

Saints Peter & Paul
Byzantine Catholic Church
107 South Fourth Street
Minersville, PA 17954

St. Mary's (Dormition of the Mother of God)
Byzantine Catholic Church
131 South Morris Street
Saint Clair, PA 17970

Saints Peter & Paul Rectory: (570) 544-2074

Website: www.sspeterandpaulminersville.com

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Served by: Very Reverend Gregory J. Noga, Pastor

SS. Peter & Paul Cantor: Mr. Paul Konkus

St. Mary Cantor: Dr. Peter Yasenchak

CONFESSIONS: Sts. Peter & Paul: Saturday 2:45-3:30 PM, Sunday 8:00-8:30 AM,
St. Mary's: Saturday 1:00 – 1:30 PM

SICK CALLS: As scheduled, or anytime in case of an emergency. If anyone is homebound or hospitalized, **please call the rectory (544-2074) IMMEDIATELY.**

Bulletins are sponsored by

Mahal-Ritzel Funeral Home

Minersville, PA 544-5111

Mark J. Mahal – Funeral Director

Our parish is grateful for their support – May the Lord bless their efforts!

The Myrrh-Bearing Women

The Sunday of the Myrrh-Bearing Women ... reminds us that the love and faithfulness of a few individuals shone brightly in the midst of hopeless darkness. It calls us to ensure that in this world love and faithfulness do not disappear or die out. It judges our lack of courage, our fear, our endless and servile rationalizations. The mysterious Joseph and Nicodemus, and these women who go to the grave at dawn, occupy so little space in the gospels. Precisely here, however, is where the eternal fate of each of us is decided.

Today, I think, we are especially in need of recovering this love and basic human loyalty. For we have entered a time when even these are being discredited by harmful concepts of the person and human life now prevailing in this world. For centuries, the world still had the weak, but still

flickering and shining, glow from that faithfulness, love and co-suffering which was silently present at the sufferings of the Man cast aside by all. And we need to cling, as if to a last thread, to everything in our world that still thrives on the warm light of simple, earthly, human love. Love does not ask about theories and ideologies, but speaks to the heart and soul. Human history has rumbled along, kingdoms have risen and fallen, cultures have been built and bloody wars fought, but what has remained unchanging on earth and in this troubled and tragic history is the bright image of the woman. An image of care, self-giving, love, compassion. Without this presence, without this light, our world, regardless of its successes and accomplishments, would be a world of terror.

Father Alexander Schmemmann

SUNDAY OF THE MYRRH-BEARING WOMEN



Icon of the Myrrh-bearing Women

**Sunday of the Myrrh-Bearers
Festal Tone**

Welcome to the parish communities of SS. Peter and Paul and St. Mary Byzantine Catholic Churches of Minersville and Saint Clair, Pennsylvania. We greet and welcome you to our Church. Our Church is a holy place. Our Church is where we get together in Jesus' Name. It is holy because we come here to worship, to be nourished in faith through Sacred Scripture and preaching, to open our hearts and minds to celebrate the mystery of salvation in Jesus Christ and to dedicate ourselves to a life of holiness and service to the Lord and others. The church building itself reflects this faith and calls us to enter into communion with God. We invite you to share our faith in Jesus Christ, to experience our worship and to live a life dedicated to the service of God and one another in Jesus' Name.

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April 18– April 24, 2021

All Divine Services are livestreamed where noted

Saturday Vigil Divine Liturgy (at SS Peter & Paul)

4:00 p.m. +**Charles Sinko** req. by MM Frank Sabol

Sunday

8:00 a.m. +**Edward, +Sophia & +Edward, Jr Demko** req. by Theresa Wagner
(at St. Mary)

10:00 am **Health and Blessing of the Parishioners** (at SS. Peter & Paul)
Livestreamed

Monday

8:00 a.m. **No Divine Liturgy Today**

Tuesday

8:00 a.m. +**Veronica Sekellick** req. by Bob & Kathy Verbosh

Wednesday

8:00 a.m. +**Joseph Lohin** req. by MM Paul Lohin

Thursday

8:00 a.m. **No Divine Liturgy Today**

Friday

8:00 a.m. +**John Holige** req. by George Hutzal

Saturday **Vigil Divine Liturgy** (at SS. Peter & Paul)

4:00 p.m. +**Nicholas Kostishak** req. by Mrs. Lola Pulaski

Epistle Readers: 4/17 – Gail Burgess; 4/18 – Jennifer Keer; 4/24 – Dolores Kramer; 4/25 – Anna Keer; 5/1 – Angela Frank.

The Resurrection Icon

None of the four canonical Gospels record the actual Resurrection of Christ—they only relate the discovery of the empty tomb by the myrrh-bearing women and His later appearances to the disciples. Traditional Byzantine icons faithfully follow the Gospels by not picturing the precise moment of Christ's emergence from the tomb. Instead it is the "Descent into the Abyss" that has become the Resurrection Icon. Christ descended into the Abyss (Hell or the Underworld) to free the souls of all the righteous men and women who lived before he opened the gates of Heaven through His Cross. This event is described in the first hymn of Resurrection Matins: "When You descended to death, O Immortal Life, You Destroyed the Abyss by the radiance of Your divinity. And when You raised the dead from the depths of the earth, all the heavenly powers cried out: 'O Giver of Life, Christ, our God, glory be to You.'" (Resurrection Troparion 2)



In the center of the icon against the black background of the Abyss, stands Christ, clothed in shining white garments and surrounded by a radiant halo of blue. His divinity overcomes the darkness of the realm of Death. He stands upon the shattered gates of the kingdom of death. Scattered around are the broken locks and chains that used to bind fallen mankind; they show that "Death has no more power over Him." (Romans 6:9)

In the Icon, Christ grasps the hands of Adam and Eve, drawing them to the immortality that they lost in the Garden of Eden. The raising of Adam and Eve foreshadows the resurrection of all flesh. "Just as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will come to life again." (1 Cor. 15:22)

Christ also frees all those who put their faith in His coming. That is why prophets and kings stand on either side, pointing out the promised Messiah and Savior they eagerly awaited. In Christ all humanity is raised. Through our baptismal union with Christ, our own death is only the passage to eternal life.

The Resurrection Icon proclaims the divinity of Christ who conquered Death by His death. It is a comforting promise of our own victory over death through the power of God.