



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

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

<u>Sunday August 11</u>	<u>Troitsja:</u> Evan Lenz	<u>Bulletins:</u> Christina Goral & Ryan Lenz
<u>Sunday August 18</u>	<u>Troitsja:</u> Christina Goral	<u>Bulletins:</u> Cierra Goral & Evan Lenz
<u>Sunday August 25</u>	<u>Troitsja:</u> Ryan Lenz	<u>Bulletins:</u> Ryan Lenz & Lexie Slanoc

Parish Sunday Bulletin Available Online and by Email Transmission

The Sunday bulletin is posted on the parish website, 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 with this request.



The Icon of the Dormition of Mary, the Theotokos

For the **Feast of the Dormition** [a feast of obligation], there will be **Vespers with Divine Liturgy** on Wednesday, August 14, at 6:00 pm at Saint Peter and Paul, Dunlo; and the **Divine Liturgy** on Thursday, August 15, at 9:00 am and at 7:00 pm at Saints Peter and Paul, Portage

The Icon of the Dormition: *"The Feast of the Dormition of the Mother of God is celebrated on August 15. Through her womb, heaven and earth were joined together; and all mankind has been reborn. Her death and burial show us the completion of God's plan for all mankind. The Feast celebrates the Mother of God as the Mother of Life. We remember the death and burial of the Mother of God, and we celebrate her resurrection and ascension. The Icon represents the Virgin lying on her deathbed, surrounded by the Apostles, with Christ in glory receiving her soul into His arms. All hints of black sorrow are overcome by a certain colorful sobriety.*

"We behold in this Icon the 'Mother of Life' being transferred to life by her Son, our Lord Jesus Christ. Since she is the Mother of God, it was right that He Who dwelt in the womb of the Ever-virgin should take her to Himself in her falling asleep. The Apostles are painted surrounding the Mother of God. Behind them is the figure of Christ. He holds in His left arm a small child clothed in white garments and crowned with a halo. This is the luminous soul of Mary which He receives at the moment of death. The multitude of Angels present at the Dormition forms an outer border around Christ. Also present are the six-winged Seraphim. The Icon of the Dormition gives us a picture of Christian death. We find our salvation in Jesus Christ Who raises to life all who believe in Him.

[From Come Bless the Lord Icon Pamphlet, page 56-57]

Information on Local Event

The following information is to provide the teaching of the Catholic Church with respect to an event in our community. This information has been prepared by Father Tom Stabile TOR of Holy Family Catholic Church in Portage. Father Tom also consulted with Bishop Mark Bartchak of the Catholic Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown. I appreciate Father Tom providing this statement which is also important for me to communicate to our parish family:

"As you probably heard, a psychic has been invited as a fund raiser for a local organization in Portage on Saturday, August 17. Although he is probably a harmless entertainer, it is appropriate as your pastor to remind you of the stance on "spiritualists and mediums" in our Judeo/Christian history. God alone is to be our source of guidance, through the gift of the Holy Spirit upon the faithful. All other spirits [small "s"] are questionable and some can be dangerous. We are called upon to put our trust totally in the Providence of the one and only God who is with us and cares for us, always. The seeking of "readings" or telling of one's future "...contradict(s) the honor, respect, and loving fear that we owe to God alone."

{Catechism of the Catholic Church 2115, 2116, 2117.}

The paragraphs of the Catechism of the Catholic Church referenced above may be accessed at http://www.vatican.va/archive/ENG0015/___P7E.HTM.

The Feast of the Dormition of Mary, the Theotokos--*Blessing of Flowers*

On Thursday, August 15 we celebrate the *Dormition of Mary, the Theotokos*.

The custom of blessing flowers and herbs after the Divine Liturgy on the Feast of the Dormition probably originated from the belief that after Mary's glorious assumption into heaven, her tomb was filled with a 'heavenly fragrance' and flowers. The herbs, used by people as natural medicine, are blessed in commemoration of the numerous healings and extraordinary graces bestowed on the pilgrims at Mary's tomb. Flowers brought to church for this feast will be blessed following each of the services

Pilgrimage to-Mount Saint Macrina in Honor of Our Lady of Perpetual Help

The *85th Annual Pilgrimage to the Shrine of Our Lady of Perpetual Help* takes place during the Labor Day Weekend, August 31-September 1, 2019. Since 1934, the Sisters of St. Basil the Great have welcomed Pilgrims to this Shrine of Mary the Theotokos. Throughout the decades, Mount St. Macrina has been a favored destination for the thousands of pilgrims who come to venerate her icon. Praying before this sacred image, they place all their needs, their hopes, their sorrows and their joys into her hands.

Throughout the entire pilgrimage, the Icon of Our Lady of Perpetual Help holds a central place. It is carried in procession with love and devotion to each liturgical service. There it is placed before the altar, so that all may venerate this Beloved Icon of Our Mother of Perpetual.

For those who come, pilgrimage is an integral part of their lives, providing for their diverse spiritual needs. Besides the Divine Liturgy and other liturgical services, the Mystery of Reconciliation and the Anointing of the Sick are treasured blessings for all. The Sisters of St. Basil invite everyone to join them in honoring the Mother of God under the title of *Mary, Cause of our Joy*. With them, she waits to welcome all to her Shrine on Mount St Macrina.

