

Liturgical Schedule Thirty-fifth Week after Pentecost February 16, 2025

Sunday of the Prodigal Son

Saturday February 15, 2025

Beaverdale 4:00 PM Anticipated Divine Liturgy [+Daniel O'Hara, by Becky & Orville Shehan]

Sunday February 16, 2025

Portage 9:00 AM Sunday Divine Liturgy

Tuesday, February 18

Portage 8:00 am Divine Liturgy [+George & Melanie (Timura) McPherson, by Catherine Locigno]

First All Souls Saturday

Friday February 21

Beaverdale 4:00 PM **Vespers for the Deceased**, followed by
Panachida & Reading of the Names of the Deceased

Saturday, February 22

Portage 9:00 AM **Divine Liturgy** followed by
Panachida & Reading of the Names of the Deceased

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

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

Meatfare Sunday

Saturday February 22, 2025

Dunlo 4:00 PM Anticipated Divine Liturgy

Sunday February 23, 2025

Portage 9:00 AM Sunday Divine Liturgy [+Daniel Brenna, by Pauline Yetsko]

Pre-Lenten Sundays: Too easily the meaning of practices and observances of our faith may be lost or grow dim in our awareness. Simply "going through the motions" we may not benefit from what is available to us. The practices and disciplines of the coming season of the Great Fast hold a wealth of opportunity to strengthen us spiritually. The Lenten journey was established as a period of instruction in the Word of God. It is also intended for practicing Christian virtues, especially of charitable works; of strengthening our bonds with the community of the Church; of fasting as a purification of body and soul.

Today, the Gospel of the "*Prodigal Son*" is a type of *mirror* for our human condition. We have grown far from God, alienated from our true homeland. This younger son of the Gospel leaves home, goes far away, and is left desolate, hungry, alone. Profound regret for what he has lost, recklessly and foolishly, prompts his return to his father's house. These sentiments, and his return, parallel our journey during Lent.

All Souls Saturdays: The first *All Souls Commemoration* is this Saturday, February 22 [Meatfare Saturday]. You may return the envelope in your packet of offering envelopes to Father Jim this week, before Friday. Please make note if entering a new list or making additions or changes to previous list.

From Apostolic times, it has been the teaching of the church that the departed can be helped by our prayers and offerings for them. It is of consolation to us, surviving friends and relatives, to help them in this way and thus to remain united to them by a bond of love.

Festival Meeting: The meeting for the *Annual Festival* has been rescheduled for Tuesday, February 18 at 7:00 pm in the conference room of the rectory. The meeting will review the 2024 Festival and also begin planning for the *July 13, 2025 Festival*.

Parish Advisory Council Meeting: There is a meeting of the *Parish Advisory Council* for Saints Peter and Paul, Portage Thursday February 20 at 7:00 pm in the conference room of the rectory. The agenda and minutes of the previous meeting will be sent to members prior to the meeting.

<u>Offerings for January</u>	<u>Jan 5</u>	<u>Jan 12</u>	<u>Jan 19</u>	<u>Jan 26</u>
<u>Portage:</u>	\$2,422.00	\$1,254.00	\$1,172.00	\$1,690.00
<u>Beaverdale:</u>	\$ 509.00	\$ 240.00	\$ 285.00	\$ 572.00
<u>Dunlo:</u>	\$ 67.00	\$ 67.00	\$ 209.00	\$ 185.00

Church Cleaning: We sincerely appreciate all of our current and past volunteers, for both the monthly Work Party and Church Cleaning. At present, we especially have need of volunteers for this ongoing effort. If you might be available and are willing to help, please contact Father Jim. *Thank you.*

Eternal Memory: You are asked to remember in your prayers the repose of the soul of:
• *+Sharron Hanna* who have fell asleep in the Lord on February 7. We extend our sympathy and prayerful support to her husband Darryl and to all of her family.

Remembrances in Prayer Requests: The weekly *“Remember in Prayer”* list in the bulletin include requests for prayer for those with needs of health and other concerns and those who have fallen asleep in the Lord. As these needs change you may update your requests by informing Father Jim when a person no longer needs to be included on the list of requests.
Thank you for your prayers and remembrance of those listed, and your help and cooperation in maintaining a current list.

Statements of Parishioners’ Offerings for 2024 for Saint Peter and Paul, Portage are available for those requesting them. Call [814-736-9780]; or james_armand_spontak@verizon.net.

Bulletins and “Troitsja” Candle:

Sunday, February 16 Candle: Easton Slanoc **Sunday February 23** Candle: Owen Slanoc

Remember in Prayer: *For The Health of:* Jessi Tomko; Steve Fleck; Susan O’Toole; 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; 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;; and all the ill, homebound.

HOMEBOUND PARISHIONERS: SS Peter & Paul (Portage): Louise Halovich; 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 Neznieski; **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 an integral 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: 1:00 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