



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 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.

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### **Troitsja & Bulletin Schedule**

<b><u>Sunday March 11</u></b>	<u>Troitsja</u> Christina Goral	<u>Bulletins:</u> Hunter Whitcomb & Ryan Lenz
<b><u>Sunday March 18</u></b>	<u>Troitsja</u> Issabella Crum	<u>Bulletins:</u> Cierra Goral & Christina Goral
<b><u>Sunday March 25</u></b>	<u>Troitsja</u> Sydney Leturgey	<u>Bulletins:</u> Issabella Crum & Evan Lenz



### **The Lenten Journey**

The remaining Sundays of the Great Fast commemorate two exceptional portrayals of the path of repentance. Repentance means a *change of heart*. And this is really the essence and goal of our Lenten experience. Today on the Fourth Sunday of the Great Fast, **Saint John Climacus** is honored. Also, on the Fifth Sunday we will remember **Saint Mary of Egypt**. In each we see a particular manifestation or expression of repentance and the change of heart which it entails. It is the willingness and the effort to begin on a new direction in our lives.

We have few details on the life of Saint John Climacus, but the influence of his writings in The Ladder of Divine Ascent is enormous. This classic of early Christian spirituality [late sixth and early seventh century] offers *“advice, counsel, and guidance to those capable of embarking on that difficult road whose summit is union with God”* [Foreword, The Ladder of Divine Ascent, Paulist Press]. This is the path along which each Christian is called, and particularly during the Great Fast.

To be sure, Saint John Climacus is austere and even severe in his own practices of prayer and fasting. He labored to face his own weakness so as to be able to make progress along the path of repentance and conversion. Yet he is offered to the church today as one whose memory and inspiration might stir up the fervor of Christians seeking to climb the *“ladder of Divine ascent”*. He is honored in the hymns of today’s Liturgy as a *“pillar of endurance”* who strengthens his flock; a *“model of gentleness”* and a *“fruit-laden vine from which we gather the grapes of faith”*. [Canon of matins, Fourth Sunday of the Great Fast]

***“In the fifth week of the Great Fast, we chant the Great Canon of St. Andrew of Crete, to re-affirm our commitment to follow Christ. On Friday we read of Abraham's faith in his willingness to sacrifice his son Isaac. What the Father forbade to Abraham, he allowed for Christ, who was sacrificed for the life of the world.”*** [Father David Petras, from Typicon, p. 20]

### **Lenten Study and Reflection Series Continues Next Sunday, March 18**

Classes of study and reflection during the Great Fast on the ***Gospel of Saint Matthew*** continues ***next-Sunday, March 18*** from 4:00-5:30 pm. Sessions are planned for every other Sunday and continue after Pascha: Sundays March 18; and April 8. Participants are asked to bring a Bible. *Please consider coming to this opportunity to instruct and build up the faith of our parish communities...and bring a friend!*

### **Pilgrim Vocation Icon Program**

This week, **Pauline Yetsko** will have the ***Pilgrim Vocation Icon***, to pray for vocations to the priesthood, diaconate, and monastic religious life. The ***Pilgrim Vocation Icon*** program is an opportunity to have this icon for the week to pray for and encourage vocations.

The list for the coming months is in the narthex.

### **PASKA Baking Activity for ECF Students**

The ***Paska Baking Activity*** for ECF Students and Youth will be on **Saturday, March 24** beginning at **10:00 am**. Each year our students learn about baking ***Paska***—Easter bread—and help to prepare Easter baskets for our parishioners who are homebound and in nursing homes.

***Please sign-up on the list in the narthex for this activity by next Sunday, March 18.***



### **Mystery of Repentance--Confessions**

The ***Mystery of Repentance [Confession]*** will be available **Thursday, March 22** at **7:00 pm**. **Fr. Brian Warchola** from Saint Michael's Roman Catholic Church in Saint Michael will be here with Father Jim for Confessions.

Confession is available at **6:30 pm** before the Liturgy of Presanctified Gifts on Wednesday, and on Saturday. Please note *changes from regular time* in early April:

- **Saturday, March 17:** Portage (2:30 pm) Dunlo (4:15 pm)
- **Saturday, March 24:** Portage (2:30 pm) Beaverdale (4:15 pm)

Also, you may call the rectory to schedule an appointment. Please avail yourself to these opportunities in preparation for Holy Week at your earliest convenience

## **PARISH NEWS & COMING EVENTS**

### **Meeting for Annual Festival**

There is a meeting to prepare for the ***Annual Festival*** **Thursday, March 15** at 7:00 pm in the social room of the church hall. As was noted in preparing for previous years' Festival, we have need of people committed to assume responsibility for the various specific areas of the Festival. Everyone is welcome to attend the meeting on Thursday and to help share the responsibility to prepare for this annual event.

The date scheduled for this year's Festival is **Sunday, July 8, 2018.**

### **Financial Reports for 2017**

Enclosed in today's bulletin are the ***Financial Reports for 2017*** for each parish community. There are presented with a comparison for 2016. Thank you for your generosity and support reflected in the 2017 Financial Reports.

Also, a word of grateful acknowledgment to those who have prepared these statements and who take care of the parish accounting throughout the year: ***Mary Lou Perich*** for Beaverdale and Dunlo; and ***Rochelle Berzansky*** for Portage.

### **Decorative Candles; Pussy-Willow Branches**

- ***Decorative candles*** for the Blessing of Paschal foods are available from the ushers at each church. An offering of **\$10** is requested for these candles.
- If you have ***pussy-willow branches*** for Palm-Flowery Sunday [**Sunday, March 25**], please bring them to the church in the week prior to Palm Sunday. Thank you.

