

# SS. PETER & PAUL BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH

143 Church Drive Portage, PA 15946  
Phone: 814.736.9780 Website: byzantinecatholic.us  
Served By: Rev. Fr. James A. Spontak



**FEBRUARY 19, 2012**

**SUNDAY OF FORGIVENESS - CHEESEFARE SUNDAY**

## The Great Fast--Beginnings

We begin the *Great Fast* tomorrow, Monday, February 20. With **Vespers of Forgiveness** (Cheesefare Vespers) this afternoon [5:00 pm], we mark the passage into this most solemn season.

*“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, while the Divine Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts is the fulfillment of the promise of the manna, as Saint 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 baptism, 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, 18]

An early Desert Father, Dorotheus of Gaza, in his discourse *“On the Holy Lenten Fast”* makes a comparison with the giving of a *tithe* of ten percent of our possessions to God, with the practice of giving a *tithe* of the days of the year to God in this season of Lent:

*“In the Law, God laid down that the sons of Israel should each year give tithes of all they possessed, and if they did so they were blessed in all their works. The holy apostles, knowing this to be for the help and advancement of our souls, resolved to fulfill it in a better and higher way, namely, for us to deliver up a tithe of the very days of our lives as if to consecrate them to God, so that we may be blessed in all our works, and each year to be unburdened of the whole year’s sins. They elected to consecrate out of the three hundred and sixty five days of the year, seven weeks of fasting, and so they ordained.”* [On the Holy Lenten Fast]

The hymns of our Church enjoin us to embrace these days with an open and willing spirit:

*”Let us begin this Fast in joy, shining with the commandments of Christ our God, with the light of charity and the brightness of prayer, with purity of heart and the energy of the strong. So that we might nobly hasten to the third day resurrection.”* [Matins, Monday of the First Week of Lent]

### The Lenten Journey

The Lenten practices prescribed by our Archeparchy are:

- **Strict Abstinence** from meat and dairy products, as well as *fasting*, are prescribed for **Pure Monday, February 20** [the first day of the Great Fast] and on **Great & Holy Friday—April 6**.
- **Abstinence** from meat, and *fasting* are prescribed on all **Wednesdays** and **Fridays** of the Great Fast.
- The *Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts* is offered on **Wednesdays** and **Fridays** of the Great Fast.
- The **Lenten Hours** consisting of psalms, Troparia, and other prayers, including the Lenten prayer of St. Ephrem, are a part of the Church’s daily office of prayer.

### Great Fast Adult Education Classes on the Gospels

Our *Adult/Young Adult Education Program* for the Sundays of the Great Fast on the Gospels begins **next Sunday, February 26**. These weekly sessions will be from 4:00-6:00 pm and will continue through the Sundays of March. Participants are encouraged to have a copy of **The Holy Gospels: A Byzantine Perspective**, by Father John S. Custer. This book on the Gospels will be a guide for participants to read, as it provides a great deal of background information and much valuable insight. Also, remember to bring with you a Bible for the weekly sessions.

**Please Note:** The cost of the book **The Holy Gospels: A Byzantine Perspective** has been discounted by the distributor and are only **\$5**. The difference from the cost of \$15 originally announced will be refunded to those who have already ordered and purchased the books. The books have arrived and may be picked up today or any time during the coming week. Additional copies are available for purchase [\$5].

## ***Pilgrim Vocation Icon Program***

We are invited to participate in the ***Pilgrim Vocation Icon Program*** to pray for vocations. Those accepting the icon for the week pray during that time for vocations to the presbyterate, diaconate, and monastic life. Please sign up on the sheet in the narthex to have the ***Pilgrim Vocation Icon*** in your home.

### **Week of February 19:**

**Saints Peter & Paul, Portage: Steve & Marge Fleck**

**Beaverdale & Dunlo: Michael & Pauline Barelick**



*For hosting the  
Pilgrim Vocation Icon  
And praying for vocations*

## **PARISH NEWS & EVENTS**

### **Festival Planning Update**

A group of parishioners met on Monday, February 13th, to discuss the strategy for the upcoming annual parish festival. The group focused on the need to make some adjustments to the current staffing efforts. The parish needs some additional volunteers to help manage the festival. This would be an opportunity for parishioners to take ownership in a particular area, and participate in a rewarding experience. This is a unique opportunity for members of the parish to come together to invite visitors to our parish and share our hospitality.