Charter Bus to Annual Pilgrimage

We have reserved a 41 passenger charter bus for transportation to the Pilgrimage at Mount Saint Macrina 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]. A sign-up list is in the back of church where you may sign up to reserve a seat on the bus. Please do so by **Sunday, August 18th**. An invitation is extended to families who have never attended the pilgrimage to take advantage of this opportunity to attend the Pilgrimage

PARISH NEWS & COMING EVENTS

Parish Advisory Council Meetings--Rescheduled

The meetings of the *Parish Advisory Council* for Saints Peter & Paul, Portage; and also for the *Parish Advisory Council* for Saint Mary's, Beaverdale and Saints Peter & Paul, Dunlo scheduled for August are both being rescheduled. *Parish Advisory Council* members will be contacted regarding the rescheduled date. Minutes from previous meetings of each will be in Sunday bulletin.

Pilgrim Vocation Icon

During the week of August 11, **Marty** and **Marie Johnson** 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.

Sanctuary Candle

This week the Candle at *Saints Peter and Paul, Portage* is offered for **+Jennie Letzo**, requested by Julie Brenna.

<u>Offerings for July</u>	<u>July 7</u>	<u>July 14</u>	<u>July 21</u>	<u>July 28</u>
Portage:	\$1,749.00	\$1,277.00	\$1,016.00	\$1,712.00
Beaverdale:	\$273.00	\$419.00	\$350.00	\$238.00
Dunlo:	\$175.00	\$269.00	\$176.00	\$101.00

Liturgical Chant –Sundays after Pentecost

- For Vespers with the Divine Liturgy for the **Feast of the Dormition of the Theotokos**, the *Vigil Divine Liturgy* is 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 Dormition of the Theotokos [Thursday, August 15]** may be found on p. 352-355.
- The Troparion and other prescribed parts of the Divine Liturgy for the **Tenth Sunday after Pentecost [August 18]**, Resurrection Troparion Tone 1, may be found on p. 125-127; and for the **Post-festive of the Feast of the Dormition** on p. 352-355.
- 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.

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 Nezniski; 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.

Also, please pray for the repose of the soul of **+Mrs. Celia Demyan**, sister of Father Joseph Borodach and the late Father John Borodach, who fell asleep in the Lord on Tuesday, July 23; and also **+Father Richard Rohrer**, of the Passaic Eparchy who fell asleep in the Lord on Sunday, July 14.

OTHER NEWS & EVENTS

Annual Portage Summerfest

Annual Portage Summerfest concludes August 11 with events at Crichton McCormick Park. Information is available at www.portagearesummerfest.com.

Fatima Devotions in Loretto

The Franciscan Friars, T.O.R., from Loretto, invite you to participate with them in celebrating the ***Fatima Devotions*** Tuesday August 13, 6:30 P.M. in the Sunken Gardens. (In case of inclement weather, the devotions will be at the Basilica of St. Michael the Archangel). The singing will be led by Saint Benedict's Choir in Johnstown and the sermon will be delivered by Fr. Malachi Van Tassell, T.O.R. We would like to extend a cordial welcome to all.

GCU Sponsors “An Afternoon at Narcisi Winery”

An Afternoon at Narcisi Winery on Sunday, August 25, 12 NOON-4 PM at Narcisi Winery, 4578 Gibsonia Road, Gibsonia, PA 15044. \$15/GCU Members; \$20/Non-Members. Fee includes a lunch and two tickets for wine sampling. Additional samples can be purchased. Contact Elizabeth [412-264-4349] or etharbist@yahoo.com. For reservations, send check payable to GCU D15 to: Elizabeth Harbist, 215 Thornwood Court, Moon Township, PA 15108, by August 15

Sight and Sound Theater Bus Trip

A bus trip to the ***Sight and Sound Theater*** in Lancaster, Saturday, November 16 to enjoy “***The Miracle of Christmas***”. The price of the trip is \$108/adults; \$69/children. This includes the performance and bus transportation. The bus will leave at 10:00 am for the 3:00 pm performance

We will be stopping for supper (on your own) on our way home. A non-refundable deposit of \$50 per adult and \$35 per child; balance due by September 20. Call Greta at 736-8198.

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.*

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

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.

Liturgical Schedule 10th Week After Pentecost—August 11, 2019

Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

Postfestive Day of the Feast of the Transfiguration

Saturday August 10

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

Sunday August 11

Portage **9:00 AM** Sunday Divine Liturgy [+Jennie Letzo, by Julie Brenna]

Monday, August 12

No Divine Liturgy scheduled

Tuesday, August 13

No Divine Liturgy scheduled

Feast of the Dormition of the Theotokos

Wednesday, August 14

Dunlo **6:00 PM** *Vespers with the Divine Liturgy*, [+Teresa Lupinek, by Mike and Pauline Barelick]

Followed by Blessing of Flowers

Thursday, August 15

Portage 8:45 AM The Third Hour
Portage **9:00 AM** **Divine Liturgy**, *Followed by Blessing of Flowers*
Portage **7:00 PM** **Divine Liturgy**, *Followed by Blessing of Flowers*

Friday, August 16

No Divine Liturgy scheduled

Saturday, August 17

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

Tenth Sunday after Pentecost

Postfestive Day of the Feast of the Dormition

Saturday August 17

Dunlo **5:00 PM** Vigil Divine Liturgy [+Jo Ann Tiller, by Paul, Susan & Dustin Snyder]

Sunday August 18 Portage **9:00 AM** Sunday Divine Liturgy