



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 January 5 2020</u>	<u>Troitsja:</u> Bella Koban	<u>Bulletins:</u> Evan Lenz & Easton Slanoc
<u>Sunday January 12 2020</u>	<u>Troitsja:</u> Lexi Slanoc	<u>Bulletins:</u> Bella Koban & Jakob Czapp
<u>Sunday January 19 2020</u>	<u>Troitsja:</u> Jakob Czapp	<u>Bulletins:</u> Abby Koban & Ryan Lenz

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 Feast of Theophany—Baptism of the Lord

On Monday, January 6 we celebrate the great feast of our Lord, the Theophany [a Feast of Obligation on our calendar]. On this day we commemorate his Baptism. *Theophany* means a “manifestation of God” and specifically a manifestation of the Trinity. Since the Lord was without sin his Baptism was a voluntary acceptance of the consequences of sin. He did this so that he might raise us up from sin and make us sharers in the divine life.

We solemnly bless water on this day. As Christ’s Incarnation enables human nature to be *deified* [become God-like], His presence in the world and in creation allows matter to become a vehicle of holiness. By drawing the blessed water and using it in our homes and our lives, we express that “*Christ is among us*” and is present and at work for us today.

The following description of the icon of the Theophany is from a collection of reflections on icons published by *Saint Paul Book and Media Centre*, 1989:

“The feast of the Baptism, faithfully transcribed in the icon, has a twofold meaning: on the one hand it celebrates the manifesting of the glory of the Trinity. ‘The voice of the Father bore witness to you calling you his beloved Son and the Spirit under the form of a dove confirmed the truth of the statement’ (Troparion of the Baptism). On the other, Christ's baptism "in the Holy Spirit" with respect to the baptism "in water" of the prophets marks the passage from the Old to the New Testament, just as the institution of the Eucharist on the day of the former Hebrew Passover marked the fulfilment of the new covenant.

“The semicircle in the upper part of the icon points to ‘the open heavens’ to which ‘Adam had obstructed entrance not only for himself but for his offspring when the flaming sword barred his entrance to the Garden of Eden’ [Pokrovskij]. Above the head of Christ there hovers the Spirit in the form of a dove. This symbol is explained by the Fathers as being an analogy of the dove of the Flood, sent to Noah with an olive twig in its beak as a sign of peace: the dove of the Spirit brings the message of sin's remission and of God's mercy.

“To signify the purification and the renewal of the whole of creation Christ immerses himself completely in the waters of the Jordan which form a cavern behind him, a symbol of the Lord's death (Col 2:12); his nakedness and his head bowed under the Baptist's hand are likewise signs of the humiliation of Christ ‘who emptied himself to assume the condition of a slave and became as men are’ [Philippians 2:7].

“The two little human figures portrayed in the Jordan are an allegory of the sea during the crossing of the Red Sea and of the crossing of the Jordan by Elijah and Elisha: two biblical episodes that were a presage of Baptism.”

Eastern Christian Formation Calendar--Christmas & Theophany

Sunday, January 5, 2020.....No ECF Classes

Sunday, January 12 2020.....ECF Classes Resume

Schedule of Services: The Feast of the Theophany of Our Lord

Sunday January 5

Beaverdale 5:00 PM

Vigil Divine Liturgy—Vespers with Liturgy of St. Basil
with Great Sanctification of Water

Monday January 6

Portage 9:00 AM

Divine Liturgy with Great Sanctification of Water

Portage 7:00 PM

Divine Liturgy

You may attend any of the scheduled Liturgies for this Feast of Obligation

PARISH NEWS & COMING EVENTS



Coffee Social for January

The January *Coffee and Donut Social* will be **Sunday--January 12**, following the 9 am Divine Liturgy. Please note this change from the usual first Sunday.

Please take this opportunity to greet fellow parishioners and enjoy the refreshments.

Eternal Memory

You are asked to pray for the repose of the soul of **+ Vaughn George**, who fell asleep in the Lord on December 31. We extend our deepest sympathy and prayerful support to his wife, Marianne; daughter Alisha; sons Aaron and Jeff; and to all of his family.

Please pray for the repose of the soul of **+Mary James**, sister of Stella Raptosh.

Annual "Appreciation Dinner"—Sunday, February 9

The Annual "Appreciation Dinner", usually scheduled in the fall, is scheduled this year for **Sunday, February 9**, following the Divine Liturgy. Please make note this date and plan to attend.

The **RSVP** form for this dinner will be in the bulletin next Sunday.

Blessing of Homes

To request the blessing of your home by Father Jim, please fill out this form, and place it in the offering basket or return by mailing it. In arranging an appointment, try to make it a convenient time for family members to be at home. Have a lighted candle and an icon on the table. Copies of the service for the blessing of the home will be provided for you to participate in this prayer.

I/we would like to have my/our home blessed:

Name: _____ **Phone:** _____

"O Lord, be in our thoughts, in our words, in our deeds, in our tears and in our laughter. O Lord, let your presence be felt in this house, and in those who enter therein, as it was felt by John as You were baptized in the Jordan River." [From the Prayer for Blessing of Homes]

“Question and Answer” Box

There are several questions that have been submitted to the “Question and Answer” box for which a response has not yet appeared. As space allows in coming weeks, I hope to respond to these. I appreciate your questions, interest, and the concerns of these various topics present.

