

Liturgical Schedule Thirtieth Week after Pentecost—December 12, 2021

Sunday of the Forefathers

Saturday December 11

Dunlo 5:00 PM

Vigil Divine Liturgy

Sunday December 12

Portage 9:00 AM

Sunday Divine Liturgy

[+Margaret Fleck, by Ed & Paulette Fedorko—40th Day Commemoration]

Tuesday, December 14

Portage 7:45 AM

The Third Hour

8:00 AM

Divine Liturgy [+Catherine Czapp, by Family]

Friday, December 17

Portage 7:45 AM

The Third Hour

8:00 AM

Divine Liturgy [+Joseph Raptosh, by Jim Afton]

Saturday December 18

Portage 2:30 PM

Mystery of Repentance [Confessions]

Beaverdale 4:30 PM

Mystery of Repentance [Confessions]

Sunday of the Holy Ancestors of Christ--Sunday before Christmas

Saturday December 18

Beaverdale 5:00 PM

Vigil Divine Liturgy

Sunday December 19

Portage 9:00 AM

Sunday Divine Liturgy [+George Letzo, by Julie Letzo]

Parish Saint Nicholas Celebration: TODAY Sunday, December 12, following the Divine Liturgy. A *Coffee Social* with treats and refreshments. We look forward to a visit from *Saint Nicholas of Myra*, with some treats for our children and youth.

A note of thanks to *Kim Rocker* and her family for preparing our refreshments; and to Dr. Jim Koban along with parish cantors for accompanying and leading us in singing Christmas carols.

Mystery of Repentance [Confession] in preparation for Christmas is scheduled for:

- **Saturday, December 18** *Saints Peter & Paul, Portage: 2:30 pm; Saint Mary, Beaverdale: 4:30 pm.*
- On **Monday, December 20**, at Saints. Peter & Paul, Portage at 7:00 pm. ***Father Robert Oravetz*** from Holy Trinity [Conemaugh]; and Saint Nicholas [Nanty Glo] Byzantine Catholic Churches will be here with Father Jim for Confessions. A *Penance Service* at 7:00 pm, followed by Confessions.

Six Day Vigil Candles: Beginning **Saturday, January 1, 2022** the offering for the six day vigil candles at Saints Peter and Paul, Portage will be **\$3.00.** Price increases from our supplier warrant this increase. The offering for six day vigil candles in Beaverdale and Dunlo remains at **\$3.00.**

If you should take home with you vigil candles please return the empty glass jar after you have burned the candle. There is a credit returned to the parish for each empty case. *Thank you.*

The Sunday of the Forefathers: Today our attention in the hymns and lessons of the Liturgy focuses upon the forefathers and ancestors of Christ in the Old Testament. This includes the Patriarchs and prophets, from Adam to John the Baptist. Too easily we lose touch with or ignore the Old Testament. We may rarely read it and often do not understand it.

When we read the Old Testament, we do so with the understanding that Christ is present, although veiled and at times hidden. The many whom we recall and honor today prepared the path for the coming of the Lord. We glorify God for who they were, what they have taught, and their example. From them we draw encouragement, wisdom, and hope.

Church Cleaning & Work Party for December

- The ***Church Cleaning*** for December is scheduled for **Monday, December 13**, at 9:00 am.
- *Thank You* to those who volunteer for the monthly ***Work Party*** and ***Church Cleaning***.

2022 Church Calendars: Please take only one calendar per family until everyone has received a calendar. We thank our sponsors for the 2022 Calendars: ***Serenko-Claar Funeral Home*** (*Ss. Peter and Paul, Portage*); ***Jean Kinley Funeral Home*** (*Beaverdale and Dunlo*)

The Sanctuary Candle is offered this week in memory of ***+Marge Fleck***, requested by Steve Fleck.

Philip's Fast: In preparation for Christmas is from **November 15—December 24**.

Please remember the needs of the local food pantries and of our communities during this season. Donations of *canned goods, non-perishable food*, and *cash* may be made for the ***Portage Food Pantry*** and ***Forest Hills Food Pantry*** [Beaverdale and Dunlo]. Containers are in the narthex

Many, Happy Years! Metropolitan Archbishop William Skurla ordained ***Deacon Michael Kunitz*** to the Priesthood; and ***Seminarian Luke Iyengar*** to Minor Orders on Saturday, December 11 at 10:00 a.m. at St. John Cathedral, Munhall. Please remember them in your prayers.

The Pittsburgh Byzantine Catholic Archieparchial Choir invites you to ***"Christmas at the Cathedral"***, **Sunday, December 19**, at 2:00 pm at the Cathedral of St. John the Baptist, 210 Greentree Road, Munhall. ***"Home Again for Christmas."*** Carols from Byzantine Ruthenian tradition, Europe and America. Hospitality reception with refreshments. Admission is FREE. ***Masks and social distancing suggested. You may also enjoy the presentation at www.stjohnsbyzantinecathedral.com.***

Remember in Prayer

For the Health of ***Margaret Prudhoe*** [Arbutus Park Manor]; ***Maureen Hutzell***, Deacon Dan Perich's sister; ***Larry Sasek***; ***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; Helen Zaher.

NURSING & CARE FACILITIES: **Richland Health & Rehabilitation** ***Catherine McGough*** [Beaverdale];

Presbyterian Home [Hollidaysburg] ***Charles Plishka*** [Beaverdale]; **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; **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 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.**

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.