



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  
Website: [www.ByzantineCatholic.net](http://www.ByzantineCatholic.net)

**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.

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### **Troitsja & Bulletin Schedule**

**Sunday January 6** Troitsja: Hunter Whitcomb

**Bulletins:** Cierra Goral & Abby Koban

**Sunday January 13** Troitsja: Ryan Lenz

**Bulletins:** Christina Goral & Bella Koban

**Sunday January 20** Troitsja: Christina Goral

**Bulletins:** Evan Lenz & Lexie Slanoc



### **The Icon of the Theophany of Our Lord Jesus Christ**

*"In accordance with today's Gospel [Matthew 3:13-17] the Baptism of our Lord is the first revelation of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit--the Holy Trinity. The icon brings this revelation to us. At the top of the icon, the opening of heaven is symbolized by the segment of a circle. This circle signifies God's presence and witness at the event. Emanating from the circle are rays of light surrounding the Holy Spirit, depicted in the figure of a dove descending upon our Savior Who is being baptized in the Jordan by John. In this graphic manner, the Father and the Holy Spirit give testimony to the appearance of the Son of God in the flesh among mankind.*

*"In this icon, we are immediately drawn to the Person of Christ. He stands in the waters of the Jordan. The iconographic imagery expresses that not just a part, but the entire body of Christ is immersed in the Jordan in token of His burial; for in Colossians we read: "In baptism you were not only buried with Him but also raised to life with Him because you believed in the power of God Who raised Him from the dead." (2: 12) The icon's illustration of the total immersion of Christ as well as His right hand blessing the waters signifies the sanctification and purification of the waters by Christ. No longer is water an image of death, but an image of birth into a new life which we share with Christ Who took upon Himself the sins of the world. In Christ we celebrate that all of creation is renewed.*

*"A further illustration of our coming to share this new life in Christ is the symbol of Christ undergoing Baptism "clothed" in the nakedness of Adam, the Father of all mankind. Through Christ's sanctification of the waters, He enables us to be raised up with Him and to put on the robes of incorruptibility. The role of John the Baptist is depicted by placing his right hand on the head of Christ--a gesture which is an integral part of the sacramental ritual of Baptism. With his left hand John makes a gesture of prayer, symbolizing the trembling awe which overwhelmed him at the sight of the divine manifestation.*

*"Present in the icon are Angels with their hands covered. Their heads are bowed as an indication of their role of service to God and their reverence for Him Whom they serve. The Icon of Theophany brings us symbolically to the presence of the manifestation of God, the revelation of the Trinity, and the significance of Baptism. In its presence we know that God does reveal Himself to us and that through our Baptism, established by the Baptism of Christ, we are made new in Christ." From Icon Packet: Come Bless the Lord, pages 42-43*


### **Containers for Blessed Water**

Blessed water will be used by the priest to sprinkle the homes of the faithful, and also is taken by the faithful for use at home for various occasions and needs. Plastic containers with an Icon of the Baptism of the Lord imprinted are available in the narthex for your use. A donation of \$2/container is requested for the cost of the container and shipping.

**PARISH NEWS & COMING EVENTS**

**Church Cleaning & Work Party for January**

- The **Church Cleaning** for January is scheduled for **Monday, January 7**, at 9:00 am.
- A note of thanks to those who volunteer for the monthly **Work Party** and **Church Cleaning**.



**Coffee Social for January**  
 The January **Coffee and Donut Social** will be **next Sunday--January 13**, following the 9 am Divine Liturgy. This change from the usual first Sunday is because of the Feast of Theophany and Great Sanctification of Water on Sunday, January 6. Please take this opportunity to greet fellow parishioners and enjoy the coffee and refreshments.

**Parish Sunday Bulletin Available Online and by Email Transmission**

The Sunday bulletin is posted on the parish website, [www.ByzantineCatholic.net](http://www.ByzantineCatholic.net). To receive an email bulletin, send your email address to [james\\_armand\\_spontak@verizon.net](mailto:james_armand_spontak@verizon.net) with this request.

