

Liturgical Schedule Thirty-first Week after Pentecost December 24, 2023

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*

Synaxis of the Theotokos & Ever-Virgin Mary

Tuesday, December 26

Portage 9:00 AM Divine Liturgy

Holy Apostle, First Martyr and Archdeacon Stephen

Wednesday, December 27

Portage 9:00 AM Divine Liturgy

Saturday December 30

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

Sunday After Christmas

Memory of Holy & Just Joseph; David, Prophet & King; Holy Apostle James, Brother of the Lord

Saturday December 30

Dunlo 5:00 PM Vigil Divine Liturgy

Sunday December 31

Portage 9:00 AM Sunday Divine Liturgy [+George Letzo, by Julie Letzo]

Christ is Born! Glorify Him! We enter into the feast of the Feast of the Birth of our Lord Jesus Christ. Christmas is a time of festivity, for our families and communities. The celebration of the Birth of Christ in the Liturgy, hymns, and environment of the Church guide us in drawing upon the depth of meaning in the feast. One of these features is the Icon of the Nativity. The icon depicts how the presence of God has come into this world through the birth of Christ. This presence shines in the midst of the shadows of death, sin alienation in our world. The black mouth of the cave reflects the darkness of this world. But there in the center, the light of Christ shines, penetrating and overcoming this darkness. May this light bring us hope, joy, and peace in the awareness of God's presence.

Parish Saint Nicholas Celebration – Thank You: A word of grateful acknowledgment to all who participated in last Sunday's *Saint Nicholas Social*. Also, our thanks to Kim Rocker and members of her family for preparing and serving the refreshments; to Marianne George and family for preparing the Saint Nicholas treat bags; and to Dane Nesbella for his help.

A \$500 debit card donation from the GCU Fraternal Organization for parish social gathering was used for this social. This donation will also be used for a ***Pre-Lenten Breakfast*** planned for January or early February 2024. Please watch the bulletin for the date and sign-up list for this event.

2024 Offering Envelopes... for Saints Peter and Paul, Portage and available in the Ushers' room next to the narthex. As you pick up your envelopes, please also take those of other family members or neighbors who may not be present today, to help with distributing them. *Thank you.*

2024 Church Calendars are available. Please take only one calendar per family until everyone has received a calendar. We thank our sponsors for the 2024 Calendars:

Serenko-Claar Funeral Home (Ss. Peter and Paul, Portage)

Jean Kinley Funeral Home (Beaverdale and Dunlo)

Pre-Cana Program: For engaged couples, held at the Saints. Cyril and Methodius Byzantine Catholic Seminary; Saturday March 9 & 16, 2024.

Topics covered: Communication, Forgiveness & Intimacy; + Finances & Budgeting; Love & Life in the Divine Plan; Why a Church Wedding? Elements of a Healthy Marriage; Theology of Marriage/Crowning Ceremony.

For information about registration, fees, etc. go to: archpitt.org - Office of Religious Education link

Sanctuary Candle... +*Catherine* and +*Susan Sekerak*; and +*Robert Novotny* by Kathy Sekerak.

Eastern Christian Formation Schedule--Christmas & Theophany

Sunday, December 24 & 31, 2023 & Sunday, January 7 2024

No ECF Classes

Sunday, January 14 2024:

ECF Classes Resume

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.

Bulletins and "Troitsja" Candle:

Sunday December 24

Candle: Easton Slanoc

Sunday December 31

Candle: Owen 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; Phil, Dorothy, Catchy Walters; Carissa Ratosky; 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 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 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