

Liturgical Schedule—February 15, 2026 Sunday of Cheesefare

Sunday of Cheesefare

Saturday February 14, 2026

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

Sunday February 15, 2026

Portage **9:00 AM** Sunday Divine Liturgy [+Shawn Crum, by Steve and Janie Fleck]

Portage **5:00 PM** **Cheesefare Sunday Vespers**

Monday, February 16

Portage 5:30 PM

6:00 PM

First Day of the Great Fast: Strict abstinence and fasting required

Mystery of Repentance [Confessions]

Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts

Wednesday, February 18

Portage 5:30 PM

6:00 PM

Simple abstinence and fasting required

Mystery of Repentance [Confessions]

Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts

Friday, February 20

Portage 5:30 PM

6:00 PM

Simple abstinence and fasting required

Mystery of Repentance [Confessions]

Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts

Saturday, February 21

Portage **1:00 pm**

Beaverdale 3:30 PM

Confessions-Mystery of Repentance

Confessions-Mystery of Repentance

First Sunday of the Great Fast

Saturday February 21, 2026

Beaverdale **4:00 PM**

Anticipated Divine Liturgy

Sunday February 22, 2026

Portage **9:00 AM**

Sunday Divine Liturgy [+Agnes Kuska, by M/M Joseph McClosky]

The Great Fast begins Monday, February 16. *Today, Cheesefare Sunday*, is also known as the *Sunday of Forgiveness*. The Gospel [Matthew 6:14-21] reminds us that forgiveness of others is necessary for us to be receptive to God's forgiveness and the purification of our souls in Lent.

The Great Fast is our penitential preparation for the great feast of Pascha (Passover). As such, it is one of the most ancient parts of the liturgical year. Its forty days symbolizes the forty years the Israelites wandered in the desert. The Divine Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts is the fulfillment of the promise of the manna, as St. John wrote, "So Jesus said to them, 'Amen, amen, I say to you, it was not Moses who gave bread from heaven; my Father gives you the true bread from heaven. (John 6:32)'" In the Great Fast, we imitate Jesus our Lord, who fasted for forty days in the desert following his baptism. The Feast of Pascha was also the time for baptisms, and so the Great Fast was a time of preparation for baptism. Our observance of the Great Fast, therefore, is our renewal of our baptismal fervor. [Father David Petras, Typicon, p. 14]

Prayer Partners: Prayer for others is especially valuable during the Great Fast. The names of *Prayer Partners* will be selected today. Please include a remembrance daily of your *Prayer Partner*.

Lenten Observances:

The Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts is offered each Wednesday and Friday during the Great Fast; this week also on the first day of the Great Fast, **Pure Monday, February 16**, at 6:00 pm.

The Mystery of Repentance [Confessions] is available Wednesday and Friday prior to the Liturgy of Presanctified Gifts at 5:30 pm.; and Saturday at 1:00 p.m.

Lenten Regulations. The first day of the Great Fast, **Pure Monday, February 16**, is a day of strict abstinence [from meat, dairy]; Wednesdays and Fridays: abstinence from meat.

Sanctuary Candle: At Saint Mary's, Beavertdale this week, is offered in memory of **+Elizabeth Harrigal**, by Marcie and Doug Roxby.

<u>Offerings for January:</u>	<u>Jan 4</u>	<u>Jan 11</u>	<u>Jan 18</u>	<u>Jan 25</u>
<u>Portage:</u>	\$2,361.00	\$ 908.00	\$2,264.00	\$...0
<u>Beavertdale:</u>	\$ 319.00	\$ 262.00	\$ 280.00	\$ 779.00
<u>Dunlo:</u>	\$ 72.25	\$ 280.00	\$ 96.00	\$ 255.

Pre-Cana Program: For engaged couples contemplating marriage in 2026, Saturday, March 7, 10:00 am to 3:30 pm at the Saints. Cyril and Methodius Byzantine Catholic Seminary. Registration by February 27 at https://archpitt.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/10/Pre-Cana_RegForm.pdf.

Pilgrim Vocation Icon: During the week of February 15-21, *Patty Haschak* will have the icon to pray for vocations. If you can help bring the icon to a homebound person please inform Father Jim. *Thank you.*

Liturgical Propers: Sunday, February 22 First Sunday of the Great Fast
Troparion Tone 4 (DL 141) of the Holy Icons (DL 220), Kontakion (DL 220)

Troitsja **February 15:** Lucy Harrington

February 22: Joseph Blazosky

Bulletins: **February 15:** Lucy & Luke Harrington

February 22: Joseph Blazosky & Owen Slanoc

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

For the Health of: *Robert Fedore* [Beavertdale], Conemaugh Memorial Hospital]; *Joe Thrower* [Dunlo]; *Frank Jubara*; *Father Edward Pyo*; *John Havrilla*; *Cindy {Pyo} Lewis*; *Jane Pyo*; *Mary Donnelly*; *I; Sandy {Lucci} Georg*; *Jessica Crum*; *Barbara Havrilla*; *Susan O'Toole*; *Jeffrey Moist*; *Jean Petoro*; *Becky Zock*; *Thomas Goncher*; *Linda Sekerak*; *Jason Thornton*; *Charlett Thornton*; *Mary Lou Perich*; *Donna Block*; *Michael & Pauline Barelick*; *Matthew Barelick*; *Phil, & Dorothy Walters*; *Carissa Ratosky*; *Edward & Anita Wisniewski*; *Sandy Spontak*, and the homebound.

HOMEBOUND PARISHIONERS: SS Peter & Paul (Portage): Louise Halovich; Michelle Maskal; Dorothy Majer; Stella Raptosh; **Saint Mary, Beavertdale:** Carol Slifko; **NURSING & CARE FACILITIES:** **Rebekah Manor**,

Portage: Joanne Stewart; William Prozialek [Dunlo]; **Richland Woods:** Elaine Vrabel; **Richland Nursing &**

Rehabilitation: Edward Cimba [Dunlo]; **Maple Winds:** *Richard Whitcomb* **Autumn View:** Joan Timura;

Andrew Deskevich, father of Father Andrew 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 June 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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