



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 March 31 Troitsja: Bella Koban

Bulletins Bella Koban & Hunter Whitcomb

Sunday April 7 Troitsja: Lexie Slanoc

Bulletins: Abby Koban & Ryan Lenz

Sunday April 14 Troitsja: Evan Lenz

Bulletins: Cierra Goral & Lexie Slanoc

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.



The Fourth Sunday of the Great Fast

An episode presented in [Mark 9:17-31](#) in today's Gospel reinforces certain elements that are basic in the Lenten journey. After Jesus expels a demon from a young boy, the disciples approach Jesus to ask why they were not effective in trying to heal the boy. In his response Jesus identifies "prayer and fasting" [[Mark 9:29](#)] as the means needed for them to perform such works.

Jesus had in fact already empowered his disciples to cast out demons [[Matthew 10:1](#)]. Yet their capacity and effectiveness in doing so depends entirely upon their communion with Jesus. The failure in this instance demonstrates that without the Lord their efforts are in vain.

Prayer and fasting are also necessary for us to allow God's grace to be effective and lasting in our lives, whether during this season of the Great Fast or at other times as well.

Mystery of Repentance--Confessions

The *Mystery of Repentance* [Confession] will be available **Thursday, April 11** at 7:00 pm. *Fr. Vasyly Polyak* from Saint Peter and Paul Byzantine Catholic Church, Patton will be here with Father Jim for Confessions. Confession is available at 6:30 pm before the Liturgy of Presanctified Gifts on Wednesday, and on Saturday. Also, please note these times in early April:

- **Saturday, April 6:** Portage (**2:30 pm**) Dunlo (**4:15 pm**)
- **Saturday, April 13:** Portage (**2:30 pm**) Beaverdale (**4:15 pm**)

Also, you may call the rectory to schedule an appointment. Please avail yourself to these opportunities in preparation for Holy Week at your earliest convenience

Lenten Adult Education and Enrichment Series

A series of *Adult Education and Enrichment* sessions continues today at 4:00 pm, in the social room of the church hall. Our study follows Light for Life: Part One—The Mystery Believed, and focuses on God has shown us of himself and what he has done to unite ourselves with him.

The Great Fast

- The Wednesdays and Fridays of the Great Fast are days of *simple abstinence* on which we abstain from meat. The *Liturgy of Presanctified Gifts* is on Wednesdays and Fridays of Lent.
- Remembering our *Prayer Partner* daily, we pray "that your love may increase ever more and more in knowledge and every kind of perfection, to discern what is of value, so that you may be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God." [[Philippians 1:9-11](#)]

Prayer of St. Ephrem

Lord and Master of my life, spare me from the spirit of indifference, despair, lust for power, and idle chatter. Instead, bestow on me, your servant, the spirit of integrity, humility, patience, and love Yes, O Lord and King, let me see my own sins and not judge my brothers and sisters; for you are blessed forever and ever. Amen

PASKA Baking Activity for ECF Students

The *Paska Baking Activity* for ECF Students and Youth will be on **Saturday, April 13** beginning at **10:00 am**. Each year our students learn about baking *Paska*—Easter bread—and help to prepare Easter baskets for our parishioners who are homebound and in nursing homes.

Please sign-up on the list in the narthex for this activity by next Sunday, April 7.



Regulations for the Season of the Great Fast - 2019

Simple abstinence

- The law of simple abstinence forbids the use of meat, but permits the use of eggs and dairy products.
- All faithful of the Archeparchy who receive the Eucharist are obliged to observe simple abstinence when prescribed. Abstinence is obligatory on all Wednesdays and Fridays of the Great Fast.

Strict abstinence

- The law of strict abstinence (fast) forbids the use and consumption of all meat, eggs and dairy products. All faithful of the Archeparchy who receive the Eucharist are obliged to observe strict abstinence when prescribed; and **is to be observed in 2019 on Great and Holy Friday, April 19.**

PARISH NEWS & COMING EVENTS



Coffee Social for April—Next Sunday, April 7

There will be a *Coffee and Donut Social* Next Sunday, April 7, following the 9 am Divine Liturgy. Please take this opportunity to greet fellow parishioners and enjoy the coffee and refreshments.

Church Cleaning & Work Party for April

- The *Church Cleaning* for April is scheduled for Monday, April 1, at 9:00 am. .
- The *Work Party* for April will be on Saturday, April 6, beginning at 9:00 am.

