



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

Sunday December 29 Troitsja: Lexi Slanoc

Bulletins: Kaleb Castel & Lexi Slanoc

Sunday January 5 2020 Troitsja: Bella Koban

Bulletins: Evan Lenz & Easton 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.



New Year's Day:

The Circumcision of our Lord; Feast of Saint Basil

The Circumcision of Our Lord, God and Savior Jesus Christ: *Coming eight days after the birth of Christ, this feast commemorates his naming and his becoming a member of the Covenant of Moses.*

"In his love for the human race, the Savior condescended and willed to be wrapped in swaddling clothes. Eight days old according to his mother and eternal according to his Father, He did not look down upon the circumcision of the flesh. Therefore, O believers, let us cry out to Him: You are our God; have mercy on us!" [Vesper Stichera]

Our Holy Father Basil the Great, Archbishop of Caesarea in Cappadocia: *Saint Basil is called "great" in learning and wisdom. He taught meditation on the Scriptures and manual work in obedience and fraternal love to his monks, and established a way of life for them in the Rules he wrote. He taught the faithful by his excellent writings and shone forth by his pastoral care for the poor and sick. He died in 379.*

"You gave drink to all the world by your teachings which were a collection of inspired dogmas. Indeed the source of life lived in you, O Basil. As one imbued with courage, O inspired one, entreat God to give us his great mercy." [Vesper Stichera]

" [Archbishop Joseph Raya, Byzantine Daily Worship,]

Happy New Year--2020

New Year's Day—January 1, 2020 is an occasion for giving thanks to God for the past year, and beginning a new year with hope and trust in God's providence. My sincere and prayerful best wishes to each of you, and to your families for a New Year in 2020 blessed with health, happiness and holiness.

The Litany used before Communion and at other services includes a petition, *"For what is good and beneficial to our souls and for peace in the world..."*. This is an especially fitting prayer for entering the New Year and the new decade of the 2020's.

Happy New Year 2020.

Eastern Christian Formation Calendar--Christmas & Theophany

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

The Vigil of Theophany

- The Royal Hours for Theophany [Office of Readings] are celebrated at 8:00am on Friday, January 3 and include psalms; hymns; Old Testament, Epistle, and Gospel readings.
- From Christmas to Theophany [December 25 to January 4] there is no fasting and abstinence.

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

GCU Matching Funds Grant Awarded

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

Our sincere thanks to the GCU for this generous grant and for their generosity over the years in supporting our Byzantine Catholic Church, its parishes and other 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.

PARISH NEWS & COMING EVENTS

Church Cleaning & Work Party for January

- The **Work Party** for January is scheduled for **Saturday, January 4**, 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**.



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, because of the Vigil of the Feast of Theophany on Sunday, January 5.

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

Sanctuary Candle

The Sanctuary Candle is offered this week at Saints Peter and Paul, Portage in memory of **+George Letzo** requested by Julie Brenna.

Saint Michael's Memorial Project

Earlier in the year a project to provide a memorial monument at the site of the former Saint Michael's parish and the parish cemetery in South Fork was announced. We thank those who have donated for this project for your generosity. An acknowledgment of donors will be listed in the bulletin early in 2020.

We are presently developing a plan to alleviate drainage problems at the site of the former church and cemetery. The excessive water draining into this year would impair 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.

Church Offering Envelopes for 2020

2020 Offering Envelopes for Saints Peter and Paul Portage are available. When you pick up your box of 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.

Hymnals for the Feast of Christmas & Theophany

The **"Byzantine Catholic Hymnal for Nativity and Theophany"** will be available for services for Christmas and Theophany. They contain the traditional hymns for Christmas particular to our church in English and Church Slavonic as well as the more common Christmas Carols in English.

The hymn booklets will be on the table in the back of church. Please take a copy before going to your pew and return the booklet to the table in the back after the Divine Liturgy.

Eternal Memory

You are asked to pray for the repose of the soul of **+ Barry Krisko**, who fell asleep in the Lord on December 21. We extend our deepest sympathy and prayerful support to his brother Gary; his sisters Carol Goral and Diane Krisko; and to all of his family.

Remember In Prayer

Please pray for the health of **Rita Thornton** [Maple Winds]; **Vaughn George** [Memorial Hospital]; **Ella Hoffman**; **Marian Simala**; **Jennifer Crum Bailey**; **Michael Barelick**; **Kennady Grace Spaid**; **Joseph Lysic**; **Rose Single**; **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.

Please pray for the repose of the soul of **+Andrew James**, brother-in-law of Stella Raptosh.

Liturgical Chant--The Feast of the Circumcision; Sunday before Theophany

- The Troparion and other prescribed parts of the Divine Liturgy for **Wednesday, January 1**, the **Feast of the Circumcision** and **Our Holy Father Basil the Great** [New Year's Day] are on pages 305-308. The musical setting for the *Anaphora of Saint Basil* may be found on pages 96-100.
- The Troparion and other prescribed parts of the Divine Liturgy for **Sunday, January 5** are: **Resurrection Troparion Tone 5** on p. 146-148; and for the **Sunday before Theophany** on p.310-311.
- The *Our Father* in **Tone 5** may be found on p. 70.
- Please note instructions at the beginning of the Liturgy for opening hymns etc.

Pilgrim Vocation Icon

During the week of December 29, **Julie Brenna** 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.

OTHER NEWS & EVENTS

New Year's Eve at St. John's Hall Conemaugh

New Year's Eve--Tuesday, December 31 at St. John's Hall, 35 Main Street, Conemaugh 8:30 P.M., Doors open. 9 PM--12:30 AM.

Music, by the Sound of "**Swing City**" [Jazz/"Big Band"/Swing/& more]. Beer, Wine, Soda provided; [other beverages BYOB]. Snacks, Hors D'oeuvres; Desserts; "Traditional Buffet" served at 10PM. \$25 per person. For reservations: call (814)539-8613 or (814) 539-8841.

GCU Scholarship Applications Now Being Accepted

GCU is accepting applications for scholarship awards until December 31; available for **GCU** members who are college students or in secondary education program; two athletic scholarships (1 female and 1 male) are available. Details and application: 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; 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 *Nativity of Our Lord*—December 29, 2019

Sunday after Christmas

The Holy and Just Joseph; David; Holy Apostle James, Brother of the Lord.

Saturday December 28

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

Sunday December 29

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

Monday December 30

No Divine Liturgy scheduled

Circumcision of Our Lord--New Year's Day--Feast of Saint Basil the Great

Tuesday, December 31

Beaverdale **5:00 pm** Great Vespers with Litija

Wednesday, January 1, 2020

Portage **10:00 AM** Divine Liturgy

Thursday, January 2

No Divine Liturgy scheduled

Friday, January 3

Portage **8:00 AM** *Royal Hours of Theophany*

Saturday, January 4

Portage **2:30 PM** Mystery of Repentance [Confessions]

Dunlo **4:30 PM** Mystery of Repentance [Confessions]

Sunday before Theophany—Vigil of Theophany

Saturday January 4

Dunlo **5:00 PM** Vigil Divine Liturgy [+Pauline Valko, by Marilyn Jenkins]

Sunday January 5

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

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*