



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 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

Sunday September 9 Troitsja Cierra Goral

Bulletins Sydney Leturgey & Evan Lenz

Sunday September 16 Troitsja Christina Goral

Bulletins: Hunter Whitcomb & Ryan Lenz

Sunday September 23 Troitsja Evan Lenz

Bulletins: Christina Goral & Cierra Goral



Sunday before the Exaltation of the Holy Cross

Today's Gospel is brief [[John 3:13-17](#)] but holds a depth of meaning. It also may appear puzzling or obscure. References to one who "has ascended into heaven" and "descended from heaven" are an allusion to Christ's death, resurrection, ascension, and exaltation in glory. This means the reality of our salvation, the entire work of Jesus on behalf of our redemption. Then there follows a reference from the Old Testament, the "sign" of a bronze serpent lifted up on the staff of Moses [[Numbers 21:9](#)]. This "lifting up" is understood as foreshadowing the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ. Christ was elevated on the cross, first in the obvious sense of him being placed on the Cross, and the cross then raised to stand upright. But in a deeper and symbolic sense, this "elevation" is a true exaltation. Already on the cross, Christ is victorious over sin and death. His cross becomes his glorification.

This passage and the companion Apostolic Reading [[Galatians 6:11-18](#)] are part of the preparation for the Feast of the Exaltation of the Cross celebrated this week on Friday, September 14.

"A tradition well established in the sixth century relates that Helen, mother of Emperor Constantine the Great, discovered near Golgotha the three crosses on which Christ and the two thieves had been crucified. Bishop Makarios identified the true Cross of Christ as the one whose touch immediately returned a dying woman to perfect health.

"The Feast of the Holy Cross has a great importance in the Byzantine as well as in the Latin Churches. It is, in a sense, a renewal of Holy Friday, with the difference that on Holy Friday the Redemption by the blood and death of Christ is commemorated, while here the Cross is seen as a sign of glory and victory: the glory of Christ and Christianity, and our own victory over evil and sin.

*"The Office of the day recalls various prefiguration of the Cross in the Old Testament: **the Tree of Paradise** which caused our fall, while the Tree of the Cross is the instrument of our salvation in Christ; **the Ark of Noah** which saved the just, while the Cross embraces both just and sinner; **Jacob** who stretched out his arms to bless Joseph's children; **Moses** who did the same to open a road through the Red Sea so that the people of Israel could be saved, and who sweetened the bitter waters of Marah with his rod; **Moses** again who made water gush from the rock with his staff, and who sustained Israel in battle against Amalek by extending his arms in prayer; the flowering rod of **Aaron**; the brazen serpent he placed in the midst of the camp to save those dying from poison.. With the Cross, suffering appears no longer as the work of blind Destiny that crushes us and leads us to revolt: it becomes a proof of love, the close imitation of Christ, the cleansing of sin, a sharing in the redemption of mankind and a ladder to the summit of heavenly glory."*

From Archbishop Joseph Raya, Byzantine [Daily Worship](#), p. 448- 449

Covered Dish Social in Dunlo

A Covered Dish Social will be held **Saturday, September 22**, following the Vigil Divine Liturgy at Ss. Peter & Paul, Dunlo.

Parishioners are asked to bring an *entrée, side dish, salad, bread or rolls, dessert, etc.*



Many, Happy Years!

Today, Metropolitan William Skurla honors those who observe Jubilee Wedding Anniversaries of **10, 25, 40, 50, 55, 60, 65 years** in 2017. The Divine Liturgy at Saint Elias Church in Munhall will be followed by a dinner and presentation of an anniversary certificate to each.

Congratulations to those from our parish communities celebrating Jubilee Wedding Anniversaries:

Saints Peter and Paul, Portage

<i>Raymond and Brenda Egnot</i>	25 Years	September 18
<i>Thomas and Laura Fleck</i>	25 Years	February 6
<i>Edward and Carol Goral</i>	45 Years	August 18
<i>James and Barbara Koban</i>	60 Years	July 5
<i>George F. and Andrea Pyo</i>	35 Years	January 29
<i>Richard and Gloria Rocker</i>	40 Years	July 29
<i>Paul and Cynthia Rozansky</i>	35 Years	June 18
<i>Philip and Dorothy Walters</i>	55 Years	June 15
<i>David and Bonnie Yetsko</i>	40 Years	May 27

Saints Mary's, Beaverdale

<i>Daniel and Julie Brenna</i>	50 Years	October 5
<i>Stephen and Mary Lou Paluch</i>	35 years	September 17

If there are others we are not aware of please inform Father Jim.

PARISH NEWS & COMING EVENTS



Coffee Social for September – Next Sunday, September 16

Our monthly *Coffee & Donut Socials* resume in September. The September Coffee Social will be Sunday, September 16. Please plan to come and enjoy this opportunity for conversation and refreshments with fellow parishioners.

