

## Liturgical Schedule First Week of the Great Fast—March 2, 2025

### Sunday of Cheesefare

#### Saturday March 1, 2025

Beaverdale **4:00 PM**

Anticipated Divine Liturgy [+Daniel O'Hara, by Becky & Orville Shehan]

#### Sunday March 2, 2025

Portage **9:00 AM**

Sunday Divine Liturgy

#### Monday, March 3

Portage 5:30 PM

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

**6:00 PM**

Mystery of Repentance [Confessions]

Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts

#### Wednesday, March 5

Portage 5:30 PM

**Simple abstinence and fasting required**

**6:00 PM**

Mystery of Repentance [Confessions]

Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts

#### Friday, March 7

Portage 5:30 PM

**Simple abstinence and fasting required**

**6:00 PM**

Mystery of Repentance [Confessions]

Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts

#### Saturday March 8, 2025

Portage **1:00 pm**

*Confessions-Mystery of Repentance*

Dunlo **3:30 pm**

*Confessions-Mystery of Repentance*

### First Sunday of the Great Fast

#### Saturday March 8, 2025

Dunlo **4:00 PM**

Anticipated Divine Liturgy

#### Sunday March 9, 2025

Portage **9:00 AM**

Sunday Divine Liturgy

[+Charles and +Madge Marino, by John and Barbara Havrilla]

**The Great Fast**, which begins Monday, March 3 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, March 3**, at 6:00 pm.

**The Mystery of Repentance** [Confessions] is available Wednesday and Friday prior to the Liturgy of Presanctified Gifts at 5:30 pm.; and Saturday at 1:00 p.m.

**Lenten Regulations**. 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.

**Prayer Partners:** Prayer for others is especially valuable during the Great Fast. The names of *Prayer Partners* will be selected today. Please include a remembrance daily of your *Prayer Partner*.

**Pope Francis:** We join in prayer with Catholics and people throughout the world for the Holy Father, Pope Francis, who, has been in the hospital in Rome for double pneumonia and other complications.

**Saint Mary's, Cambria City:** Father Tim Fariss has cordially extended an invitation to Liturgical services and events at Saint Mary's Byzantine Catholic Church, Cambria City during the Great Fast:

**Sunday, March 2:** Forgiveness Sunday Vespers 4:30 pm. Dairy/Meat free Potluck Supper will follow Vespers. ***Forgiveness Sunday Vespers are not scheduled here; you are welcome to attend at Saint Mary's***  
**Tuesday, March 18:** A discussion on Liturgy of Presanctified Gifts, 5:30 pm.

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

- ***+Kathryn Mackovyak*** who fell asleep in the Lord on February 23. We extend our sympathy and prayerful support to her son Jonathan and Deborah; daughter Kathy Walls; and to all of her family.
- ***+David Spontak***, Father Jim's brother, who fell asleep in the Lord on February 26. Your prayers on behalf of David's wife Sandy and all of our family are sincerely appreciated. *Funeral Mass on Tuesday, March 11 at 11:00 am, Regina Coeli Parish, Assumption Church, [Bellevue] Pittsburgh.*

**Parish Advisory Council Meeting:** The meeting of the *Parish Advisory Council* for Saints Peter and Paul, Portage has been *rescheduled* for Thursday March 13 at 7:00 pm in the conference room of the rectory. Agenda topics include replacement of the garage/pavilion structure on the picnic grounds; and the cleaning and maintenance of the terrazzo floor in the church.

**Work Party:** The *March Work Party* is scheduled for Saturday March 8, at 9:00 am.

We appreciate volunteers, for the monthly Work Party and Church Cleaning. At present, we have need of volunteers for this effort. If you might be available to help, please contact Father Jim. ***Thank you.***

**Sanctuary Candle:** is offered this week for ***+John Sekerak***, by Kathy Sekerak.

**Remembrances in Prayer Requests:** The weekly ***"Remember in Prayer"*** list in the bulletin include requests for prayer for those with needs of health and other concerns and those who have fallen asleep in the Lord. As these needs change you may update your requests by informing Father Jim when a person no longer needs to be included on the list of requests.

**Statements of Parishioners' Offerings** for 2024 for Saint Peter and Paul, Portage are available for those requesting them. Call [814-736-9780]; or **[james\\_armand\\_spontak@verizon.net](mailto:james_armand_spontak@verizon.net)**.

**Bulletins and "Troitsja" Candle:**

**Sunday, March 2** Candle: Easton Slanoc

**Sunday March 9** Candle: Owen Slanoc

**Remember in Prayer:** *For The Health of:* Father Simeon Sibenik, retired priest of the Archeparchy; Steve Fleck; Susan O'Toole; 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; Jason Thornton; Charlett Thornton; Mary Lou Perich; Donna Block; Michael & Pauline Barelick; Matthew Barelick; Phil, & Dorothy Walters; Carissa Ratosky; Edward Wisniewski; Sandy Spontak;; and all the ill, homebound.

**HOMEBOUND PARISHIONERS: SS Peter & Paul (Portage):** Louise Halovich; 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 Nezeski; Andrew & Linda Deskevich.

**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](mailto:james_armand_spontak@verizon.net); [www.ByzantineCatholic.net](http://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 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](http://www.ByzantineCatholic.net)