<b>Eastern Christian Formation Calendar--Christmas &amp; Theophany Season</b>	
Sunday, January 6 2019.....	No ECF Classes
Sunday, January 13 2019.....	ECF Classes Resume

**Offering Envelopes for 2019**

There remains a number **2019 Offertory Envelopes** in the usher's room. Please pick up your box of envelopes. If possible, please also take those for family or neighbors who may not be present.

Because envelope numbers change, please **write your name and address** on your envelope for the first few weeks of the New Year. Please continue to **write your name on your envelope each week** to ensure proper credit.

If you are not registered to receive envelopes, contact the parish office at-736-9780.

**Blessing of Homes**

To request the blessing of your home by Father Jim, please fill out this form, and place it in the offering basket or return by mailing it. In arranging an appointment, try to make it a convenient time for family members to be at home. Have a lighted candle and an icon on the table. Copies of the service for the blessing of the home will be provided for you to participate in this prayer.

**I/we would like to have my/our home blessed:**

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_

*"O Lord, be in our thoughts, in our words, in our deeds, in our tears and in our laughter. O Lord, let your presence be felt in this house, and in those who enter therein, as it was felt by John as You were baptized in the Jordan River."* [From the Prayer for Blessing of Homes]

## Liturgical Chant--The Theophany of our Lord

- The Troparion and other prescribed parts of the Divine Liturgy for **Sunday January 13, Resurrection Troparion Tone 1**, may be found on p. 125-127; and for the **Sunday after Theophany of Our Lord** are on pages 312-318.
- The "Our Father", in **Tone 1** may be found on p. 66.
- Please note instructions at the beginning of the Liturgy for opening hymns etc.

<b>Offerings for November</b>				
	<b>Nov 4</b>	<b>Nov 11</b>	<b>Nov 18</b>	<b>Nov 25</b>
<b>Portage:</b>	\$2,344.03	\$1,791.63	\$1,805.00	\$1,262.00
<b>Beaverdale:</b>	\$ 920.00	\$ 465.00	\$ 250.00	\$ 479.00
<b>Dunlo:</b>	\$ 289.00	\$ 340.00	\$ 321.00	\$ 55.00

## Sanctuary Candle

The Sanctuary Candle is offered this week at Saints Peter and Paul, Portage for the **Fleck Family** requested by Steve Fleck.

## Eternal Memory-

You are asked to pray for the repose of the soul of **+ Father Joseph Radvansky**, a retired priest of the Byzantine Catholic Eparchy of Parma, who fell asleep in the Lord on December 25, 2018.

## Remember In Prayer

Please pray for the health of **John Slivenik** of Saint Mary's, Beaverdale, who is now a resident at Maple Winds; **Mary Donnelly**, sister of Pauline Barelick; **George Pyo Jr.**; **Daniel Zaliznock**; **Father Edward Pyo**; **Marge Fleck**; **Dorothy Resconich**; **Joseph Raptosh**; **John Rakar**; **Bernadette Kostan**, **Brother Sean Mary Fitzwater, TOR**; **Patty Haschak**; **Emily Nezneski**; **Shawn Crum**; **Dorothy, Phil and Cathy Walters**; **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**; **Kelly Colwell** Father Jim's niece; and all the ill & homebound.

## OTHER NEWS & EVENTS

### Mount Saint Macrina House of Prayer Open House and Schedule of Events

**Mount Saint Macrina House of Prayer Open House** on Sunday, January 13, 2019 1:30-3:30 PM.

*Come and spend some time with the Staff in the warmth of the House of Prayer.*

**"Winter Respite"** presented by Sr. Carol Petrasovich, OSBM on Saturday, February 2, 10:00 am—1:00 pm; includes Lunch. Offering: \$35, registration by January 30. *The stillness and unhurried days of winter are an ideal time to experience "Rest in the Lord."*

**Bread Baking Retreat** presented by Sr. Carol Petrasovich, OSBM on Saturday, February 16 or Saturday, March 16 10:00 am-1:30 pm; lunch Included. Offering: \$20, Registration by February 11. *It's back, Sr. Carol's much requested Bread Baking Retreat! Enjoy making a loaf of Lenten bread in a creative, relaxing and prayerful atmosphere.* Limited to eight participants.

