



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
Rector: 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

Sunday December 15 Troitsja: Easton Slanoc Bulletins: Evan Lenz & Easton Slanoc

Sunday December 22 Troitsja: Kaleb Castel Bulletins: Abby Koban & Ryan Lenz

Christmas--December 25 **VOLUNTEERS**

Sunday December 29 Troitsja: Lexi Slanoc Bulletins: Kaleb Castel & Lexi 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.



Parish Saint Nicholas Celebration - TODAY

We invite all of our parishioners to our Parish ***Saint Nicholas Celebration TODAY***—Sunday, December 15 following the Divine Liturgy. Our Eastern Christian Formation Students will present ***“Away in the Manger”***, the story of the night our Savior was born.

“Away in the Manger” is the story of the night our Savior was born, in Bethlehem. Our story begins in a manger where Mary and Joseph are left to stay, the humble little place where the Son of God is born.

Cast of Characters:

<u>Narrator I:</u>	Evan Lenz	<u>Narrator II:</u>	Bella Koban
<u>Donkey:</u>	Bella Single	<u>Cow:</u>	Lexi Slanoc
<u>Sheep:</u>	Abby Koban	<u>Angel:</u>	Jakob Czapp
<u>Shepherd:</u>	Kaleb Castel	<u>Camel:</u>	Easton Slanoc
<u>Magi, Shepherds. And Animals:</u>			

Joseph Blazosky	Kyle Czapp	Hunter Eckenrode
Maxwell Erzal	Bryce Harrington	Owen Slanoc

Our thanks to the parish ***Catechists*** for organizing this presentation and for preparing the ***Eastern Christian Formation*** students for this performance: ***Julie Brenna; Sara Erzal; Molly Harrington; Deacon Dan Perich; and Alisha Slanoc.*** A note of thanks also to the parents of the students for your cooperation and encouragement in this program.

The audience will be invited to join in singing the Christmas Carols and the Hymn to Saint Nicholas during and after the play.

Our thanks to ***Kim Rocker*** and her family for preparing the refreshments for the social which will follow this presentation.

Please come to enjoy this event, the program and also refreshments that will be served.

Sunday of the Forefathers

These two Sundays immediately before Christmas include readings and hymns in the liturgy to help us prepare for the birth of our Lord. Today, the *Sunday of Forefathers* remembers the Patriarchs and Prophets of the Old Testament, from Adam to John the Baptist.

We seek today to engender dispositions of exception, hope and anxious eagerness for the coming of Christ on Christmas.

Mystery of Repentance [Confession]

To prepare for Christmas, the ***Mystery of Holy Repentance*** is scheduled for:

- On **Thursday, December 19**, at Saints. Peter & Paul, Portage at 7:00 pm. ***Father Vasyl Polyak*** from Saint Peter and Paul Byzantine Catholic Church in Patton will be present with Father Jim for Confessions. A Penance Service begins at 7:00 pm, followed by Confessions.
- **Saturday, December 21**, Ss. Peter & Paul, Portage: **2:30 pm**; Ss. Peter & Paul, Dunlo: **4:30 pm**.

Schedule of Services--The Feast of the Nativity of Our Lord		
<u>Christmas Eve: Tuesday, December 24</u>		
Dunlo	<u>6:00 PM</u>	<i>Vespers with the Divine Liturgy of St. Basil</i>
Portage	<u>9:30 PM</u>	Christmas Carols
	<u>10:00 PM</u>	<i>Christmas Divine Liturgy</i>
<u>Christmas Day: Wednesday, December 25</u>		
Portage	9:45 AM	Christmas Carols
	<u>10:00 AM</u>	<i>Christmas Divine Liturgy</i>

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.

Food Pantry Donations

Thank you for your donations of canned goods, non-perishable food, and cash for the *Portage Food Pantry* and the *Forest Hills Food Pantry* [from Beaverdale and Dunlo]. The food items collected are being taken to the respective Food Pantries this week.

Giving Tree Project

Our thanks to *Paul and Toni Jo Hook and Family* for once again coordinating our *Giving Tree* to provide gifts at Christmas for children in need. Thanks also to our parishioners for your response to the *Giving Tree*. The gifts are to be brought to Church by Sunday, December 15.

PARISH NEWS & COMING EVENTS

Church Calendars & Offering Envelopes for 2020

The *2020 Church Calendars* are available. Please take only one calendar per family until everyone has received a calendar. We thank our sponsors for the 2020 Calendars:

Serenko-Claar Funeral Home (Ss. Peter & Paul, Portage)

Jean Kinley Funeral Home (Beaverdale & Dunlo)

The *2020 Offering Envelopes* for Saints Peter and Paul Portage will be available next Sunday, December 22. *2020 Offering Envelopes* for Beaverdale and Dunlo parishioners are available.

“Gob” Baking Project Results

Thanks again to our volunteers and for your support for the *“Gob Baking”* project on Wednesday, November 13. The total amount of sales was \$910.80; expenses were \$210.72. Our profit realized was \$700.80. We look forward to Gob Baking Sales in the coming New Year.

Memorial Donations

We gratefully acknowledge a donation to *Saint Mary's Byzantine Catholic Church, Beaverdale* given in memory of *+Edward Andrykovitch* from Katherine Valko Sabol of Painesville, Ohio.

Eternal Memory.

