



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  
**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**

<b><u>Sunday July 28</u></b>	Troitsja: Hunter Whitcomb	<b><u>Bulletins:</u></b> Cierra Goral & Evan Lenz
<b><u>Sunday August 4</u></b>	Troitsja: Cierra Goral	<b><u>Bulletins:</u></b> Hunter Whitcomb & Lexie Slanoc
<b><u>Sunday August 11</u></b>	Troitsja: Evan Lenz	<b><u>Bulletins:</u></b> Christina Goral & Ryan Lenz

### **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). Also, like us on **Facebook at Sts Peter & Paul Byzantine Catholic Church**. To receive weekly bulletin by email send your email address to [james\\_armand\\_spontak@verizon.net](mailto:james_armand_spontak@verizon.net) with this request.



### **Scripture Reflection—Gospel Healings and the Kingdom of God**

Today's Gospel includes two occasions of healing. The first involves two blind men who eagerly and intently implore Jesus' help, as they follow him along the road. Again they implore him very earnestly once inside the house. Responding to their faith Jesus heals them by touching their eyes and restoring their sight [[Matthew 9:27-31](#)].

In the other instance of healing [[Matthew 9:32-34](#)] there is a man who is "dumb" [unable to speak], a situation attributed to being possessed by demons. He is more passive, having to be brought to Jesus. This is what it means to be in the grips of evil, in a sense to be held captive by an oppressive and harmful force.

Here is one of many instances in which Jesus exercises his power over evil and the spirit of evil, the demons. Some [the Pharisees] attribute Jesus' authority over demons to "*the prince of demons*". Elsewhere in the Gospels Jesus refutes such accusations against him with simple logic. Satan would not allow the power of evil to destroy the realm of evil.

The Pharisees obviously did not question or deny the existence of such forces of evil. Our age has a different perspective and would question the existence of demons or of the devil as an active, personal power of evil. Yet in the Christian tradition and teachings of the Church, there is recognized the existence of a demonic reality. It is evil as a dark presence and not only as the absence of good. Even more, the mystery of evil is a personal one. A person or persons are somehow at the root and source of the dark and irrational presence of evil at work in the world.

Today's Gospel concludes with a summary of the ministry of Jesus: "*And Jesus went around to all the towns and villages, teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom, and curing every disease and illness*" [[Matthew 9:35](#)]. In the course of this the only Begotten Son shows that he has come to encounter and overcome evil, to destroy evil by his coming and ultimately by his crucifixion and resurrection. In this way he announces and already establishes the Kingdom of God and overcomes and supplants the realm of evil in our world.

### **A Celebration of Marriage**

The annual celebration to honor married couples observing their ***Wedding Anniversaries*** of ***10, 25, 35, 40, 45, 50, 55, 60, or additional years that are multiples of five*** in 2019 is on **Sunday, September 8**. A Divine Liturgy of Thanksgiving will be celebrated by Metropolitan William at St. Elias Church in Munhall at 3 pm, followed by a dinner. Please inform Father Jim by **Sunday, July 28** if you are observing one of these anniversaries in 2019, to receive an invitation and a Certificate from Metropolitan William to commemorate your jubilee.

### **The Dormition Fast**

The ***Dormition of the Theotokos*** [[August 15](#)] is preceded by a two week fast or period of preparation, from [August 1-14](#). Our Metropolitan Church identifies this as one of the four penitential seasons of the Church year. Its observance is voluntary.

### **Eternal Memory---+Father Roy Schubert**

You are asked to pray for the repose of the soul of **+Father Roy Schubert**, a retired priest of the Archeparchy, who fell asleep in the Lord on July 25. Father Roy Schubert will lie in state at St. Mary Church, in Beaverdale on Monday July 29 beginning at 4:00 p.m. The funeral service for a priest will be celebrated that evening at 7:00 p.m. Metropolitan William will celebrate the Funeral Divine Liturgy at St. Mary Church on Tuesday, July 30 at 10: 00 a.m. Interment will follow at Saint Mary Cemetery in Beaverdale.

