 5

Beaverdale **6:00 pm** Vespers with the Divine Liturgy of St. Basil
with Great Sanctification of Water

Saturday, January 6

Portage **9:00 am** Divine Liturgy, with Great Sanctification of Water

Pilgrim Vocation Icon Program

This week, *Angelica & Randy Spaid* 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.

Eastern Christian Formation Calendar--Christmas & Theophany Season

Sunday, December 31.....No ECF

Classes

Sunday, January 7 2018.....No ECF

Classes

Sunday, January 14 2018.....ECF Classes

Resume

PARISH NEWS & COMING EVENTS



Coffee Social for January

The January *Coffee and Donut Social* will be **Sunday--January 7**, following the 9 am Divine Liturgy. Please take this opportunity to greet fellow parishioners and enjoy the coffee and refreshments.

Church Cleaning & Work Party for January

- The Church Cleaning for January is scheduled for **Monday, January 8**, at **9:00 am**. Please note this change in schedule, due to the *Feast of the Circumcision—New Year's Day* on **Monday, January 1**.
- The Work Party for January is scheduled for **Saturday, January 13**, at **9:00 am**. Please note this change in schedule due, to the *Feast of Theophany* on **Saturday, January 6**.

Blessing of Homes

To request the blessing of your home by Father Jim, please fill out this form, and place it in the offering basket or return by mailing it. In arranging an appointment, try to make it a convenient time for family members to be at home. Have a lighted candle and an icon on the table. Copies of the service for the blessing of the home will be provided for you to participate in this prayer.

I/we would like to have my/our home blessed:

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Church Kitchen Project-

A meeting to review the 2017 annual Festival and plan for the 2018 Festival was held on Wednesday, November 29, 2017. During the meeting it was recommended to schedule a project to organize, identify and arrange kitchen equipment and supplies.

This kitchen project is scheduled for Wednesday, January 10, 2018 at 8:30 am. You are welcome to come and lend a hand if you are available. Thank you for your interest and cooperation.

Church Calendars for 2018

The **2018 Church Calendars** are available. Please take only one calendar per family until everyone has received a calendar. We thank our sponsors for the 2018 Calendars:

Serenko-Claar Funeral Home (Ss. Peter & Paul, Portage)

Jean Kinley Funeral Home (Beaverdale & Dunlo)

2018 Offering Envelopes

The **2018 Offertory Envelopes** are available. When you pick up your box of envelopes, please also take those for family or neighbors who may not be present. Because envelope numbers change, please write your name and address on your envelope for the first few weeks of the New Year. Please continue to write your name on your envelope each week to ensure proper credit. If you are not registered to receive envelopes, contact the parish office at-736-9780.

Liturgical Chant –Theophany of Our Lord

- For the Vigil Divine Liturgy [Vespers with Divine Liturgy] on Friday at 6:00 pm, a booklet including all the prescribed proper parts will be distributed for this service.
- The Troparion and other prescribed parts of the Divine Liturgy for the ***Theophany of Our Lord*** are on pages 312-316.
- The Troparion and other prescribed parts for **Sunday, January 7 Resurrection Troparion Tone 6**, may be found on p. 152-153; and for the **Sunday after Theophany** on p.316-318.
- The “*Our Father*”, in Tone 6 may be found on p. 71. Please note instructions at the beginning of the Liturgy for opening hymns, and other alternate melodies etc.

Memorial Donations...

We gratefully acknowledge a donation to Saint Mary’s, Beaverdale In memory of ***+Catherine Perich***, from ***Bishop John M. Kudrick***, Bishop Emeritus of the Eparchy of Parma.

*There are additional **Memorial Donations** received in recent weeks that will be acknowledged in next Sunday’s bulletin.*

Eternal Memory-

You are asked to pray for the repose of the soul of ***+Archimandrite Francis Vivona*** on December 21, 2017, a priest of the Eparchy of Phoenix, who was pastor of Our Lady of Wisdom parish in Las Vegas. Also, please pray for the repose of the soul of ***+Charles Burnett***, the father of Bishop Kurt Burnett of the Eparchy of Passaic, New Jersey.

Remember In Prayer

Please pray for the health of *Elaine Kachmar; Alina Rusnak; 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; Father Paul Tigyer; Trevor & Tiffany* who have asked for prayers for their pre-born baby; and all the ill & homebound.

Sanctuary Candle

The Sanctuary Candle is offered this week at Saints Peter and Paul, Portage in memory of **+George Haschak**, requested by Patty Haschak.

The Sanctuary Candle is offered this week at Saint Mary's, Beaverdale in memory of **+George Letzo**, requested by Julie Brenna.

OTHER NEWS & EVENTS

New Year's Eve at St. John's Hall Conemaugh

New Year's Eve--Sun., December 31 at St. John's Hall, 35 Main Street, Conemaugh 8:30 P.M., Doors open. 9 PM--12:30 AM, Music, the Sound of "*Swing City*" [Jazz/"Big Band"/Swing/& more].

Beer, Wine, Soda provided; [other beverages BYOB]. Snacks, Hors D'oeuvres; Desserts; "Traditional Buffet" served at 10PM. \$25 per person. For reservations call (814)539-8613 or (814) 539-8841.

Hammond Organ Available

Our neighbor on Munster Road Hilda Sossong has a *Hammond Organ* which she would like to donate to someone who could use it. Please call 814-736-3838 for more information.

Homebound and Nursing Home Residents—Remember in Prayer

At Home: SS Peter & Paul (Portage): Dorothy Billy; Louise Halovich; Joseph Mandichak; Cathy Walters; Elsie Timura; Catherine Czapp **St. Michael (South Fork):** Michelle Maskal; **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 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
- **Rose of Sharon Home, Saint Michael:** Anna Garanich

Liturgical Schedule *The Nativity of our Lord* — December 31, 2017

Sunday after Christmas-& Leave-taking of Christmas

The Holy and Just Joseph; David; Holy Apostle James, Brother of the Lord.

Saturday December 30

Beaverdale **5:00 PM** Vigil Divine Liturgy]

Sunday December 31

Portage **9:00 AM** **Sunday Divine Liturgy** [+George Letzo, by Julie Brenna]

Circumcision of Our Lord--New Year's Day--Feast of Saint Basil the Great

Sunday, December 31

Portage 5:00 pm **Great Vespers with Litija**

Monday, January 1, 2017

Portage **10:00 AM** **Divine Liturgy**

Tuesday, January 2

No Divine Liturgy scheduled

Wednesday, January 3

No Divine Liturgy scheduled

Thursday, January 4

No Divine Liturgy scheduled

Friday, January 5

Portage 8:00 AM ***Royal Hours of Theophany***

Feast of the Theophany of Our Lord

Friday, January 5

Beaverdale **6:00 PM** ***Vigil Divine Liturgy—Vespers with Liturgy of St. Basil with Great Sanctification of Water***

Saturday, January 6

Portage **9:00 AM** **Divine Liturgy with Great Sanctification of Water**

Saturday, January 6

Portage 3:00 PM Mystery of Repentance [Confessions]

Dunlo 4:30 PM Mystery of Repentance [Confessions]

Sunday after Theophany &

Synaxis of the Holy Forerunner, Prophet and Baptist John

Saturday January 6

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

Sunday January 7

Portage **9:00 AM** **Sunday Divine Liturgy** [+Edward "Moose" Pyo, by Tony & Carol Pyo]