



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
Rectory: 143 Church Drive Portage, PA 15946
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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 March 18 Troitsja Issabella Crum Bulletins: Cierra Goral & Christina Goral

Sunday March 25 Troitsja Sydney Leturgey Bulletins: Issabella Crum & Evan Lenz

PASCHA:

Saturday March 31 **pm** Troitsja *Volunteers* Bulletins: *Volunteers*

Sunday April 1 **am** Troitsja *Volunteers* Bulletins: *Volunteers*



The Lenten Journey

There are two different but also complimentary aspects of messages present on this Fifth Sunday of the Great Fast. In [Mark 10:33-34](#) Jesus provides the third prediction of the passion, and here with very specific and concrete details. There follows some very valuable interchange between Jesus and his disciples. First, James and John ask for places of honor when Jesus comes into his glory [[Mark 10:37](#)]. They obviously expect the kingdom of Jesus to be an earthly rule which soon he will establish in Jerusalem.

When the other ten disciples become indignant at the ambition of James and John, Jesus uses this occasion to instruct on the nature of the authority that is to be a feature of the life of the church. He contrasts it with “*lording it over*” as rulers of the nations [“*Gentiles*”] customarily do [[Mark 10:42](#)]. Rather his disciples are to imitate Jesus in humble service, as when he will wash their feet at the Mystical [Last] Supper. The fullest expression of this service will, of course, be when Jesus gives his life for others as “*a ransom for many*” [[Mark 10:45](#); cf. [Isaiah 53:11-12](#)].

The life and conversion of *Saint Mary of Egypt* are legendary. While in the midst of a group of pilgrims in Jerusalem, her sinful and wayward life prevented her from entering the Church of the Resurrection. Taking this as a personal sign, she was cut to the heart with an awareness of her need to repent. A former harlot she turned to live the monastic life in austerity and has become a saint of the church. We remember her on this Fifth Sunday of the Great Fast, “*while the end of Lent is near, so that idlers and sinners may be aroused by repentance, having as an example this saint*” [[Festal Commemoration](#), Fifth Sunday of Lent].

“During this sixth week of the Great Fast, we follow Christ on his way to Bethany to give life to Lazarus, his friend, the promise of Resurrection to all. On Friday we conclude the Fast of forty days and begin the Fast of Holy Week. At Vespers we read the story of Joseph and his brothers. Joseph is a type of Jesus the Messiah, who died and is risen.”

[Father David Petras, from [Typicon](#), p. 23]

Pilgrim Vocation Icon Program

This week, *Marianne George* 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.



Lenten Study and Reflection Series Continues *TODAY, March 18*

Classes of study and reflection during the Great Fast on the *Gospel of Saint Matthew* continues **TODAY--Sunday, March 18** from 4:00-5:30 pm. Sessions are planned for every other Sunday and continue after Pascha on Sunday, 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!*

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.

Please note *changes from regular time next Saturday:*

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

Pastoral Visits to the Homebound

Visits to homebound parishioners and in nursing homes for the holy Mysteries of Confession and the Eucharist will begin this week and during Holy Week. Fr. Jim will call for an appointment to visit. Please notify the parish office of family or relatives who are not presently on the list of those visited.

Meeting for Annual Festival

A meeting to begin planning for the *Annual Festival* was held this past Thursday, March 15. Our next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, April 18 at 7:00 pm in the social room of the church hall. As was noted 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 this meeting to prepare for this annual event.

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

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.
- The Troparion and other parts of the Divine Liturgy for **next Sunday, March 25**, for the **Entrance of Christ into Jerusalem** are on pages 235-241; and for the *Feast of the Annunciation of the Theotokos*, on p. 328-332.
- The "Our Father", in Tone 4 Podoben may be found on p. 74.
- Please note instructions at the beginning of the Liturgy for opening hymns, alternate melodies etc.

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.

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** [West Penn Hospital, Pittsburgh]; **Don Timura** [Memorial]; **Ernie Podrasky; 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.

OTHER NEWS & EVENTS

Spring Basket Auction

GCU Lodge 93 is sponsoring our annual **Spring Basket Auction** at Saint John the Baptist Byzantine Catholic Church, 719 Chestnut Avenue, Northern Cambria, on Sunday, April 15, 11:30 am-3:00 pm.

The drawing begins at 3:00pm in the Church Hall. Along with the baskets, there will be special raffles, free desserts, and beverages. Tickets will be available for purchase at the Church Hall

ByzanTEEN Youth Rally—July 5-8 2018

“Who Is My Neighbor?”

Saint Vincent College, Latrobe Pennsylvania

Registration forms are now available; registration deadline is Friday, June 15 2018. The registration fee is \$310 per person early-bird registration, received before May 1; or \$335 for registration received May 1 through June 16. The **non-refundable** payment is to be included in full with the registration and other required forms. Forms are available from Father Jim.

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. 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

42" Annual Roast Beef Dinner/Spring Festival

St. Demetrius Parish in Gallitzin will hold its **42" Annual Roast Beef Dinner/Spring Festival** on **Sunday, April 8**. It will feature games, baskets, a bake sale, and our delicious roast beef dinner.

Location: Church hall (former St. Patrick building) at the top of Church Street. Time: 11:00 a.m. to ...? Tickets: Adults (eat-in or take-out) \$10.00; Children 6-to-12, \$6.00; 5 and under FREE

Homebound and Nursing Home Residents—Remember in Prayer

At Home: SS Peter & Paul (Portage): Dorothy Billy; Catherine Czapp Louise Halovich; Joseph Mandichak; Cathy Walters; Elsie Timura; Helen Zaher; **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 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

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 6th Week of the Great Fast— March 18, 2018

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

Saturday March 17

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

Sunday March 18

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

Monday, March 19 No Lenten services scheduled

Tuesday March 20 No Lenten services scheduled

Wednesday, March 21 *Simple abstinence and fasting required*
Portage 6:30 PM Mystery of Repentance [Confessions]
7:00 PM Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts

Thursday, March 22 *Mystery of Repentance* [Confessions]
Portage 7:00 PM

Friday, March 23 *Simple abstinence and fasting required*
Portage 6:30 PM Mystery of Repentance [Confessions]
7:00 PM Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts

Saturday March 24 *Lazarus Saturday*
Portage 2:30 PM Mystery of Repentance [Confessions]
Beaverdale 4:15 PM Mystery of Repentance [Confessions]

**Palm/Flowery Sunday--Entrance of Our Lord into Jerusalem
Annunciation of the Theotokos**

Saturday March 24

Beaverdale **5:00 PM** Vigil Divine Liturgy [+Mildred Fedore, by children of Mildred Fedore]

Sunday March 25

Portage **9:00 AM** Sunday Divine Liturgy]