



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
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PASCĦA –The Feast of the Resurrection of our Lord

Christ is risen! Indeed He is risen!

Holy Week and Pascha are at the very center of our faith and our parish life. And while we are not able to be together for worship, prayer and celebration this year, the meaning and importance of these days remain and have even new significance. *Good Friday, Holy and Great Saturday and Pascha* on Easter Sunday are a time we can set aside in prayer and remembrance.

The prayers for ***Blessing of Paschal Food*** are included in this bulletin. Families are encouraged to continue this tradition and to use the prayers of blessing as you enjoy the Paschal foods. The father or another family member may lead this prayer and the foods may be blessed with holy water.

Please continue to pray for those suffering from the ***Coronavirus*** or who have died from this disease; and for those working to halt its spread. And do continue your efforts to observe and cooperate with the guidelines provided to help us remain healthy and prevent the spread of this virus.

My prayers are with all of you at this blessed Holy Week and a joyful ***Pascha***. We look forward to returning to church and resuming our life of worship, prayer and community.

The Week of Pascha—Bright Week

- We share the greeting "***Christ is risen!***", "***Indeed He is risen!***" from now until Ascension, which is derived from the greeting of the disciples [Luke 24:34].
- There is no fasting during Bright Week.
- Through the fifty days from Pascha [Sunday of the Resurrection] until Pentecost, there is no kneeling at any time of prayer.

Pilgrim Vocation Icon

During the weeks: of March 15 and March 22 ***Julie Brenna*** had the ***Pilgrim Vocation Icon***;
April 5: ***Kathy Sekerak*** has the icon; April 12: ***Bob & Holly Koban & Family*** will have the icon;

Please remember **Lectors Kyprian Wojciechowski** and **Robert Jones**; and all the seminarians of the Archeparchy of Pittsburgh: **Seminarians John Welch; Luke Iyengar; Nathaniel Tapsak**; Diaconate candidates; and all of the Seminary community.

**The Byzantine Catholic Metropolitan
Archeparchy of Pittsburgh
2020 Paschal Message**

Christ is Risen! Indeed He is Risen!

This Easter Sunday hopefully will be the only time in our lifetime that we will celebrate Holy and Great Week from home watching live stream or listening to the radio. We never realize how blessed we have been, free and able to gather to prayerfully celebrate our traditional services remembering the death and resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ each year. We can also appreciate the years that the people of Eastern Europe and other countries, because of oppressive governments, were not able to celebrate and which they faithfully waited to celebrate again.

As I am writing today, the Corona virus is spreading through the United States. The pattern throughout the world is that it starts with a few cases, it spreads through the community, the hospitals fill, and then most people recover. We pray for those who will be called back to the Lord. We pray for our families, our churches, and that our world will return to normal soon.

The celebration of Great and Holy Week helps us to overcome our fears. Without faith in the Resurrection, people can be overwhelmed with fear. You can become obsessed with what could happen because of that which the media broadcasts twenty four hours a day. There is justifiable fear of illness and death. Also, the fear of financial difficulties or even collapse can be more frightening than death. Without faith, fear and hopelessness can take over.

With the support of our families, church, and community, we can overcome the medical problems and restore the financial system. As the crisis continues, please help and support those in need in whatever way that you can. Also, continue to support your priests, religious, and your church during the crisis. If we work together, we will rise up again.

With the eyes of faith, we can even overcome the fear of death. The icon of the Resurrection shows us the path. In the icon, Jesus is encircled by the light of the Resurrection which enlightens the living. The apostles hold up quotes from the Easter Matins service. And, Jesus also reaches into the darkness of the tombs and lifts the fallen into the light of the Resurrection and into eternal life. The evil one, his virus minions, and death itself is overcome.

It is sad that we are not able to gather to celebrate together this year for Easter, but we will appreciate it more next year. Please pray each day that our leaders be guided to act wisely to end the epidemic and restore the health of their people. I pray the light of our Lord's Resurrect enlightens your mind and protects you.

Sincerely yours in Christ,
Most Reverend William C. Skurla, D.D
Metropolitan Archbishop of Pittsburgh

BLESSING OF PASCHAL FOODS

Family sings [or recites]: *Christ is risen from the dead! By death he trampled death, and to those in the tombs he granted life!* [Three times]

BLESSING OF BREAD

Leader: Let us pray to the Lord.

Response: Lord, have mercy.

Leader: O Holy Master, Almighty Father and Eternal God, through our Lord Jesus Christ Who came down from heaven, giving life and salvation to the world, bless this bread by Your holy and spiritual blessing so that it may be, to all who will eat of it, for the salvation of soul, the health of body, and the protection against every illness and hostile attack. For you are a merciful and gracious God and we give glory to You, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and ever, and forever.

Response: Amen.

BLESSING OF MEAT PRODUCTS

Leader: Let us pray to the Lord.

Response: Lord, have mercy.

Leader: O Lord Jesus Christ our God, look down upon these meat products and bless them as You sanctified the ram which the faithful Abraham offered to You, and the lamb which Abel presented to You as a holocaust, and as You also sanctified the fattened calf which You ordered to be slain for the prodigal who returned to You. As he was considered worthy to partake of Your goodness, may we also enjoy these meats which You blessed and sanctified for the benefit of all of us. For you are the true Nourishment and the Giver of all good things, and we give glory to You, together with your eternal Father, and your most holy, gracious, and life-giving Spirit, now and ever, and forever.

Response: Amen.

BLESSING OF DAIRY PRODUCTS

Leader: Let us pray to the Lord.

Response: Lord, have mercy.

Leader: O God, our Lord and Master, Creator and Maker of all things, bless this cheese and butter, and together with them, the eggs and all other foods here present. Keep us in Your goodness, so that, as we partake of them, we may be filled with all Your generous gifts and indescribable goodness. For you are the Supreme Ruler and Yours are the kingdom, the power, and the glory, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and ever, and forever.

Response: Amen.

*Sprinkling the food with holy water, the **Leader** says:* These foods are blessed and sanctified by the sprinkling of this holy water, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Leader: *Through the Prayers of our holy Fathers, Lord Jesus Christ our God have mercy on us.*

Response: Amen.

New Icon of the Resurrection Displayed on Munster Road

A *new icon of the Resurrection*, a vinyl banner placed on the frame of our old church sign, is now displayed near the Munster Road entrance to Church Road. *Please drive by soon to see it!*

Blessed Palms and Pussy-Willow Branches

Palms and Pussy-Willow Branches blessed on Palm Sunday will be -willow branches will be available when we resume our regular schedule for the Divine Liturgy and other services.

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*; all the ill & homebound. Also, for the repose of the soul of *Sister Lucille Tepper BNSC*, the last surviving member of the Byzantine Nuns of Saint Clare, who fell asleep in the Lord on, March 31.

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

Live-Streamed Eastern Catholic Liturgical Services

Cathedral of St. John: www.stiohnsbyzantinecathedral.com

Saturday 5:00 p.m.

Sunday 9:00 a.m.

Holy Ghost, McKees Rocks: www.holvehost-byzantinecatholic.org WEDO Radio 810 AM

Sunday 9:00 a.m.

St. John Chrysostom: www.sibcc.com Sunday 10:30 a.m.

St. Gregory Upper St Clair: www.stgregorvusc.org

Saturday 5:00 p.m.

Sunday 9:30 a.m.

The metropolitancantorinstitute.org offers a collection of live-streamed *Eastern Catholic liturgical services* throughout the United States and the world: <http://liveliturgy.com/>.

Also, the metropolitancantorinstitute.org a variety of resources for *prayer at home*.