



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 February 9 2020

Troitsja: Easton Slanoc Bulletins: Evan Lenz & Jakob

Czapp

Sunday February 16 2020

Troitsja: Kaleb Castel

Bulletins: Abby Koban & Easton Slanoc

Sunday February 23 2020

Troitsja: Bella Koban

Bulletins: Bella Koban & Kaleb Castel

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.



All Souls Commemorations—Prayer for the Departed

On Saturday, February 15 we observe the first of a series of commemorations of the faithful departed—**All Souls Saturdays**. Our prayer for the deceased on these days, as well as at the Divine Liturgy and other occasions, expresses something deeply significant in our faith as Byzantine Catholics. Archbishop Joseph Raya offers this reflection on remembrance of and prayer for the deceased in Byzantine Daily Worship, [pages 983-984].

“The body of the Christian—alive or dead—is the temple of the Living God: it is laid to rest in the grave as a candidate to resurrection. In the primitive Church, the Service of the Dead was called the ‘Prayer of Thanksgiving’. Even now, it consists mainly in psalmody and praise: God is exalted for having delivered the deceased from the afflictions of this world, for they are now going to a place of repose and happiness where He Himself will receive them. Hence Christian mourning is tinged with joy.

“The words in Greek and in Latin [coemeteria] for Christian burial-places means “sleeping-places.” For the Christian, death is but a sleep, and bodies laid to rest in a cemetery are merely sleeping, in the expectation of resurrection.

“At the time of death, all men are burdened with traces of frailty and corruption. That is why we ask God to deal with them according to his mercy, to pardon their failures: for there is no man who lives and does not sin.”

“Our prayers help the dead because of their union with us in Christ the Head: we are all members of his Mystical Body. In his commentary on the Second Epistle to the Corinthians, St. John Chrysostom explains: ‘The dead are not so much to be lamented as helped with prayers, supplications, alms and offerings. Such things were not designed in vain, nor is it without reason that, in the celebration of the Holy Mysteries, we mention the dead, interceding for them with the Lamb who is slain to take away the sins of the world. From all this, some consolation will go up to them. Neither again is it in vain that the priest, standing at the altar during the celebration of the Divine Mysteries, cries out : ‘We offer You this sacrifice for all who are asleep in Christ and all who make commemorations in their honor. Let us then not grow weary of helping them and praying for them.’

“Another purpose of the Funeral Service and prayers for the faithful departed is to lead the living to virtue and holiness by reminding them of death and preparing them for it. Most of the hymns point out that earthly comforts, beauty, riches, health and power are God-given favors that should help us get ready for better and more permanent treasures still to come.”

Vespers for the Deceased will be on **Friday, February 14** at **6:00 pm** at Saint Peter and Paul, Dunlo. The **Divine Liturgy** and **Panachida** at Saints Peter and Paul, Portage is on Saturday at **9:00 am**. To enter names of deceased family or relatives to be remembered at the All Souls Divine Liturgy and Panachida, please submit them to the rectory at your earliest convenience

Annual “Appreciation Dinner”—TODAY--Sunday February 9

The Annual “Appreciation Dinner” is **TODAY--Sunday, February 9**, following the Divine Liturgy.

Our thanks to those who helped with the preparations and to those participating in this event on which our parish family is acknowledged with gratitude for the generosity and support shown on so many occasions throughout the year.

Church Music Day for Cantors

In a letter announcing an event devoted to our liturgical chant, Metropolitan William offers the following information and words to encourage participation in this event:

“Our chant is an important part of our liturgical services, and of our Church's tradition. It is well worth our time and effort to invest in improving the skills of our cantors and in attracting new singers to become cantors, so that our church services can be as prayerful and as beautiful as possible. With this in mind, the Archeparchy of Pittsburgh will be holding an event at the Cathedral of St. John the Baptist in Munhall on **Saturday, February 22**.

- “**All cantors** of the Archeparchy of Pittsburgh are asked to attend the morning session, from 9 AM to noon, to discuss the needs of our Church in regards to church singing, and how they can best be met. This meeting, which is open to current serving cantors and assistant cantors (as well as retired cantors) will be moderated by Deacon Jeffrey Mierzejewski.
- “The **clergy** and **faithful** of the Archeparchy are cordially invited to the afternoon session from 2-4 PM. This presentation and sing-along will address the spirit of our plain chant; our paraliturgical hymns for the Great Fast and Holy Week; and the restoration and fostering of our plain chant, including the practice of harmonization of plain chant "by ear" which has long been practiced in our parishes.”

PARISH NEWS & COMING EVENTS

Parish Advisory Council Meetings

The next meeting of the **Parish Advisory Council** for Saint Mary's, Beaverdale and Saints Peter & Paul, Dunlo is **Wednesday, February 12**, at 7:00 pm.

Minutes of previous **Parish Advisory Council** meetings are included in today's Sunday's bulletin.

GREAT LENT: A Spiritual Journey to Pascha

A series of *Spring 2020* educational offerings from **God With Us Online** begin this week. All courses are offered as live webinars, free of charge. Register at EasternCatholic.org/Events

GREAT LENT: A Spiritual Journey to Pascha will be presented by Father David Anderson on **Wednesdays, February 26, March 4, 11 and 18** at **8:00 - 9:00 p.m. ET**. With the late Rev. Alexander Schmemmann's important work *Great Lent* as our guide, this four-week series will take us through the liturgies of the Great Fast to help us experience them more deeply and make the most out of the Church's beautiful season of preparation for Pascha.