Eastern Christian Formation Program

The meeting for *Catechists* is rescheduled for today—Sunday, September 9, immediately following the Divine Liturgy, in the social room.

Parents and students are asked to take note of these dates and scheduled events:

Sunday, September 16: *Blessing of Students and Blessing and Commissioning of Catechists*

Students are asked to come forward to the Ambon [at the Tetrapod table] at the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy to receive this blessing together with the Catechists.

Sunday, September 23: *Classes Begin for Grades Two through high school*

Sunday, September 30: *Classes Begin Pre-School & Kindergarten*

Volunteers to serve as Catechists or substitutes are always an ongoing need. Please continue to remember in your prayers our Catechists, students, and their families.

Sanctuary Candle

This week the Sanctuary Candle in memory of **+Peter Pikus**, by the Peter Pikus Family.

Pilgrim Vocation Icon

During the week of September 9, **Connie & Ken Crum** will have the **Pilgrim Vocation Icon** to pray for vocations to the priesthood, diaconate and monastic religious life. Please sign-up in the narthex to have the **Pilgrim Vocation Icon** to pray for vocations.

Please remember in your prayers the students the Archeparchy of Pittsburgh in the seminary studying for the priesthood: **Deacon Tom Wells; Seminarian Kyprian Wojciechowski; Seminarian Robert Jones;** and **Seminarian John Welch;** and all of the Seminarians and Seminary community.

Work Party & Church Cleaning for September

- **Church Cleaning for September** will be **Monday, September 10**, at **9:00 am**. This change is due to Labor Day Holiday on September 3, 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 evolve, the Archeparchy of Pittsburgh is calling upon the members of its parishes to help develop a plan for our future. 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, focusing on the of **Education, Social Ministry, and Outreach.**

Liturgical Chant –Sundays after Pentecost

- The Troparion and other prescribed parts of the Divine Liturgy for the **Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross [September 14]**, may be found on **p. 253-258**.
- The Troparion and other prescribed parts of the Divine Liturgy for the **Sunday after the Exaltation of the Holy Cross [September 16]**, **Resurrection Troparion Tone 8**, may be found on **p. 161-163**; the and for the **Sunday after the Exaltation of the Holy Cross**, on **p. 258-260**.
- The **“Our Father”**, in **Tone 8** may be found on **p.73**.
- Please note instructions at the beginning of the Liturgy for opening hymns etc.

Thank You...

John Havrilla would like to thank everyone for their prayers, cards and good wishes during his recent surgery.

Remember In Prayer

Please pray for the health of **John Havrilla; Patty Haschak; 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 Robert Oravetz**, of Holy Trinity, Conemaugh [Memorial Hospital]; **Deacon Michael George**, St. Gregory, Upper St. Clair; **Father Paul Tigyer; Archpriest Dennis Bogda; Thomas Spontak**, Fr. Jim’s brother; and all the ill & homebound.

Also, please pray for the repose of the soul of **Brother Tom Summerfeld BHS**, who fell asleep in the Lord Tuesday, September 4. **Eternal Memory!**

OTHER NEWS & EVENTS

Fatima Devotion in Loretto

The Franciscan Friars T.O.R. from Loretto, invite you to participate with them in celebrating the Fatima Devotions on Thursday September 13, 6:30 P.M. in the Sunken Gardens. (In case of inclement weather, the devotions will be at the Basilica of St. Michael the Archangel). The singing will be led by the Holy Name Men's Choir" and the sermon will be delivered by Fr. Ananias Buccicone, OSB of Queen of Peace Church in Patton. A cordial welcome is extended to all.

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.

Used Magazines

Used **magazines, merchandise catalogues, etc.** [especially with pictures] may be brought to the ushers' room and placed in the box there. They are needed by a family with a family member with special needs and are very much appreciated. *Thank you.*

Fall 2018 Online Courses at the Byzantine Catholic Seminary

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

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

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):** George Yatsky.

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

Parish Sunday Bulletin Available Online and by Email Transmission

In addition to printed copies of the bulletin copies, 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@verizn.net with this request.

Liturgical Schedule 17th Week after Pentecost —September 9, 2018

Sunday Before the Exaltation of the Holy Cross

Saturday September 8

Dunlo **5:00 PM** Vigil Divine Liturgy [+Agnes Gindlesperger by Mike & Pauline Barelick]

Sunday September 9

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

Monday September 10

No Divine Liturgy scheduled

Tuesday, September 11

Portage 7:45 AM The Third Hour
8:00 AM **Divine Liturgy** [+Ed Neznieski, by Steve & Marge Fleck]

Wednesday, September 12

No Divine Liturgy scheduled

Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross

Thursday, September 13

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

Friday, September 14

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

Saturday September 15

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

Sunday After the Exaltation of the Holy Cross

Saturday September 15

Beaverdale **5:00 PM** Vigil Divine Liturgy [+Helen Sasek by Len Fornadel, Jr.]

Sunday September 16

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