

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

Email: tvrgjn@outlook.com

Served by: Very Reverend Gregory J. Noga, Pastor

SS. Peter & Paul Cantor: Mr. Paul Konkus St. Mary Cantor: Dr. Peter Yasenchak

CONFESSIONS: SS. Peter & Paul: Sunday One half hour prior to Divine Liturgy and Daily prior to Divine Liturgy

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 (544-2074)

Bulletins are sponsored by

Mahal-Ritzel Funeral Home

Minersville, PA 544-5111

Mark J. Mahal – Funeral Director

The Danger of Riches

One day, an Indian boy found a large pearl. It represented the fulfillment of all his hopes and dreams. His days of hardship and toil would be over. He would never have to work again. But, when he tried to sell the pearl, his real problems began. Buyers tried to trick him, bandits tried to attack him, and even his friends tried to manipulate him. Possessing great wealth was nothing like he expected it would be, so he took the pearl and threw it back into sea.

The boy in this story is quite a contrast to the young man of whom Jesus spoke in the Gospel reading for this Sunday. Jesus spoke of a young man who desired to be justified by God. He had faithfully kept all the commandments, but Jesus told him that there

was one thing he still needed to do: sell all he had and give to the poor. With that, the young man went away saddened because he was not able to easily part with all his possessions. Jesus then spoke one of His most enduring statements, "It will be easier for a camel to pass through the needles eye, than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God." (Matthew 21:24)

What type of hold do our possessions have on us? Are we willing to share what we have with others, including our time, our talents, as well as our treasure? Everything that we have is a gift from God, which must be freely shared with others as a gift. Our Lord Himself tells us, "The gifts you have freely received, now give as a gift." (Matthew 10:8)

TWENTY-EIGHTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST



Icon of the Rich Young Ruler and Christ (Luke 18:18-27)

28th 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.

December 1– December 7, AD2024

Vigil of Sunday		
Saturday	4:00 p.m.	+ Joseph R. Gretskey req. by Cheryl Mason & Don Gretskey *
Sunday	9:00 a.m.	Health and Blessing of the Parishioners*
Monday 9:00 a.m. No Divine Liturgy Today*		
Tuesday 9:00 a.m. H&B Lee Ballenger req. by Marie Wanchick *		
6:00 p.m. Pre-Nativity Moleben*		
Wednesday	9:00 a.m.	+Peter Dembinsky, Sr. req. by Mary Dembinsky*
Thursday	9:00 a.m.	+Michael Sinko req. by Don & Thelma Kunnigham*
Holy Day – St. Nicholas of Myra		
Friday 9:00 a.m. +Sylvia & +George Andrachick req. by Marie Wanchick*		
4:00 p.m. Health & Blessings of the Parishioners*		
Saturday	4:00 p.m.	+Andrew & +Margaret Gershak req. by Estate *

*St. Mary
*SS Peter & Paul

Epistle Readers: 12/1 – Paulette Murphy; 12/6 – Ellen Sinkovich; 12/8 – Beverly Kostishak; 12/15 – Jennifer Keer; 12/22 – Marie Wanchick; 12/25 –

Dolores Kramer; 12/26 – Gail Burgess; 12/27 – Laura Mitchell; 12/29 – Anna Keer; 1/1 – Marie Wanchick.

Breakfast with Father: Sunday December 8. Cantor Training.

Candles Request: The candles in front of the Icons of the Mother of God and Christ the Teacher and on the Sacramental Table are burning for **Thanksgiving to God for His great mercy.**

We are one week closer to the Holy Day of the Nativity of Jesus Christ. Prepare for its celebration by prayer, fasting and alms giving. Offer non-perishables to the Minersville Food Pantry, or make a monetary donation.

The Annual Bishop's Appeal has begun the goal of SS. Peter & Paul Parish is \$11,000.00 and for St. Mary Parish it is \$3,000.00 and if the goal is reached, 40% is returned to the parish.

For SS. Peter & Paul Parish to reach its assigned goal each of the 80 households need to contribute \$137.50 and for the 8 households of St. Mary each needs to contribute \$375.00 to reach the assigned goal.

