



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

<u>Sunday February 18</u>	<u>Troitsja</u> Ryan Lenz	<u>Bulletins:</u> Hunter Whitcomb & Cierra Goral
<u>Sunday February 25</u>	<u>Troitsja</u> Hunter Whitcomb	<u>Bulletins:</u> Issabella Crum & Christina Goral
<u>Sunday March 4</u>	<u>Troitsja</u> Cierra Goral	<u>Bulletins:</u> Sydney Leturgey & Evan Lenz



Lenten Study and Reflection Series Begins *TODAY*...

The season of the Great Fast is an especially appropriate time to renew our efforts in catechetical education in the faith. Lent has its historical origins in the preparation of candidates for Baptism. This included of course instruction in the faith. In addition, there was guidance and formation in the spiritual disciplines of prayer and fasting. Our observance of Lent is thus time for renewal spiritually in these observances. And it is also an occasion to grow in an understating of our faith.

Classes of study and reflection during the weeks of the Great Fast begin **TODAY--Sunday, February 18**, from **4:00-5:30 pm**. ***The Gospel of Saint Matthew*** will be the topic for our Sacred Scripture study and reflection. The Gospel of Saint Matthew along with the Gospel of Saint John is the most widely read and most commented upon in the early centuries of the church. In the passage of time its use became the most frequent, showing increased interest in the words and teaching of Jesus. This is especially so regarding the *Sermon on the Mount* [chapters 5-7]. In our cycle of Gospel readings at the Divine Liturgy, the Gospel of Saint Matthew is read continuously for eleven weeks after Pentecost. Also, there are seventeen Sundays of the year to which Gospels from Saint Matthew are prescribed to be read. And on many of the great feasts of the church the Gospel reading is from Saint Matthew. These include the Paschal Vigil Liturgy; Christmas, Theophany, and Transfiguration.

The aim of these sessions is to instill a love for reading the Gospels and especially an appreciation for the Gospel of Saint Mathew. Emphasis will be placed upon the readings on our liturgical calendar, especially Sundays Gospels, from Saint Mathew's Gospel.

Sessions are planned for every other Sunday and will continue after Pascha: **Sundays February 18; March 4, 18; and April 8**. Participants are asked to bring a Bible and a desire to increase the gift of faith which each of us has received. *Please consider coming to this opportunity to instruct and build up the faith of our parish communities...and bring a friend!*

This Week...

This Saturday, **February 24** is the observance of the ***Feast of the First and Second Finding of the Head of Saint John the Baptist***. Saint John the Baptist was martyred by Herod. Later, the relics of his head were found. The first finding of these relics was by two monks who discovered them in the house of Herod. After some time many people had come into the possession of the relics. They were then found again during the time of Emperor Marcian in the fifth century.

On the liturgical calendar, this feast takes precedence over the Second All Souls Saturday which is prescribed for the Second Saturday of the Great Fast. A Panachida with the reading of the names of the deceased will be offered following the Ambon Prayer at the Divine Liturgy on Saturday, February 24. Also, a Panachida and the reading of the names of the deceased will be offered following the Vigil Divine Liturgy on Saturday, February 24 in Beaverdale.

Pilgrim Vocation Icon Program

This week, *Susan O'Toole* 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.

Regulations for the Season of the Great Fast - 2018

Simple abstinence: Simple abstinence forbids the use of meat but permits the use of eggs and dairy products. All faithful of the Archeparchy who receive the Eucharist are obliged to observe simple abstinence when prescribed. Abstinence is obligatory on all Wednesdays and Fridays of the Great Fast.

Strict abstinence: Strict abstinence (fast) forbids the use and consumption of all meat, eggs and dairy products. All faithful of the Archeparchy who receive the Eucharist are obliged to observe strict abstinence when prescribed. Strict abstinence (fast) is to be observed **on Great and Holy Friday March 30.**

Dispensations: Priests and parents are to ensure that minors are educated in the authentic sense of penance. Pastors with just cause and taking into account acceptable reasons due to personal circumstances, may grant to the individual faithful as well as to individual families, dispensations, transferals, or commutations of abstinence and strict fast into other pious practices.

Liturgical services: The Divine Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts takes precedence over all other Lenten Devotions. The Divine Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts only is to be celebrated on Wednesdays and Friday evenings of the Great Fast and on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday of Holy Week.

PARISH NEWS & COMING EVENTS

Prayer Partners for the Great Fast

During the Great Fast we remember our *Prayer Partner* daily, mindful of the words of Saint Paul:

“And this is my prayer: that your love may increase ever more and more in knowledge and every kind of perfection, to discern what is of value, so that you may be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.” [[Philippians 1:9-11](#)]

Parish Advisory Council Meetings

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. Prior to the meeting, the Ninth Lenten Hour will be prayed at 6:30 pm. Minutes of the meeting [Monday, November 13, 2017](#) are in today's bulletin.

Church Kitchen Project

A project to organize and identify kitchen equipment and supplies took place over several weeks in January. A variety of items no longer useful or needed are available for sale. These items are in the church hall near the kitchen entrance. If you are interested in purchasing any of these items, or know of someone who might have need of any of the items, please let Father Jim know.