There are many details that need to be addressed, but if we can divide the responsibilities among a collection of members that are willing to accept the responsibility to lead, the details would not be as challenging. The responsibilities were divided into nine general areas. A description of each area has been compiled to help describe the tasks associated with each area. We are looking for at least two people to take charge, in each of these areas.

If you are willing to help take charge of a particular area, please sign your name on the sheet located in the Narthex. We would like to have a list of volunteers so that we can begin preparing for the annual festival.

Unless we meet these needs, our annual ethnic festival, which has been a staple in the community for over 70 years will cease to exist. If you are interested in helping, or would like more information about areas where help is needed, please call the rectory at 814-736-9780.

The next meeting for the 2012 Festival is **Monday, March 5** at 7:00 pm in the social room of the church hall. Parishioners of Saint Mary's (Beaverdale), Saints Peter and Paul (Dunlo), and the former Saint Michael (South Fork) are warmly welcome to share in the Festival planning and activities.

### **Parish Advisory Council Meeting**

The meeting of the ***Parish Advisory Council*** for Saint Mary's (Beaverdale) and Saints Peter and Paul (Dunlo), has been rescheduled for **Monday, February 27**. Minutes of the previous meeting will be included with next Sunday's bulletin.

### **Remember In Prayer**

Please pray for the health of ***Charles Potchak*** of St. Mary's, Beaverdale [Memorial]; ***Nancy Yatsky*** who is recuperating at home; ***Shawn Crum***; ***Father Gregory Michalisin*** of Saint Mary's, Windber; and all the ill and homebound.

Also, remember in your prayers our newly appointed Metropolitan Archbishop, ***Bishop William Skurla*** who will be enthroned on Wednesday, April 18, 2012; and also for the present Administrator of our Archeparchy ***Father Eugene Yackanich***.

### **Eternal Memory**

You are asked to pray for the repose of the soul of ***+Edward G. Rocker*** the father of Edward Rocker and the brother of Janet Spaid who fell asleep in the Lord on February 12; and also for the repose of the soul of ***+Michael A. Rocker***, the brother of Janet Spaid who fell asleep in the Lord on February 6. We extend our deepest sympathy and prayerful support to Ed and Kim, to Janet, and to all of their family.

We are also asked to pray for the repose of the soul of ***+Helen Lambert***, mother of Very Rev. Richard Lambert of Saint Mary's, Youngstown, Ohio, fell asleep in the Lord on Thursday, February 16.

### **Sanctuary Candle**

The Sanctuary Candle this week is offered in memory of ***+Adam Walls***, by Kathryn Mackovyak.

### **Acknowledgments**

***Stephen Paluch*** is beginning the ministry of altar server for the Vigil Divine Liturgy in Beaverdale and Dunlo. Also, ***Diane Batche*** is the Catechist for the Grade Two class in our ECF program for the remainder of the 2011-2012 ECF classes. We gratefully acknowledge Steve and also Diane for serving in these ministries for our parish communities.

## Correction

The donation in memory of **+Brian Tutsock** by *Portage Area School District Administrative Office* was made to Saints Peter and Paul (Portage), not Dunlo as stated in last Sunday's bulletin.

## Liturgical Chant—The Liturgy of Presanctified Gifts and the Sundays of the Tridion

- **2009 Edition of the Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts** includes propers for the first day of the Fast, Wednesdays, and Fridays for all six weeks of the Fast. The pages will be given before the service.
- On the **Sundays of the Great Fast**, the *Typical Psalms* [p. 16-17] replace the First and Second Antiphons; the *Beatitudes* [p. 23-24] are sung in place of the Third Antiphon. Also, the *Anaphora of Saint Basil the Great* is prescribed; the responses for the Anaphora of Saint Basil are on p. 96-100.
- The Troparion and other parts of the Divine Liturgy for **next Sunday, February 26**, Resurrection Troparion Tone 4, are on p. 141-142; and for the **First Sunday of the Great Fast--Orthodoxy** on pages 220-222.
- The *Our Father* in Tone 4 may be found on p.69.
- Please note instructions at the beginning of the Liturgy for the particular Sunday, opening hymns, and other alternate melodies, etc.

