



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
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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

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| <u>Sunday September 30</u> | <u>Troitsja</u> Sydney Leturgey | <u>Bulletins</u> Sydney Leturgey & Evan Lenz |
| <u>Sunday October 7</u> | <u>Troitsja</u> Ryan Lenz | <u>Bulletins:</u> Hunter Whitcomb & Ryan Lenz |
| <u>Sunday October 14</u> | <u>Troitsja</u> Hunter Whitcomb | <u>Bulletins:</u> Christina Goral & Cierra Goral |

Sanctuary Candle

This week the Sanctuary Candle in memory of **+Virginia Myers**, requested by Kathy Sekerak.



The Protection of Mary the Theotokos

The church year that began for Byzantine Catholics on September 1 includes a series of feast of the Mother of God in its earliest months. The feast of the Birth of Mary was on September 8. This week we celebrate the **Protection of Mary the Theotokos** on October 1. And next month the feast of her Entance into the Temple is on November 21.

Along with these feasts, the role of the Theotokos, Mary in our Liturgy and personal life of faith is highlighted in a variety of ways. We have a wealth of hymns honoring or remembering her, both liturgical hymns and those composed from popular piety. Likewise, there is a wide selection of icons concerning Mary in which she is depicted.

An important aspect in this role and place of Mary is that the feasts of the virgin and our remembrance of her are always dependent upon the person and mystery of Christ. From him all of the feasts of Mary derive their significance, for he is the center of our faith and life. The greeting [used at the anointing on feasts, other occasions], *"Christ is in our midst", "He is and always will be"* brings this to mind continually. And so our attention to Mary and the devotion surrounding her are always rooted in Christ and in the events of our salvation. We remember and honor her as the human medium or instrument by which God is communicated to us through the Incarnation.

In the course of history, this devotion to Mary has developed in a variety of ways, in the different places and regions of the world. One of the distinctive elements in our veneration of Mary as Byzantine Catholics is the **Feast of the Protection of Mary** on October 1. Historically it is rooted in events in which Mary's intercession was invoked at a time of crisis. This occurred in Constantinople, the capital of the Byzantine Empire in the 10th century. In response to fervent prayer of those gathered in the church, Mary appeared and extended her veil over those assembled. In this way she demonstrated her protection for faithful Christians who sought her aid.

There have been many other instances throughout history in many nations and peoples in which Christians has sought Mary's intercession and protection. In these many and varied instances there has been an affirmation of the mystery at the center of our faith: *God is with us!* God's presence was manifest through the Incarnation and the Birth of his Son and his coming among us by becoming man in the womb of the Virgin Mary. Mary continues to be that instrument by which Christ comes among us, in the church. We celebrate this in the feast of her Protection and likewise we assemble to ask her intercession for the church and in the world today.

The Protection of Mary the Theotokos is the patronal feast of Saint Mary's Holy Protection Church in Beaverdale. *Great Vespers with Litija* will be in Beaverdale on Sunday, September 30 at 6:00 pm. The Divine Liturgy in Portage is at 9:00 am on Monday, October 1.

"Heaven and earth are sanctified. The Church is radiant and all the people are rejoicing. Behold, the Mother of God, together with the angelic hosts, the Forerunner, and the Theologian, with the prophets and the apostles has invisibly entered. She prays to Christ in behalf of all Christians that He may have mercy on our city and all people who glorify the feast of her Protection."

[Stichera of Vespers, Feast of the Protection of Mary the Theotokos]



Coffee Social – TODAY--Sunday, September 30

Our monthly *Coffee & Donut Socials* for September is TODAY--Sunday, September 30. Please plan to come and enjoy this opportunity for conversation and refreshments with fellow parishioners

Eastern Christian Formation Classes

Classes for Grades Two through high school began on Sunday, September 23: Classes begin for Pre-School & Kindergarten today, Sunday, September 30. Classes for Pre-School/K through high school meet on Sunday following Divine Liturgy [10:15-11:15 am.]. Parents are reminded that if you anticipate your child's absence, please inform the catechist prior to class. Whenever a child is absent parents are to review the lesson for that week with the students.

A snack for the students is provided before classes. If parents and/or students would like to volunteer to bring something for this light refreshment, please inform your child's catechist.

We ask for your continued prayers for our Catechists, and students as we begin the 2018-2019 Eastern Christian Formation program.

PARISH NEWS & COMING EVENTS

Troitsja and Bulletin

The opportunity to hold the *Troitsja* for the Gospel and Creed during the Divine Liturgy, and also to distribute bulletins after Liturgy, is being extended to our *Eastern Christian Formation* students in grades seven and eight. These students will receive orientation and instruction for these tasks over the next few weeks. They will then be included in the regular schedule for the Troitsja and bulletins.

We thank all of those students who hold the Troitsja and distribute bulletins throughout the year for your faithful service to your parish community.

Work Party & Church Cleaning for October

- **Church Cleaning** will be on Monday, October 8, at 9:00 am. *Please note this change* from the usual first Monday because of the Feast of the Protection of the Theotokos on Monday, October 1.
- The **Work Party** will be on Saturday, October 13, at 9:00 am. *Please note this change* from the usual first Saturday of the month.

Pilgrim Vocation Icon

During the week of September 30, *Carol Goral* 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.

Liturgical Chant –Sundays after Pentecost

- The Troparion and other prescribed parts of the Divine Liturgy for the ***Feast of the Protection of the Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary [October 1]***, may be found on p. 261-262.
- The Troparion and other prescribed parts of the Divine Liturgy for the ***20th Sunday after Pentecost [October 7]***, Resurrection Troparion Tone 3, may be found on p. 135-137.
- The *“Our Father”*, in Tone 3 may be found on p.68.
- Please note instructions at the beginning of the Liturgy for opening hymns etc.

