



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 p.m. (Beaverdale/Dunlo). Also, ½ hour before services [except Sunday], and by appointment. Confessions are celebrated 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 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
<u>Sunday December 8</u>	<u>Troitsja:</u> Ryan Lenz	<u>Bulletins:</u> Jakob Czapp & Bella Koban

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 Living Temple”

The Postfestive period of Feast of the Entrance of the Theotokos into the Temple continues through November 25. This observance identifies Mary as “*the living Temple of the holy glory of Christ our God*”, who was “*brought into the temple according to the Law.*” [Vesper Stichera]

Today’s lesson from the Epistle to the Ephesians also reflects on this same reality. It expands or extends this sense of “living temple” to ourselves, to the members of the Church. We read in [Ephesians 2:19](#) that we are “*members of the household of God*”. But then it elaborates on this with reference to a building: “*built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone [Ephesians 2:19]. And in turn this structure “is joined together and grows into a holy temple of the Lord.” [Ephesians 2:21].*

The Epistle lesson concludes by observing that this is a work in progress. Our own lives of faith have not fully entered into this unity; the structure continues to need to be built into the unity which is to be the work of God in the Holy Spirit within us and among us.

Happy Thanksgiving..

Our faith; our family; our life; and an array of so many other gifts—we have much for which to be thankful. It is good that we have this Thanksgiving Day as an occasion on which to give thanks to God. To express and share this thanks with family and those dear to us is a source of particular joy and something to be treasured.

We celebrate the Divine Liturgy on Thanksgiving Day at 9:00 am. Do take this opportunity to offer to God this most fitting prayer and sacrifice of praise and thanks on Thanksgiving Day.

Here are prayers of blessing before meals and also of thanksgiving after meals not only for Thanksgiving Day but throughout the year:

Prayer Before Meals: “*O Christ God, bless the food and drink of Your servants for You are holy always, now and ever, and forever. Amen*”

Prayer After Meals: “*We thank You, Christ our God, for You have satisfied us with the good things of Your earth. Do not deprive us of Your heavenly kingdom but as You appeared to Your disciples, O Saviour, granting them peace, come also to us and save us.*”

My prayerful wishes for a wonderful and memorable Thanksgiving Holiday!

Portage Community Thanksgiving Service--TODAY

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.

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.

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/religious 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 Beaverdale and Dunlop]. *Please do not bring food past the expiration dates.* Containers are in the narthex.

Giving Tree Project

Thank you for your response to the *Giving Tree* to provide gifts at Christmas for children in need. The gifts are to be brought to Church by **Sunday, December 15.**

“Gob” Baking Project

Gobs are available for sale **today--Sunday, November 24,** in the church kitchen following the Divine Liturgy. The cost is **\$1.25/gob; \$15/dozen.** 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.

Saint Nicholas Celebration—ECF Students Presentation

Our annual *Saint Nicholas Celebration* is scheduled for **Sunday, December 15.** *Eastern Christian Formation* classes are preparing a presentation that is to be offered at this event. **Parents are asked to take note** that practice sessions for this presentation will be held at the end of classes on **Sundays, November 24** and **December 8.** There will be a *later dismissal* on these days at **11:30 am**

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

PARISH NEWS & COMING EVENTS

Church Cleaning & Work Party for December

- The ***Church Cleaning*** for December is scheduled for **Monday, December 2,** at **9:00 am.**
- The ***Work Party*** for December is scheduled for **Saturday, December 7,** at **9:00 am.**
- ***Thank You*** to those who volunteer for the monthly ***Work Party*** and ***Church Cleaning.***

Sanctuary Candle

The Sanctuary Candle this week is offered at Saints Peter and Paul, Portage, in memory of ***+Joseph*** and ***+Agnes Simala;*** requested by Marian Simala on the 70th Anniversary of their wedding.

Saints Peter and Paul—Dunlo Meeting

A note of thanks to those who attended the meeting for parishioners of Saints Peter and Paul Dunlo concerning the financial circumstances of the parish on Tuesday, November 19.

Parishioners will receive a copy of the minutes from the November 19 meeting.

Eternal Memory

You are asked to pray for the repose of the soul of **+Mary Vrabel**, who fell asleep in the Lord on November 19. We extend our deepest sympathy and prayerful support to her children Marianne, Eileen and Nicholas; and to all of her family.

You are asked to pray for the repose of the soul of **+Edward Andrykovitch**, of Saint Mary's Beaverdale who fell asleep in the Lord on November 20. We extend our deepest sympathy and prayerful support to his daughters Vicki, Terri, and Marri; and to all of his family.

