

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

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Served by: Very Reverend Gregory J. Noga, Pastor

S. Peter & Paul Cantor: Mr. Paul Konkus St. Mary's Cantor: Dr. Peter Yasenchak

**CONFESSIONS** : SS. Peter & Paul Sunday One half hour prior to Divine Liturgy and Daily  
prior to Divine Liturgy. Saturday 1pm to 2pm

St. Mary's Saturday 3:00 PM

**SICK CALLS** : As scheduled, or anytime in case of an emergency. If anyone is homebound or  
hospitalized, please call the rectory 570-544-2074

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Mahal-Ritzel Funeral Home  
Minersville, PA 5445111

### The Mystery of Man's Reconciliation with God

He who is true God was born in the complete and perfect nature of a true man, whole in His own nature, whole in ours. By our nature we mean what the Creator had fashioned in us from the beginning, and took to Himself in order to restore it.

He took the nature of a servant without stain of sin, enlarging our humanity without diminishing His divinity. He emptied himself; though invisible He made himself visible, though Creator and Lord of all things He chose to be one of us mortal men. Yet this was the condescension of compassion, not the loss of omnipotence.

Beyond our grasp, He chose to come within our grasp. Existing before time began, He began to exist at a moment in time. Lord of the universe, He hid His infinite glory and took the nature of a servant. Incapable of suffering as God, He did not refuse to be a man, capable of suffering. Immortal, He chose to be subject to the laws of death.

He who is true God is also true man. There is no falsehood in this unity as long as the lowliness of

man and the pre-eminence of God coexist in mutual relationship.

As God does not change by His condescension, so man is not swallowed up by being exalted. Each nature exercises its own activity, in communion with the other. The Word does what is proper to the Word, the flesh fulfills what is proper to the flesh.

One nature is resplendent with miracles, the other falls victim to injuries. As the Word does not lose equality with the Father's glory, so the flesh does not leave behind the nature of our race.

One and the same person – this must be said over and over again – is truly the Son of God and truly the son of man. He is God in virtue of the fact that in the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He is man in virtue of the fact that the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us.

St. Leo the Great

## FIFTH SUNDAY OF THE GREAT FAST MEMORY OF OUR HOLY MOTHER MARY OF EGYPT



Icon of Saint Mary and Saint Zosimos

**5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the Great Fast**  
**St. Mary of Egypt**  
**Tone 5**

Welcome to the parish communities of SS. Peter and Paul and St. Mary Byzantine Catholic Churches of Minersville and Saint Clare, 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 6 – April 12, AD2025**

**Vigil of Sunday**

Saturday 4:00 p.m. **+Gloria Kovach** req. by Marie Wanchick \*  
Sunday 9:00 a.m. **Health and Blessing of the Parishioners\***  
(Livestream)

Monday 9:00 a.m. **3<sup>rd</sup> Lenten Hour\***  
Tuesday 9:00 a.m. **6<sup>th</sup> Lenten Hour\***  
Wednesday 6:00 p.m. **Liturgy of the Pre-sanctified Gifts\***  
Thursday 9:00 a.m. **No Service Today\***  
Friday 3:00 p.m. **Liturgy of the Pre-sanctified Gifts\***

**Vigil Liturgy**

Saturday 4:00 p.m. **+Charles Sinko** req. by MM Michael Novak\*

\*St. Mary

\*SS Peter & Paul

**Epistle Readers:** 4/2 – Laura Mitchell; 4/6 – Marie Wanchick; 4/13 – Judy Kostura; 4/15 – Gail Burgess; 4/16 – Paulette Murphy; 4/17 – Dolores Kramer; 4/18 – Beverly Kostishak; 4/20 – Jennifer Keer.

**Breakfast with Father: Will resume after Pascha.**

**Pastoral Note:**

**Schedule for Great and Holy Week:**

Great & Holy Wednesday 7:00 p.m. Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts

Great & Holy Thursday 7:00 p.m. Vespertine Liturgy of St. Basil  
Commemorating the Holy Eucharist

Great & Holy Friday 3:00 p.m. Vespers with Burial of the Shroud  
at St. Mary Parish  
7:00 p.m. at SS Peter & Paul Parish

Great & Holy Saturday 12:00 p.m. Vigil Liturgy of St. Basil  
2:00 p.m. Blessing of Paschal Foods  
7:00 p.m. Resurrection Matins and  
Divine Liturgy at SS Peter & Paul

Holy Pascha 8:00 a.m. Resurrection Matins and Divine  
Liturgy at St. Mary  
Blessing of Paschal Foods

NB: Confessions will be available prior to each Divine Service.

*St. Mary of Egypt was a “lady of the night” who after her conversion, spent her remaining days in the desert as a hermit seeking God’s forgiveness and mercy in reparation for her many sins. We would do well to imitate her desire for conversion by repenting of our sins and offering penance for the remission of the effects of those sins. Prayer and fasting during Great and Holy Week offers an excellent opportunity for this to take place in our lives.*

## WISDOM! BE ATTENTIVE

*In you, O Mother Mary, the faithful divine likeness shone forth, for by taking up the cross, you followed Christ. You gave us an example to be not concerned with the flesh, but to be diligent over the eternal things of the spirit. Therefore, O Venerable Mary, you now rejoice with the angels Troparion, St. Mary of Egypt.*

*Once filled with all kinds of vices, today, through repentance, she appears as the bride of Christ. Leading an angelic life, she crushes the devil with the help of the cross. Therefore, O venerable Mary, you now rejoice with the angels Kontakion, St. Mary of Egypt.*

