



s. 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 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 January 28 Troitsja Issabella Crum

Bulletins: Hunter Whitcomb & Cierra Goral

Sunday February 4 Troitsja Evan Lenz

Bulletins: Issabella Crum & Christina Goral

Sunday February 11 Troitsja Sydney Leturgey

Bulletins: Sydney Leturgey & Evan Lenz



The Pre-Lenten Sundays: The Prodigal Son

We hear on this third pre-Lenten Sunday the *Parable of the Prodigal Son* [Luke 15:11-32]. The younger son asks for his inheritance even while his father is still alive. It is as if to suggest that his father is more useful dead than alive. The story develops quickly by a series of powerful emotional images. The younger son is soon deflated as he encounters hunger, deprivation and loneliness. His father is eager to welcome him home upon his return, running out to meet him. The older son remains outside the celebration for his brother, paralyzed by anger, resentment and envy. Later during the Great Fast, particularly during the third week, the story of the Prodigal Son will be recalled. In the hymns sung at vespers that week, including those at the Liturgy of Presanctified Gifts, sin is revealed to be foolish rebellion, false freedom and exile from our true home which is with God.

[From Father John Custer, *The Holy Gospel: A Byzantine Perspective*, pp. 186-188.]

Feasts of our Church This Week...

The *Feast of the Three Holy Hierarchs Basil the Great, Gregory the Theologian and John Chrysostom* is Tuesday, January 30. Each of these three is commemorated in the month of January. A common feast on January 30 to commemorate all three of them together was initiated after there was controversy as to which was the greatest.

The Meeting of Our Lord Jesus Christ with Simeon and Anna, celebrated Friday, February 2, closes the cycle of the Nativity of our Lord. It recalls how on the fortieth day after the birth of Christ, Mary carried him to the Temple in accordance with the Law of Moses. It is another aspect of the humility or lowering of himself of Christ: "Today He who formerly gave the Law to Moses lowers himself before the Law's precepts, becoming made like us for us in his love for mankind" [Vesper Stichera.] This is also the first meeting with his people in the person of Simeon. This is why the feast of called "Meeting".

First All Souls Saturday—February 3

The first *All Souls Commemoration* is Saturday, February 3. *Vespers for the Deceased* will be on Friday, February 2 at 6:00 pm at Saints Peter and Paul, Dunlo. The *Divine Liturgy* and *Panachida* at Saints Peter and Paul, Portage is on Saturday at 9:00 am.

To enter names of deceased family or relatives to be remembered at the All Souls Divine Liturgy and Panachida, please submit them to the rectory at your earliest convenience.

Pilgrim Vocation Icon Program

This week, *Julie Brenna* 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. There is a need for additional parishioners and families to sign up to have the Pilgrim Vocation Icon. A list for the coming months is in the narthex.

State Representative Frank Burns to Visit on Friday, February 2

State Representative Frank Burns has sponsored in the Pennsylvania State Assembly a Citation for the 100th Anniversary of Saints Peter and Paul Church Portage. Representative Burns will present this 100th Anniversary Citation here on Friday, February 2. Following the Divine Liturgy for the Feast of the Meeting of our Lord with Simeon that morning, a Coffee Social will be hosted [at about 10:15 am]. Representative Frank Burns will present the citation at this social and will be available to greet parishioners. The Coffee Social will be held in the social room of the church hall.

We are honored to have this visit of the local State Representative. Please plan to come for this occasion to welcome Sate Representative Frank Burns and for the presentation of the 100th Anniversary Citation on Friday, February 2.

PARISH NEWS & COMING EVENTS



Coffee Social for February – Next Sunday

There will be a *Coffee and Donut Social* next Sunday, February 4, 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 February

- The **Work Party** for February will be on Saturday, February 3. Because of the All Souls Saturday Divine Liturgy that morning, the Work Party will begin at 10:30 am.
- The **Church Cleaning** for February is scheduled for Monday, February 6, at 9:00 am.
- Thanks once again to those who volunteer for these monthly projects.

Parish Advisory Council Meetings

The next meeting of the **Parish Advisory Council** for Saints Peter & Paul, Portage is on Thursday, February 8, at 7:00pm.

The next meeting of the **Parish Advisory Council** for Saint Mary's, Beaverdale and Saints Peter & Paul, Dunlo is Monday, February 19, at 7:00 pm.

Minutes of previous meetings will be included in the Sunday bulletin prior to meetings.

The Byzantine Catholic World

The **Byzantine Catholic World [BCW]** is published once-a-month and provides news of our Archeparchy, its parishes and the church throughout the world. The annual subscription rate is \$14.

There is an envelope in your packet of offering envelopes dated January 28 which you may use to begin or renew your annual subscription. *Thank you!*

“Lost and Found”

Clothing and other items accumulated in our **“Lost and Found”** collection are in the usher's room. You are welcome to inspect these items to determine if any belong to you or your family. Please do so by Sunday, January 28. *Items not claimed by Sunday, January 28* will be donated to the Saint Vincent de Paul Thrift Store. Thank you for your cooperation.

Statements of Parishioners' Offerings

Statements of 2017 parishioner offerings for Saint Peter and Paulk, Portage are being prepared this week for distribution next Sunday. If you have need of your 2017 offerings sooner, call the rectory office [814-736-9780] or send request to james_armand_spontak@verizon.net. Statements for Beaverdale and Dunlo parishioners were distributed last week.

