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Heirs of God

Whosoever fears God and keeps His commandments, is the servant of God. And in this service is not perfection, but the righteousness which leads to adoption. For this cause the prophets also and the apostles, the holy band whom God chose, entrusting to them the apostolic preaching, by the goodness of God the Father became prisoners in Christ Jesus. For Paul says, "Paul, the prisoner of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle" (Eph 3: 1; Rom 1: 1): so that the written law works with us in a good servitude, until we are able to master every passion, and to become perfect in the good ministry of virtue through this apostolic state.

For if a man draws near to grace, then Jesus will say to him, "I will no longer call you servants, but I will call you my friends and my brothers: for all things that I have heard of my Father I have made known unto you" (Jn 15: 15). For those who have drawn near, and have been taught by the Holy Spirit, have known themselves according to their intellectual substance. And in their knowledge of themselves they have cried out and said, "For we have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear, but the spirit of adoption whereby we cry, Abba, Father" (Rom 8: 15): that we may know what God has given us – "If we are sons, then are we heirs; heirs of God, and joint heirs with the saints" (Rom 8: 17).

My dear brothers and sisters, and joint heirs with the saints, not foreign to you are all the virtues, but they are yours, if you are not under guilt from this fleshly life, but are manifest before God. For the Spirit enters not the soul of one whose heart is defiled, nor the body that sins; a holy power it is, removed from all deceit.

Truly, my beloved, I write to you as to reasonable people, who have been able to know yourselves. For he who knows himself, knows God: and he who knows God, is worthy to worship Him as is right.

St. Cyril of Alexandria

Eastern Christian Bulletin Service, PO Box 146, Fairfax, VA 22038-0146 www.ecbulletin.com Ph: 703-691-8863 Smartphone APP: ECPubs

Twelfth Sunday After Pentecost

Icon of the Holy Napkin

1SS. Peter & Paul Byzantine Catholic Church
107 South Fourth Stret
Minersville, PA
570-544-2074
Father Gregory J. Noga, pastor

St. Mary Byzantine Catholic Church
131 South Morris Street
Saint Clair, PA
tvrgjn@outlook.com

Volume 2026
Christ is Among us!

Number 34
He is and will be!

12th Sunday after Pentecost
Tone 3

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.

August 16 – August 22, AD2026

Vigil of Sunday		
Saturday	4:00 p.m.	**Dormition of the Theotokos** **H&B Parishioners***
Sunday	9:00 a.m.	**Health and Blessings of the Parishioners**
Wednesday	7:30 a.m.	**+Julia & +Anthony Vasura** req. by Yvonne M Quandel*
Thursday	7:30 a.m.	**+John, +Eva & +Michael Bailey** req. by Marie Wanchick*
Friday	7:30 a.m.	**+Jeanette Lohin** req. by Paul Lohin*
Saturday	4:00 p.m.	**+Rev. Francis T. Gera** req. by The Estate

*St. Mary
*SS Peter & Paul

Epistle Readers: 8/2 – Ellen Sinkovich; 8/9 – Marie Wanchick; 8/14 – Paulette Murphy; 8/16 – Dolores Kramer; 8/23 – Judy Kostura; 8/28 – Laura Mitchell; 8/30 – Gail Burgess; 9/6 – Ellen Sinkovich.

Candle Offering: This week the candles burning in front of the Icon of Christ, The Mother of God, and on the Sacramental Table are offered for: **+George Konkus, +John & +Helen Popovich and the Souls in Purgatory** requested by Helen Konkus.

The importance of Sunday Mass by Pope Leo XIV
Leo also explained that the Church has always regarded Sunday as a weekly celebration of Christ's resurrection: the "dies Domini" ("the Lord's day").
He urged Catholics to attend Sunday Mass and warned against using virtual gatherings to substitute for in-person attendance.
"To sanctify Sunday, it is essential to celebrate the Eucharist," Leo said. "This assembly cannot be substituted by a solely virtual presence, nor can it be reduced to a merely passive gathering."
"The liturgical assembly is in fact fulfilled through the active participation of brothers and sisters," Leo added.

