



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 to notify the pastor.

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 August 19</u>	<u>Troitsja</u> Sydney Leturgey	<u>Bulletins</u> Sydney Leturgey & Evan Lenz
<u>Sunday August 26</u>	<u>Troitsja</u> Ryan Lenz	<u>Bulletins:</u> Hunter Whitcomb & Ryan Lenz
<u>Sunday September 2</u>	<u>Troitsja</u> Hunter Whitcomb	<u>Bulletins:</u> Christina Goral & Cierra Goral



Gospel Reflection: The Vineyard and Fruitfulness of our Faith...

Attention to detail and taking care to invest the effort and expense required of a project or an enterprise are valuable in most every area of life. Whether it is at a job or a profession, tending a garden, raising a family, or exercising some talent or skill, the benefits will be rewarding and lasting.

So what about our life of faith, our soul, our Christian commitment as a member of the church? We have several indications of the need for the same consistent and diligent exertion of effort and energy in living a faithful and fruitful life of service and witness in this respect also, in today's lessons from Scripture. The Gospel parable [Matthew 21:33-42] opens with the description of a landowner who planted a vineyard. The details of his care for the vineyard are sketched out for us. He did the planting, then put a hedge around it, and dug a wine press. He also built a tower, probably for protection. These features each suggest an effort and investment, care and diligence. The vineyard was used by [Isaiah 5:1-7](#) to describe the people of Israel, and here as a reference to the Kingdom of God. They remind us first of God's care and protection for us, on behalf of his church. And if such is the attentive and generous concern of God on our behalf, how do we respond? The carelessness, negligence, disrespect and even rebellion of the tenants in the parable warn us of becoming negligent or indifferent regarding our faith.

So also, the Apostle Paul in today's Apostolic Reading seems to echo and amplify much of the same message and instruction. *"Be watchful, stand firm in your faith, be courageous, be strong. Let all that you do be done in love."* [[1 Corinthians 16:13-14](#)]. He refers in this lesson to the household of Stephanas, as *"first fruits of Achaia"* [[1 Corinthians 16:15](#)].

It is to be our hope that our life of faith also might be an offering of "first fruits" to the Lord—fruitful and faithful in rendering a return of the our share in the vineyard of Christ.

Charter Bus to Annual Pilgrimage in Honor of Our Lady of Perpetual Help

The **84th Annual Pilgrimage to the Shrine of Our Lady of Perpetual Help** takes place during the Labor Day Weekend, September 1-2, 2018. Transportation by charter bus to the Pilgrimage to Mount Saint Macrina is being scheduled for **Sunday, September 2**. The bus departs from our parking lot at **7:00 am**. Departure from Mount Saint Macrina will be at about 9:00 pm [following the candlelight procession]. There is a list in the back of church where you may sign up to reserve a seat on the bus. Please do so by **Sunday, August 19th**.

The Sisters of St. Basil invite everyone to join them in honoring the Mother of God under the title of Mary, Hope of All Generations. Brochures with the Pilgrimage schedule and information are in the narthex; visit www.sistersofstbasil.org or call [724-438-8644](tel:724-438-8644). An invitation is extended to families to take advantage of this opportunity to attend the Pilgrimage.

“Concern for our Future: Renew, Revitalize, Rejuvenate”--Assembly 2018

As the needs of our church continue to evolve, the Archeparchy of Pittsburgh is calling upon the members of its parishes to help develop a plan for our future. This call to action will take place in the format of an assembly of the Faithful, comprised of representatives from each parish. The **Assembly 2018** will be held September 16-18 to bring together Priests, Deacons, and the faithful to address the needs of the Church and how we can ensure its growth, vitality, and longevity.

The major themes to promote revitalization will be: **Education, Social Ministry, and Outreach.**

Within these three themes we will discuss the following questions and concerns identified from the 2017 survey of parishes.

