

Liturgical Schedule Thomas Sunday—Second Paschal Week —April 27, 2025

Second Paschal Sunday - Sunday of Thomas

Saturday April 26, 2025

Beaverdale **4:00 PM** Vigil Divine Liturgy *Blessing and Breaking of the Artos Bread*

Sunday April 27, 2025

Portage **9:00 AM** Sunday Divine Liturgy: [+Pope Francis I]
Blessing and Breaking of the Artos Bread

Monday April 28

Portage **10:30 am** Funeral Divine Liturgy of +June Nezeski

Thursday May 1

Portage **8:00 am** Divine Liturgy [+Dr. Sam Resconich, by donor]

Saturday May 3 2025

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

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

Third Paschal Sunday Sunday of the Ointment-Bearers

Saturday May 3,

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

Sunday May 4,

Portage **9:00 AM** Sunday Divine Liturgy: [+Marilyn Grace Murphy, by Jack & Chris Krug]
Mysteries of Christian Initiation [Baptism, Chrismation, Eucharist] for Malcolm Joseph Murphy

Christ is risen! Indeed He is risen: Today we offer the Divine Liturgy for the repose of the souls of +*Pope Francis* who fell asleep in the Lord on Bright Monday, April 21. A Panachida will be offered for him after the Divine Liturgy in Beaverdale and Portage. White bunting is hung above the entrance of the church during the Paschal season to honor his memory.

In blessed repose, grant O Lord to servant, Pope Francis blessed repose and eternal memory!

Blessing of the “Artos”: Today, *Thomas Sunday*, the “Artos” loaf of bread is blessed, broken and distributed following the Divine Liturgy. A note of thanks to those who baked the *Artos*: *Sharon Bolvin*, and *Sandy Lenz* at Saints Peter and Paul, Portage: and *Mary Lou Perich* for Beaverdale and Dunlo.

Work Party: *Saturday, May 3*, at **9:00 am**. A note of thanks to the volunteers to the monthly the *Work Party* and *Church Cleaning*.

Eternal Memory: You are asked to pray for the repose of the soul of +*June Nezeski* who fell asleep in the Lord on April 23. We extend our sympathy and prayerful support to all of her family.

Spring Basket Auction: St. John the Baptist Byzantine Catholic Church 719 Chestnut Avenue, Northern Cambria, *Sunday, April 27*, 11:00 am - 3:00 pm. Drawing: 3:00 pm pick up baskets: 4-5 pm. Basket tickets: 26/\$5. Spaghetti dinner-Sunday: \$10.⁰⁰ Benefit: church boiler replacement.

Archbishop William's Remembrance--Pope Francis: I will fly to Rome to attend the funeral of Pope Francis. It seems like yesterday that I flew to Rome for the start of his papacy on March 13, 2013. From his first appearance over the Piazza of the Basilica of Saint Peter, Pope Francis was a vibrant and independent leader who understood the traditions, but was not afraid to follow the Holy Spirit in the way he lived and led the Church. In many ways, Pope Francis was a true member of the Society of Jesus (Jesuits).

Even though he produced several decrees, writings, and many church reforms, Pope Francis more than anything else was a pastor. When he visited the United States and at every event at the Vatican, he would reach out to greet the children and those in need. He never lost his connection to the common people which began when he served as the Archbishop of Buenos Aires. He said what he believed and presented his thoughts in an authentic way.

Pope Francis understood our Byzantine Catholic Church in the United States. He listened to our needs and requests. We are grateful that he returned our tradition of a married priesthood. After decades of difficulties, we were able to have more priests to serve our people.

My personal contact with Francis was during his visits to the United States or at meetings in Rome. My longest time with him was mainly through months of being with him during the Synod of Bishops gatherings in Vatican City. It was not unusual for him to wait at the door, meeting and greeting everyone as they arrived at the meeting. He would listen to hours of presentations and needs. After listening, Pope Francis would respond by making changes to improve the Church and the world.

For example, I was surprised that he responded to some of my ideas. He accepted the idea to include young people into the Bishop's Synod process. The inclusion of young people was extended for the local, national, and regional synodal processes. This is just one of the many innovations of Pope Francis.

We mark Church time by referring to events as taking place during the time of Saint Pope John Paul or Pope Benedict or even going back to Peter. Historians will note his achievements, but we will remember Francis of the time when the church continued to heal the wounds of the past. He listened and responded to the needs of the poor and needy. His time will be remembered that he continued to reach out to other Christian Churches, other religions, and to anyone searching for meaning in their lives.

We pray that our next Holy Father will also be dedicated to listen and respond with his love for his people.

Metropolitan Archbishop William C. Skurla, D. D.

Sanctuary Candle: is offered this week for **+Cathy Walters**, by Philip and Dorothy Walters.

ECF Classes...resume today, Sunday, April 27. The final Day of **ECF Classes** will be Sunday, May 4.

Bulletins and "Troitsja" Candle:

Sunday, April 27 Candle: Easton Slanoc

Sunday May 4 Candle: Owen Slanoc

Remember in Prayer: *As these needs change you may update your requests by informing Father Jim.*

For the Health of: *Barbara Havrilla; Frank Jubara; Steve Fleck; Susan O'Toole; Richard Whitcomb; Michael Perich; Jeffrey Moist; Jean Petoro; Becky Zock; Carol Goral; Ray McCabe; Thomas Goncher; Linda Sekerak; Jason Thornton; Charlett Thornton; Mary Lou Perich; Donna Block; Michael & Pauline Barelick; Matthew Barelick; Phil, & Dorothy Walters; Carissa Ratosky; Edward Wisniewski; Sandy Spontak; 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:** Andrew & Linda Deskevich.

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

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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.

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