Believers Righteous In God's Sight

By faith Noah, warned about things not yet seen, revered God and built an ark that his household might be saved. He thereby condemned the world and inherited the justice which comes through faith Hebrews 11:7

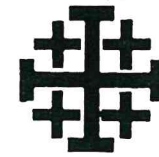
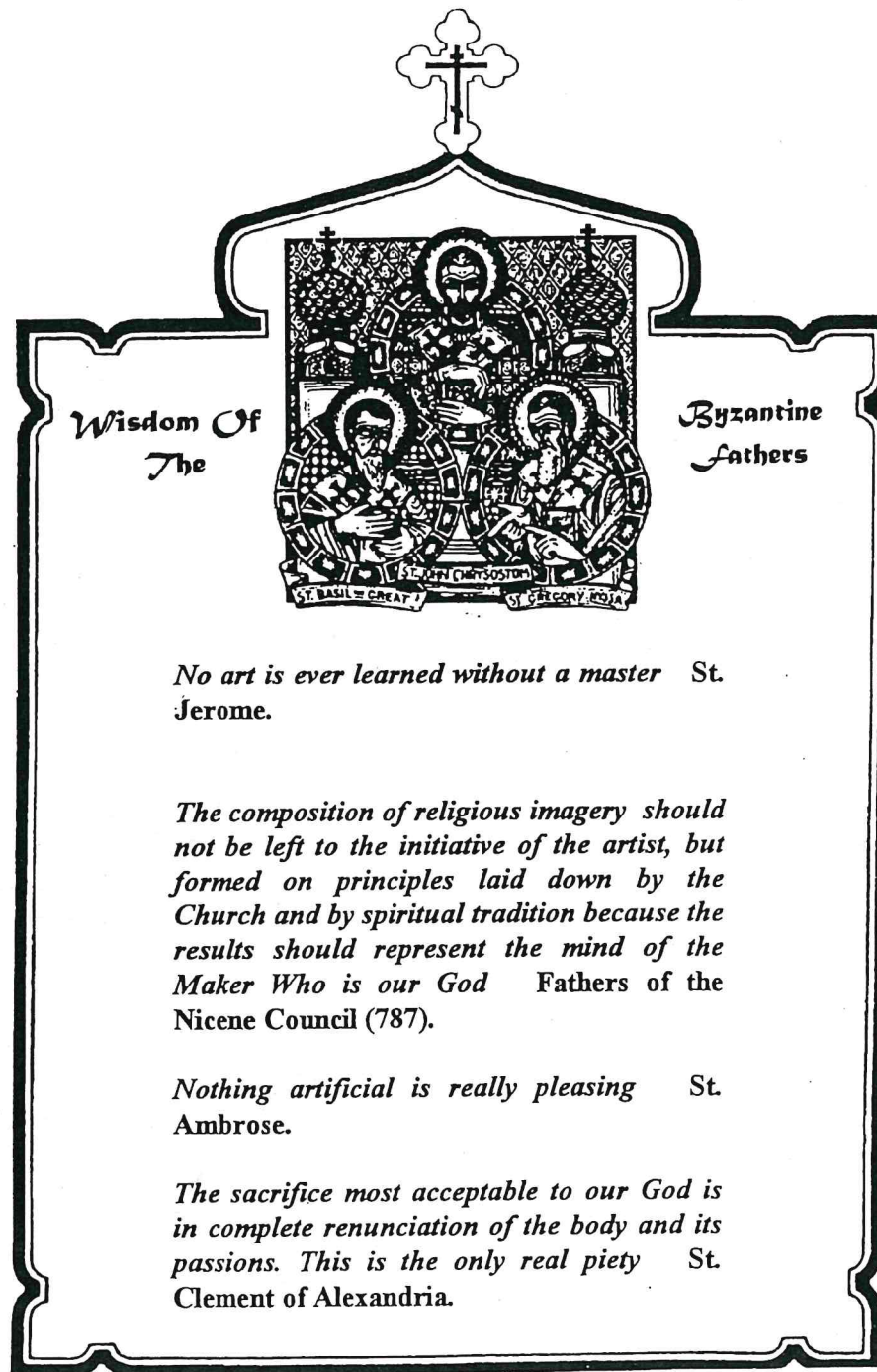
Stand fast with the truth as the belt around your waist, justice as your breastplate Ephesians 6:14.

At your name they rejoice all the day, and through your justice they are exalted Psalm 89:17.

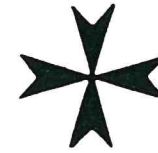
Saying, "Only in the Lord are just deeds and power. Before him in shame shall come all who vent their anger against him" Isaiah 45:24.

How, then, shall we put it? That the Gentiles, who were not seeking justice, attained it – the justice which comes from faith – while Israel, seeking a law from which justice would come, did not arrive at that law? Romans 9:30,31.

Types of Crosses



JERUSALEM (or CRUSADER): This Cross has four small crosses between the arms, symbolizing the five wounds of Christ. It also stands for missionary work, the small crosses indicating the four corners of the earth.



MALTESE: This consists of four spearheads with points together. The eight points represent the Beatitudes (Matt. 5:3-10). This Cross is named for the island of Malta (the place where St. Paul was shipwrecked—Acts 27:14-44), since it was the headquarters of one of the Crusader group that utilized this Cross.