1. How to encourage diversity within the church (inviting people of other cultures, ethnicities and non-Catholic upbringing)
2. Use of Technology and Social Media
3. Encouraging family participation by those in mixed marriages (Catholic/non-Catholic)
4. Education for new members and continuing education of the faithful
5. Social Activities/Hospitality for parish engagement
6. Formalized outreach to those who have left the Church

Parishes are to send *two representatives* from each parish, ideally one male and one female. The parish should cover the Assembly costs for their representatives at \$300 per person. Representatives should be parish members who are passionate about our Church's future and willing to contribute to productive conversations and offer solutions. Representatives will be asked to attend a three day conference comprising of a Sunday-evening reception, Monday conference, and a half-day conference and conclusion on Tuesday. Representatives should be willing and able to take time off work as necessary to attend, noting that Monday will be the Key day for the Assembly. Additional participants are welcome and encouraged to attend at their own expense.

If you would be willing to consider being a parish representative, or have questions, contact Father Jim. Brochures in the narthex or are available from Father Jim.

PARISH NEWS & COMING EVENTS

This Week...

Father Jim is away on vacation until August 22. **Father Robert Oravetz** of Holy Trinity Byzantine Catholic Church in Conemaugh [814-535-5231] is available for funerals during this period. In the event of an emergency for the Holy Anointing, you may contact any of the local Catholic priests.

We welcome **Father Robert Karl** for both the Saturday Vigil Divine Liturgy in Beaverdale and the Sunday Divine Liturgy in Portage. Please extend a kind welcome to Father Bob next weekend.

Eastern Christian Formation Program

The next meeting for our **Catechists** to continue planning for the 2018-2019 Eastern Christian Formation classes will be Sunday, August 26 following the Divine Liturgy. Plans were discussed at the previous meeting to enhance the high school program with opportunities for projects that engage the students for service to the parish and community. Volunteers to help coordinate these efforts would be needed. We also seek to recruit candidates to serve as Catechists or substitutes.

Offerings for July					
	<u>July 1</u>	<u>July 8</u>	<u>July 15</u>	<u>July 22</u>	<u>July 29</u>
Portage:	\$1,892.00	\$1,477.00	\$1,073.00	\$1,450.00	\$1,445.00
Beaverdale:	\$ 475.00	\$ 409.00	\$ 261.00	\$ 216.00	\$ 230.00
Dunlo:	\$ 100.00	\$ 129.00	\$ 83.00	\$ 215.00	\$ 254.00

Pilgrim Vocation Icon Program

Jackie Gordon and **Amber Gordon** had the *Pilgrim Vocation Icon* the week of August 19, to pray for vocations to the priesthood, diaconate and monastic religious life.

Please sign-up in the narthex to have the *Pilgrim Vocation Icon*.

Sanctuary Candle

This week the Candle at *Saints Peter and Paul, Portage* is offered for the health of **Nicholas**, by Patrick and Joan Ditko; and at *Saint Mary, Beaverdale* in memory of **+Elizabeth Harrigal**, by Doug and Marcy Roxby.

The Friar's Shop--Thank you

For many decades *The Friar's Shop* has served the local community providing religious gifts for every occasion. However, times have changed a great deal. It is hard for any brick and mortar store to compete with the online giants. *The Friar's Shop* is closing. Our last day of operation will be Saturday September 15. We will be offering storewide discounts to help reduce inventory.

Liturgical Chant –Sundays after Pentecost

- The Troparion and other prescribed parts of the Divine Liturgy for the **Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost [August 26]**, Resurrection Troparion Tone 5, may be found on p. 1461-148.
- The "Our Father", in Tone 5 may be found on p.70.
- Please note instructions at the beginning of the Liturgy for opening hymns etc.

Remember In Prayer

Please pray for the health of **John Havrilla; Patty Haschak; Mary Lou Cimba; Emily Nezniski; Shawn Crum; Dorothy, Phil and Cathy Walters; Elizabeth Maskal; Alina Rusnak; George and Nancy Yatsky; Barbara Raptosh; Ruby Moore; Charles and Joan Plishka; Tom Goncher; Patrick & Joan Ditko; Helena Ditko; Cliff Inman; Father Paul Tigyer; Archpriest Dennis Bogda; Thomas Spontak**, Fr. Jim's brother; and all the ill & homebound.

