

Liturgical Schedule First Week of the Great Fast--February 11, 2024

Sunday of Cheesefare

Saturday, February 10

Dunlo 4:00 PM

Vigil Divine Liturgy [+Pauline Valko by Lynne & Mike Blumenthal]

Sunday February 11, 2024

Portage 9:00 AM

Sunday Divine Liturgy

Portage 5:00 PM

Cheesefare Sunday Vespers

Monday, February 12

Portage 6:00 PM

First Day of the Great Fast: Strict abstinence and fasting required

6:30 PM

Mystery of Repentance [Confessions]

Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts

Wednesday, February 14

Portage 6:00 PM

Simple abstinence and fasting required

6:30 PM

Mystery of Repentance [Confessions]

Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts

Friday, February 16

Portage 6:00 PM

Simple abstinence and fasting required

6:30 PM

Mystery of Repentance [Confessions]

Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts

Saturday, February 17

Portage 2:00 PM

Mystery of Repentance [Confessions]

Beaverdale 3:30 PM

Mystery of Repentance [Confessions]

First Sunday of the Great Fast

Saturday, February 17

Beaverdale 4:00 PM

Vigil Divine Liturgy [+Robert Roxby by Marty and Marie Johnson]

Sunday February 18, 2024

Portage 9:00 AM

Sunday Divine Liturgy

The Great Fast, which begins Monday, February 12 is our penitential preparation for Pascha. *Today, Cheesefare Sunday*, is also known as the *Sunday of Forgiveness*. The Gospel reading [Matthew 6:14-21] reminds us that forgiveness of others is necessary for us to be open and receptive to God's forgiveness and the purification of our souls in Lent.

The Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts is offered each Wednesday and Friday during the Great Fast; this week also on the first day of the Great Fast, **Pure Monday, February 12**, at 6:30 pm.

The Mystery of Repentance [Confessions] is available Wednesday and Friday prior to the Liturgy of Presanctified Gifts at 6:00 pm.; and Saturday at 2:00 p.m.

Lenten Regulations are enclosed in the insert. The first day of the Great Fast, Monday, February 12, is a day of strict abstinence [from meat, dairy]; Wednesdays and Fridays are days of abstinence from meat.

Easter Bake Sale: *Saint Mary Byzantine Catholic Church*, Windber: Nutroll [\$13]; Poppyseed Roll [\$13]; Apricot Roll [\$13]; and Pascha Bread [\$10]. To order, and for pick-up times, call Theresa [814-266-3717]; Elaine [814-467-8647]; or Fr. Ivan Rusyn [[814-467-7309]. **Deadline: March 3rd**.

Adult Education/Catechesis: The Great Fast is an opportunity to build up and strengthen our faith by formation and instruction and other ways to deepen our faith. Reading, first and foremost the Scriptures and other spiritual reading are always valuable. There can also be sessions for education and enrichment. Please let Father Jim know if you have suggestions and an interest in such opportunities for the Great Fast. This would be helpful in planning such opportunities.

Prayer Partners: The Great Fast is a time of prayer both as part of the daily disciplines of this season, as well as the Liturgical services during the week and on Sunday. Prayer for others is especially valuable during these days. The names of **Prayer Partners** will be selected after the Divine Liturgy today, both at the Saturday Vigil Divine Liturgy and the Sunday Divine Liturgy.

Please include a remembrance daily of your *Prayer Partner*.

Vigil Divine Liturgy Time Change: The time of the **Vigil Divine Liturgy** which alternates between Beaverdale and Dunlop has been changed to **4:00 pm** rather than **5:00 pm**. *Confessions* at Saints Peter and Paul, Portage are Saturday at **2:00 pm**. Thank you for your cooperation.

Statements of Parishioners' Offerings for 2023 for Saint Peter and Paul, Portage are available upon request. Call 814-736-9780; or send to james_armand_spontak@verizon.net. The 2023 Offering Statements should be available by the middle of February.

Pre-Cana Program: Last week, there was an announcement that the Pre-Cana Program for engaged couples was cancelled, due to a lack of response. However, the 2024 Pre-Cana Program is being offered as a one day only program on **Saturday March 16, 2024**. The location remains at the Byzantine Catholic Seminary.

Please contact Father Jim for further information and details.

Blessing of Homes: The various requests for Blessing of Homes that have been received are being scheduled, within the coming weeks. Thank you for your patience.

Eternal Memory: Please pray for the repose of the soul of **+Patricia Clapp**, the sister of Deacon Daniel Perich, who fell asleep in the Lord February 9. We extend our sympathy and prayerful support to Deacon Daniel and Mary Lou.

Bulletins and "Troitsja" Candle:

February 11

Candle: Owen Slanoc

Sunday February 18

Candle: Easton Slanoc

Remember in Prayer: *For The Health of:*; *Mary Lou Perich Ray McCabe; Thomas Goncher; Linda Sekerak; Shawn Crum; Katie Czapp; Darlene Shaner; Steve Paluch; Jason Thornton; Charlett Thornton; Carol Slifko; Deacon Daniel Perich; Donna Block; Michael & Pauline Barelick; Matthew Barelick; Phil, Dorothy, Cathy Walters; Carissa Ratosky; Edward Wisniewski; and all the ill, homebound.*

HOMEBOUND PARISHIONERS: SS Peter & Paul (Portage): Louise Halovich; Joseph Mandichak; Michelle Maskal; Dorothy Majer; Stella Raptosh; Joanne Stewart; Cathy Walters;. **Saint Mary, Beaverdale:** Carol Slifko; **NURSING & CARE FACILITIES: Rebekah Manor,** Portage: Helen Zaher; William Prozialek [Dunlop];

Maple Winds: June Nezeski; **John Paul II Manor, Cresson:** Kathryn Mackovyak.

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: 2:00 p.m. (Portage) and 3:30 pm (Beaverdale/Dunlo)**. Also, **½ hour before services [except Sunday]**, and by appointment.

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