Also, for the repose of the soul of **+Pamela Rocker**, the mother of John Rocker who fell asleep in the Lord on November 19. We extend our deepest sympathy to John and to all of his family.

Memorial Donations

We gratefully acknowledge donations to **Saints Peter and Paul Byzantine Catholic Church, Dunlo** given in memory of **+Pauline Valko** from the following:

*Nicole, Bryan, Jackson, Anna Landon
Arrington*

Lynne & Mike Blumenthal

Tim, Toni & Kelli Clark

The DePaola Family

Bill & Therese Garanich

John Garanich

Mary Giallonardo

Ron & Linda Repak

Katherine Valko Sabol

*Catherine Thrower; Joseph Thrower; David
Thrower; and Joel Springer*

George & Cindy Valko

Michael & Rosemary Valko

Peter & Thresa Valko

Dolly & John Yonkoski

Our sincere thanks to these generous donors in memory of **+Pauline Valko**. Eternal Memory.

Remember In Prayer

Please pray for the health of **Barry Krisko; Marian Simala** [Mansfield Rehabilitation, McKeesport]; **Jennifer Crum Bailey; Michael Barelick; Kennady Grace Spaid; Joseph Lysic; Rose Single; Dorothy Majer; Mary Donnelly; George Pyo Jr.; Daniel Zaliznock; John Rakar; Bernadette Kostan, Patti Haschak; Shawn Crum; Dennis Ratosky, Sr.; Dorothy, Phil and Cathy Walters; Alina Rusnak; Rub 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

- The Troparion and other prescribed parts of the Divine Liturgy for the **Thanksgiving Day Thursday, November 28**, are on [pages 271-273](#).
- The Troparion and other prescribed parts of the Divine Liturgy for **Sunday, December Resurrection Troparion Tone 8**, may be found on [p. 161-163](#).
- The "Our Father", in [Tone 8](#) may be found on [p. 73](#).
- 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, 3:30 PM at St. John Cathedral Center, Munhall, PA. Free admission; www.ewsb.org for more information.

Chili Cook-off During Winterfest

Looking for Chili Making Masters! *Hammers Street Church of God* is hosting a **Chili Cook-off** during WinterFest, on Saturday, December 14, from 2:30-6:00 p.m. Prizes: \$100 for the People's Choice; \$100 for Judges' Choice; Call 814-736-8216 to register and for more details.

Chili Tasters are also need. If you want to taste up to 16 entries, come to Hammers Street Church, 906 Hammers Street in Portage, 2:30-6:00 p.m. Only \$5 to taste them all!

63rd Annual Saint Nicholas Celebration & Fundraiser

The **63rd Annual Saint Nicholas Celebration** benefitting the Byzantine Catholic Seminary of Saint Cyril and Methodius is Sunday, December 8 at Saint John Cathedral and Center in Munhall.

The Annual Saint Nicholas Celebration includes an additional fundraiser to benefit the Seminary-affle. The winner will receive twelve [12] **\$50 Gift Cards** to national restaurants, and \$1,500/cash. *The choice of restaurants will be determined on the locality where the winner lives.* Donation: \$10. The winning number is based on the PA Lottery Evening Pick 3 Number drawn on Sunday, December 15, 2019. For reservations for the banquet, 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 the 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; 8 Mountain Avenue; Portage, PA 15946. For questions, call Ms. George at 736-9636, extension #131.

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

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; Catherine 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 Nezeski;
- **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

During the weeks of November 17, *Carol Goral* had the *Pilgrim Vocation Icon*; and of November 24, *Bob & Holly Koban* will have the *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**; **Luklyengar Nathaniel Tapsak**; Diaconate Studies candidates; and all of the Seminary community.

Liturgical Schedule 25th Week After Pentecost—November 24, 2019

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 24

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

Monday November 25

No Divine Liturgy scheduled

Tuesday, November 26

No Divine Liturgy scheduled

Wednesday, November 27

Portage 7:45 AM The Third Hour
8:00 AM **Divine Liturgy** [+Joseph and +Agnes Simala, by Marian Simala]

Thanksgiving Day

Thursday, November 28

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

Friday, November 29

No Divine Liturgy scheduled

Saturday November 30

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

Twenty-fifth Sunday after Pentecost

Saturday November 30

Beaverdale **5:00 PM** Vigil Divine Liturgy [+Father Roy Schubert, by Theresa Kundrat]

Sunday December 1

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