Most recently, Father Roy served Saint Michael's Church in Sheffield until the time of his retirement several years ago. ***In blessed repose, grant O Lord eternal rest to the soul of your servant the priest Roy and render eternal his memory!***

## **PARISH NEWS & COMING EVENTS**

### **Charter Bus to Annual Pilgrimage at Mount Saint Macrina In Honor of Our Lady of Perpetual Help**

The **85<sup>th</sup> Annual Pilgrimage to the Shrine of Our Lady of Perpetual Help** takes place during the Labor Day Weekend, August 31-September 1, 2019. Transportation by charter bus to the Pilgrimage to Mount Saint Macrina is being planned for **Sunday, September 1**. The bus departs from our parking lot at **7:00 am**. Departure from Mount Saint Macrina will be at about 9:00 pm [following the candlelight procession].

Next Sunday, a sign-up list will be in the back of church where you may sign up to reserve a seat on the bus. Please do so by **Sunday, August 18<sup>th</sup>**. An invitation is extended to families who have never attended the pilgrimage to take advantage of this opportunity to attend the Pilgrimage.

### **Church Cleaning & Work Party for August**

- The **Work Party** for August is scheduled for **Saturday, August 3**, at 9:00 am.
- The **Church Cleaning** for August is scheduled for **Monday, August 5**, at 9:00 am.
- **Thank You** to those who volunteer for the monthly **Work Party** and **Church Cleaning**.

### **Parish Advisory Council Meetings**

The meeting of the **Parish Advisory Council** for Saints Peter & Paul, Portage scheduled for **Thursday, August 8** is being rescheduled. **Parish Advisory Council** members will be contacted regarding the rescheduled date.

The next meeting of the **Parish Advisory Council** for Saint Mary's, Beaverdale and Saints Peter & Paul, Dunlo is **Monday, August 19**, at 7:00 in the conference room of the rectory.

Minutes from the previous meetings of each will be included in prior Sunday's bulletin.

## Question & Answer Box: The Icon Screen

We conclude our response to the inquiry made concerning the *icon screen*: “*Why do some Byzantine churches have icon screens and others don’t?*” Previously the significance of the icon screen was highlighted, an integral component of the altar and its arrangement, interconnected with the celebration of the Divine Liturgy, the processions and other movements of the Liturgy.

One of the explanations as to why churches in the Byzantine tradition would not have an icon screen has its roots in a historical process of several centuries past. Byzantine [Greek] Catholic churches introduced changes in the liturgy and other areas of its church life and design based upon the common presumption that Western European culture was far superior to the Byzantine tradition. This process of modification saw the West as being more advanced, with better schools, universities, and a spirit of progress reflected in science and technology. Evidence of this viewpoint and outlook was found in efforts to make Eastern Churches appear outwardly more like Latin Churches, and its Liturgy to appear like the Latin Mass. An obvious example and outcome of this approach would have been the removal of icon screens.

Perhaps the more helpful consideration in reflecting upon this question is why in more recent decades many Byzantine Catholic Churches our Archeparchy and throughout the United States have restored and also renovated icon screens in their churches. The Second Vatican Council in its Decree on Eastern Catholic Churches [November 21, 1964] made clear the need for Eastern Catholic Churches and Eastern Catholics to restore their genuine heritage:

*“All Eastern rite members should know and be convinced that they can and should always preserve their lawful liturgical rites and their established way of life, and that these should not be altered except by way of an appropriate and organic development. Easterners themselves should honor all these things with the greatest fidelity. If they have improperly fallen away from them because of circumstances of time or personage, let them take pains to return to their ancestral ways.”*

In responses to this and subsequent church directives and teachings, efforts have been made to appreciate more fully and restore many authentic and beneficial aspects of Eastern tradition. Among these the icon screen has a distinctive and valuable role in our church and our Liturgy.

## Liturgical Chant –Sundays after Pentecost

- The Troparion and other prescribed parts of the Divine Liturgy for the ***Eighth Sunday after Pentecost*** [**August 4**], Resurrection Troparion Tone 7, may be found on p. 156-158.
- The “*Our Father*”, in Tone 7 may be found on p.72.
- Please note instructions at the beginning of the Liturgy for opening hymns etc.

## Remember In Prayer

Please pray for the health of ***Rose Single***, the mother of David Single; ***Melody Voss***; ***Dorothy Majer***; ***Connie Glasko***; ***Mary Donnelly***; ***George Pyo Jr.***; ***Daniel Zalznock***; ***Joseph Raptosh***; ***John Rakar***; ***Bernadette Kostan***, ***Patty Haschak***; ***Emily Nezeski***; ***Shawn Crum***; ***Dennis Ratosky, Sr.***; ***Dorothy, Phil*** and ***Cathy Walters***; ***Alina Rusnak***; ***Ruby Moore***; ***Charles*** and ***Joan Plishka***; ***Tom Goncher***; ***Patrick & Joan Ditko***; ***Helena Ditko***; ***Cliff Inman***; ***Father Paul Tigyer***; ***Kelly Colwell***; ***Sarah Kelt***; ***Mary Beth Blackburn***; and all the ill & homebound.

