



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 p.m. (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 November 17</u>	<u>Troitsja:</u> Lexi Slanoc	<u>Bulletins:</u> Evan Lenz & Bella Koban
<u>Sunday November 24</u>	<u>Troitsja:</u> Bella Koban	<u>Bulletins:</u> Ryan Lenz & Abby Koban
<u>Sunday December 1</u>	<u>Troitsja:</u> Abby Koban	<u>Bulletins:</u> Lexi Slanoc & Kaleb Castel

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.



Feast of the Entrance of Theotokos into the Temple

On Thursday, November 21 is the *Feast of the Entrance of Theotokos into the Temple*. An early church writing, The Protoevangelium of Saint James, provides an account of Mary being brought into the Temple of Jerusalem as a very young girl.

The description of the event is couched in legendary terms. However, it offers us valuable insight into Mary's interval of preparation for her vocation as the "*Theotokos*", the one who would be the Mother of God. In one of the Aposticha Stichera sung at Vespers on this feast, we reflect on the words attributed to Saint Anne, the mother of Mary:

"When Anne, which means grace, was graced with the pure and ever-Virgin Mary, she presented her into the temple of God. She called maidens to carry candles and walk before her as she said: 'O child, go to be an offering and a fragrant incense for the One who sent you to me. Enter into the veiled places and learn the mysteries of God. Prepare yourself to be a delightful dwelling place for Jesus who will give great mercy to the world'."

The celebration of this feast is helpful in our own preparation for the Nativity of our Lord, which began for the byzantine Church on November 15. We turn our gaze toward Mary and honor her as the one who also provides an example and pattern for our lives of faith. Her humble, silent expectation reflects a disposition of openness to God's grace and designs. She enters the "*holy of holies*" "*to become the living Temple*". In this way we are reminded and encouraged to allow Christ to be formed in us, so that our lives are in some fashion a "*living temple*" and reflect the presence of God in our lives.

"Today is the prelude of God's benevolence, and the herald of our salvation; for the Virgin openly appears in the temple of God and foretells Christ to all. Let us also with full voice exclaim to her: Rejoice, fulfillment of the Creator's plan."

[Troparion, Feast of the Entrance of the Theotokos into the Temple]

Remembrance of Homebound Parishioners for Christmas

A Christmas remembrance is being prepared for our homebound parishioners. To help us prepare gift bags for homebound parishioners, please consider donating suggested gift items: *Seasonal/non-seasonal door decorations; tissues* [dollar store boxes]; *light scent body spray; word search books; lotions; lap blankets; shampoo*. You may also have ideas of your own. There will be a box in the narthex of each church to collect these items.

Please bring gift items by **Sunday, December 1.**

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*** [from Beaverville and Dunlo]. *Please do not bring food past the expiration dates.* Containers are in the narthex.

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.

Giving Tree Project

Our *Giving Tree* provides gifts at Christmas for children in need. The *Giving Tree* with tags listing gifts, will be in the back of church. When you select one of the decorations on the *Giving Tree* please sign on the list next to the tree [in the back of church], to keep track of the Christmas wish requests. The gifts are to be brought to Church by Sunday, December 15.

“Gob” Baking Project

A note of sincere thanks to the volunteers who helped with the “*Gob Baking*” project in our church kitchen this past week on Wednesday, November 13. *Gobs* are available for sale today-- Sunday, November 17, in the church kitchen following the Divine Liturgy. The cost is \$1.25/gob; \$15/dozen. Gobs will also be sold the next Sunday, November 24. The *Gobs* are available for those who would like to have them for the Thanksgiving holiday and also for Christmas.

Thanks again for the cooperation of our volunteers and for your support for this project.

Eastern Christian Formation program

- Eastern Christian Formation classes are following the Divine Liturgy, 10:15-11:15 am.
- Our annual *Saint Nicholas Celebration* is scheduled for Sunday, December 15. ECF students will be preparing a presentation that is to be offered at this event.