*O Christ God, You confirmed the resurrection of all before the time of Your passion by raising Lazarus from the dead; therefore we, as the children of Israel, carry the symbols of victory and cry out to You, the Conqueror of death: "Hosanna in the highest! Blessed is He Who comes in the name of the Lord" Troparion, Lazarus Saturday.*

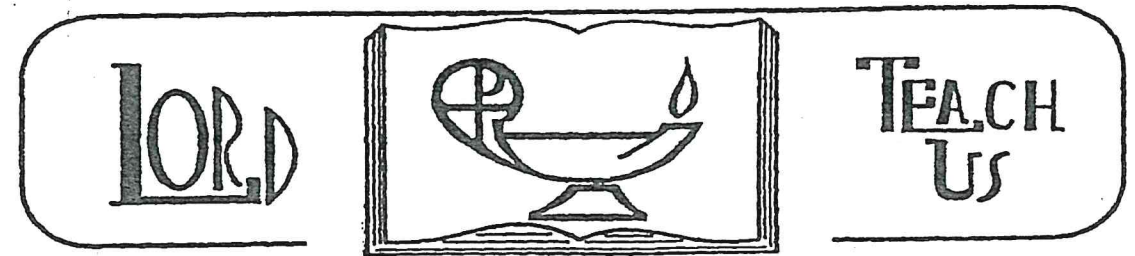
*Christ, the Joy of all, the Truth, the Light, the Life, and the Resurrection of the world appeared to those on earth. Because of His goodness, He became also the image of Resurrection, granting divine forgiveness to all Kontakion, Lazarus Saturday.*

*The Lord is my Light and my Salvation; Whom shall I fear? Prokimenon, Lazarus Saturday.*

*Let us gloriously honor the pure Mother of God. She bore the divine Fire and was not consumed. With ceaseless praise, let us extol her Hymn instead of "It is truly proper...", Lazarus Saturday.*

*Out of the mouths of babes and infants, You have fashioned praise. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia! Communion hymn, Lazarus Saturday.*

*All you who have been baptized into Christ, have put on Christ. Alleluia! Hymn Instead of "Holy God", Lazarus Saturday.*



### Man To God

*So be very careful to keep on loving him Joshua 23: 11.*

*Oh, love the Lord, all of you who are his people, for the Lord protects those who are loyal to him, but harshly punishes all who haughtily reject him Psalms 31: 23.*

*O my son, trust my advice... Proverbs 23: 26.*

*Get behind me satan, Jesus told him, for the Scripture says worship only the Lord God and obey only him Matthew 4: 10.*

*Then he added, Anyone who obeys my Father in heaven is my brother, sister and mother Matthew 12: 50!*

*Just so, if you merely obey me, you should not consider yourselves worthy of praise, for you have simply done your duty Luke 17: 10.*

*Really, he remarked, this poor widow has given more than all the rest of them combined. For they have given a little of what they do not need, but she, poor as she is, has given everything she has Luke 21: 3.*

*If you love me, obey me. The one who obeys me is the one who loves me and because he loves me, my Father will love him John 14: 15.*

*But Peter and the apostles replied, We must obey God rather than man Acts of the Apostles 5: 29.*



### The Old Country Priest says...

Healing begins when we receive forgiveness and pursue the future God's way, not our own. The way to life is through the Cross and the Cross alone. There, hearts are changed one at a time, and life and peace replace death and hate. Those who seek life his way find it. Those who seek it their own way lose it. In that sense we can know the future.

I said to the man at the Gate of the Year, "Give me a light that I may walk safely into the unknown." He said to me, "Go out into the darkness, and put your hand into the hand of God, and it shall be to you better than the light and safer than the known."



### When God Is Late

*Lord it has already been four days; surely by now he stinks*  
John 11: 39.

The account of Jesus raising Lazarus from the dead stirs our emotions and causes us to stand in awe of the power of God. He certainly is the Lord of Life!

Perhaps this passage is so powerful to us because we can visualize it so clearly in our minds. All the senses are employed in being present mystically at this somber event. We can see ourselves trudging through the crowded streets of Bethany with Christ and his disciples. As we near the outskirts of town, we hear from up the dusty path a sound of sobbing and wailing. Then from the direction of the house of Lazarus, Martha comes running to Jesus. Flooding ears are still running down her face and we can experience her pain and loss and hopelessness as she cries out her frustration to the Lord. "If only you had been here, my brother would not have died."

How many of us have so often felt that God is "four days late" when a loved one dies from an illness or when our plans or dreams do not work out? Do we trust our God can heal a friend, but fail to trust in his wisdom when that dear one dies? Do we trust He can guide our lives, but fail to trust him when things do not go as we hoped or planned? Do we trust our parish priest when he acts as the reassurance of the promise of Christ and pardons and absolves our sins in the sacramental Mystery of Reconciliation, but question him in all other areas?

Wandering back to that gravesite scene, we can feel the expectation as some men remove the stone from the burial cave. The women stop their weeping and there is a death-like silence until Jesus cries out, "Lazarus, come forth!" More astounding still is the sound of shuffling feet within and we are overcome with joy and wonder as Lazarus appears at the mouth of the grave/cave. The Son of God has uttered a command, not an invitation! And the once dead Lazarus submits and responds to it!

How could we ever have doubted? How could we have felt disheartened? How could we have placed a limit on the power of our God? Jesus was not "four days late!" As always, He was right on time, his time!