Thanks again for your patience.

Church Cleaning & Work Party for January

- The **Work Party** for January is rescheduled for **Saturday, January 11**, at **9:00 am**.
- The **Church Cleaning** for January is scheduled for **Monday, January 13**, at **9:00 am**. *Please note* this change from the usual first Monday because of the Feast of Theophany on Monday, January 6.
- A note of thanks to those who volunteer for the monthly **Work Party** and **Church Cleaning**.

Memorial Donations

We gratefully acknowledge additional donations to Saint Mary’s Church, Beaverdale, in memory of **+Edward Andrykovitch** from:

*Charles and Dolores Johnson; George and Kathryn Pettorini; and John and Deborah Kalwanaski.
Eternal Memory.*

Saint Michael’s Memorial Project

We thank those who have donated for the **Memorial Monument** at the site of Saint Michael’s parish and in South Fork. An acknowledgment of donors will be listed in the bulletin early in 2020.

Drainage problems at the site of the former church and cemetery impairs access to the cemetery and memorial. Patrick Ditko, architect, has designed a system to correct the drainage problem. This plan will be presented to several contractors for bids to perform this work. Patrick has also designed the monument for this memorial. We thank him for donating his time and professional services for this project. Thank you once again for your support and your patience and consideration.

GCU Matching Funds Grant Awarded

A grant \$3,000 to Saints Peter and Paul in Portage as “*Matching Funds*” for the 2019 Annual Festival has been received from the **GCU**. The GCU is a fraternal life insurance and benefit organization with close ties to our Byzantine Catholic Church and parishes. The \$3,000 granted to Saints Peter and Paul in Portage is part of their “*Parish Expansion Matching Funds*” program.

Our thanks to the GCU for this generous grant and their generosity over the years in supporting our Byzantine Catholic Church, its parishes and institutions. Also a note of thanks to Deacon Daniel Perich who initiated and facilitated the application process.

Information about the **GCU** is available at www.GCUusa.com or by calling 1-800-722-4428.

Pilgrim Vocation Icon

During the week of January 5, **Susan O’Toole** 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.

Church Offering Envelopes for 2020

When you pick up your **2020 Offering Envelopes**, please take those for family or neighbors who may not be present. Envelope numbers change; please write your name and address on your envelope and continue to write your name on your envelope each week to ensure proper credit. A line for writing your name is printed on the 2020 envelopes. If you are not registered to receive envelopes, contact the parish office.

Remember In Prayer

Please pray for the health of **Rita Thornton** [Maple Winds]; **Ella Hoffman;** **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.

Liturgical Chant--The Feast of the Theophany

- For the Vigil Divine Liturgy [Vespers with Divine Liturgy] on Sunday at 5:00 pm, a booklet including all the prescribed proper parts will be distributed for this service.
- The Troparion and other prescribed parts of the Divine Liturgy for the **Theophany of Our Lord** on **Monday, January 6** are on pages **312-316**.
- The Troparion and other prescribed parts for **Sunday, January 12, Resurrection Troparion Tone 6**, may be found on **p. 152-153**; and for the **Sunday after Theophany**, on **p.316-318**.
- The **Our Father** in **Tone 6** may be found on p. 71.
- Please note instructions at the beginning of the Liturgy for opening hymns etc.

OTHER NEWS & EVENTS

Homebound and Nursing Home Residents—Remember in Prayer

At Home: SS Peter & Paul (Portage): Dorothy Billy; Catherine Czapp Louise Halovich; Joseph Mandichak; Michelle Maskal; Dorothy Majer; 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];
- **Maple Winds:** Rita Thornton;
- **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

Liturgical Schedule *Vigil of Theophany*—January 5, 2020

Sunday before Theophany—Vigil of Theophany		
Saturday January 4		
Dunlo	<u>5:00 PM</u>	Vigil Divine Liturgy [+Pauline Valko, by Marilyn Jenkins]
Sunday January 5		
Portage	<u>9:00 AM</u>	Sunday Divine Liturgy

Feast of the Theophany of Our Lord		
Sunday, January 5		
Beaverdale	<u>5:00 PM</u>	<i>Vigil Divine Liturgy—Vespers with Liturgy of St. Basil</i> Great Sanctification of Water
Monday, January 6		
Portage	<u>9:00 AM</u>	Divine Liturgy & Great Sanctification of Water [+Mary Vrabel, by Paul Vrabel—40 th Day Commemoration]
Portage	<u>7:00 PM</u>	Divine Liturgy

Tuesday, January 7, 2020
No Divine Liturgy scheduled

Wednesday, January 8, 2020
No Divine Liturgy scheduled

Thursday, January 9
No Divine Liturgy scheduled

Friday, January 10
Portage 7:45 AM The Third Hour
 8:00 AM **Divine Liturgy** [+Health of Veronica Delaney, by Bucky Helmich]

Saturday, January 11
Portage 3:00 PM Mystery of Repentance [Confessions]
Beaverdale 4:30 PM Mystery of Repentance [Confessions]

Sunday after Theophany		
Saturday January 11		
Beaverdale	<u>5:00 PM</u>	Vigil Divine Liturgy [+Edward Andrykovitch, by Michael Blazosky-40th Day Commemoration]
Sunday January 12		
Portage	<u>9:00 AM</u>	Sunday Divine Liturgy