

Liturgical Schedule PASCHA and Bright Week April 4, 2021

Pascha – The Glorious Resurrection of Our Lord Jesus Christ

Saturday April 3

Portage 7:00 PM **Resurrection Matins & Paschal Divine Liturgy**
Followed by Blessing of Paschal Food—Blessing in the Church

Sunday April 4

Beaverdale 8:00 AM **Procession & Paschal Divine Liturgy**
Followed by Blessing of Paschal Food—Blessing in the Church

Portage 10:30 AM **Paschal Divine Liturgy**
Followed by Blessing of Paschal Food—Blessing in the Church

Bright Monday April 5

Bright Monday

Portage 9:00 AM **Divine Liturgy Followed by Procession with the Resurrection Gospels**

Bright Tuesday April 6

Bright Tuesday

Portage 8:50 AM Hours of Bright Week
9:00 AM **Divine Liturgy**

Bright Friday April 9

Portage 7:50 AM Hours of Bright Week
8:00 AM Divine Liturgy

Bright Saturday April 10

Portage 3:00 PM Mystery of Repentance [Confessions]
Dunlo 4:30 PM Mystery of Repentance [Confessions]

Second Paschal Sunday - Sunday of Thomas

Saturday April 10

Dunlo 5:00 PM **Vigil Divine Liturgy** [+Pauline Valko by Jon & Irene Gindlesperger]

Sunday April 11

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

The Week of Pascha—Bright Week: Prayerful best wishes for a joyful celebration of Pascha—the Resurrection of our Lord.

- 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.
- On **Bright Monday**, there is a procession which stops at the four sides of the church, and at each side we read the accounts of the resurrection from each of the four Gospels.

Church Cleaning & Work Party for April: The *Church Cleaning* is scheduled for **Monday, April 12**, at 9:00 am. The *Work Party* for April will be on **Saturday, April 10**, at 9:00 am. Please note this *changes* due to ***Bright Monday*** [April 5] and ***Holy Saturday*** [April 3].

Thanks once again to those who volunteer for these monthly *Church Cleaning* and *Work Party*.

Eastern Christian Formation Program: There are no *ECF Classes* on Sunday, April 4-- Pascha—the Resurrection of our Lord. *ECF Classes* resume Thomas Sunday—Sunday April 11.

Your cooperation with guidelines posted in the narthex is appreciated.

- ***Face masks*** are required to protect one another [provided in narthex for your convenience.]
- After each person has received, the ***Communion spoon*** is sanitized in a vessel containing an alcohol product [75% alcohol] which is drinkable, to encourage participation in the Eucharist.

21st Annual Ss. Cyril and Methodius Lecture: *Father Deacon Daniel Galadza* will present the **21st Annual Ss. Cyril and Methodius Lecture: "The Liturgy of Jerusalem: History, Theology, and Lessons for Today"**; Tuesday, May 18, 2021 at 7:00 pm. In-Person: St. John Cathedral Center, 210 Greentree, Munhall, Pennsylvania [Covid-19 restrictions in place; or Live-Streamed: www.youtube.com/c/ByzantineCatholicSeminary or www.bcs.edu.

This event is FREE but due to space limitations registration for in-person attendees is required by May 4. Register on-line at www.bcs.edu; or call: 412-321-8383, ext. #36.

Annual Spring Basket Auction at *St. John the Baptist Byzantine Catholic Church*, 719 Chestnut Avenue, Northern Cambria, Saturday, April 17 5:00 to 7:00 pm; Sunday, April 18, 11:30 am to 3:00pm. Drawing at 3:00pm on Sunday. Winners will be called and can pick up their baskets between 4 and 6 pm. Tickets: \$5.00 for 26 tickets; available at the Church Hall. Takeout food available. Coronavirus guidelines: Wear masks; Keep 6 feet apart; follow arrows marked on floor.

Remember in Prayer

For the Health of: *Alice FERENCE; Marian Simala* [McKeesport Hospital]; *Deacon Daniel Perich; Donna Block; Marge Fleck; Michael & Pauline Barelick; Msgr. Russell Duker; Father Simeon Sibenik*; all the ill, homebound. Also, for the repose of the soul of ***+Jean Figel*** mother of Jack Figel, publisher of the Eastern Christian Publication bulletin covers

HOMEBOUND PARISHIONERS At home: SS Peter & Paul (Portage): Dorothy Billy; Louise Halovich; Joseph Mandichak; Michelle Maskal; Dorothy Majer; Stella Raptosh;; Cathy Walters; Helen Zaher.

St. Mary (Beaverdale): Catherine McGough; Charles and Joan Plishka

NURSING & CARE FACILITIES: Arbutus Park Manor: Margaret Rachael [Dunlo]; Autumn View: June Nezneski; Amber Hills: *Father Ronald Borsuk*; The Palms [McKeesport]: Marian Simala; **John Paul II Manor**, Cresson: Kathryn Mackovyak; **Just Like Home Personal Care**, Cresson: Dorothy Resconich;

Christ is risen! Indeed He is risen!
Christos Voskrese! Voistinnu Voskrese!
Christos Anesti! Alithos Anesti!

