



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
Phone: 814-736-9780 Fax: 814-736-8701
Website: www.ByzantineCatholic.net

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 March 25</u>	<u>Troitsja</u> Sydney Leturgey	<u>Bulletins:</u> Issabella Crum & Evan Lenz
<u>PASCHA:</u>		
<u>Saturday March 31 pm</u>	<u>Troitsja</u> <i>Volunteers</i>	<u>Bulletins:</u> Christina Goral & Cierra Goral
<u>Sunday April 1 am</u>	<u>Troitsja</u> <i>Volunteers</i>	<u>Bulletins:</u> Evan Lenz & Ryan Lenz
<u>Sunday April 8</u>	<u>Troitsja</u> Hunter Whitcomb	<u>Bulletins:</u> Sydney Leturgey & Hunter Whitcomb



Palm Sunday & the Feast of the Annunciation of the Theotokos

Feast of the Annunciation: *"In the tradition of the Church, the Feast of the Annunciation is celebrated on whatever day it falls, even on Good Friday or Pascha. It is the celebration of the central mystery of the incarnation of our Lord, when he emptied himself to take the human nature, though remaining God in eternity. This feast then celebrates what it means to be Christian, for us to follow the Lord, for he humbled himself in his conception in the womb of Mary, and on Palm Sunday, he humbles himself, riding on the colt of an ass, to submit himself to the will of his Father in his passion, death and resurrection. Thus the combination of these two feast celebrates the central mystery of our Christian faith."*

Holy Week: *"In this week, the most solemn of the Church Year, we relive the mystery of God's merciful loving-kindness, when he suffered death and burial for our salvation, and is risen for our hope of eternal life. During Holy Week, we do not only observe what happened in history, but through our acts of repentance, our prayers and fasting, our processions and veneration, take an active part in what we remember as having happened and what is happening now through divine remembrance. We die in Christ and rise in the fullness of life."*

[Father David Petras, from Typicon, p. 24, 26]

Mystery of Repentance – Confession

- On Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday at **6:00 pm**, before Liturgy of Presanctified Gifts.
- On Thursday at **1:00 pm** and **6:00 pm** in Portage.
- There are **no Confessions** scheduled *after Thursday of Holy Week*.
- You may also call the rectory to schedule an appointment.

Journey Through Holy Week...

- **Fasting** and **Strict Abstinence** from meat and dairy products is prescribed for Great & Holy Friday [March 30]. **Fasting** and **Abstinence** from meat is prescribed on Wednesday and Saturday of the Holy Week, and is recommended for Holy Thursday.
- For the **processions** on Good Friday and Paschal Matins [Saturday evening], *battery operated LED* candles will be distributed. A switch on the bottom turns the light on/off.
- **Please note** that *two ushers* will be near the grave to be available for those who may need assistance as they approach or leave the veneration of the grave.

Pilgrim Vocation Icon Program

This week, **Maxine Olshavsky** 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.

“Journey to Pascha” Video Viewing TODAY...

A DVD video, ***“Journey to Pascha”*** is being presented ***TODAY--Sunday, March 25*** from ***4:00-5:30 pm.*** Encounter the Defining Events of the Christian Faith. This DVD includes three twenty-minute video presentations on Holy Week and Pascha, whose events comprise the very heart of the Byzantine Catholic faith. These presentations, ***The Journey Begins, Christ's Passion, and Christ's Resurrection,*** explore the history, traditions, services, and their meanings, of this central period.

The enlightening interviews, music, hymns, icons, insightful commentary and beautiful visuals of this resource will inspire and provoke thoughtful exploration of this definitive period of the Church's liturgical year. Each presentation is followed by a set of questions for exploration and discussion. *Plan to come and share in this opportunity to prepare for and enter more fully into the time of Holy Week and the celebration of Pascha—the Resurrection of Our Lord Jesus Christ.*

PASKA Baking Activity for ECF Students - Thank You!

A note of thanks to those who took part in Saturday's ***Paska Baking Activity*** making Paskas for homebound parishioners and for the Artos for the Paschal Divine Liturgy. Our thanks to our baking crew—*Carol Goral, Sandy Lenz, and Sharon Bolvin*; parents, ***ECF*** students, and Catechists.

Lenten Study and Reflection Series Resumes Sunday, April 8

Classes of study and reflection on the ***Gospel of Saint Matthew*** will resume on ***Sunday, April 8*** from ***4:00-5:30 pm.*** 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!*

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 continue 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.

Eastern Christian Formation Program

- There are no ***ECF*** classes on ***Sunday, April 1,*** Pascha—the Feast of the Resurrection of our Lord. Classes will resume on ***Sunday, April 8, Thomas Sunday.***
- A meeting for ***Catechists*** is scheduled for ***Sunday, April 8*** following classes that day.

