

Liturgical Schedule Twenty ninth Week after Pentecost December 10, 2023

Twenty eighth Sunday after Pentecost

Saturday December 9

Beaverdale 5:00 PM

Vigil Divine Liturgy [+Elizabeth Harrigal, by Dave & Rita Lieb]

Sunday December 10

Portage 9:00 AM

Sunday Divine Liturgy

Wednesday, December 13

Portage 7:45 AM

The Third Hour

8:00 AM

Divine Liturgy [+Joseph Raptosh, by Stephen, Bobby & Gary Weshalek]

Friday, December 15

Portage 7:45 AM

The Third Hour

8:00 AM

Divine Liturgy [+Maggie Ostheim, by Steve and Joann Ostheim]

Saturday December 16

Portage 3:00 PM

Mystery of Repentance [Confessions]

Dunlo 4:30 PM

Mystery of Repentance [Confessions]

Sunday of the Forefathers

Saturday December 16

Dunlo 5:00 PM

Vigil Divine Liturgy [+Mary Louise Cimba, by Joann Serre]

Sunday December 17

Portage 9:00 AM

Sunday Divine Liturgy

"Philip's Fast": In preparation for Christmas is November 15-December 24. Canned goods, non-perishable food and donations of cash will be collected for the **Portage Food Pantry** and the **Forest Hills Food Pantry** [Beaverdale and Dunlo].

Parish Saint Nicholas Celebration – Sunday, December 17

Please come and enjoy our Parish **Saint Nicholas Celebration** on Sunday, December 17, following the Divine Liturgy. There will be a **Social** with treats and refreshments. We look forward to a visit from **Saint Nicholas of Myra**, with some treats for our children and youth.

Mystery of Repentance [Confession] in preparation for Christmas is scheduled for:

- **Saturday, December 16** *Saints Peter & Paul, Portage: 2:30 pm; Saints Peter & Paul, Dunlo: 4:30 pm.*

Eastern Christian Formation: Catechetical Classes for **Preschool & Kindergarten** and **Elementary** Sundays following Divine Liturgy.

Parish Advisory Council: Minutes of the previous meeting of the **Parish Advisory Council** for Saint Mary, Beaverdale and Saint Peter and Paul, Dunlo will be included in next Sunday's bulletin.

Bulletin Cover Error: Please note that the bulletin cover today incorrectly identifies this as the thirty-eighth Sunday of Pentecost; it is the Twenty-eighth Sunday of Pentecost.

Icon of the Sign:

The icon displayed for veneration on the Tetrapod [the table in the center of the church] during these weeks before Christmas is called the **Icon of the Sign**. The image portrays the Mother of God with the Christ Child in her bosom. Christ, in this icon, is a sign that was announced first by the Prophet Isaiah: *"Therefore, the Lord Himself will give you this sign: 'The virgin shall be with child, and bear a son, and shall name Him Emmanuel,' "* (Isaiah 7: 14) a name that means 'God is with us.'

In the icon the sign is Christ—God becoming man. The Son of God is made known to us as the Son of Man. He is true God and true man. The icon celebrates this truth. Through the Virgin Mother of God, He receives His human nature. Thus, *"The Lord Whom the heavens could not contain is contained in the Virgin"*. This icon presents the mystery we are preparing to celebrate, the mystery of God becoming man in the wombs of Mary the Virgin.

New Vestments: A new set of white with blue trim of priest vestments with a matching set of deacon vestments have recently been purchased from American Church Supply. These priest and deacon vestments will be blessed at the Divine Liturgy today, December 10.

New Deacons Ordained: Archbishop William recently ordained to the Diaconate: **Deacon John Cencich**, Sunday, November 26, Saint Gregory Church, Upper St. Clair; **Deacon Andrew Gill**, Tuesday, November 28, St. Basil Church, Irving, Texas; and **Deacon David Dominguez** and **Deacon Robert Klesko** Wednesday, November 29, St. John Chrysostom Church, Houston, Texas.

May God grant to Deacons John, Andrew, David, and Robert many years!

Subdeacon Kyprian Wojciechowski: Diaconate Ordination Invitation: On Sunday, January 21, 2024 at 3:00 PM Metropolitan William will ordain **Subdeacon Kyprian Wojciechowski** to the diaconate at Saint Mary's Church in Bradenville. Parishioners are invited to attend this ordination. A sign-up list is in the narthex in the coming weeks for those who wish to attend.

Portage Winterfest: This weekend December 8-10. Parishioner **Dr. Jim Koban** will play Christmas Carols on guitar on Sunday, December 11 at 2:00 pm at the **Chatter Box** on Main Street
A complete schedule at www.facebook.com/PortageWinterfest.

Eternal Memory: You are asked to pray for the repose of the soul of **+John Krenisky**, Cleveland, Ohio and a native of Saint Mary's, Beaverville, who fell asleep in the Lord on December 6 2023.

Bulletins and "Troitsja" Candle:

Sunday December 10

Candle: Easton Slanoc

Sunday December 17

Candle: Owen Slanoc

Remember in Prayer: **For The Health of:** Monsignor Peter Tay a retired priest of the Archeparchy; 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 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, Beaverville:** Carol Slifko; **NURSING & CARE FACILITIES: Rebekah Manor,** Portage: Helen Zaher; **Maple Winds:** June Nezneski; **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 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.

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