

Liturgical Schedule First Week of the Great Fast — February 27, 2022

Sunday of Cheesefare

Saturday February 26, 2022

Beaverdale 5:00 PM

Vigil Divine Liturgy

Sunday February 27, 2022

Portage 9:00 AM

Sunday Divine Liturgy [+Margaret Fleck, by M/M Paul Lenz & Family]

Portage 5:00 PM

Cheesefare Sunday Vespers

Monday, February 28

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

Wednesday, March 2

Portage 6:30 PM

7:00 PM

Simple abstinence and fasting required

Mystery of Repentance [Confessions]

Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts

Friday, March 4

Portage 6:30 PM

7:00 PM

Simple abstinence and fasting required

Mystery of Repentance [Confessions]

Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts

Saturday March 5, 2022

Portage 3:00 pm

Confessions-Mystery of Repentance

Dunlo 4:30 pm

Confessions-Mystery of Repentance

First Sunday of the Great Fast

Saturday March 5, 2022

Dunlo 5:00 PM

Vigil Divine Liturgy [+Catherine Thrower, by Joseph & David Thrower]

Sunday March 6, 2022

Portage 9:00 AM

Sunday Divine Liturgy

Pastor's Notebook: We enter the Great Fast on Monday, February 28. While we have memories of our experience of Lent over the years, Lent is especially a time to look ahead, a new beginning. The disciplines of Lent are to assist us in this regard. Today's Epistle lesson [Romans 13:11-14] uses images of the dawning of a new day: "*Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep; the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light*"

Lenten regulations are listed in the insert. The first day of the Great Fast is a day of strict abstinence [from meat, dairy]; Wednesdays and Fridays are days of abstinence from meat. Lenten services are in the schedule above.

Our Lenten journey this year includes the burden of the invasion and war in Ukraine. Metropolitan William's pastoral letter [enclosed] calls attention to this. On the *Third Sunday of Lent* an offering will be taken for our Byzantine Catholic Church in Ukraine and forwarded to the Eparchy of Mukachevo. Envelopes will be provided for this offering. Also, prayers for this concern will be included in the services during Lent

Mysteries of Christian Initiation: Reid Thomas Crum received the **Mysteries of Christian Initiation** – Baptism, Chrismation, and Eucharist--on Saturday, February 26. He is the son of Shawn and Becky Crum. **Many happy years!**

“O Lord, our Master and God, call your servant to Your holy enlightenment, count him worthy of this great gift of Your holy baptism. Wash away his old self, and give him a new birth into everlasting life. Fill him with the power of Your Holy Spirit that he may be one with Your Christ...”

Cheesefare Sunday—Sunday of Forgiveness: The Church urges us to begin the Great Fast by mutual forgiveness. Metropolitan Kallistos of Diokleia states: *“Before we enter the Lenten fast, we are reminded that there can be no true fast, no genuine repentance, no reconciliation with God, unless we are at the same time reconciled with one another. A fast without mutual love is the fast of demons. We do not travel the road of Lent as isolated individuals but as members of a family.”*

Church Cleaning & Work Party for March:

- The **Church Cleaning** is **Monday, March 7**, at **9:00 am**.
- The **Work Party** is **Saturday, March 12** at **10:30 am**. *Please note* this adjustment in beginning time because of the All Souls Divine Liturgy and Panachida.

Bulletins and “Troitsja” Candle: Parish youth are resuming holding the Troitsja candle during the Gospel and distributing bulletins. A schedule is being prepared. Thanks for your participation in the Divine Liturgy in this way, and to the ushers who assist the youth in these roles.

2023 Synod of Bishops Preparation Process: In recent weeks, petitions have been included in the Litany of Supplication for the **2023 Synod of Bishops**, *“For Synodal Church: Communion, Participation, Mission.”* This will be a gathering of Catholic Bishops from throughout the world. In preparation for the 2023 Synod, Pope Francis is asking Catholics worldwide to take part in a survey questionnaire. There will be copies of this questionnaire in the narthex in the next few weeks. The questions ask how we can better live out the mission of Christ.

Adult Education sessions during the Great Fast will in part provide an opportunity to present more background on the 2023 Synod of Bishops and also on the survey questionnaire.

Eternal Memory: You are asked to pray for the repose of the soul of **+Helen Saintz**, the sister of Ann Bridge who has fallen asleep in the Lord earlier this month. We express our deepest sympathy and prayerful support to Ann Bridge and all of her family.

Remember in Prayer: The Health of Steve Paluch; Jason Thornton; Charlett Thornton; Catherine McGough; Carol Slifko; Deacon Daniel Perich; Donna Block; Holly Pawvluk; Michael & Pauline Barelick; and all the ill, homebound. The **2023 Synod of Bishops**, *“For Synodal Church: Communion, Participation, Mission.”* **HOMEBOUND PARISHIONERS:: SS Peter & Paul (Portage):** Dorothy Billy; Louise Halovich; Joseph Mandichak; Michelle Maskal; Dorothy Majer; Stella Raptosh; Cathy Walters.; **NURSING & CARE FACILITIES:** **Homewood**, Martinsburg: Charles Plishka [Beaverdale]; **Rebekah Manor**, Portage: Helen Zaher; **Autumn View:** June Nezneski; **Amber Hills:** Father Ronald Borsuk; **The Palms** [McKeesport]: Marian Simala; **John Paul II Manor**, Cresson: Kathryn Mackovyak; **Cambria Care**, Ebensburg: Dorothy Resconich; **Forest Hills Personal Care**, Sidman: Kathryn Malley.

Saints Peter & Paul Byzantine Catholic Church--

143 Church Drive—Portage, Pennsylvania 15946 **814-736-9780**

St. Mary Byzantine Catholic Church—Beaverdale;

Ss. Peter & Paul Byzantine Catholic Church--Dunlo

Father James A. Spontak Deacon Daniel Perich

Email: james_armand_spontak@verizon.net; 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.** Christian Initiation may be celebrated with the Sunday Divine Liturgy. Those selected to be sponsors must be persons who are qualified to be a sponsor according 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.**

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.

Opportunities for Stewardship: Parishioners are asked to make a commitment of **Time, Talent, and Treasure...** **Work Parties:** first Saturday of each month; **Church Cleaning** the first Monday.