



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 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 April 8</u>	<u>Troitsja</u> Hunter Whitcomb	<u>Bulletins:</u> Sydney Leturgey & Hunter Whitcomb
<u>Sunday April 15</u>	<u>Troitsja</u> Christina Goral	<u>Bulletins:</u> Evan Lenz & Issabella Crum
<u>Sunday April 22</u>	<u>Troitsja</u> Issabella Crum	<u>Bulletins:</u> Sydney Leturgey & Ryan Lenz



Thomas Sunday

The Gospel account of the meeting of the Apostle Thomas with our Lord Jesus Christ following his resurrection is both inspiring and enlightening. The doubt of Thomas is described in church hymns to be “blessed”. It was not a doubt of resistance but one searching for the truth. Indeed, Thomas desperately desired a truthful answer. His doubt is celebrated as a “*doubt which gave birth to faith*”. His doubt leads to the clearest expression of faith in the New Testament; “*My Lord and my God*” [John 20:28]. [From Orthodox Study Bible, p. 1465]

Thomas Week: “*Our Lord took the doubt of his apostle Thomas and turned it into faith, revealing to him the wounds in his side and hands. This week is a feast of our faith in the resurrection, bestowing on us the hope of newness of life and victory over death, and we join our profession with that of Thomas, crying out to the risen Messiah, “My Lord and my God.”*”

[Father David Petras, from *Typicon*, p. 36]

The Paschal Season

- We share the greeting “**Christ is risen!**”, “**Indeed He is risen!**” from now until Ascension, which is derived from the greeting of the disciples [Luke 24:34].
- Through the fifty days from Pascha [Sunday of the Resurrection] until Pentecost, there is no kneeling at any time of prayer.

Blessing and Breaking of the “Artos” Today

The loaf of Paska bread carried in procession at the Paschal Matins, and placed on the tetrapod is the **Artos**. “Artos” is a Greek word which means bread made with yeast. It is blessed on Pascha, and broken and shared today, on **Thomas Sunday**.

A note of thanks to the team who coordinated baking Paska and the Artos at Saints Peter & Paul, Portage: **Sharon Bolvin**, **Carol Goral**, and **Sandy Lenz**; and **Irene Gindlesperger** of Saint Peter and Paul, Dunlo for baking the Artos for the Vigil Liturgy in Dunlo.

Pilgrim Vocation Icon Program

This week, **Jackie** and **Amber Gordon** will have the **Pilgrim Vocation Icon**, to pray for vocations to the priesthood, diaconate, and monastic religious life. During *April, May* and *June*, parishioners of Saint Mary’s, Beaverdale and Saints Peter and Paul, Dunlo, will have the opportunity to have the **Pilgrim Vocation Icon** in their homes to pray for vocations.

Please use the sign-up sheet in the narthex to volunteer for one of the coming weeks.

Gospel Study and Reflection Series Resumes Sunday, April 8

Classes of study and reflection on the **Gospel of Saint Matthew** resumes *today--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!*

A Word of Thanks...

A word of gratitude to all whose talents and time allowed us to observe the solemn days of Holy Week and to enjoy the celebration of Pascha—the Feast of the Resurrection of our Lord

We thank all who generously offered their gifts—to Deacon Daniel Perich; cantors and choir; readers; servers; ushers, as well as those who care for the altar and to all for our presence in prayer and worship during these days.



Coffee Social for April

The *Coffee and Donut Social* for April is postponed until next Sunday--April 15, following the 9 am Divine Liturgy. The delay is to allow the ECF students to view a DVD in the social room this morning.

Plan to come to enjoy the refreshments and time with fellow parishioners next Sunday.

PARISH NEWS & COMING EVENTS

Eastern Christian Formation Program

- *ECF* classes resume *today*, Sunday, April 8, *Thomas Sunday*.
- A meeting for **Catechists** is scheduled for *today*, Sunday, April 8 following classes.

