



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](http://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**

<b><u>Sunday February 23 2020</u></b>	<u>Troitsja:</u> Bella Koban	<u>Bulletins:</u> Lexi Slanoc & Ryan Lenz
<b><u>Sunday March 1 2020</u></b>	<u>Troitsja:</u> Evan Lenz	<u>Bulletins:</u> Bella Koban & Kaleb Castel
<b><u>Sunday March 8 2020</u></b>	<u>Troitsja:</u> Abby Koban	<u>Bulletins:</u> Evan Lenz & Jakob Czapp

#### **Parish Sunday Bulletin Available Online and by Email Transmission**

The Sunday bulletin is posted on the parish website, [www.ByzantineCatholic.net](http://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](mailto:james_armand_spontak@verizon.net) with this request.



## **The Sunday of Cheesefare—We Begin The Great Fast**

We come to the beginning of the Great Fast. The services and readings of today's Divine Liturgy prepare us to take that first step. Today's Gospel reminds that *fasting, almsgiving and prayer*, to be effective, cannot be merely external display which is done to impress others. In Matthew 6, Jesus warns about fasting, almsgiving and prayer practiced "*before men in order to be seen by them*" [Matthew 6:1]. This deprives us of the benefits which otherwise result. Today's Gospel instruct us on the proper dispositions for fasting [Matthew 6:16-18]; it encourages us to fast in a way that assures that "*your Father who sees what is hidden will repay you.*"

We begin the season of the **Great Fast** tomorrow, Monday, February 24. This first day of Lent is a day of *strict abstinence (fast)*; we abstain from meat, eggs and dairy products. The Wednesdays and Fridays of the Great Fast are days of *simple abstinence* on which we abstain from meat. Please refer to the regulations for the Great Fast on the next page of the bulletin.

**Today** we begin the Lenten season with **Cheesefare Sunday Vespers** at 5:00 pm. The **Liturgy of Presanctified Gifts** will be on Monday, February 24; and on Wednesdays and Fridays of Lent.

Following the Divine Liturgy **today** parishioners will draw the name of **Prayer Partners** for Great Lent. We remember our *Prayer Partner* daily as inspired by the words of Saint Paul:

**"And this is my prayer: that your love may increase ever more and more in knowledge and every kind of perfection, to discern what is of value, so that you may be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God."** [Philippians 1:9-11]

### **Lenten Adult Education and Enrichment Series**

A series of **Adult Education and Enrichment** sessions begins next Sunday, March 1 and continues on the Sundays of March, from 4:00-5:30pm. These sessions will be on **The Mystery of Repentance** or Confession. Some of the topics to be discussed will be *sin and reconciliation; guilt and repentance; identifying sin today; and examination of conscience*.

Our sessions will be developed from a program titled, "**The Kiss of Christ: The Mystery of Repentance**." It includes a DVD presentation along with a study guide. The study guide for this program provides this overview of the video and course:

**"The Byzantine Church affirms that our true nature is union with God in Christ. We need to recognize the reality of sin if we are to nurture our relationship with God. In the video we are invited to explore the wonderful gift of repentance. We human beings are constantly in need of examining the path our life is taking and to change course if necessary. The Church provides many opportunities, such as days of fasting and great feasts, to help us in our life's journey with Christ. One of those opportunities is the Holy Mystery of Confession and repentance."**

We hope that this will be both an enlightening and edifying occasion to gather in study, prayer and reflection, both to deepen our understanding and strengthen our faith.

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**The Byzantine Catholic Metropolitan Archeparchy of Pittsburgh  
Office of the Archbishop**

**66 Riverview Avenue Pittsburgh PA 15214**

**Regulations for the Season of the Great Fast - 2020**

The fasts of the liturgical year are to be kept in accordance with the Norms of Particular Law of the Byzantine Metropolitan Church *sui juris* of Pittsburgh.

**Simple abstinence**

- The law of simple abstinence forbids the use of meat, but permits the use of eggs and dairy products.
- All faithful of the Archeparchy who receive the Eucharist are obliged to observe simple abstinence when prescribed. Abstinence is obligatory on all Wednesdays and Fridays of the Great Fast.