Remember In Prayer

Please pray for the health of ***Dorothy Resconich*** [Memorial Hospital]; ***Joseph Raptosh; Bernadette Kostan***, daughter of our neighbor Frank Jubara; ***Brother Sean Mary Fitzwater, TOR; John Havrilla; Patty Haschak; Emily Nezneski; 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; Deacon George Fatula*** of Nativity of the Mother of God Church, DuBois, [DuBois Hospital]; ***Father Robert Oravetz; Deacon Michael George; Father Paul Tigyer; Archpriest Dennis Bogda***; and all the ill & homebound.

OTHER NEWS & EVENTS

'Harvest Fest

Join us for Portage Community Annual ***'Harvest Fest*** on Sunday, September 30, 2 pm–5 pm. Everything is FREE! New Games. Food; *“Trunk or Treat”*; prizes; inflatables. Also, Portage Volunteer Fire Department and Portage Public Library.

The ***Harvest Fest*** is at Bethany United Methodist Church Parking Lot, 700 Farren St.

“The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few.” Luke 10:2

Byzantine Spirituality Conference

The annual Byzantine Spirituality Conference will be held at the Cathedral of St. John the Baptist, Munhall, November 10, 2018 9:30 AM to 2:30 PM, on the topic: ***“Parish Life : from Maintenance to Discipleship”***. The 2018 Spirituality Conference will take a look at life in our Byzantine Catholic Church from the time of Immigration up to the present era. The presenters will focus on our call to be a Disciple of Jesus Christ and on the challenges for disciples of Jesus Christ in the future.

Presentations offered will be: ***“The Immigrant Disciple”***, and ***“Being a Disciple Today”***, by Deacon John Evancho; and ***“The Challenge of Discipleship for the Future”*** by Christopher Russo.

The registration fee is: \$35 per person (includes lunch); parish table of 5 or more: \$25 per person. For information: call 412-322-8773. There are brochures in the narthex

Chicken BBQ Dinner and Mini-Bazaar

St. Demetrius Parish, Gallitzin annual ***Chicken BBQ Dinner and Mini-Bazaar*** is on Sunday September 30, in the parish Activity Center (rear 616 Church St.) in Gallitzin.

Dinners for Adults: \$10.00; Children 6-12: \$6.00; Children aged 5 and under: free. Takeouts: \$10.00. A flea market will also be featured, as well as baked goods, games, and baskets.

Dinner will be served from 11 a.m. until - ?.

Fatima Devotions in Loretto

The Franciscan Friars, T.O.R., from Loretto, invite you to participate with them in celebrating the **Fatima Devotions** on Saturday October 13, 6:30 P.M. at the Basilica of St. Michael the Archangel.

The singing will be led by St. John the Evangelist of Lakemont and the sermon will be delivered by Fr. Anthony Francis Spilka, OFM Conv. of St. Francis of Assisi Church in Johnstown.

We would like to extend a cordial welcome to all.

Josh Gallagher with His Band in Concert

The Cambria Alliance EMS will be holding a benefit concert featuring, **Josh Gallagher** "live" along with his band, on Saturday, October 13, 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm at the Oriental Ballroom in Gallitzin (doors open at 6:00 pm). There will be a meet and greet following the show.

General Admission Ticket: \$35.00. Tickets can be purchased at Cresson Shop 'n Save; Cresson NAPA; and by calling Cambria Alliance EMS at 814-886-5641.

Mount Saint Macrina House of Prayer

Spiritual Reflection presented by Becky Johnen on the topic: "**Taking Things in Stride,**" on Saturday, October 6, 10:00 am -1:00 pm Includes Lunch. Offering: \$35. Registration Due: October 2.

Explores how to take things in stride and "not sweat the small stuff" and offers advantages of doing so and strategies and exercises to help you stay connected with your spiritual side. Phone: 724-438-7149; email: hpmsm@verizon.net or go to sistersofstbasit.org

Please call or email us if you can give a few hours as a volunteer. [Use above phone, email].

Open House at Mount Aloysius College

Open House at Mount Aloysius College: Sunday, September 30; Sunday, October 21; Monday, November 12. Register online at mtaloy.edu/openhouse, or call 814-886-6383.

"The Horizon is just your starting line".

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 Nezniski
- **The Winds at Mattern Orchard, Duncansville:** Mary Vrabel
- **Amber Hills Ebsenburg:** 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 to receive an email bulletin, send your email address to james_armand_spontak@verizn.net with this request.

Liturgical Schedule 20th Week after Pentecost —September 30 2018

Nineteenth Sunday After Pentecost

Saturday September 29

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

Sunday September 30

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

Feast of the Protection of the Theotokos

Sunday September 30

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

Monday, October 1

Portage 8:45 AM The Third Hour

9:00 AM Divine Liturgy

Tuesday, October 2

No Divine Liturgy scheduled

Wednesday, October 3

Portage 7:45 AM The Third Hour
8:00 AM **Divine Liturgy** [+Alick Prudhoe, by John Slivenik]

Thursday, October 4

No Divine Liturgy scheduled

Friday, October 5

Portage 7:45 AM The Third Hour
8:00 AM **Divine Liturgy** [+Edward "Moose" Pyo, by Jane Pyo & Family]

Saturday October 6

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

Twentieth Sunday After Pentecost

Saturday October 6

Dunlo **5:00 PM** Vigil Divine Liturgy [+Mary Louise Cimba, by Julie Brenna]

Sunday October 7

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