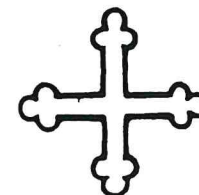
CROSS PATEE: This is often confused with the Maltese Cross. The former is made up of straight lines, while the Cross Patee has curved arms.



CROSS BARBEE: This Cross has ends like fish hooks, suggesting the Christians as *fishers of men* (Matt. 4:19).



FLEUR-DE-LIS: This is French for *flower of the lily*. It symbolizes the Holy Trinity.



CROSS TREFFLEE: This is another form of the Cross Botonnee, with arms of equal length, with each end formed as a trefoil.

St. John Chrysostom

As our blessed Church celebrates the memory of one of its most venerable sons this week, it is good for us to become acquainted with his life lived for the glory of God. One of the greatest preachers and teachers of the Byzantine Catholic Church, he is commemorated January 27 and 30 as well. He is known for his unsurpassed zeal for the truth of Christ, his passionate defense of the poor, and for exposing the vices of his age. He was eventually deposed and exiled because the truth of Christ became bitter in the mouths of the guilty.

The bulk of his works are sermons and homilies on the Scripture, especially the epistles of St. Paul as well as other ascetical and pastoral works. He introduced into the life of the Church the extraordinary method of interpreting verse by verse the revelation of God. To him is attributed the coining of the word "Bible" as the collection of works revealed to us by God. He preached tirelessly in the patriarchal Cathedral of the Holy Wisdom in the imperial city and by his words and sincerity, transformed many lives. He impugned the sins of the populace and caused many to avert damnation. Throngs always came to hear his sermons and liturgical celebrations. His unsurpassed classic writing, *On The Priesthood*, is still today referred to in places where instruction is provided in the formation of priestly aspirants.

To him is attributed the appellation, *Chrysostom* which means "golden mouth" because of the truth and beauty of his

sermonology. He took great pains in teaching his flock that it might appear acceptable before the Judgment Seat of the Lord. He took very seriously his vocation as a priest and patriarch of the Church and never abandoned an opportunity to teach in the name of Christ. Even when exiled by the foolish emperor of his time, he did not abandon his vocation, as a result of which he was restored to his see.

To St. John Chrysostom is attributed the shortening of the Divine Liturgy of St. Basil the Great, although in all truth, only the primary and main prayers have their source at his hand. In composing this Liturgy, he showed heavenly and inspired genius as the worship structure responds most intimately to the need of man to praise and glorify the Triune God, regardless of the time period in which he lives. The popular Liturgy which forms the basis of the Eucharistic praise of God in the Byzantine Catholic Church is just as responsive to the needs of the soul in contemporary society as it was in the fourth century when it was first celebrated. Emphasizing the fact that man does not worship and have a relationship with His Creator simply from the perspective of the mind, the Divine Liturgy invites and arouses within the believer a whole and complete response. The total man, with all his senses approaches the Eternal God and offers himself in response to God's first shown love. Every dimension of man's personality and character is elevated and transformed into a worshipping creature of God. In the Divine Liturgy, he recognizes and incorporates the presence of the Eternal Kingdom. The place of the saints and the angels is not overlooked or omitted, as we join them in the never-ending glory offered the Holy Trinity. Perhaps no other Father of the

Church influenced its life as much as St. John Chrysostom. Thus the Church sings his praise: *"The grace that shines forth from you like a torch has enlightened the universe; it implanted in the world the treasure of the love of poverty, it showed us the high value of humility. Instruct us by your words, Father John and intercede with the Word, Christ our God, for the salvation of our souls"* Troparion, Feast of St. John Chrysostom.

About 347 AD, there was born to a Christian mother and pagan father in Antioch a son who was baptized John. The father was an officer in the imperial army and died in his youth. His mother excelled in piety and transmitted to him a devout faith in Christ. There was only one other child, a daughter, some years older than John. Of his early years we know little, except that he received a classical education, appropriate for the time. About the age of eighteen, he decided to become a monk to "put aside all this debauchery of learning." He departed for the mountains to lead the life of an anchorite. Then he lived in community, practicing asceticism and he ruined his health by fasting too greatly. Having been ordained a deacon, in 386 he was elevated to the priesthood.

In 398, he was enthroned as Patriarch of Constantinople. He who hated power and preached against it was now in the center of power. He began to sweep the imperial city with a new broom and emptied the patriarchal palace of its expensive plate. On September 14, 407, he went to his eternal reward after a short but turbulent time in the leadership of the Byzantine Church.



ST. JOHN CHRYSOSTOM