Saints Peter and Paul--Dunlo

A meeting for parishioners of Saints Peter and Paul, Dunlo is scheduled for Tuesday, April 2 at 7:00 pm in the social hall on Roberts Street in Dunlo. This meeting will provide an opportunity to review the parish financial statistics and information.

“Joyful Light” Byzantine Catholic Seminary Newsletter

Copies of “*Joyful Light*” the newsletter of the Byzantine Catholic Seminary are inserted in today’s bulletin. The newsletter and other information about the Seminary is available at www.bcs.edu.

Congratulations, Sara Erzal—Teacher of the Month!

Congratulations to **Sara Erzal**, who was honored as *February Teacher of the Month* presented by Allied Milk Producers and WTAJ. Allied Milk Producers website featured this honor on its website:

“She is a 1st grade teacher at Portage Elementary School in the Portage Area School District. Mrs. Sara Erzal has been teaching 1st grade for the past twelve years and is passionate about her job. She helps her students learn with a bright smile and positive attitude. Mrs. Erzal's students love how nice she is and that she uses rainbows and candy as one of her teaching methods.

Decorative Candles; Pussy-Willow Branches

- **Decorative candles** for the Blessing of Paschal foods are available from the ushers at each church. An offering of \$10 is requested for these candles.
- If you have **pussy-willow branches** for Palm-Flowery Sunday [Sunday, April 14], please bring them to the church in the week prior to Palm Sunday. Thank you.

Meeting for Annual Festival

The next planning meeting for the **Annual Festival** is scheduled for Wednesday, May 1 at 7:00 pm in the social room of the church hall. Everyone is welcome. Those with specific areas of responsibility are encouraged to attend. This year's **Annual Festival** is Sunday, July 14, 2019

Liturgical Chant—Pre-Lenten Sundays

- 2009 Edition of the Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts includes propers for the first day; Wednesdays, and Fridays for all weeks of the Fast. Pages are given before the service.
- On the **Sundays of the Great Fast**, the *Typical Psalms* [p. 16-17] replace the First and Second Antiphons; the *Beatitudes* [p. 23-24] are sung in place of the Third Antiphon. The responses for the Anaphora of Saint Basil the Great are on p. 96-100.
- The Troparion and other parts of the Divine Liturgy for Sunday, April 7, Resurrection Troparion Tone 5, are on p. 141-142; for the and for the Fifth Sunday of the Great Fast—Venerable Mother Mary of Egypt on page 230-232.
- The “*Our Father*”, in Tone 5 may be found on p. 70.
- Please note instructions at the beginning of the Liturgy for opening hymns etc.

Saint Michael’s Byzantine Catholic Church Memorial Monument Appeal

Saint Michael’s Byzantine Catholic Church Memorial Monument Appeal for the former Saint Michael Church has received \$4,570.00 from 32 donors. Please consider helping this project if you have not already done so. We thank those who have generously responded to this appeal.

The committee planning the Saint Michael’s Memorial Monument is scheduled to meet on Monday, April 1 at 5:00 pm in the Rectory at Saint Peter and Paul Church in Portage.

Memorial Donation

We gratefully acknowledge a donation to Saint Mary’s Byzantine Catholic Church, Beavertdale in memory of **+Elaine Kachmar** from *Patricia [Kachmar] Costlow and the Kachmar Family*.

Eternal Memory.

Remember In Prayer

Please pray for the health of **Dorothy Resconich; Douglas Roxby; Mary Donnelly; George Pyo Jr.; Daniel Zaliznock; Joseph Raptosh; John Rakar; Bernadette Kostan, Patty Haschak; Emily Nezeski; Shawn Crum; Dorothy, Phil and Cathy Walters; Alina Rusnak; Ruby Moore; Charles and Joan Plishka; Tom Goncher; Patrick & Joan Ditko; Helena Ditko; Cliff Inman; Father Paul Tigyler; Kelly Colwell; Sarah Kelt and Father Andriy Kelt; Gregory S. Popivchak**; and all the ill & homebound.

Also, please pray for the repose of the soul of **+Demetrius Yackanich** the brother of Very Reverend Archpriest Eugene Yackanich, a retired priest of the Eparchy. Eternal Memory.

OTHER NEWS & EVENTS

“Good Neighbor Tea”

A **“Good Neighbor Tea”** is being hosted on Sunday, April 7 at Saint John’s Church, 538 Main Street, Summerhill. RSVP by March 26 to Violet Kline [814-495-4084].