Church Cleaning & Work Party for April

- The ***Work Party*** for April will be on ***Saturday, April 7,*** beginning at ***9:00 am.***
- The ***Church Cleaning*** for April is scheduled for ***Monday, April 9,*** at ***9:00 am.*** Please note that this will not be on the usual first Monday due to the Feast of ***Bright Monday*** on Sunday, April 2.

Decorative Candles

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.



Coffee Social for April

There will be a *Coffee and Donut Social* **Sunday, April 8**, following the 9 am Divine Liturgy. Please note that this will not be on the usual first Sunday due to the Feast of Pascha, Sunday, April 1.

Meeting for Annual Festival

The next meetings to plan for the *Annual Festival* 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. The date scheduled for this year's Festival is **Sunday, July 8, 2018**.

Liturgical Chant–Holy Week and Pascha

- **2009 Edition of the Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts** includes propers for Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday of Holy Week. The *Mystery of Holy Anointing* will be included on Wednesday.
- For the services of Holy Thursday and Good Friday and Paschal Matins on Saturday, booklets will be available in the back of church. Please return them after the service.
- The Propers for next **Sunday, April 1**, the *Feast of the Resurrection – Pascha* may be found in the Divine Liturgy books from pages 164-171.
- Please note instructions at the beginning of the Liturgy for opening hymns, alternate melodies etc.

Regulations for Great and Holy Week - 2018

Simple abstinence: The law of 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 Wednesday and Saturday of Holy Week and is recommended for Holy Thursday.

Strict abstinence: The law of 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 is to be observed on **Great and Holy Friday, March 30**.

Remember In Prayer

Please pray for the health of *Shawn Crum; Dorothy, Phil and Cathy Walters; Don Timura; Ernie Podrasky; Steve Fleck; 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

Community Good Friday Cross Walk

Good Friday Cross Walk on March 30, beginning at 12 Noon at *Martindale Christian Missionary Alliance*; at *Portage Church of God* at 1:00 pm; and at *Bethany United Methodist Church* at 2:00 pm. Concludes with erecting the Cross at *Decort Funeral Home Lawn* on Main Street at 3:00 pm.

Women's Day of Reflection

The Archeparchial Office of Religious Education 15th annual **Day of Reflection for Women** is **Saturday, May 5**, 9 am-2:30 pm, at the Cathedral of Saint John the Baptist, Munhall. The theme is **"Angels Build Bridges"**. Speakers include *Samantha Scholl*; *Sr. Elise Mora OSG*; and *Penn State University Students*. *Auction of Baskets* will benefit local women's shelters. Use brochures in the narthex to register [by April 26] or call 412-322-8773. The cost is \$25 and includes lunch.

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 at Saint Vincent College, Latrobe

The **ByzanTEEN Youth Rally** will be July 5-8 2018—at **Saint Vincent College, Latrobe Pennsylvania**, on the theme, **"Who Is My Neighbor?"** Registration deadline is Friday, June 15 2018. The registration fee is \$310 for 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. Registration forms are available from Father Jim.

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

Liturgical Schedule Great and Holy Week —March 25, 2017

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]

Great & Holy Monday March 26

Portage **6:00 PM** Mystery of Repentance (Confessions)

Portage **7:00 PM** Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts

Great & Holy Tuesday, March 27

Portage **6:00 PM** Mystery of Repentance (Confessions)

Portage **7:00 PM** Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts

Great & Holy Wednesday March 28– *Simple abstinence and fasting required*

Portage **6:00 PM** Mystery of Repentance (Confessions)

Portage **7:00 PM** Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts with Holy Anointing

Great & Holy Thursday March 29– *Simple abstinence and fasting recommended*

Institution of the Eucharist & Betrayal of Our Lord

Portage **1:00 PM & 6:00 PM** Mystery of Repentance (Confessions)

Portage **7:00 PM** Vespers with Divine Liturgy of St. Basil

Great and Holy Friday--March 30 *Strict abstinence and fasting required*

Portage **10:00 AM** Matins with Reading of Passion Gospels

Beaverdale **3:00 PM** Solemn Vespers & Procession with Burial Shroud

Portage **7:00 PM** Solemn Vespers & Procession with Burial Shroud

Vigil at the Tomb of our Lord following service until Midnight

Great & Holy Saturday March 31– *Simple abstinence and fasting required*

Vigil at the Tomb of our Lord continues throughout the day

Portage **Noon** Vespers with Divine Liturgy of St. Basil

Pascha – The Glorious Resurrection of Our Lord Jesus Christ

Saturday March 31

Portage **7:00 PM** Resurrection Matins & Paschal Divine Liturgy

Followed by Blessing of Paschal Food & Social

Sunday April 1

Beaverdale **8:00 AM** Procession & Paschal Divine Liturgy

Followed by Blessing of Paschal Food

Portage **10:30 AM** Paschal Divine Liturgy