



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 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 January 7

Troitsja Ryan Lenz

Bulletins: Christina Goral & Cierra Goral

Sunday January 14

Troitsja Hunter Whitcomb

Bulletins: Issabella Crum & Evan Lenz

Sunday January 21

Troitsja Christina Goral

Bulletins: Sydney Leturgey & Ryan Lenz



Theophany—the Baptism of our Lord Synaxis of Saint John the Baptist

We who witnessed the Great Sanctification of Water, both at the Vigil on Friday evening and at the Divine Liturgy on Saturday can recognize the solemnity and importance of the Feast of the Theophany. Among the more significant aspects of this feast is the historical connection with Baptism. On this day, Catechumens [candidates preparing for Baptism] were baptized in a very solemn fashion, much as on Pascha [the Resurrection].

The two feasts of Nativity and Theophany [Baptism of our Lord] bring into the foreground the essentials of the faith. It is into these primary components of the faith that the new Christians were consecrated and initiated. There is first the *Incarnation*, that the Word of God become man, which is celebrated in the Nativity. And now the Baptism of the Lord in the Jordan highlights the union of God in the Trinity.

While the union of the human and divine natures is realized to perfection in Christ, and yet on Theophany we are made aware that now it is ourselves who are reunited to God. The feast of Theophany continues throughout this week and concludes next Sunday, January 14. It is a time for us to be enlivened with the joy and love for the Lord who descended to us sinners in order to clothe us in his power and splendor. Thus, we sing on Theophany:

“All you who have been baptized into Christ have been clothed with Christ. Alleluia!”

Also, today on January 7 we have a solemn memorial to honor Saint John the Baptist, who had a preeminent role in the Baptism of the Lord. Called the *Synaxis of Saint John the Baptist*, it recalls the great crowd of people hastening to hear the preaching of John and to do penance.

“As a lover of the Holy Spirit, O Forerunner, and as a swallow sweetly singing of divine grace, you have made known to all people the plan of salvation of their King. He gloriously came forth from the Pure One for the renewal of all He takes away their ancient sadness and reforms the hearts of those baptized in repentance that they may receive eternal life. O blessed Prophet, inspired by God.” [Aposticha, Vespers for January 7, Synaxis of John the Baptist]

[Above adapted from [The Synaxarion](#), pages 87-89].

All Souls Commemoration for 2018

The first *All Souls Commemoration* is **Saturday, February 3 [Meatfare Saturday]**. There is an envelope provided for the All Souls Commemoration in your packet of offering envelopes. Please use this envelope to entering names of deceased family members or relatives who are to be remembered at the Divine Liturgy and Panachida on the All Souls Saturdays. You may also confirm or renew your list of previous years.

Returning this envelope at your earliest convenience will be helpful in updating and maintaining the All Souls listing.

PARISH NEWS & COMING EVENTS



Coffee Social for January

Due to today's severe cold weather, the January *Coffee and Donut Social* is being postponed until next Sunday--January 14, 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.

Statements of Parishioners' Offerings

Statements of 2017 parishioner offerings for each parish will be prepared in the next few weeks and are to be made available by the end of January.

If you have need of your 2016 offerings sooner, please call the rectory office [814-736-9780] or send e-mail request to james_armand_spontak@verizon.net

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.

Eternal Memory-

You are asked to pray for the repose of the soul of + *Roseann Chappell*, Tammy Whitcomb's mother, who fell asleep in the Lord on January 2, 2018. We extend our deepest sympathy and prayerful support to Tammy and Demetrius and to all of her family.

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: _____

“Lost and Found”

A variety of clothing items—*gloves, hats, etc.*—have accumulated in our “*Lost and Found*” collection. Among these is a man’s coat [fall/winter] found in the hall during the preparations for the 100th Anniversary. These items are in the usher’s room.

You are welcome to inspect them 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.

Eastern Christian Formation Calendar--Christmas & Theophany Season	
<u>Sunday, January 7 2018</u>	No ECF Classes
<u>Sunday, January 14 2018</u>	ECF Classes
Resume	

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

- The Troparion and other prescribed parts for Sunday, January 14 Resurrection Troparion Tone 7, may be found on p. 156-158; and for the **Leave-taking of the Feast of Theophany** on p.312-318.
- The “*Our Father*”, in Tone 7 may be found on p. 72. Please note instructions at the beginning of the Liturgy for opening hymns, and other alternate melodies etc.

Memorial Donations...

We gratefully acknowledge donations to Saint Peter & Paul, Portage:

- In memory of **+Edward J. “Moose” Pyo**: from *Jane Pyo and Family*; and also from *Richard & Katherine Yancosek* of Pittsburgh.
- In memory of **+Helen Vrabel**: from *Patricia & Carlton Hagen* of Loudon, Tennessee.
- In memory of **+Alick Prudhoe**: from *Mary and Richard Tygh* of West Chester, Pennsylvania; from *Don and Kim Deaner* of *Deaner Funeral Service* in Berlin Pennsylvania.; and from *Thomas Civic* of Wescosville, Pennsylvania.

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

Remember In Prayer

Please pray for the health of *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; 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.

OTHER NEWS & EVENTS

Computer- And Internet-Based Education Program for Cantors

The Metropolitan Cantor Institute now offers a computer- and Internet-based education program for cantors, with classes offered on a regular schedule throughout the year. It is not too late to sign up for the 8-week **Introduction to Church Singing class**, which covers:

<i>the role of the cantor;</i>	<i>fundamentals of music theory and sight-singing</i>
<i>basic vocal technique</i>	<i>psalms, basic responses, and litanies in our chant tradition</i>
<i>the spirit of our chant</i>	

Later courses cover the Divine Liturgy, the Eight Tones, Vespers, and special services. Except for the free **Introduction to Liturgy** and **Introduction to the Typikon** courses, each course uses regular recorded singing by students, with feedback from cantors and professional voice teachers, to help students learn or improve their knowledge and performance of church singing.

For more information, contact **Deacon Jeffrey Mierzejewski** (412 735-1676); mci@archpitt.org; or go to <http://mci.archpitt.org/MCI>.

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 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
- **Rose of Sharon Home, Saint Michael:** Anna Garanich

Pilgrim Vocation Icon Program

This week, *Jackie* and *Amber Gordon* 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.

Liturgical Schedule 32nd Week after Pentecost — January 7, 2018

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]

Monday, January 8

No Divine Liturgy scheduled

Tuesday, January 9

No Divine Liturgy scheduled

Wednesday, January 10

No Divine Liturgy scheduled

Thursday, January 11

Portage 7:45 AM The Third Hour [+Marge Tigyer, by Philip & Dorothy Walters]
8:00 AM **Divine Liturgy**

Friday, January 12

Portage 7:45 AM The Third Hour [+Charles Hufford by Wayne & Kathy Ringler]
8:00 AM **Divine Liturgy**

Saturday, January 13

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

Thirty-second Sunday after Pentecost--Sunday of Zacchaeus *Leave-taking of the Feast of Theophany*

Saturday January 13

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

Sunday January 14

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