Church Cleaning & Work Party for April

- The *Church Cleaning* for April is scheduled for Monday, April 9, at 9:00 am. Please note that this is not on the usual first Monday due to the Feast of *Bright Monday* on Monday, April 2.
- A note of thanks to those who volunteer for the monthly *Work Party* and *Church Cleaning*.

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 – Sunday of the Ointment-Bearers

- The Troparion and other parts of the Divine Liturgy for next Sunday, April 15, for the Sunday of the Ointment-Bearers are on pages 175-177.
- The Magnification following the Anaphora may be found on page 167.
- The *Our Father* in the Paschal Tone may be found on page 167.
- Please note instructions at the beginning of the Liturgy for opening hymns etc.

Remember In Prayer

Please pray for the health of **Andrew Merva; Shawn Crum; Dorothy, Phil and Cathy Walters; Elizabeth Maskal; Anna Bridge; Elaine Kachmar; Alina Rusnak; George and Nancy Yatsky; Barbara Raptosh; Ruby Moore; Charles and Joan Plishka; Tom Goncher; Patrick & Joan Ditko; Helena Ditko; Cliff Inman; Carson James; Basil; Father Paul Tigyer; Archpriest Dennis Bogda; Father John Mina** and all the ill & homebound.

<u>Offerings for February</u>					
	<u>Feb 4</u>	<u>Feb 11</u>	<u>Feb 18</u>	<u>Feb 25</u>	
Portage:	\$2,790.00	\$2,264.00	\$1,406.00	\$1,825.00	
Beaverdale:	\$289.00	\$ 553.00	\$455.00	\$620.00	
Dunlo:	\$340.00	\$170.00	\$476.00	\$90.00	

<u>Offerings for March</u>					
	<u>Mar 4</u>	<u>Mar 11</u>	<u>Mar 18</u>	<u>Mar 25</u>	
Portage:	\$ 1,662.00	\$1,876.00	\$1,605.00	\$1,640.00	
Beaverdale:	\$310.00	\$281.00	\$320.00	\$665.00	
Dunlo:	\$124.00	\$140.00	\$462.00	\$295.00	

OTHER NEWS & EVENTS

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.

"Rejoice and Be Glad!" Presented by Archeparchial Choir

The members of the *Archeparchial Choir* welcome all to the Cathedral of St. John the Baptist in Munhall, Pennsylvania on **Sunday, May 6** - the 6th and final Sunday of Pascha - as the glorious Resurrection is celebrated in readings, hymns and songs.

The hour-long inspirational presentation *"Rejoice and Be Glad!"* will begin at **3:00 p.m.**

A hospitality reception with light snacks and beverages will follow the program in the Cathedral's lower level. The Archeparchial Choir, which observes the 20th anniversary of its founding this year, hopes to see you there!

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.

42nd 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

Upcoming Programs at the Mount Saint Macrina House of Prayer

Women's Discernment Retreat Sr. Barbara Jean Mihalchick April 20-22, 7:00 pm Fri - 11 am Sun.
Offering: \$155. Commuters: \$145. Registration Due: April 16.

Come, discern with a religious community that has followed the Lord's direction and served the Church for a long time. The program will teach discernment skills and acquaint participants with the many aspects of religious life. Open to single, widowed and divorced women ages 30-50.

Candlelight Dinner for Married Couples, Thursday, April 26, 6:30-9:00 pm. Offering: \$70/couple
Registration Due: April 20. Experience a lovely evening of music, dining, a silent auction and a heartwarming presentation in the atmosphere of a former 1903 Coal Baron's home.

Rural Conference for Cancer Survivors

The **Rural Conference for Cancer Survivors**, will be held Sat. May 5, at the *Living-Learning Center*, University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown. FREE admission and lunch. This day is designed especially for cancer survivors and their families, caregivers, advocates, and friends. The event includes speakers, panel discussions, interactive sessions, and exhibits from an array of organizations committed to helping improve the lives of cancer survivors. We hope you find the day informative and relaxing.

For more information or registration, there are brochures in the narthex.

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 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
- **Maple Winds:**