We invite you to join us for the first four Wednesdays of the Fast as we contemplate the spiritual journey of **Great Lent**. Rev. David Anderson, himself a student of Fr. Alexander, will walk us through the book to understand the prayer of the Church during the Great Fast more deeply.

Eastern Christian Formation

- There are no *Eastern Christian Formation* classes TODAY--Sunday, February 9 because of the *Annual Appreciation Dinner*.
- A meeting for *Catechists* is being scheduled for Saturday, February 29 at 11:00 a.m.

The Byzantine Catholic World

The *Byzantine Catholic World* [BCW] is published once-a-month, and provides news of our Archeparchy, parishes, and the church throughout the world, and articles on faith and spirituality. The annual subscription rate is \$14. There is an envelope in your packet of offering envelopes which you may use to begin or renew your annual subscription. *Thank you!*

Offerings for January				
	Jan 5	Jan 12	Jan 19	Jan 26
Portage:	\$1,423.00	\$1,924.00	\$909.00	\$1,775.00
Beaverdale:	\$ 373.00	\$ 346.00	\$ 218.00	\$ 360.00
Dunlo:	\$ 150.00	\$ 240.00	\$ 112.00	\$ 100.00

Statements of Parishioners' Offerings

Statements of 2019 parishioner offerings for Saint Peter and Paul, Portage are available in the narthex. If you have any questions or corrections regarding your 2019 offerings, you may call the rectory [814-736-9780] or send your question to james_armand_spontak@verizon.net.

Memorial Donations

We gratefully acknowledge additional donations to Saints Peter and Paul Church, Portage, in memory of **+Michael Mazur** from *Dale and Betty Purich* of Silver Spring, Maryland. *Eternal Memory.*

• Liturgical Chant—Pre-Lenten Sundays

- The Troparion and other prescribed parts for the **All Souls Saturday—February 15** may be found on [pages 202 and 428](#); and for the Panachida on [page 432](#).
- The Troparion and other prescribed parts of the Divine Liturgy for **Sunday, February 16**, are: [Resurrection Troparion Tone 3](#) on p. 135-137; and for **The Sunday of the Last Judgment--Meatfare Sunday** on p. 217-218.
- 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.

Remember In Prayer

Please pray for the health of *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.

Sanctuary Candle

The Candle is offered this week in memory of *+Margaret Halovich* [Birthday], requested by Louise Halovich.

OTHER NEWS & EVENTS

Basket Party

Basket Party to benefit *Relay for Life of Cambria County*, on Saturday, March 14, at New Germany Grove Hall, from 6:00 to 9:00 pm. Doors open at 5:00 pm. Includes: Dinner - Assorted Homemade Soups, Rolls, Desserts and Beverages. Admission: \$20.00 (includes 25 basket chances, door prize chance and dinner). Door Prize: 40 inch TV.

Sponsored by "**TEAM RAISING HOPE**". Tickets available at Ray's Lawnmower S&S. 814-495-4495.

Mount Saint Macrina House of Prayer Schedule of Events

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.

Sacramental Healing In Mystery, "*Experience Healing in a Sacramental Church*" presented by Father John Marcucci on Saturday, February 29, from 9:30 am to 3:00 pm. The program includes lunch; an offering of \$35. Registration is due: February 24. The Liturgy of the Eucharist and the Anointing of the Sick will be celebrated with validated Scriptural presentations. Free Will Offering Registration due by March 11.

To register for above programs, call 724-438-7149; or email hpmsm@verizon.net

Pre-Cana Preparation Program in 2020

The **Pre-Cana Preparation** program offered by the Archeparchy of Pittsburgh will be on Saturday, March 21 and Saturday, March 28 at Saints Cyril and Methodius Byzantine Catholic Seminary in Pittsburgh. Those contemplating Marriage and the celebration of the Holy Mystery of Crowning in Marriage in 2020 are asked to note that the **Pre-Cana Program** is a required part of the marriage preparation. Information at www.archpitt.org; go to "Offices" and "Office of Religious Education".

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 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 week of February 2 & February 9 **Lori & Matt Murphy** 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 Sunday of Prodigal Son February 9 2020

Sunday of the Prodigal Son

Saturday February 8

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

Sunday February 9

Portage **9:00 AM** **Sunday Divine Liturgy** [+Frank Yetsko, by Gary & Debbie Krisko]

Monday, February 10

No Divine Liturgy scheduled

Tuesday, February 11

No Divine Liturgy scheduled

Wednesday, February 12

No Divine Liturgy scheduled

Thursday, February 13

Portage 7:45 AM The Third Hour
8:00 AM **Divine Liturgy** [+Thomas Spontak, by Michael & Pauline Barelick]

First All Souls Saturday

Friday, February 14

Dunlo **6:00 PM** **Vespers for the Deceased**
Panachida & Reading of the Names of the Deceased

Saturday, February 15

Portage **9:00 AM** **Divine Liturgy** followed by
Panachida & Reading of the Names of the Deceased
Portage 3:00 PM Mystery of Repentance [Confessions]
Dunlo 4:30 PM Mystery of Repentance [Confessions]

Meatfare Sunday-- Sunday of the Last Judgment

Saturday February 15

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

Sunday February 16

Portage **9:00 AM** **Sunday Divine Liturgy**
[+Vaughn George, by Marianne, Jeff, Aaron & Alisha and Families—40th Day Commemoration]