## Eternal Memory-

You are asked to pray for the repose of the soul of **+Audrey Benton**, the sister of June Nezniski, who fell asleep in the Lord on March 7. *A Panachida will be offered at 3:30 pm at Matthew R. Decort Funeral Home.* We extend our deepest sympathy and prayerful support to June and to her family.

Also, please pray for the repose of the soul of **+ Mr. William C. Marks**, Father of Father Kevin E. Marks, pastor of Saint Michael's Church in Hermitage, Pennsylvania, who fell asleep in the Lord this week; and for the repose of the soul of **+Reverend Michael G. Chubirko, SDB**, a retired priest of the Eparchy of Passaic, fell asleep in the Lord on March 5.

### 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 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.

## Remember In Prayer

Please pray for the health of **Shawn Crum; Steve Fleck; Eric Miller; 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; Carson James; Basil; Father Paul Tigyer; Father John Mina** [Mount Macrina Manor]; and all the ill & homebound.

## 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 **Sunday, March 18, Resurrection Troparion Tone 8**, are on p. 161-163; and for the **Fifth Sunday of the Great Fast—Venerable Mother Mary of Egypt** on page 230-232.
- The *“Our Father”*, in Tone 8 may be found on p. 73.
- Please note instructions at the beginning of the Liturgy for opening hymns, alternate melodies etc.

## OTHER NEWS & EVENTS

### Open House Sunday at Mount Saint Macrina in Uniontown

The Sisters of St. Basil invite you to an *Open House* Sunday, March 11, 2-4pm to celebrate National Catholic Sisters Week. The event will be held at the monastery at Mount St. Macrina, 500 W. Main Street, Uniontown. Enjoy displays, refreshments, door prizes and visits with the Sisters. **RSVP** by calling the House of Prayer at 724-438-7149.

### Eggstravaganza

*13th Egg Eggstravaganza* Sunday, March 18, Noon - 5 p.m. at St. John the Baptist Byzantine Catholic Church, 201 East Main, Street, Uniontown, PA. Egg artists demonstrating and selling their unique styles of decorated eggs. Sales tables with supplies, kits and books for decorating eggs, hands-on opportunity to try out "pysanky" decorating, videos on pysanky and children's craft corner featuring Easter related projects, puzzles, and more. Information on and items for the traditional Easter basket blessing, such as embroidered covers, lamb butter molds, decorated candles, egg wraps, cookbooks, etc. will also be available for sale. A Bake Sale includes long rolls (nut, apricot, poppyseed, and cottage cheese). Lenten lunch menu served. Handicapped accessibility.

Come and experience the tradition! Fun for the whole family! Admission is free. For more information, please call 724-438-6027 M-F 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. (Leave message).

### Carpathian Cookery Cookbook

The *Carpathian Cookery Cookbook*, a 330-page cookbook includes sections on Christmas and Easter customs and recipes, traditional Rusyn and Slavic foods, ethnic dishes, and many other tried-and-true recipes of St. John's parishioners. There is a variety of Paska bread and kolachi roll recipes, meatless dishes and Lenten recipes. The cost of the cookbook is. Send a check or money order [\$14.00 plus \$4.00 postage and handling (\$18.00)] to: *Ethnic Craft Club, St. John Byzantine Catholic Church, 201 E. Main Street, Uniontown, PA 15401*, or call 724-438-6027 (M-F 9AM-3PM — leave message) More information at: [carpathiancookery@gmail.com](mailto:carpathiancookery@gmail.com)

### **Homebound and Nursing Home Residents—Remember in Prayer**

**At Home: SS Peter & Paul (Portage):** Dorothy Billy; Louise Halovich; Kathryn Mackovyak; 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 Nezniski
- **The Winds at Mattern Orchard, Duncansville:** Mary Vrabel
- **Amber Hills Ebensburg:** Edward Andrykovitch [Beaverdale]; *Father Ronald Borsuk*
- **Rose of Sharon Home, Saint Michael:** Anna Garanich

**PRAYER OF ST. EPHREM**

*Lord and Master of my life, spare me from the spirit of indifference, despair,  
lust for power, and idle chatter.  
Instead, bestow on me, your servant,  
the spirit of integrity, humility, patience, and love  
Yes, O Lord and King, let me see my own sins  
and not judge my brothers and sisters;  
for you are blessed forever and ever. Amen*

**Liturgical Schedule 5<sup>th</sup> Week of the Great Fast— March 11, 2018**

**Fourth Sunday of the Great Fast--Our Venerable Father John Climacus**

**Saturday March 10**

Beaverdale **5:00 PM** **Vigil Divine Liturgy**  
Followed by **Panachida** and Reading of the Names of the Deceased

**Sunday March 11**

Portage **9:00 AM** **Sunday Divine Liturgy** [+Joseph Krisko, requested by Carol Goral]

**Monday, March 12**

No Lenten services scheduled

**Tuesday March 13**

No Lenten services scheduled

**Wednesday, March 14**

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

**Thursday, March 15**

No Lenten services scheduled

**Friday, March 16**

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

**Saturday March 17**

Portage **2:30 PM**  
Dunlo **4:15 PM** ***Akathist Saturday***  
Mystery of Repentance [Confessions]  
Mystery of Repentance [Confessions]

**Fifth Sunday of the Great Fast--Our Venerable Mother Mary of Egypt**

**Saturday March 10**

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

**Sunday March 11**

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