



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
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Website: 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.

Troitsja & Bulletin Schedule

Sunday December 2 Troitsja Bella Koban

Bulletins Bella Koban & Ryan Lenz

Sunday December 9 Troitsja: Bella Single

Bulletins: Abby Koban & Evan Lenz

Sunday December 16 Troitsja Lexie Slanoc

Bulletins: Hunter Whitcomb & Cierra Goral

Parish Sunday Bulletin Available Online and by Email Transmission

The Sunday bulletin is posted on the parish website, www.ByzantineCatholic.net. To receive an email bulletin, send your email address to james_armand_spontak@verizon.net with this request.



Saint Nicholas, Archbishop of Myra and Wonderworker

The Feast of **Our Holy Father Nicholas, Archbishop of Myra and Wonderworker** is celebrated on December 6th. Saint Nicholas is the patron of Byzantine Catholics and his feast is a splendid occasion of celebrating the memory of this popular and renowned saint.

"This holy bishop lived in the time of Emperors Diocletian and Maximian. After having led the monastic life for a while, he was promoted to the episcopal dignity for his exceptional and eminent virtue. Because he defended the interests of Christians and courageously preached the true religion, he was seized by the city's magistrates and thrown into prison in company with other Christians, after he was overpowered by assaults and inflicted with all kinds of tortures. When the great and pious Constantine took possession of the Roman Empire by a providential decree, all the prisoners in fetters were released. Thus set at liberty, Saint Nicholas returned to Myra and took part in the Council of Nicaea held by Emperor Constantine in 325.

"He died at a very old age leaving his holy body to the faithful as a source of balm and healing. He remains as if living after his death, having received from heaven the gift of miracles. His relics are preserved in Bari, Italy. His power as a wonderworker gave birth to a marvelous legend which is the origin of traditional children's festivals in the East as well as the West." [Synaxarion, p. 59]

Feast of the Maternity of Holy Anna

The Feast of the **Maternity of Holy Anna and Wonderworker** is celebrated on December 8th.

"According to the teaching of many Church Fathers, our Lord, wishing to prepare as His dwelling a living temple and a holy habitation, sent His angel to Saints Joachim and Ann to whom would be born, according to His design, His mother according to the flesh. The angel announced to them that she who was sterile would conceive, wishing to signify to them in that way the birth of the Holy Virgin. Mary was then conceived more honorable than the Cherubim and more holy than any other creature, spiritual or corporeal." [Synaxarion, p.609]

Parish Saint Nicholas Celebration

You are invited to our Parish **Saint Nicholas Celebration** on Sunday, December 16 following the Divine Liturgy. Please come to enjoy this event and also refreshments that will be served.

Our Eastern Christian Formation Students are preparing a presentation, **"St. Nicholas Visits Mainline"**. **Parents are asked to take note** that practice sessions for this presentation will be held at the end of **Eastern Christian Formation** classes on **Sundays, December 2 and 9**. There will be a *later dismissal* on these days at 11:30 am.

The Philip's Fast – Preparation for Christmas

The **Philip's Fast** [November 15 - December 24] is our journey to the Feasts of Christmas and Theophany. This period of forty days is set aside for the disciplines of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. Observance of this penitential season is voluntary.

Food Pantry Donations

During the Philip's Fast donations of canned goods and non-perishable food will be collected for either the **Portage Food Pantry** or to the **Forest Hills Food Pantry** [Beverdale and Dunlo]. *Bring food items for Forest Hills Food Pantry by December 8; for Portage Food Pantry by December 16.*

The *Portage Food Pantry* is assembling a December Gift with personal hygiene items for those receiving food. *Bars of soap* are requested from Saints Peter and Paul church, Portage. These may be placed with the Food Pantry donations in the narthex. Donations of cash may also be made.

Giving Tree Project

Thanks for responding generously to the *Giving Tree* requests for Christmas gifts for children in need. The gifts are to be brought to Church by Sunday, December 16.

PARISH NEWS & COMING EVENTS

Work Party & Church Cleaning for December

- **Church Cleaning** will be on Monday, December 3, at 9:00 am.
- A note of thanks to our volunteers for the monthly **Work Party** and **Church Cleaning**.

Liturgical Chant –Sundays after Pentecost

- The Troparion and other prescribed parts of the Divine Liturgy for the ***Feast of our Holy Father St. Nicholas of Myra [December 6]***, may be found on p. 274-276.
- *Vespers with the Divine Liturgy* for the ***Feast of the Maternity of Holy Anna*** begins in the Divine Liturgy book on p. 104; Vesper stichera will be in a separate handout.
- The Troparion and other prescribed parts of the Divine Liturgy for the ***Feast of the Maternity of Holy Anna [December 8]***, may be found on p. 277-280
- The Troparion and other prescribed parts of the Divine Liturgy for the ***29th Sunday after Pentecost [December 9]***, Resurrection Troparion Tone 4, may be found on p. 141-142.
- The “*Our Father*”, in Tone 3 may be found on p. 69.
- Please note instructions at the beginning of the Liturgy for opening hymns etc.

Eternal Memory

You are asked to pray for the repose of the soul of **+ Sister Gertrude Martin, OSBM** who has fallen asleep in the Lord on Wednesday, November 28, in the 75th year of her monastic life. Her funeral is on Tuesday, December 4.

Also, please pray for the repose of the soul of **+President George H. W. Bush**, 41st President of the United States who fell asleep in the Lord on Friday, November 30.

Visits to the Homebound

In preparation the Feasts of Christmas and Theophany, Father Jim will schedule visits to homebound parishioners or those in nursing homes and other care facilities. If you or a family member would like to be added to the list of those visited for the Mysteries of Confession and the Eucharist, please call the rectory at your earliest convenience.