Sunday Bulletin Mailings and Website

The Sunday bulletins sent to homebound and other parishioners are now being mailed on a bi-weekly basis [two weeks of bulletins in an envelope] in order to reduce the cost of postage.

The Sunday bulletin is posted on the parish website [www.ByzantineCatholic.net] and may be accessed by going to “*Bulletins*” on the home page. The bulletin is also transmitted by email. If you wish to have your email address added to this weekly bulletin transmission, please forward your name and email address to james_armand_spontak@verizon.net.

Remember In Prayer

Please pray for the health of **Steve B. Fleck** [UPMC-Passavant, Pittsburgh]; **Steve Fleck** [Memorial Hospital]; **Elizabeth Maskal**; **Anna Bridge**; **Elaine Kachmar**; **Alina Rusnak**; **George Yatsky**; **Barbara Raptosh**; **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 **Lakota**; and all the ill & homebound.

We remember in our prayers the repose of the souls of the **victims of the shootings at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School** in Parkland, Florida, and also for the parents, relatives and all in their community who grieve this tragic loss

Sanctuary Candle

The Candle is offered this week in memory of **+John** and **+Regina Havrilla**, requested by John & Barbara Havrilla.

The Candle is offered this week at Saint Mary’s, Beaverdale for **Betty Zahalla** of Beaverdale on her 103rd Birthday.

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!*

Liturgical Chant –The Great Fast

- **2009 Edition of the Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts** includes propers for the first day; Wednesdays, and Fridays for all weeks of the Fast. Pages are given before the service.
- On the **Sundays of the Great Fast**, the *Typical Psalms* [p. 16-17] replace the First and Second Antiphons; the *Beatitudes* [p. 23-24] are sung in place of the Third Antiphon. The responses for the Anaphora of Saint Basil the Great are on p. 96-100.
- The Troparion and other parts of the Divine Liturgy for the **Finding of the Head of Saint John the Baptist** on Saturday, February 24 will be available on a separate handout. Following the Divine Liturgy, the Panachida with the reading of the names of the deceased is on p. 432.
- The Troparion and other parts of the Divine Liturgy for **Sunday, February 25, Resurrection** Troparion Tone 5, are on p. 146-148; and for the **Second Sunday of the Great Fast** pages 222-223.
- The “*Our Father*”, in Tone 5 may be found on p. 70.
- Please note instructions at the beginning of the Liturgy for opening hymns, alternate melodies etc.

OTHER NEWS & EVENTS

Mount Saint Macrina House of Prayer Events

Lenten Morning of Prayer—Abraham, the Eucharist and Sacrifice: Rev. Jason Charron, on Saturday March 1, 9:15 a.m.—1:00 p.m. Includes lunch. Offering: \$35. Registration due Mar. 5. *The Sacrament of Reconciliation will be offered*

Lenten Noontime Reflection and Prayers, Sr. Carol Petrasovich on Tuesdays, February 20, 27, March 6, 13, 20, 12:00 noon-1:00 p.m. Join us for a short reflection followed by communal and private prayer. Free Will Offering.

Monday Morning Reading Series, Sr. Barbara Jean Mihalchick on Mondays, February 26, March 5, 12, 19, 10:00-11:30 am. Reflect on the classic book by Joyce Rupp, OSM. Free Will Offering.

To register for programs, or for more information call 724-438-7149.

ByzanTEEN Youth Rally—July 5-8 2018
“Who Is My Neighbor?”
Saint Vincent College, Latrobe Pennsylvania

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

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

Liturgical Schedule 2nd Week of the Great Fast— February 18, 2018

First Sunday of the Great Fast Sunday of Orthodoxy—Memory of the Holy Prophets		
<u>Saturday February 17</u>		
Dunlo	<u>5:00 PM</u>	Vigil Divine Liturgy
<u>Sunday February 18</u>		
Portage	<u>9:00 AM</u>	Sunday Divine Liturgy
[+Regina Havrilla requested by John & Barbara Havrilla]		

Monday, February 19

Portage **6:30 PM** ***Ninth Lenten Hour***

Tuesday February 20

No Lenten services scheduled

Wednesday, February 21

Portage **6:30 PM** ***Simple abstinence and fasting required***
Mystery of Repentance [Confessions]
7:00 PM **Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts**

Thursday, February 22

No Lenten services scheduled

Friday, February 23

Portage **6:30 PM** ***Simple abstinence and fasting required***
Mystery of Repentance [Confessions]
7:00 PM **Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts**

Saturday, February 24

Portage **9:00 AM** **First & Second Finding of the Head of Saint John the Baptist**
Divine Liturgy
Followed by **Panachida** and Reading of the Names of the Deceased
Portage **3:00 PM** **Mystery of Repentance [Confessions]**
Beaverdale **4:30 PM** **Mystery of Repentance [Confessions]**

Second Sunday of the Great Fast		
<u>Saturday February 24</u>		
Beaverdale	<u>5:00 PM</u>	Vigil Divine Liturgy
Followed by Panachida and Reading of the Names of the Deceased		
<u>Sunday February 25</u>		
Portage	<u>9:00 AM</u>	Sunday Divine Liturgy [+Alex Afton, requested by Mike Blazosky]