## Sanctuary Candle

The Sanctuary Candle is offered this week in memory of **+George Haschak**, by daughter, Patty Haschak.

## OTHER NEWS & EVENTS

### Saint Mary's Windber

Saint Mary's Byzantine Catholic Church, 803 Somerset Avenue, Windber, will be hosting Bingo as a parish fund-raiser on the first Friday of each month at 6:00 pm in the church hall. The next Bingo will be Friday, August 2. Father Ivan Rusin and parishioners extend a cordial invitation.

### Summerfest Nameboard Tickets

The Portage Endowment **\$10,000 Summerfest Tickets** are on sale at area merchants. The tickets are a fundraiser for the Portage Endowment, to benefit area non-profits: Portage Park, Fire Department and Ambulance Association, Public Library, Portage Historical Association. Over \$16,000 in cash prizes; last ticket pulled Sunday August 11 wins \$10,000, seller of winning ticket gets \$500.

### Master's Degree in Theology at the Byzantine Catholic Seminary.

**Earn your Master's Degree in Theology** at the Byzantine Catholic Seminary: Degree options are offered both online and on campus. Students have a choice of four different M.A.T. focus areas: *Chaplaincy; Dogmatics; Liturgy; Sacred Scripture*. Information: *Byzantine Catholic Seminary of Ss. Cyril and Methodius; 3605 Perrysville Ave., Pittsburgh PA 15214-2229- 412-321-8383. [www.bcs.edu](http://www.bcs.edu).*

### Mount Aloysius College Summer Admissions Events

**Individual Visit:** Monday through Friday 8:30-5:00, schedule to meet with Admissions, Financial Aid; tour campus. 814-886-6383; [admissions@mtaloy.edu](mailto:admissions@mtaloy.edu) [www.mtaloy.edu/event-registration](http://www.mtaloy.edu/event-registration).

### **Homebound and Nursing Home Residents—Remember in Prayer**

**At Home: SS Peter & Paul (Portage):** Dorothy Billy; Catherine Czapp Louise Halovich; Joseph Mandichak; 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]
- **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 weeks of July 28, *Stephen* and *Mary Lou Paluch* have the *Pilgrim Vocation Icon*.

Parishioners of Beaverdale and Dunlo are asked to sign up for the months of July and August to have the *Pilgrim Vocation Icon*. Please remember seminarians of the Archeparchy of Pittsburgh: **Deacon Tom Wells; Seminarians Kyprian Wojciechowski, Robert Jones, John Welch**; and all the Seminary community; and the new candidates for the Deacon Formation Program.

## **Liturgical Schedule 8<sup>th</sup> Week After Pentecost—July 28, 2019**

### **Seventh Sunday after Pentecost**

#### **Saturday July 27**

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

#### **Sunday July 28**

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

[+George and +Mae Haschak, by Patty Haschak]

#### **Monday July 29**

Beaverdale **7:00 PM** *Funeral Service for a Priest --+Father Roy Schubert*

#### **Tuesday July 30**

Beaverdale **10:00 AM** *Funeral Liturgy--+Father Roy Schubert*

#### **Wednesday July 31**

No Divine Liturgy scheduled

#### **Thursday, August 1**

Portage 7:45 AM The Third Hour  
8:00 AM **Divine Liturgy** [+Helen Spontak, by Family]

#### **Friday, August 2**

Portage 7:45 AM The Third Hour  
8:00 AM **Divine Liturgy** [+Ann Krisko, by Karen & Bob Cehelnik]

#### **Saturday, August 3**

Portage 12:00 PM **Mysteries of Christian Initiation for Kennady Grace Spaid**  
3:00 PM Mystery of Repentance [Confessions]  
Dunlo 4:30 PM Mystery of Repentance [Confessions]

### **Seventh Sunday after Pentecost**

#### **Saturday August 3**

Dunlo **5:00 PM** Vigil Divine Liturgy [+John Hutsky, by Sylvia Susko]

#### **Sunday August 4**

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