Church Kitchen Project-

The church kitchen project to organize and identify kitchen equipment and supplies will continue this week on Wednesday, January 31 at 8:30 AM. Items that are no longer useful or needed will be advertised and offered for sale. A note of thanks to those who came to volunteer. You are welcome to come and lend a hand if you are available. Thank you for your interest and cooperation

Liturgical Chant –Feasts and Pre-Lenten Sundays

- The Troparion and other parts of the Divine Liturgy for the *Feast of the Three Holy Bishops* [Tuesday, January 30], may be found on pages 318-319.
- *Vespers with the Divine Liturgy* for the *Feast of the Meeting of our Lord with Simeon & Anna in the Temple* begins in the Divine Liturgy book on p. 104; Vesper stichera are in a separate handout.
- The Troparion and other parts of the Divine Liturgy for the *Feast of the Meeting of our Lord with Simeon & Anna in the Temple* [Friday, February 2], on pages 321-324.
- The Troparion and other prescribed parts for the *All Souls Saturday*—February 3 may be found on pages 202 and 428; and for the Panachida on page 432.
- The Troparion and other prescribed parts of the Divine Liturgy for Sunday, February 4, are: Resurrection Troparion Tone 2 on p. 130-132, for the *Postfestive Day of the Feast of the Meeting of our Lord* on pages 321-322; and for *The Sunday of the Last Judgment--Meatfare Sunday* on p. 217-218.
- The “*Our Father*”, in Tone 2 may be found on p. 67. Please note instructions at the beginning of the Liturgy for opening hymns, and other alternate melodies etc.

Remember In Prayer

Please pray for the health of *Anna Bridge; Mary Yetsko* [Memorial Hospital]; *Elaine Kachmar; Alina Rusnak; George Yatsky; Barbara Raptosh; Kathryn Mackovyak; Pauline Barelich; Ruby Moore; Charles and Joan Plishka; Tom Goncher; Patrick & Joan Ditko; Helena Ditko; Cliff Inman; Shawn Crum; Carson James; Basil; Ellen Colwell; Archpriest Dennis Bogda;; Father Paul Tigyer; Trevor & Tiffany* and their infant, *Lakota*; and all the ill & homebound.

A Prayer for Vocations...

“O Lord, O Lord, ours are the only hands that can do your work. Ours are the only feet with which You can go about the world. Ours are the only eyes through which your compassion can shine upon a troubled world, for You have no body on earth. Now and ever and forever. Amen.”

Sanctuary Candle

The Candle is offered this week for *+Agnes Simala* and *+Mary Harriton*, requested by Marion Simala.

OTHER NEWS & EVENTS

Morning of Prayer at Mount Saint Macrina House of Prayer...

Mount Saint Macrina House of Prayer will host a *Morning of Prayer* on Saturday, February 3 from 10:00 am-1:00 pm. The morning will be led by *Sr. Carol Petrasovich, OSBM*. There is an offering: \$35. Registration due: January 30. Lunch is included.

Daily Email Prayers from Eastern Christian Publications

Eastern Christian Publications, supplier of our Sunday Bulletin covers, is offering daily email prayer service for Morning and Evening Prayer, including the 1st, 3rd 6th and 9th Hours; and Daily Vespers (not Sundays or Feast days) for FREE. Go to their website <http://ecpubs.com/byzantine-daily-office-bdo/> and sign up. This subscription service includes all the changeable parts you need according to the Byzantine Liturgical Calendar in various PDF files viewable on any portable device

Computer- And Internet-Based Education Program for Cantors

The **Metropolitan Cantor Institute** offers computer- and Internet-based education program for cantors. The **Introduction to Church Singing class** covers *the role of the cantor; fundamentals of music theory and sight-singing; basic vocal technique; psalms, basic responses, and litanies in our chant tradition and the spirit of our chant*. Later courses cover the Divine Liturgy, the Eight Tones, Vespers, and special services. Courses use recorded singing by students, with feedback from cantors and voice teachers to help students improve knowledge and performance of church singing. Contact **Deacon Jeffrey Mierzejewski** (412 735-1676); mci@archpitt.org; <http://mci.archpitt.org/MCI>.

Used Magazines Needed...

Please continue to bring *used magazines or merchandise catalogues* with photos at your convenience to ushers' room and place in the box designated for this purpose. Thanks to those who responded. A family with a family member with special needs requests these as an ongoing need.

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 Neznieski
- **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 35th Meatfare Week — January 28, 2018

Sunday of the Prodigal Son

Saturday January 27

Beaverdale **5:00 PM**

Vigil Divine Liturgy [+Elizabeth Harrigal, by Doug & Marcy Roxby]

Sunday January 28

Portage **9:00 AM**

Sunday Divine Liturgy

Feast of the Three Holy Hierarchs

Monday, January 29

Dunlo **6:00 PM**

Great Vespers with Litija

Tuesday January 30

Portage 8:40 AM

The Third Hour

9:00 AM

Divine Liturgy

Wednesday, January 31

No Divine Liturgy scheduled

Feast of the Meeting of our Lord with Simeon and Anna

Thursday, February 1

Beaverdale **6:00 PM**

Vespers with Divine Liturgy

[+Ann Blazosky by Charles & Joan Plishka]

Friday, February 2

Portage 8:40 AM

The Third Hour

9:00 AM

Divine Liturgy

First All Souls Saturday

Friday, February 2

Dunlo **6:00 PM**

Vespers for the Deceased

Panachida & Reading of the Names of the Deceased

Saturday, February 3

Portage **9:00 AM**

Divine Liturgy followed by

Panachida & Reading of the Names of the Deceased

Saturday, February 3

Portage 3:00 PM

Mystery of Repentance [Confessions]

Dunlo 4:30 PM

Mystery of Repentance [Confessions]

Sunday of the Prodigal Son

Saturday February 3

Dunlo **5:00 PM**

Vigil Divine Liturgy

[+Walter Prozialeck, requested by Debby & John Yankoski]

Sunday February 4

Portage **9:00 AM**

Sunday Divine Liturgy