

Liturgical Schedule Thirty-fourth Week after Pentecost February 9, 2025

Sunday of the Publican and Pharisee; Leave-taking of the Feast of the Encounter

Saturday February 8, 2025

Dunlo 4:00 PM Anticipated Divine Liturgy [+Walter Prozialeck, by M/M Joseph McCloskey]

Sunday February 9, 2025

Portage 9:00 AM Sunday Divine Liturgy

Wednesday February 12

Portage 8:00 am Divine Liturgy [+Janet Spaid, by Paul & Dorothy Molnar]

Friday, February 14

Portage 8:00 am Divine Liturgy [+Tim Hanna, by Carol & Foster Skrack]

Saturday, February 15

Portage 1:00 pm Confessions-Mystery of Repentance

Beaverdale 3:30 pm Confessions-Mystery of Repentance

Sunday of the Prodigal Son

Saturday February 15, 2025

Beaverdale 4:00 PM Anticipated Divine Liturgy [+Daniel O'Hara, by Becky & Orville Shehan]

Sunday February 16, 2025

Portage 9:00 AM Sunday Divine Liturgy

Pre-Lenten Sundays: The journey of these *Pre-Lenten Sundays*, becomes familiar to us, a yearly sequence of gradual preparation for the Great Fast. At the same time it is always new, as each year the circumstances in our own life and our awareness of our faith are distinct and vary.

Today, this Sunday of the *Publican and Pharisee* highlights the value and meaning of humility in this process of preparation. In his classic book, Great Lent, Father Alexander Schmemmann writes of a certain paradox involved here.

Actually, God himself is humble. Commonly, humility and glory are seen as opposite, as if humility is an indication of some flow or deficiency. Rather, all that is perfect, beautiful, and good is at the same time naturally humble. Because of its perfection, it has no need of "publicity" external glory or "showing off".

Christ is the divine humility incarnate. We learn humility by contemplating Christ who said, "*Learn from me, for I am meek and humble in heart.*" [Matthew 11:29]

Festival Meeting: A meeting for the *Annual Festival* is scheduled for Thursday, February 13 at 7:00 pm in the social room of the church hall. The meeting will review the 2024 Festival and also begin planning for the *July 13, 2025 Festival*.

Parish Advisory Council Meeting: There is a meeting of the *Parish Advisory Council* for Saints Peter and Paul, Portage Thursday February 20 at 7:00 pm in the conference room of the rectory.

The agenda and minutes of the previous meeting will be sent to members prior to the meeting.

This Week: There is *no fasting* in the week following the *Sunday of the Publican and Pharisee* [February 10-15].

Church Cleaning: Rescheduled for this week, on Monday, February 10 at 9:00 am.

We sincerely appreciate all of our current and past volunteers, for both the monthly Work Party and Church Cleaning. At present, we especially have need of volunteers for this ongoing effort. If you might be available and are willing to help, please contact Father Jim. *Thank you.*

All Souls Saturdays: The first *All Souls Commemoration* is Saturday, February 22 [Meatfare Saturday]. You may return the envelope in your packet of offering envelopes at your earliest convenience. Please make note if entering a new list or making additions or changes to previous list.

Eternal Memory: You are asked to remember in your prayers the repose of the soul of:

- ***+Joseph Mandichak*** who have fell asleep in the Lord on January 31. We extend our sympathy and prayerful support to his wife Betty and to all of his family.

Remembrances in Prayer Requests: The weekly *“Remember in Prayer”* list in the bulletin invites and reminds us to include in our prayers requests for prayer for those with various needs—for health and other concerns. We also remember those who have fallen asleep in the Lord.

As these needs change, or are no longer be of the same concern over time, you may update your requests by informing Father Jim when a person no longer needs to be included on the list of requests.

Thank you for your prayers and remembrance of those listed, and your help and cooperation in maintaining a current list.

Statements of Parishioners’ Offerings for 2024 for Saint Peter and Paul, Portage are available for those requesting their statement. The 2024 Offering Statements should be available by early February. Call the rectory [814-736-9780]; or send to james_armand_spontak@verizon.net.

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 –Office of Religious Education link

Bulletins and “Troitsja” Candle:

Sunday February 9

Candle: Owen Slanoc

Sunday, February 16

Candle: Easton Slanoc

Remember in Prayer: *For The Health of:* Jessi Tomko; Steve Fleck; Susan O’Toole; 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;; and all the ill, homebound.

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

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 an integral 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: 1:00 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