As explained by the Holy Father, unless you are physically prevented from attending the Sunday Divine Liturgy, attending by livestream does not fulfill your obligation to attend in person. We, at SS Peter and Paul Parish, provide the livestream for our homebound parishioners who otherwise cannot be physically present and the Eucharist is provided them on a monthly basis.

Wedding Jubilarians: If you are celebrating a wedding anniversary this year and wish to attend this years celebration at St. John the Baptist Byzantine Catholic Church, Hazleton and attend the Dinner afterwards, kindly call the rectory or use the email address (tvrgjn@outlook.com) to make your intention known. The date is: October 25, 2026 at 3:00 p.m.

They did not listen,
however, but continued
in their earlier manner.
Thus these nations venerated
the Lord, but also served their idols.
And their sons and grandsons,
to this day are doing
as their fathers did

2 Kings 17: 40, 41.

God Forgives

The Lord knows what we are made of; he remembers we are dust
Psalms 103: 14.

Too many are distressed that they drop off to sleep during their evening prayers, introspection or meditation, and perhaps also during their daily thanksgiving. But if sincerity of heart is the inspiration of these devotions, no one need feel distressed.

We are all aware that children are just as dear to their parents, whether they are asleep or awake and we know physicians put their patients to sleep before they operate. So, we can also think that our heavenly Father knows our frame. He does remember we are dust. The purity of our intention is vital and if the weakness of our physical being gives way to needed rest, truly our Maker understands.

It is entirely true that our faults do not distress our Creator God and we should be overwhelmed at this assurance. After all, He does provide us with a way over and perhaps around the many distractions we know as temptations. Consequently, looking upon the unchangeableness of God, we can cultivate patience to endure this life of exile from his glory. It too becomes an echo of our innermost thoughts, to be comfortable in his presence, even though innocent human weakness may sometimes overcome us.

Genuine believers recognize and realize our Lord is far more tender than any earthly mother, and know very well the depths of tenderness in more than one mother's heart! Although it would seem far better to complete our daily prayer devotions while fully conscious and awake, what better way to pass on to rest than with lips of prayer and praise falling before the throne of our God!

What person is there, particularly what child is there, that does not know and readily understand a mother is always ready to forgive the unintentional misbehavior of her child! Let us also learn on the softness of our pillow that we have no need of mulling over and again our sins and faults lest they lead us deeper in separation from the security of our God.

SHREDDING THE FIRST AMENDMENT

"Religious liberty does not depend on the benevolence of who is regulating us. It is our 'first freedom' and respect for it must be broad and inclusive — not narrow and exclusive."

A liar begins with making falsehood appear like truth and ends with making truth itself appear like falsehood.

Author–Unknown

Date–Between the fourth and second centuries BC

Major Themes–*The Book of Tobit is a love story.* A father sends his only son into the world so that he may find a bride, save her, and bring her back rejoicing to his parents. The same story is told by the Lord in John 3:16.

From the beginning, God has been working in history to bring man out of the darkness of sin and death and into the glorious light of Christ. This is the story of salvation, and the Book of Tobit is an icon of that story. Within Tobit's narrative lies a shadowy outline of God working in history from the beginning to the end of the age, as He makes preparation for the uniting of man and all creation to God in Christ.

Background–The story of Tobit is set against the backdrop of the Assyrian exile in Nineveh. Family tragedy, hope, and divine intervention are interwoven to communicate the presence of God's providence.

Outline

I. Tobit's Life before the Exile, His Early Days in Nineveh (1:1–22)
II. Tobit's Charity, His Blindness, and His Prayer for Help (2:1—3:6)
III. Tobiah's Quest and Marriage (3:7—9:6)
  A. Sarah's predicament and prayer (3:7–17)
  B. Tobit sends Tobiah on his quest with Raphael in disguise (4:1—5:23)
  C. Tobit marries Sarah and breaks the curse (6:1—9:6)
IV. Tobiah's Return and Conclusion (10:1—14:15)
  A. Tobiah returns and heals his father (10:1—11:19)
  B. Raphael reveals his identity (12:1–22)
  C. Tobit praises God (13:1—14:1)
  D. Final Days of Tobit (14:2–15)