**Strict abstinence**

- The law of strict abstinence (fast) forbids the use and consumption of all meat, eggs and dairy products.
- All faithful of the Archeparchy who receive the Eucharist are obliged to observe strict abstinence when prescribed.
- Strict abstinence (fast) **is to be observed in 2019 on Pure Monday, February 24** (the first day of the Great Fast), **and on Great and Holy Friday, April 10**.

**Dispensations**

- Priests and parents are to ensure that minors are educated in the authentic sense of penance.
- Pastors and administrators, with just cause and taking into account acceptable reasons due to personal circumstances, may grant to the individual faithful as well as to individual families, dispensations, transferals, or commutations of abstinence and strict fast into other pious practices. Superiors of religious houses or clerical institutions enjoy these same faculties relative to their constituents.

**Liturgical Services**

- The Divine Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts takes precedence over all other Lenten Devotions.
- The Divine Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts only is to be celebrated on Wednesdays and/or Friday evenings of the Great Fast and also on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday of Holy Week.

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**PARISH NEWS & COMING EVENTS**



**Coffee Social for March –**

There will be a *Coffee and Donut Social* next Sunday, March 1, following the 9 am Divine Liturgy. Please take this opportunity to greet fellow parishioners and enjoy the coffee and refreshments.

**Church Cleaning & Work Party for March**

- The *Church Cleaning* for March is scheduled for Monday, March 2, at 9:00 am.
- The *Work Party* for March will be on Saturday, March 7, at 10:30 am. Please note this *change in time* due to the second *All Souls Saturday* on Saturday, March 7.
- Thanks once again to those who volunteer for these monthly projects.

## **Eastern Christian Formation**

A meeting for *Catechists* is being scheduled for Saturday, February 29 at 11:00 a.m.

## **Byzantine Catholic Convention: A Vibrant Byzantine Church**

The National Byzantine Catholic Convention will be at Saint John the Baptist Cathedral in Munhall, November 12-14. The event is primarily for leaders and members of the Byzantine Catholic Church for the purpose of *prayer, fellowship, formation and mission* as a national body of Eastern Catholics. The theme is ***Growing a Vibrant Byzantine Church***. Talks and workshops will be offered on becoming missionary disciples, to cultivate vibrant eparchies, parishes, monasteries, missions, where Christ is encountered and worshipped. Registration begins March 1. [byzantineconvention.com](http://byzantineconvention.com)

## **Great Lent: A Spiritual Journey to Pascha**

*God With Us Online* live webinar, free of charge. Register at [EasternCatholic.org/Events](http://EasternCatholic.org/Events):

**Great Lent: A Spiritual Journey to Pascha** presented by Father David Anderson on Wednesdays, February 26, March 4, 11 and 18, 8:00-9:00 p.m. Using Rev. Alexander Schmemmann's Great Lent as our guide, this series examine the liturgies of the Great Fast to help us experience them more deeply and make the most out of this season of preparation for Pascha.

## **Liturgical Chant—The Great Fast**

- **2009 Edition of the Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts** includes propers for the first day; Wednesdays, and Fridays for all weeks of the Fast. Pages are given before the service.
- On the **Sundays of the Great Fast**, the *Typical Psalms* [p. 16-17] replace the First and Second Antiphons; the *Beatitudes* [p. 23-24] are sung in place of the Third Antiphon. The responses for the Anaphora of Saint Basil the Great are on p. 96-100.
- The Troparion and other parts of the Divine Liturgy for **Sunday, March 1**, are: Resurrection Troparion Tone 5 on p. 146-148; and for the **First Sunday of the Great Fast**-on pages 220-222.
- 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.

## **Remember In Prayer**

Please pray for the health of **Bishop John Pazak CSsR** of the Byzantine Catholic Eparchy of Phoenix, who had knee replacement surgery this past week; **Katie Czapp; Ella Hoffman; Marian Simala; Jennifer Crum Bailey; Michael Barelick; Kennady Grace Spaid; Joseph Lysic; Rose Single; Mary Donnelly; George Pyo Jr.; Daniel & Mary 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.

## **Pilgrim Vocation Icon**

During the week of February 23 **Marianne George** 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.