Remember In Prayer

Please pray for the health of **George Pyo Jr.; Daniel Zaliznock; Father Edward Pyo; Marge Fleck; Dorothy Resconich; Joseph Raptosh; Bernadette Kostan, Brother Sean Mary Fitzwater, TOR; 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; Father Paul Tigyer; Archpriest Dennis Bogda;** and all the ill & homebound.

Religious Gifts for Christmas Shoppers

- **Christmas Open House** at the **Religious Gift Shop at Mount St. Macrina** on Tuesday, December 4 10:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. A 10% discount. Prizes. Free gift wrapping. Visit the Mount Saint Macrina **Religious Gift Shop** at 500 W. Main Street, Uniontown PA 15401. Questions? Call 724.439.6180.
- Visit the **Byzantine Seminary Press** web site at www.byzantineseminarypress.com; crosses, icons, books. Call 412-322-8307 for information or to visit at 3643 Perrysville Avenue, Pittsburgh.
- **Christ the Saviour Seminary Bookstore** at 225 Chandler Avenue, Johnstown; to arrange an appointment to visit the bookstore, call 814-539-0116. Online orders at Orthodoxgoods.com.

Pilgrim Vocation Icon

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

OTHER NEWS & EVENTS

Portage Public Library Basket Raffle

The **Portage Public Library Basket Raffle** will be on December 9, from 11-1 PM. Join us for a special holiday basket raffle to support the Library. Chances are \$5 for 25 and can be purchased in the Library beginning Saturday, November 24. On Sunday, December 9, drawings begin at 12:30 PM.

Marriage Tribunal Workshop

Workshop on the annulment process for divorced Catholics with Jay Conzemius, JCL, and Diane Kass, of the Byzantine Catholic Metropolitan Tribunal and Diocese of Pittsburgh Tribunal. Topics: theology of marriage; ministry of the tribunal; marriage annulment types; the petition for annulment process; and a process overview. Participants can ask questions and/or start the process. This presentation will be at Saint John's Cathedral, 210 Greentree Road, Munhall, on Tuesday, December 4, at 7 p.m. If you plan to attend email archpitt@aol.com, or call Diane Kass [412-456-3033].

Portage Area School District *Secret Santa* Program

The Portage Area School District *Secret Santa Program* provides a joyful holiday for children in local families. Children receive toys, clothing; each family enjoys a holiday dinner, including turkey and pumpkin pie. Mail donations to: **PAHS Secret Santa Project; c/o Mary Ann George; 85 Mountain Ave.; Portage, PA 15946.** For questions, call Ms. George at 736-9636, extension #1310.

Christmas Preparation Retreat at Mount Saint Macrina House of Prayer

Christmas Preparation Retreat at Mount Saint Macrina House of Prayer, Uniontown Sunday, December 16, 1:15-5:30 pm. Includes Dinner. Presented by *Fr. Cyprian Constantine, OSB* on the theme: "*The Time of Salvation Is Near: Prepare by Prayer, Fasting, Repentance and Almsgiving*".

The Sacrament of Reconciliation will be offered; conference and a prayer service. Offering: \$35. Registration by December 12. Call 724-438-7149; or email hpmsm@verizon.net.

Choir Christmas Program--Sunday December 16

The Pittsburgh Byzantine Catholic Archdiocesan Choir "**Christmas at the Cathedral**" on Sunday, December 16, 2:00 pm at the Cathedral of St. John the Baptist, 210 Greentree Road in Munhall. A hospitality reception with refreshments will follow in the lower level of the Cathedral. Admission is FREE, and there is also plenty of free, level parking. Can't attend in person? LIVE webcast online at <http://www.stjohnsbyzantinecathedral.com/cathedral/live> 2 pm Sunday December 16

Metropolitan Cantor Institute

The **Metropolitan Cantor Institute** offers cantor instruction online, as well as through the annual summer course in Pittsburgh. The **Introduction to Church Singing is now free** and covers the cantor's role, mechanics of singing, and singing basic responses. This 8-week course, and other courses are free. Please take a look at <http://mci.archpitt.org/classes>.

Wreaths Across America

Wreaths Across America of the Daughters of Union Veterans of the Civil War is December 15. A ceremony is at Noon in Prospect Cemetery. Please consider sponsoring a wreath for \$15. Sponsorship form is in the narthex. Help is needed to place the wreaths. To volunteer to place wreaths on December 15, contact Debra Novotny, 623 Grant Street, Portage PA 15946.

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
- **Just Like Home Personal Care, Cresson:** Dorothy Resconich

Liturgical Schedule 29th Week after Pentecost —December 2 2018

Twenty-eighth Sunday after Pentecost

Saturday December 1

Dunlo **5:00 PM** Vigil Divine Liturgy

Sunday December 2

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

[+Olga Serenko—40th Day Remembrance, by Kathy Sekerak]

Monday, December 3

No Divine Liturgy scheduled

Tuesday, December 4

No Divine Liturgy scheduled

Wednesday, December 5

No Divine Liturgy scheduled

Feast of our Holy Father Nicholas Archbishop of Myra & Wonderworker

Wednesday, December 5

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

Thursday, December 6

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

Feast of the Maternity of Holy Anna

Friday, December 7

Beaverdale **6:00 PM** *Vespers with the Divine Liturgy*

[+Elizabeth Harrigal, by Julie Brenna]

Saturday, December 8

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

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

Twenty-ninth Sunday after Pentecost

Saturday December 8

Beaverdale **5:00 PM** Vigil Divine Liturgy

Sunday December 9

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

[+Pasquale & +Elena Pieraccini, by Barbara & John Havrilla & family]