

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

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

Christmas Eve— Tuesday, December 24

Portage **8:00 AM** *Royal Hours-Office of Readings and Hymns*

Dunlo **4:00 PM** **Christmas Vigil Divine Liturgy**-Vespers with the Divine Liturgy of St. Basil

Portage **8:30 PM** Christmas Carols & Hymns from Compline

9:00 PM **Christmas Divine Liturgy**

Christmas Day--Wednesday, December 25

Portage **9:45 AM** Christmas Carols

10:00 AM **Christmas Divine Liturgy**

Synaxis of the Theotokos & Ever-Virgin Mary

Thursday, December 26

Portage **6:00 PM** Divine Liturgy

Holy Apostle, First Martyr and Archdeacon Stephen

Friday, December 27

Portage **9:00 AM** Divine Liturgy

Saturday, December 28

Portage **1:00 pm** *Confessions-Mystery of Repentance*

Dunlo **3:30 pm** *Confessions-Mystery of Repentance*

Sunday after Christmas-- Holy & Just Joseph; David; Holy Apostle James, Brother of the Lord

Saturday December 28, 2024

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

Sunday December 29, 2024

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

Christmas Greetings: Inserted in today's bulletin is Archbishop William's Christmas greetings.

May I add my own words to express my prayers and best wishes for a joyful and peaceful celebration of the Birth of our Lord. It is an opportunity for all of us to be renewed in our faith with the awareness that God is with us in our lives and in our world. ***Christ is Born! Glorify Him***

Parish Saint Nicholas Social: **TODAY--Sunday, December 22** following the Divine Liturgy. 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]

Monday, December 23 at 1:00 pm. You may also call the parish office to schedule an appointment.

No Confessions scheduled Christmas Eve—Tuesday, December 24.

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.

The Vigil of Christmas: The *Royal Hours of Christmas Eve* [Office of Readings] is Tuesday, December 24, 8:00 am, which includes psalms, hymns, Scripture lessons. A day of strict abstinence from meat and dairy is observed on Christmas Eve. *“Byzantine Catholic Hymnal for Nativity and Theophany”* will be in the back of church. Please take a copy as your enter and return it after services.

Pastoral Visits to Homebound for Confession and the Eucharist continue early this week. To request a visit, contact Father Jim [814-7386-9780; james_armand-spontak@verizon.net].

2025 Church Calendars: take only one 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)

2025 Offering Envelopes... for Saints Peter and Paul, Portage are being distributed in the usher's room. Envelopes for Saints Mary, Beaverdale and Saints Peter and Paul Dunlo have not yet arrived.

Eastern Christian Christmas & Theophany Vacation:-

Sunday, December 29, 2024 & January 5 2025: No Classes; Sunday, January 12 2025: Classes Resume

Pre-Cana Program: For engaged couples will be **Saturday, March 8, 2025** at Saints. Cyril and Methodius Seminary, 10:00 am-3:00 pm. Information: archpitt.org –Office of Religious Education link

Bulletins and “Troitsja” Candle:

Sunday, December 22 Candle: Easton Slanoc **Sunday December 29** Candle: Owen Slanoc

Remember in Prayer: *For The Health of:* Joe Mandichak [Memorial]; *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, Ebensburg:** 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: 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