## Memorial Donation

We gratefully acknowledge an additional donation to Saints Peter and Paul Church, Portage, in memory of **+Joseph Raptosh** from *Father Stephen Wahal*, Saint Michael Byzantine Catholic Church, Donora. *Eternal Memory.*

## OTHER NEWS & EVENTS

### Vox Nova at Holy Family Parish

*Vox Nova* choral ensemble of students from Mount Aloysius College presents in concert *Spiritual Stations of the Cross* and reflect on each Station on Friday, February 28, 7:00 PM, Holy Family Parish. A truly different experience, one you will remember. Free offering collected and given to the group.

### Basket Party

*Basket Party* benefits *Relay for Life of Cambria County*, Saturday, March 14, at New Germany Grove Hall, 6:00 to 9:00 pm. Doors open at 5:00 pm. Dinner - Assorted Homemade Soups, Rolls, Desserts, Beverages. Admission: \$20.00 (25 basket chances, door prize chance, and dinner). Door Prize: 40 inch TV. Sponsored by **"TEAM RAISING HOPE"**. Tickets at Ray's Lawnmower 495-4495].

### Mount Saint Macrina House of Prayer Schedule of Events

*Sacramental Healing In Mystery*, "Experience Healing in a Sacramental Church", by Father John Marcucci, Saturday, February 29, 9:30 am to 3:00 pm. Includes lunch; an offering of \$35. Registration is due: February 24. The Eucharist and the Anointing of the Sick will be celebrated.

*Lenten Prayer Morning*, presented by Father Valerian Michlik, "O Lord, I Cry Out To You, Hear Me!" Saturday, March 7, 9:15 am-1: 00 pm. Includes Lunch Offering: \$35. Registration Due: March 3. The Sacrament of Reconciliation will be offered along with a conference and a prayer service.

*Lenten Thursday, Bible Study*, presented by Sr. Melita Marie, OSBM, March 5 to April 2, 2020. 9:30 to 11:30 am; Free will offering. Registration is due February 20. Bible Study sessions will develop Great Fast [Lent] themes and will include prayer of praise and petition. Bring your favorite Bible.

To register for above programs, call 724-438-7149; or email [hpmsm@verizon.net](mailto:hpmsm@verizon.net)

### **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; 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

## Sanctuary Candle

The Candle is offered this week for *+Regina Havrilla*, requested by John and Barbara Havrilla

### Liturgical Schedule 1<sup>st</sup> Week of the Great Fast February 23 2020

		<b>Cheesefare Sunday</b>
<b><u>Saturday February 22</u></b>		
Beaverdale	<b><u>5:00 PM</u></b>	Vigil Divine Liturgy
<b><u>Sunday February 23</u></b>		
Portage	<b><u>9:00 AM</u></b>	Sunday Divine Liturgy
		[+Regina Havrilla, by John and Barbara Havrilla]
Portage	<b><u>5:00 PM</u></b>	Cheesefare Sunday Vespers

#### **Monday, February 24**

Portage 6:30 PM  
**7:00 PM**

**First Day of the Great Fast:**  
***Strict abstinence and fasting required***  
Mystery of Repentance [Confessions]  
**Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts**

#### **Tuesday, February 25**

No Lenten services scheduled

#### **Wednesday, February 26**

Portage 6:30 PM  
**7:00 PM**

***Simple abstinence and fasting required***  
Mystery of Repentance [Confessions]  
**Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts**

#### **Thursday, February 27**

No Lenten services scheduled

#### **Friday, February 28**

Portage 6:30 PM  
**7:00 PM**

***Simple abstinence and fasting required***  
Mystery of Repentance [Confessions]  
**Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts**

#### **Saturday February 29**

Portage 3:00 PM  
Dunlo 4:30 PM

Mystery of Repentance [Confessions]  
Mystery of Repentance [Confessions]

		<b>First Sunday of the Great Fast</b>
		<b>Sunday of Orthodoxy—Memory of the Holy Prophets</b>
<b><u>Saturday February 29</u></b>		
Dunlo Family]	<b><u>5:00 PM</u></b>	Vigil Divine Liturgy [+Carolyn Garanich, by Robert Podrebarac
<b><u>Sunday March 1</u></b>		
Portage	<b><u>9:00 AM</u></b>	Sunday Divine Liturgy