Portage Area Ministerial Association Lenten Lunches

Lenten Lunches sponsored by the *Portage Area Ministerial Association*, Wednesdays of Lent, Noon to 1:00 PM, at Hammer Street Church of God. Lunch, followed by a short talk by one of the local clergy. Schedule of speakers: April 3—Pastor Ryan Legg; April 10—Pastor Melia Lewis.

Spring Basket Auction in Northern Cambria

GCU Lodge 93 annual **Spring Basket Auction**, Sunday, April 7, 11:30 am to 3:00 pm at St. John the Baptist Byzantine Catholic Church, 719 Chestnut Avenue in Northern Cambria. The drawing begins at 3:00 pm in the Church Hall. There will be a complimentary light lunch and refreshments. Tickets will be available for purchase at the Church Hall. This year our basket auction will benefit: St. John's replacement of the retaining wall; The Good Samaritan Food Pantry; and Northern Cambria Library.

Eggstravaganza

13th Egg Eggstravaganza Sunday, April 7, Noon - 5 p.m. at St. John the Baptist Byzantine Catholic Church, 201 East Main, Street, Uniontown, PA. Egg artists demonstrations and sales; tables with supplies for decorating eggs; embroidered covers, lamb butter molds, decorated candles, egg wraps, cookbooks, etc. A Bake Sale includes long rolls (nut, apricot, poppyseed, and cottage cheese). Lenten lunch menu served. Handicapped accessibility. For information: 724-438-6027.

Homebound and Nursing Home Residents—Remember in Prayer

At Home: SS Peter & Paul (Portage): Dorothy Billy; Catherine Czapp Louise Halovich; Joseph Mandichak; Barbara Raptosh; Stella Raptosh; Cathy Walters; Helen Zaher; **St. Michael (South Fork):** Michelle Maskal; **St. Mary (Beaverdale):** Nancy Andrako; Catherine McGough; **SS Peter & Paul (Dunlo):**.

Nursing & Other Care Facilities:

- **Saint Benedict Manor, Carrolltown,** Catherine Thrower [Dunlo];
- **Forest Hills Personal Care, Sidman:** Pauline Valko [Dunlo]
- **Meadow View Nursing Center [Berlin]:**
- **Arbutus Park Manor:** Margaret Rachael [Dunlo];
- **Autumn View:** June Nezneski;
- **The Winds at Mattern Orchard, Duncansville:** Mary Vrabel
- **Amber Hills Ebensburg:** Father Ronald Borsuk
- **Cambria Care, Ebensburg:** Edward Andrykovitch [Beaverdale]
- **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 March 31, **Dr. Matt & Lori Murphy** will have the **Pilgrim Vocation Icon**. During *May* and *June* parishioners of Saint Mary's, Beavertdale and Saints Peter and Paul, Dunlo will have the opportunity to have the **Pilgrim Vocation Icon**.

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

Liturgical Schedule Fifth Week of the Great Fast—March 31, 2019

Fourth Sunday of the Great Fast—Our Venerable Father John Climacus

Saturday March 30

Beavertdale **5:00 PM** **Vigil Divine Liturgy**
Followed by **Panachida** and Reading of the Names of the Deceased

Sunday March 31

Portage **9:00 AM** **Sunday Divine Liturgy**
[+Betty Terlingo, by Barbara & John Havrilla,]

Monday, April 1

No Lenten services scheduled

Tuesday, April 2

No Lenten services scheduled

Wednesday, April 3

Portage 6:30 PM ***Simple abstinence and fasting required***
7:00 PM **Mystery of Repentance [Confessions]**
Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts

Thursday, April 4

No Lenten services scheduled

Friday, April 5

Portage 6:30 PM ***Simple abstinence and fasting required***
7:00 PM **Mystery of Repentance [Confessions]**
Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts

Saturday April 6 **Akathistos Saturday**

Portage **2:30 PM** **Mystery of Repentance [Confessions]**
Dunlo 4:30 PM **Mystery of Repentance [Confessions]**

Fifth Sunday of the Great Fast— Our Venerable Mother Mary of Egypt

Saturday April 6

Dunlo **5:00 PM** **Vigil Divine Liturgy** [+Tyler Cimba, by Cimba Family,]

Sunday April 7

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