

**Liturgical Schedule Thirty-first Week after Pentecost December 15, 2024**

**Sunday of the Forefathers-**

**Saturday December 14, 2024**

Dunlo **4:00 PM** Anticipated Divine Liturgy

**Sunday December 15, 2024**

Portage **9:00 AM** **Sunday Divine Liturgy** [+Fred Vrabel, by Jim & Cindy Vrabel]

**Tuesday, December 17**

Portage 7:45 AM The Third Hour  
8:00 AM Divine Liturgy [+Msgr. Peter Tay, by Johanna & Brad Spontak]

**Thursday, December 19**

**Portage** **7:00 PM** ***Mystery of Repentance--Confessions***

**Saturday, December 21**

Portage **1:00 pm** *Confessions-Mystery of Repentance*  
Beaverdale **3:30 pm** *Confessions-Mystery of Repentance*

**Sunday before Christmas, of the Holy Ancestors**

**Saturday December 21, 2024**

Beaverdale **4:00 PM** Anticipated Divine Liturgy

**Sunday December 22, 2024**

Portage **9:00 AM** **Sunday Divine Liturgy**  
[+Catherine and +Susan Sekerak; +Robert Novotny by Kathy Sekerak]

**Parish Saint Nicholas Social:** Our annual celebration to gather as a parish family and to honor Saint Nicholas will be ***next Sunday, December 22*** following the Divine Liturgy.

Please plan to come and enjoy this occasion. There will be light refreshments and the opportunity for a parish social gathering. We will welcome Saint Nicholas our children and youth will receive treat bags from Saint Nicholas.

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

- **Thursday, December 19**, Saints. Peter & Paul, Portage at **7:00 pm.** ***Father Richard Davis, T.O.R.*** from Loretto, will be here with Father Jim. *Penance Service* at **7:00 pm,** followed by Confessions.
- **Saturday, December 21** at **1:00 pm**
- You may also call the parish office to schedule an appointment.
- There are **no Confessions scheduled** on Christmas Eve—**Tuesday, December 24.**

**Pastoral Visits to Homebound:** Visits to parishioners who are homebound and in nursing and other care facilities for the Mysteries of Confession and the Eucharist are being scheduled for this week.

If you are not on the list of those visited and wish to request a visit, please contact Father Jim [814-7386-9780 or **james armand-spontak@verizon.net**].

**2025 Church Calendars** are available. Please take only one calendar per family until everyone has received a calendar. We thank our sponsors for the 2025 Calendars:

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

*Jean Kinley Funeral Home (Beaverdale and Dunlo)*

**“Philip’s Fast”-Preparation for Christmas:** In preparation for Christmas, “*Philip’s Fast*” [November 14—December 24], is observed by prayer, penance, and almsgiving. Canned goods, non-perishable food, cash donations will be collected for the **Portage** and **Forest Hills** food pantries.

**2025 Offering Envelopes**... for Saints Peter and Paul, Portage; Saints Mary, Beaverdale and Saints Peter and Paul Dunlo are being prepared for distribution and are expected to be available next week.

**Eastern Christian Formation Schedule:**--Christmas & Theophany vacation for classes:

Sunday, December 29, 2024 & January 5 2025: No ECF Classes

Sunday, January 12 2025: ECF Classes Resume

**Portage Winterfest:** Christmas festivities and activities at various locations in Portage continue through Sunday for the annual **Portage Winterfest**. Christmas Carols with our parishioner **Dr. Jim Koban** are scheduled at the Chatterbox at 2:00 pm. [www.facebook.com/PortageWinterfest](http://www.facebook.com/PortageWinterfest).

**Community Christmas Concert:** At the Hammer Street Church of God, Portage, Sunday, December 22, 2-4 pm. Refreshments and fellowship to follow. Each church will be participating individually. Then we will join in a combined choir with congregational hymns.

**“Joyful Light”**...the newsletter of the **Byzantine Catholic Seminary** is inserted in today’s bulletin.

The newsletter, featuring news and events from the Seminary is also available at [www.bcs.edu](http://www.bcs.edu).

**Thank You:** We gratefully acknowledge a donation to Saint Mary’s, Beaverdale, in memory of **+Suzanne H. Kirk Nicolaysen** from *Denis Nicolaysen* and the *Havrilak Family*. **Eternal Memory.**

**Bulletins and “Troitsja” Candle:**

Sunday December 15

Candle: Owen Slanoc

Sunday, December 22

Candle: Easton Slanoc

**Remember in Prayer:** *For The Health of: Doug Roxby; Steve Fleck; Susan O’Toole* [West Penn Hospital, Pittsburgh]; *John Havrilla; 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; Steve Paluch; Jason Thornton; Charlett Thornton; Deacon Daniel & Mary Lou Perich; Donna Block; Michael & Pauline Barelick; Matthew Barelick; Phil, & Dorothy Walters; Carissa Ratosky; Edward Wisniewski; David & Sandy Spontak; Andrew & Linda Deskevich*, parents of Very Reverend Andrew Deskevich, who are residents at Autumn View; and all the ill, homebound.

**HOMEBOUND PARISHIONERS:** SS Peter & Paul (Portage): Louise Halovich; Joseph Mandichak; 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 Nezneski; **Maple Heights, Ebsenburg:** 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](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 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: 2:00 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)