Parish Sunday Bulletin Available Online

Beginning next Sunday, a reduced number of bulletin copies will be printed. The number of unused bulletins weekly seems to warrant this adjustment. This reduction will provide savings in the cost of the bulletin covers, paper for the insert, and toner and maintenance costs for the printed.

The Sunday bulletin is posted on the parish website, www.ByzantineCatholic.net and may be accessed there. Also, if you wish to be added to the list of those receiving an email transmission of the bulletin, send your email address to james_armand_spontak@verizon.net with this request. You will be added to this list for electronic transmission of the Sunday bulletin.

OTHER NEWS & EVENTS

Invitation to a Pilgrimage:

The Mother of God is believed to have appeared in a little village of Zarvanytsia in Ukraine. You are invited for the Pilgrimage to the ***Mother of God of Zarvanytsia*** at Protection of the Mother of God Ukrainian Catholic Church, in Revloc, Sunday, August 19 at 11 AM. There will be Confessions, a prayer service to the Mother of God [Moleben], Divine Liturgy, and time for private meditation.

Twenty-Seventh Annual Ukrainian Festival.

Twenty-Sixth Annual Ukrainian Festival will be Sunday, August 26, 12:00 PM at the Ukrainian American Sport Center Tryzub (County Line and Lower State Rds., Horsham, PA. Enjoy "***Celebrate Liberty and Unity***", a vibrant Outdoor Summer Concert of Ukrainian Dance, Music and Song, celebrating the 27th anniversary of Ukraine's Independence, and the Unity of her People.

A Ukrainian Social Dance (Zabava) to the tunes of **Vox Ethnika** will follow the show. Ukrainian ethnic foods and baked goods, a BBQ and cool refreshments will be plentiful. Visit vendors' grove and the kids' fun area. Info: 267-664-3857; eluciw@comcast.net; www.tryzub.org. A limited number of discount tickets are available online.

Fall 2018 Online Courses at the Byzantine Catholic Seminary

Registration is now open for the following online courses at the Byzantine Catholic Seminary:

- **Introduction to the Liturgy and the Sacramental Mysteries**, Father David Petras
- **Marriage, Sexuality and Bioethical Problems**, Dr. Matthew Miner
- **Patristics II** < Father Justin Rose
- **Foundations of Spirituality**, Father David Fisher
- **Introduction to Sacred Scripture**, Dr. Sandra Collins

Register at Byzantine Online. Stay connected: visit our website www.bcs.edu.

Homebound and Nursing Home Residents—Remember in Prayer

At Home: SS Peter & Paul (Portage): Dorothy Billy; Catherine Czapp Louise Halovich; Joseph Mandichak; Cathy Walters; Helen Zaher; **St. Michael (South Fork):** Michelle Maskal; **St. Mary (Beaverdale):** Nancy Andrako; Elaine Kachmar; 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

The Dormition of the Theotokos

*"O Tabernacle all-pure, when the translation of your body took place, the apostles gathered around your bier with fear and trembling. * They gazed upon you and were filled with awe. In tears, Peter cried out to you: O Virgin, I see you laid out as one dead, yet you gave birth to the Life of the universe. I am struck with amazement, for in you dwells the One who shall be our joy in the life beyond. O pure Virgin, intercede unceasingly with your Son and God * to save the Christian people."* [Stichera from Matins of the Dormition]

Liturgical Schedule 14th Week after Pentecost —August 19, 2018

Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost Postfestive Day of the Feast of the Dormition

Saturday August 18

Beaverdale **5:00 PM** Vigil Divine Liturgy [+Elizabeth Harrigal, by Doug & Marcy Roxby]

Sunday August 19

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

Monday August 20

No Divine Liturgy scheduled

Tuesday, August 21

No Divine Liturgy scheduled

Wednesday, August 22

No Divine Liturgy scheduled

Thursday, August 23

No Divine Liturgy scheduled

Friday, August 24

No Divine Liturgy scheduled

Saturday August 25

Portage 3:00 PM Mystery of Repentance [Confessions]
Dunlo 4:30 PM Mystery of Repentance [Confessions]

Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Saturday August 25

Dunlo **5:00 PM** Vigil Divine Liturgy [+Andrew Single by Margaret Ledney & Family]

Sunday August 26

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