



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
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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 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 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
<u>Sunday September 9</u>	<u>Troitsja</u> Cierra Goral	<u>Bulletins</u> Sydney Leturgey & Evan Lenz



Gospel Reflection: The Wedding Banquet

The parable of the *Wedding Banquet* [Matthew 22:1-14] concludes with a puzzling feature [Matthew 22:11-14]. When the king who is the host notices a man with no wedding garment, he directs that he be bound and cast out of the celebration. What is meant by a *wedding garment*, and why would someone brought off the street into the banquet be expected to have one? It seems from ancient sources that all that is intended is a clean garment. The Fathers of the Church understood this as the spotless wedding garment that each has received in Baptism. It is then up to the individual to cooperate with God's grace and keep the garment clean.

References to the effects of Baptism and Christian initiation may also be found in today's Apostolic Reading [II Corinthians 1:21-2:4]. Saint Paul reminds us: "*It is God who establishes us with you in Christ and who has anointed us; he has put his seal upon us and given us his Spirit in our hearts as a guarantee*" [II Corinthians 1:21-22]. Here find allusion to the gift of the Holy Spirit received in the anointing with Chrism in Chrismation. [Father Jack Custer, *The Holy Gospel*, p.p. 150-152]

The Beheading of Saint John the Baptist...

We observe the *Feast of the Beheading of the Holy Prophet, Forerunner and Baptist John* on Wednesday, August 29. It was around the Feast of Passover that Herod had the head of Saint John the Baptist cut off [Matthew 6:14-29]. The date of this feast is the anniversary of the dedication of a church where the tombs of the Forerunner and of the Prophet Elijah are venerated.

Although this is a great feast, according to the discipline of the Byzantine Church it is observed as a day of fast to indicate our horror at Herod's luxurious banquet and homicide.

On Saturday, September 1 we begin the new Church year and renew the cycle of saints and feasts on our liturgical calendar.

Pilgrimage in Honor of Our Lady of Perpetual Help—Mt. St. Macrina, Uniontown

The **84th Annual Pilgrimage to the Shrine of Our Lady of Perpetual Help** is Saturday-Sunday, September 1-2, 2018. Here are some highlights of the schedule of services:

Saturday, September 1	10:00 am	<i>Divine Liturgy</i>
	4:00 pm	<i>Vespers with Divine Liturgy</i>
	7:30 pm	<i>Parastas Service at Cemetery</i>
Sunday, September 2	8:30 am	<i>Divine Liturgy in Church Slavonic</i>
	10:30 am	<i>Divine Liturgy</i>
	1:00 pm	<i>Children's Procession</i>
	4:00 pm	<i>Hierarchical Divine Liturgy</i>
	7:30 pm	<i>Candlelight Procession</i>

Holy Mystery of Repentance [Confession] available 7:00 am to 5:00 pm both days

Holy Mystery of Anointing available 2:00 pm both days

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 to sign up to reserve a seat on the bus, **or call the rectory [814-736-9780] at your earliest convenience**.

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.

PARISH NEWS & COMING EVENTS

Eastern Christian Formation Program

There is a meeting for **Catechists** as we prepare for the 2018-2019 Eastern Christian Formation classes **today-- Sunday, August 26** in the social room of the church hall 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.

Pilgrim Vocation Icon Program

Father Kevin Marks, Vocations Director, provided this update from the Office of Vocations:

- This academic year, the Archeparchy of Pittsburgh has four students in the seminary studying for the priesthood. Please remember in prayer: **Deacon Tom Wells; Seminarian Kyprian Wojciechowski; Seminarian Robert Jones; and Seminarian John Welch**.
- Nine candidates are in the application process for the School of Diaconate Studies which begins in June 2019. There is one candidate who is completing his fourth year of the deacon program.
- There were seven responses from the **"Called By Name" Program** this past April that were submitted. There are several perspective seminarians for the fall of the 2019 seminary year.

Please sign-up in the narthex to have the **Pilgrim Vocation Icon** to pray for vocations to the priesthood, diaconate and monastic religious life.

Work Party & Church Cleaning for September

- **Church Cleaning for September** will be **Monday, 10**, at **9:00 am**. This change is due to Labor Day Holiday on September 4, the first Monday of September.
- The **Work Party** will be on **Saturday, September 15**, at **9:00 am**. This change is due to Labor Day Holiday weekend on the first Saturday of the month and the Feast of the Birth of Mary the Theotokos on Saturday, September 8.

“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:

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.

We are in need of parish representatives. If you are willing to consider being a parish representative, or have questions, contact Father Jim. Brochures in the narthex.

Liturgical Chant –Sundays after Pentecost

- The Troparion and other prescribed parts of the Divine Liturgy for the ***Feast of the Beheading of the Holy Prophet, Forerunner, and Baptist John*** [August 29] may be found on pages 355-357.
- The Troparion and other prescribed parts of the Divine Liturgy for the ***Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost [September 2]***, Resurrection Troparion Tone 6, may be found on p. 152-153.
- The “*Our Father*”, in Tone 6 may be found on p.71.
- 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 Nezeski; 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.

Sanctuary Candle

This week the Candle at *Saints Peter and Paul, Portage* is offered in memory of ***+Michael Duray***, by Patrick and Joan Ditko.

Parish Sunday Bulletin Available Online

A reduced number of bulletin copies is being printed to provide savings in the cost of the bulletin covers, paper, and toner for the printer. The Sunday bulletin is posted on the parish website, www.ByzantineCatholic.net and may be accessed there. To be added to the list of those receiving an email bulletin, send your email address to james_armand_spontak@verizon.net with this request.

OTHER NEWS & EVENTS

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.

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.

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 Beheading of the Holy Prophet, Forerunner and Baptist John

“Let us commemorate the beheading of the Forerunner. At that time, blood poured out on the platter; now healings are poured out throughout the world.”

[Stichera, Vespers of the Feast of the Beheading of Saint John the Baptist.]

Liturgical Schedule 15th Week after Pentecost —August 26, 2018

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

Monday August 27

No Divine Liturgy scheduled

Tuesday, August 28

Portage 7:45 AM The Third Hour
8:00 AM **Divine Liturgy**

[Angeline Pieraccini—90th Birthday, by Barbara & John Havrilla]

Feast of the Beheading of the Holy Prophet, Forerunner, & Baptist John

Tuesday, August 28

Beaverdale **6:00 PM** *Great Vespers with Litija*

Wednesday, August 29

Portage 8:45 AM The Third Hour
9:00 AM **Divine Liturgy**

Thursday, August 30

No Divine Liturgy scheduled

Friday, August 31

No Divine Liturgy scheduled

Saturday September 1

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

Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Saturday September 1

Beaverdale **5:00 PM** Vigil Divine Liturgy [+Alex & Tekla Krenisky by John Krenisky]

Sunday September 2

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