

Liturgical Schedule Sunday of the Prodigal Son — February 13, 2022

Sunday of the Prodigal Son

Saturday February 12, 2022

Beaverdale 5:00 PM

Vigil Divine Liturgy [+Ed Andrykovitch, by Ed Hudak]

Sunday February 13, 2022

Portage 9:00 AM

Sunday Divine Liturgy

Tuesday, February 15

Portage 7:45 AM

The Third Hour

8:00 AM

Divine Liturgy [+Janet Spaid, by Bob & Earl Sease]

Saturday February 19 2022

Portage 3:00 pm

Confessions-Mystery of Repentance

Beaverdale 4:30 pm

Confessions-Mystery of Repentance

First All Souls Saturday

Friday February 18 2022

Beaverdale 5:00 PM

Vespers for the Deceased, followed by
Panachida & Reading of the Names of the Deceased

Saturday, February 19

Portage 9:00 AM

Divine Liturgy followed by
Panachida & Reading of the Names of the Deceased

Portage 3:00 pm

Confessions-Mystery of Repentance

Dunlo 4:30 pm

Confessions-Mystery of Repentance

Sunday of Meatfare

Saturday February 19, 2022

Dunlo 5:00 PM

Vigil Divine Liturgy

[+Mary Louise Cimba, by Jon & Irene Gindlesperger & Family]

Sunday February 20, 2022

Portage 9:00 AM

Sunday Divine Liturgy

First All Souls Commemoration is **Saturday, February 19 [Meatfare Saturday]**. Our prayers help the dead because of their union with us in Christ the Head: we are all members of his Mystical Body. *"The dead are not so much to be lamented as helped with prayers, supplications, alms and offerings. Such things were not designed in vain, nor is it without reason that, in the celebration of the Holy Mysteries, we mention the dead, interceding for them with the Lamb who is slain to take away the sins of the world. From all this, some consolation will go up to them. Let us then not grow weary of helping them and praying for them."* [Saint John Chrysostom].

Use the **All Souls** envelope to enter names of deceased family members to be remembered at the Divine Liturgy and Panachida on the All Souls Saturdays. Please return to Father Jim at your earliest convenience.

Pastor's Notebook: The Gospel of the *Prodigal Son* [Luke 15:11-31] is among the most treasured and familiar parables. It also can be heard or received in a variety of ways.

It may appear, to some, that the younger son is treated too leniently after his self-centered request, his abandonment of home and family, and reckless pursuit of self-indulgence. The parable may also be seen as the story of *two sons*. The older brother protests his father's mercy to the younger son, and fails to appreciate his joy at this brother's return. While he points out that he has been a faithful servant in the household, he fails on another level to be a son who can share his father's heart and intention.

Our church presents this Gospel parable as yet another step on the journey to the Great Fast. Our own 'distance' from the heavenly Father's household, the Kingdom of God, may happen in different ways. It may be because of the pursuit of selfish paths and patterns in life like the younger son. But it also occurs because of a disposition similar to the older son. It is possible to fulfill superficially the "formalities" of religion and of the church, but to have lost the spark of love, of a vital and even enthusiastic life of faith, prayer, and witness.

Eternal Memory: You are asked to pray for the repose of the soul of **+Margaret Rachel** of Saints Peter and Paul, Dunlo, who fell asleep in the Lord on February 8. We extend our deepest sympathy and prayerful support to all of her family.

Parish Advisory Council Minutes for the meeting of Thursday, November 18, 2021 for *Saints Peter and Paul, Portage*, are included in today's bulletin.

Sanctuary Candle: The Sanctuary Candle is offered this week in memory of **+John Mazur** requested by Kathy Sekerak.

Best Wishes: We extend prayerful best wishes to **Pastor Jeff Blackburn** pastor of Hammers Street Church of God, and who has served as President of the Portage Area Ministerial Association. Pastor Jeff is moving this week to Carlisle, Pennsylvania. *Many, happy years!*

Statements of Parishioners' Offerings for 2021 for Saint Peter and Paul, Portage are available in the narthex for those who requested them. To request a statement, call 814-736-9780 or send request to james_armand_spontak@verizon.net.

Pre-Cana for 2022: The dates for the *Pre-Cana Program* offered by the Archeparchy are Saturdays, March 26 and April 2. The *Pre-Cana Program* is an integral part of marriage preparation. Information; registration www.archpitt.org scroll to "Office of Religious Education".

Remember in Prayer: The Health of Steve Paluch; Jason Thornton; Charlett Thornton; Maureen Hutzell, 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;. **NURSING & CARE FACILITIES: Homewood,** Martinsburg: Charles Plishka [Beaverdale]; **Rebekah Manor,** Portage: Helen Zaher; **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.