Please remember in your prayers our Catechists, ECF students, and their families.

PARISH NEWS & COMING EVENTS

Saints Peter and Paul—Dunlo Meeting This Week

On Tuesday, November 19, at 7:00 pm, there will be a meeting for parishioners of Saints Peter and Paul, Dunlo concerning the financial circumstances of the parish. Earlier this year, on Tuesday, April 2, a meeting was held with the parishioners of Saints Peter and Paul Byzantine Catholic Church in Dunlo concerning the parish financial status. Parishioners have received a copy of the minutes from the Tuesday, April 2, 2019 meeting in the mail. The meeting on November 19 will consider the developments since our meeting in April.

Donation from Father Bayusik Estate

We gratefully acknowledge a donation in the amount of \$863.09 from the Estate of *+Father Robert Bayusik.* This represents the 2019 distribution from Father Robert Bayusik's Plant Patent. A word of acknowledgement also to Attorney George Raptosh, Administrator of the Bayusik Estate.

Eternal Memory!

Portage Community Thanksgiving Service

The Portage Area Ministerial Association's *Thanksgiving Service* will be at **Mainline 123's Worship Center** [123 Main Street] on Sunday, November 24, at 7:00 pm. Parking is available behind the building. The *Community Thanksgiving Service* gathers together the Portage community and to worship together in a spirit of Christian unity while giving thanks for God's blessings on our nation, our communities, and our families. You are encouraged to attend.

Parish Advisory Council Meetings Minutes

Minutes from the meeting of the *Parish Advisory Council* of Saints Peter & Paul, Portage from August 26; and of the *Parish Advisory Council* of Saint Mary's, Beaverdale and Saints Peter & Paul, Dunlo from September 16 are included in today's bulletin.

Annual Appreciation Dinner

The *Appreciation Dinner* is scheduled for Sunday, February 9, 2020. Please note this adjustment in scheduling, as this event has been held in the fall months in recent years. More details on this event will be provided closer to the date of the dinner.

Remember In Prayer

Please pray for the health of **Barry Krisko; Marian Simala** [UPMC-Presbyterian]; **Jennifer Crum Bailey; Michael Barelick; Kennady Grace Spaid; Joseph Lysic; Rose Single; Dorothy Majer; Mary Donnelly; George Pyo Jr.; Daniel Zalznock; John Rakar; Bernadette Kostan, Patty Haschak; 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.

Liturgical Chant –Sundays after Pentecost

- *Vespers with the Divine Liturgy* for the **Feast of the Entrance of the Theotokos into the Temple** 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 **Thursday, November 21**, the **Feast of the Entrance of the Theotokos into the Temple** on p. 268-271.
- The Troparion and other prescribed parts of the Divine Liturgy for **Sunday, November 24**, Resurrection Troparion Tone 7, may be found on p. 156-158; and for the Postfestive day of the **Feast of the Entrance of the Theotokos into the Temple** on p. 268-271.
- 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.

OTHER NEWS & EVENTS

Archieparchial Choir Christmas Concert

The East Wind Symphonic Band and the Pittsburgh Byzantine Catholic Archieparchial Choir present Holiday Sounds: A Christmas Cookie Cabaret. Sunday, December 15, 2019 at 3:30 PM at St. John Cathedral Center, 210 Greentree Road, Munhall, PA 15120.

Free admission but donations will be welcomed. Visit www.ewsb.org for more information.

63rd Annual Saint Nicholas Celebration

The **63rd Annual Saint Nicholas Celebration** benefitting the Byzantine Catholic Seminary of Saints Cyril and Methodius is Sunday, December 8 at Saint John Cathedral and Center in Munhall. Moleben to St. Nicholas will be celebrated in the Cathedral; at 3:00 p.m. Dinner follows at 5:00 p.m.

Banquet tickets are \$40/adult; \$18/children 12 and under. For reservations contact Father Jim.