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.

Resurrection Homily of John Chrysostom

If there be any devout people who love God, let them enjoy this splendid and radiant Feast. If any of them be wise servants, let them blissfully enter into the joy of their Lord. If any of them have labored long in fasting let them now receive their reward. If any have toiled from the first hour, let them now receive their just wage. If any came at the third hour, let them gratefully join in the Feast. If any arrived at the sixth hour, they should not be afraid, for they will not be deprived of anything. If any of them tarried even until the ninth hour, let them approach without hesitation. If any arrived only at the eleventh hour, they should not worry on account of their tardiness. For the Master loves to grant honors and will receive the last just as the first. He gives rest to the one who came at the eleventh hour, just as He does to the one who toiled from the first hour. He shows his mercy to the last and his care for the fast. To the one He gives; on the other, He showers gifts. He accepts deeds and welcomes intentions. He honors labors and praises resolutions.

And so, let all enter into the joy of their Lord, and let the first as well as the last receive the reward. Let the rich and the poor celebrate together. Let the resourceful and the slothful honor this Day. Let those who fasted and those who did not fast be glad today. The table is bountifully set; let all be satisfied. The calf is fattened; let no one go away hungry. Let everyone enjoy the cup of faith. Let everyone receive the richness of grace. Let none grieve at the poverty, for the kingdom that belongs to all people has been revealed. Let none weep for their sins, for forgiveness shines forth from the tomb. Let no one fear death, for the Savior's death has set us free.

The One Whom death imprisoned has extinguished death. The One Who descended into Hades made Hades the captive. He caused it distress when it tasted his flesh. When Isaiah foresaw this, he exclaimed: "Hades was all distressed by encountering You in the nether world?' It was distressed because it was abolished. It was distressed because it was mocked. It was distressed because it was slain. It was distressed because it was overthrown. It was distressed because it was chained. It seized a body but discovered God. It seized the earthly but encountered the heavenly. It seized the visible but was overcome by the invisible. O Death, where is your sting? O Hades, where is your victory? Christ is risen, and you are abolished! Christ is risen, and the demons are cast down! Christ is risen, and the angels rejoice! Christ is risen, and life now reigns! Christ is risen, and the tomb is emptied of the dead! For in rising from the dead, Christ became the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep. To Him be glory and power forever and ever! Amen.

The Byzantine Catholic Metropolitan Archeparchy of Pittsburgh
Office of the Archbishop

Christ is Risen! Indeed He is Risen! "

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who in his great mercy gave us a new birth to a living hope through the Resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead!" [1 Peter 1:3].

This Easter Sunday is a great improvement from last year's Paschal Celebration. It is painful to remember last year when we were restricted to only ten or fewer people at our celebrations. Although we are still wearing masks and staying distanced, we are safely coming back to church. Each day, a few more members, religious and clergy are receiving vaccines or recovering from the virus. We have come from total uncertainty and a world filled with darkness and the fear of death, and we are returning to the light of a new day of recovery and a return to a normal life.

Every year, we relive the same cycle of Jesus' descent into darkness and His rising into the light of the Resurrection. We hear the words of His passion and suffering read and sung during Great and Holy Week. Through the eyes of the Mother of God and the Apostles, we receive the vision of images from the trial, suffering, and death of Jesus Christ. This year, a part of our memories will also include images of the lockdown, emergency rooms, and empty places at the table. And, just like the apostles, we feel their intense fear that despite our faith in Jesus, death would overcome and evil would prevail. During this last year, we descended into the darkness of death with Jesus.

The Pandemic has made the story of the Passion more real than other years. Each of us knows someone from our parish or family who has been ill or passed on during the year. We remember them and pray for them as they have entered into the light of the eternal banquet in heaven.

We are thankful for the miraculous speed in which vaccines were discovered, manufactured, and distributed. We pray for the countries that are still locked down, enduring a third surge and waiting for vaccines. God has been merciful to us.

In the next few months, we will be able to return to our normal celebration of the Divine Liturgy and our normal activities and obligations. Soon virtual celebrations will be replaced with personal encounters of Christ in our Divine Liturgy. We ask that you patiently endure the final days of restrictions which will keep our families safe. We are reminded to be like the women at the tomb. They were told by the angel, "Do not be afraid! I know that you are seeking Jesus the crucified.

He is not here, for he has been raised just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay. Then go quickly and tell his disciples, 'He has been raised from the dead, and he is going before you to Galilee; there you will see him.' Behold, I have told you." *Matthew 28:6-8*

During the next months, our families, churches, and country will rise to new life. As each part of life is restored, remember to be grateful for all the good things with which we have blessed but until now have taken for granted. After our Pascha celebrations, we are called to go out and proclaim that "Christ is Risen" to the world. We are called to drive away the darkness and to spread the light and hope of the Resurrection.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Reverend William C. Skurla, D.D.

Metropolitan Archbishop of Pittsburgh

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