## PARISH CALENDAR

Sunday (February 19) .....	<i>Forgiveness Sunday (Cheesefare Sunday)</i> <i>Vespers for the Beginning of the Great Fast—5:00 pm</i>
Monday (February 20) .....	<i>Pure Monday / Cheesefare Monday</i> —First Day of the Great Fast
Sunday (February 26; March 4, 11, 18, 25) .....	<i>The Gospels</i> —Adult Education Sessions [4:00 pm]
Monday (February 27) .....	<i>Parish Advisory Council</i> —Beaverdale & Dunlo—7:00 pm
Saturday (March 3) .....	<i>Second All Souls Saturday</i> <i>Work Party 10:30 am</i>
Sunday (March 4) .....	<i>Coffee Social</i> after Divine Liturgy
Monday (March 5) .....	<i>Church Cleaning – 9:00 am</i> <i>Planning Meeting for Annual Ethnic Festival – 7:00 pm</i>

## OTHER NEWS & EVENTS

### Catechist Day of Reflection

Catechists are invited to attend a day of reflection on **Saturday, March 17**, from 9:30 am - 3:00 pm, at the Cathedral St. John the Baptist (Munhall). The keynote speaker, Fr. Deacon Michael Mandelas, invites participants to take a journey 'inward' to see the connections in their lives that have brought them to the ministry of being a catechist. The title of the program is *Listening with the Ear of the Heart*. You may register by e-mailing the office at: [mdobos1@gmail.com](mailto:mdobos1@gmail.com) or by phone at 412-322-8773.

### Necrology Booklet

A complete Necrology booklet (listing clergy and religious of the Metropolitan Church of Pittsburgh who have fallen asleep in the Lord by date of death and by name) is now available from Eastern Christian Publications. Booklets are \$10 plus shipping. They can be ordered by calling 703-691-8862, or online at [www.ecpubs.com](http://www.ecpubs.com) on the "New Titles" page.

### Today: Spaghetti Dinner & Meat Raffle

Holy Trinity Byzantine Catholic Church (217 Fourth Street, Conemaugh) will hold a Spaghetti Dinner on **Sunday, February 19**, from 11:00 am until 3:00 pm in their church hall. The dinner includes: Spaghetti & Meatballs, Salad, Roll/Butter, Dessert, and Beverage. The cost of the dinner is \$5.00.

The parish will also hold a Meat Raffle on **Sunday, March 11**, from 2:00 pm to 5:00 pm. Admission is \$3.00. For more information contact Paul at 814-241-6244.

### Lenten Fish Dinners

St. Joseph Catholic Church (Portage) will serve fish dinners each Friday from **February 24 through March 30**. Dinners will be served from 4pm until 6pm in their church hall. The menu includes: fried or baked fish, french fries or haluski, cole slaw, vegetable, roll, dessert, and coffee/punch. Orders for take-outs will begin at 1pm by calling 736-3146, but will not be ready for pickup until 4pm. Adults, \$9. Under 12, \$4.25.

## LITURGICAL SCHEDULE FOR THIS WEEK

### SUNDAY OF FORGIVENESS – CHEESEFARE SUNDAY

#### **Saturday (February 18)**

Dunlo 5:00 PM

#### **Vigil Divine Liturgy**

[+Joseph Kovalich, by Brother, John Kovalich]

#### **Sunday (February 19)**

Portage 9:00 AM

Portage **5:00 PM**

#### **Sunday Divine Liturgy**

**Vespers of Forgiveness** for the Beginning of the Great Fast

#### **Monday (February 20)**

Portage 6:30 PM

**7:00 PM**

*PURE MONDAY: Strict abstinence and fasting required*

Mystery of Repentance [Confessions]

**Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts**

#### **Tuesday (February 21)**

No Lenten Services scheduled

#### **Wednesday (February 22)**

Portage 6:30 PM

**7:00 PM**

*Simple abstinence and fasting required*

Mystery of Repentance [Confessions]

**Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts**

#### **Thursday (February 23)**

No Lenten Services scheduled

#### **Friday (February 24)**

Portage 6:30 PM

**7:00 PM**

*Simple abstinence and fasting required*

Mystery of Repentance [Confessions]

**Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts**

#### **Saturday (February 25)**

Portage 3:00 PM

Beaverdale 4:30 PM

Mystery of Repentance [Confessions]

Mystery of Repentance [Confessions]

### 1st SUNDAY OF THE GREAT FAST

Sunday of Orthodoxy—Memory of the Holy Prophets

#### **Saturday (February 25)**

Beaverdale 5:00 PM

#### **Vigil Divine Liturgy**

[+Evelyn Smolar, by Catherine Perich]

#### **Sunday (February 26)**

Portage 9:00 AM

#### **Sunday Divine Liturgy**

