

**Liturgical Schedule Sunday .after Christmas December 29, 2024**

**Sunday after Christmas-- Holy & Just Joseph; David; Holy Apostle James, Brother of the Lord**

**Saturday December 28, 2024**

Dunlo **4:00 PM** Anticipated Divine Liturgy

**Sunday December 29, 2024**

Portage **9:00 AM** Sunday Divine Liturgy [+George Letzo, by Julie Brennak]

**New Year's Day--Circumcision of Our Lord & Feast of Saint Basil the Great**

**Tuesday December 31**

Beaverdale **4:00 pm** Great Vespers with Litija

**Wednesday January 1, 2025**

Portage **9:45 AM** Christmas Carols  
**10:00 AM** Divine Liturgy of Saint Basil the Great

**Friday, January 3**

Portage **8:00 am** *Prefestive Day of Theophany*  
Royal Hours of Theophany

**Saturday, January 4**

Portage **1:00 pm** *Confessions-Mystery of Repentance*  
Beaverdale **3:30 pm** *Confessions-Mystery of Repentance*

**Sunday before Theophany**

**Saturday January 4, 2025**

Beaverdale **4:00 PM** Anticipated Divine Liturgy

**Sunday January 5, 2025**

Portage **9:00 AM** Sunday Divine Liturgy [+Barry Krisko, by Carol Goral and Diane Kinback]

**Happy New Year:** Wednesday, January 5 is the *Circumcision of our Lord* and also the feast of *Our Holy Father Basil the Great*. The New Year 2025 has the added significance of being a *Holy Year* or *Jubilee Year* in the Church. In recent centuries the Holy Father has set aside every twenty-five years as a Holy Year of Jubilee Year. This is designated as a time of reconciliation of sinners and an opportunity for repentance and renewal in faith for all the faithful. There will be specific events and occasions observing the Holy Year both in Rome and locally, in Eparchies and Dioceses throughout this year.

My prayer for you is that entering this New Year 2025 will be an opportunity to be strengthened in faith and renewed and sustained in hope.

**Best wishes for a happy, healthy, and blessed New Year to each of you and your families.**

**Prefestive Days for the Feast of Theophany:** The *Royal Hours* of Theophany are transferred from January 5 since this falls on a Sunday. This service is more elaborate than the ordinary daily hours [as on Sundays]. It includes Psalms, liturgical hymns and scripture readings.

There is no strict fast as is customary for the vigil of Theophany, but simple abstinence from meat is recommended.

**Parish Saint Nicholas Celebration:** Last Sunday's gathering was an enjoyable and festive event, as we welcomed Saint Nicholas of Myra, and enjoyed the refreshments that were served.

A note of thanks to *Kim Rocker* and her family; Julie Brenna; and Valerie Pcola for the refreshments and hospitality; and to Larry Dipko who prepared and served the home-made soft ice cream.

Also our thanks to *Marianne George* and her family for arranging the Saint Nicholas Treat bags. The treat bags were sponsored by the \$500 debit card donated by the GCU Fraternal organization.

**2025 Church Calendars:** We thank our sponsors for the 2025 Calendars: ***Serenko-Claar Funeral Home*** (*Ss. Peter and Paul, Portage*); ***Jean Kinley Funeral Home*** (*Beaverdale and Dunlo*).

**2025 Offering Envelopes:** For ***Saints Peter and Paul, Portage***, envelopes are in the usher's room.

Envelopes for ***Saints Mary, Beaverdale*** and ***Saints Peter and Paul Dunlo*** have been designed with a common identification on the face. This provides a savings in printing the envelopes. Offerings will be directed to the respective parish according to the name and number of the envelope donor.

**Eastern Christian Christmas & Theophany Vacation:-**

**Sunday, December 29, 2024 & January 5 2025: No Classes; Sunday, January 12 2025: Classes Resume**

**Work Party:** The ***Work Party*** for January is scheduled for **Saturday, January 4**, at **9:00 am**.

Our thanks to the volunteers for the monthly ***Work Party*** and ***Church Cleaning***.

**Pre-Cana Program:** For engaged couples will be **Saturday, March 8, 2025** at Saints Cyril and Methodius Seminary, 10:00 am-3:00 pm. Information: [archpitt.org](http://archpitt.org) - Office of Religious Education link

**Grateful Acknowledgment:** At Saints Peter and Paul, Portage, a small packet was distributed at the time of the festive anointing, as a Christmas remembrance. This included:

- *Key chain* with icon of Our Lady of Perpetual Help, provided by the Sisters of Saint Basil the Great, Mount Saint Macrina, in commemorating of their 90<sup>th</sup> Annual Labor Day Pilgrimage.
- *Calendar* from GCU Fraternal organization.

**Bulletins and "Troitsja" Candle:**

**Sunday December 29**

**Candle: Owen Slanoc**

**Sunday, January 5**

**Candle: Easton Slanoc**

**Remember in Prayer:** *For The Health of:* Joe Mandichak [Memorial]; *Doug Roxby; Steve Fleck; Susan O'Toole* [West Penn Hospital, Pittsburgh]; *John Havrilla; Richard Whitcomb; Michael Perich; Larry Dipko; Jeffrey Moist; Jean Petoro*, Mother of Jennifer Blazosky; *Becky Zock; Carol Goral; Mary & Daniel Zaliznock; Ray McCabe; Thomas Goncher; Linda Sekerak; Steve Paluch; Jason Thornton; Charlett Thornton; Deacon Daniel & Mary Lou Perich; Donna Block; Michael & Pauline Barelick; Matthew Barelick; Phil, & Dorothy Walters; Carissa Ratosky; Edward Wisniewski; David & Sandy Spontak; Andrew & Linda Deskevich*, parents of Very Reverend Andrew Deskevich, who are residents at Autumn View; and all the ill, homebound.

**HOMEBOUND PARISHIONERS: SS Peter & Paul (Portage):** Louise Halovich; Joseph Mandichak; Michelle Maskal; Dorothy Majer; Stella Raptosh;. **Saint Mary, Beaverdale:** Carol Slifko; **NURSING & CARE FACILITIES: Rebekah Manor**, Portage: Joanne Stewart; William Prozialek [Dunlo]; **Maple Winds:** June Neznieski; **Maple Heights, Ebensburg:** 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*

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**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.

**On-line Access to Bulletin...** is available at the parish website: [www.ByzantineCatholic.net](http://www.ByzantineCatholic.net)