To register for above programs, call 724-438-7149; or email [hpmsm@verizon.net](mailto:hpmsm@verizon.net)

## Sacred Heart Sisters Retreats Offered in 2019

The Sister Servants of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus extend an invitation to these retreat programs offered at St. Joseph Convent, 1872 Munster Road, Portage:

**Girls' Retreat: Generosity:** For girls in grades 7-12, a weekend retreat, January 25-27, 2019; begins Friday 6:00pm with a meal until Sunday 1:00 pm with a meal. Register by Wednesday, January 23. Suggested donation \$45.

**A Married Couples Weekend Get-Away: Each Day is a New Start** Begins Friday, February 8 with dinner at 5:30pm to Sunday, February 10 Noon with brunch. The presenter for the weekend will be Rev. Lawrence F. Kozak, M.Div., MA, of the Philadelphia Archdiocese. Suggested donation of \$75 Weekend/\$35 Day is requested to cover meals and costs. Register by Wednesday, February 6.

**Boys' Retreat: Bravery:** From February 15-17, 2019; begins Friday 6:00pm with dinner and ends Sunday at 1:00pm with a meal. Register by Wednesday, February 6<sup>th</sup>. Suggested donation \$45.

**Women's Retreat: "Learn from Me for I am Meek and Humble of Heart.** For Women [age 18 and older] held March 8-10. The weekend begins Friday 6:00pm with dinner and ends Sunday 1:00 pm with a meal. Register by Wednesday, March 6. Suggested donation \$65.

To register for any of the above contact Sister Jacinta: [sisterjacinta@gmail.com](mailto:sisterjacinta@gmail.com) or 814-886-4459.

## Mount Aloysius College annual MLK Jr. Day Open House

**Mount Aloysius College** annual **MLK Jr. Day Open House**, will be Monday, January 21.

**Mount Aloysius College** remains dedicated to our mission rooted in the values of the Religious Sisters of Mercy, providing an environment that encourages students to synthesize faith with learning, develop competence with compassion, put talents and gifts at the service of others, and to assume leadership in the world community.

### **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
- **Maple Winds:** John Slivenik [Beaverdale]
- **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
- **Just Like Home Personal Care, Cresson:** Dorothy Resconich

### **Pilgrim Vocation Icon**

During the week of January 6, *Susan O'Toole* will have the *Pilgrim Vocation Icon*. Please sign-up in the narthex to have the *Pilgrim Vocation Icon*.

Remember in your prayers the seminarians of the Archeparchy of Pittsburgh: **Deacon Tom Wells**; **Seminarian Kyprian Wojciechowski**; **Seminarian Robert Jones**; and **Seminarian John Welch**; and all the Seminarians and Seminary community.

## **Liturgical Schedule Theophany —January 6 2019**

### **Feast of the Theophany of Our Lord**

#### **Saturday January 5**

Beaverdale **5:00 PM**

*Vigil Divine Liturgy—Vespers with Liturgy of St. Basil  
with Great Sanctification of Water*

#### **Sunday January 6**

Portage **9:00 AM**  
*Water*

**Sunday Divine Liturgy, with Great Sanctification of**

[+Ann Mazur, by Michael Mazur]

#### **Monday, January 7**

No Divine Liturgy scheduled

#### **Tuesday, January 8**

Portage 7:45 AM  
8:00 AM

The Third Hour  
**Divine Liturgy** [+Emile Billy, Sr., by Ken & Sue Enck]

#### **Wednesday, January 9**

Portage 7:45 AM  
8:00 AM

The Third Hour  
**Divine Liturgy** [+Eddie Olshavsky, by Maxine Olshavsky & Family]

#### **Thursday, January 10**

No Divine Liturgy scheduled

#### **Friday, January 11**

Portage 7:45 AM  
8:00 AM

The Third Hour  
**Divine Liturgy** [+Delores Hollop, by John & Barb Havrilla]

#### **Saturday, January 12**

Portage 3:00 PM  
Dunlo 4:30 PM

Mystery of Repentance [Confessions]  
Mystery of Repentance [Confessions]

### **Sunday after the Theophany of Our Lord**

#### **Saturday January 12**

Dunlo **5:00 PM**

*Vigil Divine Liturgy* [+Walter Prozialeck, by Bill Koshute Family]

#### **Sunday January 13**

Portage **9:00 AM**

**Sunday Divine Liturgy**