Saint Nicholas Celebration

The Annual Saint Nicholas Celebration includes an additional fundraiser to benefit the Seminary--a raffle in which the winner will receive twelve [12] **\$50 Gift Cards** to popular national restaurants, and also \$1,500 in cash. *The choice of restaurants will be determined on the locality where the winner lives.* Donation for the tickets is \$10. The winning number is based on the PA Lottery Evening Pick 3 Number drawn on Sunday, December 15, 2019.

If you are interested in a ticket for this benefit raffle, contact Father Jim.

Portage Area School District Secret Santa Program.

The Portage Area School District annual **Secret Santa Program** provides a joyful holiday for children in school district families. Children found toys, clothing, winter coats, and more under their trees on Christmas morning. Each family enjoyed a holiday dinner, with turkey and pumpkin pie!

Mail donations to: Portage Area High School Secret Santa Project; % Mary Ann George; 85 Mountain Avenue; Portage, PA 15946. For questions, call Ms. George at 736-9636, extension #1310.

Thank you for your generosity and for helping to support this project.

Mount Aloysius College Autumn Open House

Autumn Open House at Mount Aloysius College on November 23. Events begin at 10 a.m. Mount Aloysius College provides an environment that encourages students to synthesize faith with learning, develop competence with compassion, and put talents and gifts at the service of others.

Homebound and Nursing Home Residents—Remember in Prayer

At Home: SS Peter & Paul (Portage): Dorothy Billy; Catherine Czapp Louise Halovich; Joseph Mandichak; Michelle Maskal; Joseph Raptosh [*St. Michael's, Canonsburg*]; Stella Raptosh; Cathy Walters; Helen Zaher; **St. Mary (Beaverdale):** Nancy Andrako; Catherine McGough;

Nursing & Other Care Facilities:

- **Saint Benedict Manor, Carrolltown,** Catherine Thrower [Dunlo];
- **Arbutus Park Manor:** Margaret Rachael [Dunlo];
- **Autumn View:** June Nezneski;
- **Cambria Care [Ebensburg]:** Edward Andrykovitch [Beaverdale]
- **The Winds at Mattern Orchard, Duncansville:** Mary Vrabel
- **Amber Hills Ebensburg:** 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

The list to sign up for the *Pilgrim Vocation Icon* to pray for vocations to the priesthood, diaconate and monastic religious life is in the narthex. Please remember seminarians of the Archeparchy of Pittsburgh: **Lector Kyprian Wojciechowski**; **Lector Robert Jones**; **Seminarians John Welch**; **Luke Iyengar Nathaniel Tapsak**; Diaconate Studies candidates; and all of the Seminary community.

Liturgical Schedule 24th Week After Pentecost—November 17, 2019

Twenty-third Sunday after Pentecost

Saturday November 16

Beaverdale **5:00 PM** Vigil Divine Liturgy [+Elizabeth Andrykovitch, by Elaine Barton]

Sunday November 17

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

Monday November 18

No Divine Liturgy scheduled

Tuesday, November 19

Portage 7:45 AM The Third Hour
8:00 AM **Divine Liturgy** [Health of Joann Dzurenko, by Chares and Joan Plishka]

Feast of the Entrance of Theotokos into the Temple

Wednesday, November 20

Dunlo **6:00 PM** *Vespers with Divine Liturgy* [+Ronald Garanich, by Clara Garanich]

Thursday, November 21

Portage **7:00 PM** Divine Liturgy

Friday, November 22

No Divine Liturgy scheduled

Saturday November 23

Portage 3:00 PM Mystery of Repentance [Confessions]

Dunlo 4:30 PM Mystery of Repentance [Confessions]

Twenty-fourth Sunday after Pentecost Post-festive Day of the Feast of the Entrance

Saturday November 23

Dunlo **5:00 PM** Vigil Divine Liturgy [+John Kovalich, by Maryann Pepoy]

Sunday November 124

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