

Liturgical Schedule Thirtieth Week after Pentecost December 17, 2023

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

Wednesday, December 20

Portage 7:45 AM The Third Hour
8:00 AM Divine Liturgy [+Maggie Ostheim by Steve and Joann Ostheim-*rescheduled*]

Friday, December 22

Portage 8:00 AM ***The Royal Hours of Christmas***
Portage 1:00 PM Mystery of Repentance [Confessions]

Saturday December 23

Portage 2:30 PM Mystery of Repentance [Confessions]
Beaverdale 4:30 PM Mystery of Repentance [Confessions]

Sunday before Christmas, of the Holy Ancestors

Saturday December 23

Beaverdale 5:00 PM Vigil Divine Liturgy

Sunday December 24

Portage 9:00 AM Sunday Divine Liturgy [+Pasquale, +Elena, & +Tina Pieraccini, by Barbara & John Havrilla]

The Nativity of Our Lord--Christmas

Christmas Eve— Sunday, December 24

Beaverdale 5:00 PM ***Christmas Vigil Divine Liturgy***
Vespers with the Divine Liturgy of St. Basil
Portage 9:00 PM Christmas Carols & Hymns from Compline
9:30 PM ***Christmas Divine Liturgy***

Christmas Day—Monday December 25

Portage 9:45 AM Christmas Carols
10:00 AM ***Christmas Divine Liturgy***

Parish Saint Nicholas Celebration—Today: ...Following the Divine Liturgy. Please come and enjoy the ***Coffee Social*** with treats and refreshments. We look forward to a visit from ***Saint Nicholas of Myra***, with some treats for our children and youth. ***ECF Students*** decorations for the students' Christmas tree in Church will be placed on the tree to prepare it to be placed in the Church.

We gratefully acknowledge a ***\$500 debit card donation*** from the GCU Fraternal Organization for parish social gathering which is being used for today's social, and also for a ***Pre-Lenten Breakfast*** planned for early January or February 2024 [date to be announced].

"Philip's Fast": In preparation for Christmas is November 15-December 24. A note of thanks to those who donated canned goods, and donations of cash for the local ***Food Pantry***

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

- **Tuesday, December 19**, at Saints. Peter & Paul, Portage at 7:00 pm. **Father Richard Davis, T.O.R.** from T.O.R. Franciscans in Loretto, will be here with Father Jim for Confessions. A *Penance Service* at 7:00 pm, followed by Confessions.
- **Friday, December 22** *Saints Peter & Paul, Portage: 1:00 pm.*
- **Saturday, December 23** *Saints Peter & Paul, Portage: 2:30 pm; Saint Mary's, Beaverdale: 4:30 pm*
- *You may also call the parish office to schedule an appointment.*
- *There are no Confessions scheduled on Christmas Eve—Sunday, December 24.*

Eastern Christian Formation Schedule--Christmas & Theophany

Sunday, December 24, 2023:

No ECF Classes

Sunday, December 31, 2023 & Sunday, January 7 2024

No ECF Classes

Sunday, January 14 2024:

ECF Classes Resume

2024 Offering Envelopes for *Saints Peter and Paul, Portage* have been received. They are being prepared for distribution next Sunday, December 24. Please remember to pick them up and take them home with you next Sunday. Thank you.

The Vigil of Christmas: Because Christmas Eve is on Sunday, the *Royal Hours of Christmas Eve* [includes psalms, hymns, Old Testament, Epistle, and Gospel readings] is transferred to Friday, December 22 at 8:00 am.

The traditional day of strict abstinence from meat and dairy may be observed Friday, December 22.

Parish Advisory Council: Minutes of the 29 November 2022 meeting of the **Parish Advisory Council** for Saint Mary, Beaverdale and Saint Peter and Paul, Dunlo will be included in today's bulletin.

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 for those who wish to attend.

Eternal Memory: You are asked to pray for the repose of the soul of ***+ Monsignor Peter Tay*** a retired priest of the Archeparchy who fell asleep in the Lord on December 10. Also, for the repose of the soul of ***+Robert Roxby*** the father of Doug Roxby of Saint Mary, Beaverdale. We extend our deepest sympathy and prayerful support to Doug and Marcie Roxby and to all of his family.

Bulletins and "Troitsja" Candle:

Sunday December 17

Candle: Owen Slanoc

Sunday December 23

Candle: Easton Slanoc

Remember in Prayer: For The Health of: 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, Beaverdale:** Carol Slifko; **NURSING & CARE FACILITIES: Rebekah Manor,** Portage: Helen Zaher; **Maple Winds:** June Nezeski; **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.

On-line Access to Bulletin... is available at the parish website: www.ByzantineCatholic.net