**Eastern Christian Formation Calendar
Christmas & Theophany Season**

Sunday, December 22.....	No	ECF
Classes		
Sunday, December 29.....	No	ECF
Classes		
Sunday, January 5, 2020.....	No	ECF
Classes		
Sunday, January 12 2020.....	ECF	Classes
Resume		

Liturgical Chant –Sundays after Pentecost

- For **Sunday, December 22**, Resurrection Troparion Tone 3, may be found on p. 135-137; and for **the Sunday before Christmas, the Holy Ancestors**, on p.285-287.
- The “*Our Father*”, in Tone 3 may be found on p. 68.
- Please note instructions at the beginning of the Liturgy for opening hymns etc.

Visits to the Homebound

In preparation the Feasts of Christmas and Theophany, Father Jim will schedule visits to homebound parishioners or those in nursing homes and other care facilities. If you or a family member would like to be added to the list of those visited for the Mysteries of Confession and the Eucharist, please call the rectory at your earliest convenience.

Remember In Prayer

Please pray for the health of **Vaughn George** [Memorial Hospital]; **Ella Hoffman**, great-niece of Dorothy Walters; **Barry Krisko**; **Marian Simala**; **Jennifer Crum Bailey**; **Michael Barelick**; **Kennady Grace Spaid**; **Joseph Lysic**; **Rose Single**; **Mary Donnelly**; **George Pyo Jr.**; **Daniel Zaliznock**; **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.

Please pray for the repose of the soul of **+Fr. Conan Timoney**, a priest of the Eparchy of Passaic, and pastor of Patronage of the Mother of God Church in Arbutus, Maryland who fell asleep in the Lord on December 9. *Eternal Memory.*

Offerings for November				
	Nov 3	Nov 10	Nov 17	Nov 24
Portage:	\$1,602.00	\$1,541.00	\$1,628.00	\$2,357.09
Beaverdale:	\$ 968.00	\$ 345.00	\$384.00	\$ 317.00
Dunlo:	\$ 156.00	\$ 313.00	\$138.00	\$ 344.00

Online Faith Formation: Preparing for the Feast of the Nativity.

The Gift of God: Preparing for the Feast of the Nativity, by Rev. David Anderson on Wednesday, December 16 8:00 - 9:00 p.m. ET. As the Great Feast of the Nativity of the Lord draws closer, we will ponder God's gift of Himself to us, and consider how we can respond by making a gift of ourselves to Him. This course is offered as live webinar, free of charge. Register at EasternCatholic.org/Events.

OTHER NEWS & EVENTS

Portage WinterFest 2019

The Annual *Portage WinterFest 2019* is the weekend of Friday December 13-Sunday, December 15. Visit *Portage WinterFest* on Facebook for a complete schedule. Parishioner **Dr. Jim Koban** will play Christmas Carols on Sunday, December 15 at 2:00 pm at the **Chatter Box** on Main Street.

Forest Hills Community Band 2019 Christmas Concerts

The *Forest Hills Community Band* presents their *2019 Christmas Concerts* at the following:

- **New Germany Grove hall** Sunday, December 15 6:00 pm.
- **Galleria Mall, Richland** Sunday, December 22 2:00 pm.

Free Admission

Archieparchial Choir Christmas Concert

The East Wind Symphonic Band and the Pittsburgh Byzantine Catholic Archieparchial Choir present Holiday Sounds: A Christmas Cookie Cabaret. TODAY--Sunday, December 15, 3:30 PM at St. John Cathedral Center, Munhall, PA. Free admission; www.ewsb.org for more information.

Portage Area School District Secret Santa Program.

The Portage Area School District *Secret Santa Program* provides a joyful holiday for children in school district families providing toys, clothing, winter coats, and more on Christmas morning. Each family enjoyed a holiday dinner. Mail donations to: Portage Area High School Secret Santa Project; % Mary Ann George; 85 Mountain Avenue; Portage, PA 15946; or call 736-9636, extension #1310.

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

GCU Scholarship Applications Now Being Accepted

GCU will be accepting applications for annual scholarship awards until December 31. Scholarships are available for **GCU** members who are college students or those studying in any secondary education program. Also, two athletic scholarships (1 female and 1 male) are available

For complete details and online application please visit: www.GCUusa.com/pages/scholarships.

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; Rita Thornton; 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;
- **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 week of December 15, **Jackie Gordon** and **Amber Gordon** 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**; **Luke Iyengar Nathaniel Tapsak**; Diaconate Studies candidates; and all of the Seminary community.

Liturgical Schedule 27th Week After Pentecost—December 15, 2019

Sunday of the Forefathers

Saturday December 14

Beaverdale **5:00 PM**

Vigil Divine Liturgy

Sunday December 15

Portage **9:00 AM**

Sunday Divine Liturgy [+Frank Lysic, by George Pyo]

Monday December 16

No Divine Liturgy scheduled

Tuesday, December 17

Portage 7:45 AM

The Third Hour

8:00 AM

Divine Liturgy

[+Mike Mazur, by Larry Summerville & Family—40th Day Commemoration]

Wednesday, December 18

No Divine Liturgy scheduled

Thursday, December 19

Portage **7:00 PM**

Penance Service followed by Mystery of Repentance [Confessions]

Friday, December 20

Portage 7:45 AM

The Third Hour

8:00 AM

Divine Liturgy [+Ed Nezeski, by Forest Hills Neighbors]

Saturday December 21

Portage **2:30 PM**

Mystery of Repentance [Confessions]

Dunlo **4:30 PM**

Mystery of Repentance [Confessions]

Sunday of the Holy Ancestors of Christ

Sunday before Christmas

Saturday December 21

Dunlo **5:00 PM**

Vigil Divine Liturgy

Sunday December 22

Portage **9:00 AM**

Sunday Divine Liturgy

[+Catherine & +Susan Sekerak; and +Robert Novotny, by Kathy Sekerak]