

Saints Peter & Paul St. Mary's (Dormition of the Mother of God)
 Byzantine Catholic Church Byzantine Catholic Church
 107 South Fourth Street 131 South Morris Street
 Minersville, PA 17954 Saint Clair, PA 17970

Parish Office: (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: Saturday 1:00 - 2:00 p.m. and Sunday 8:00 – 8:30 a.m. 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

Faith, Cleansing and Gratitude

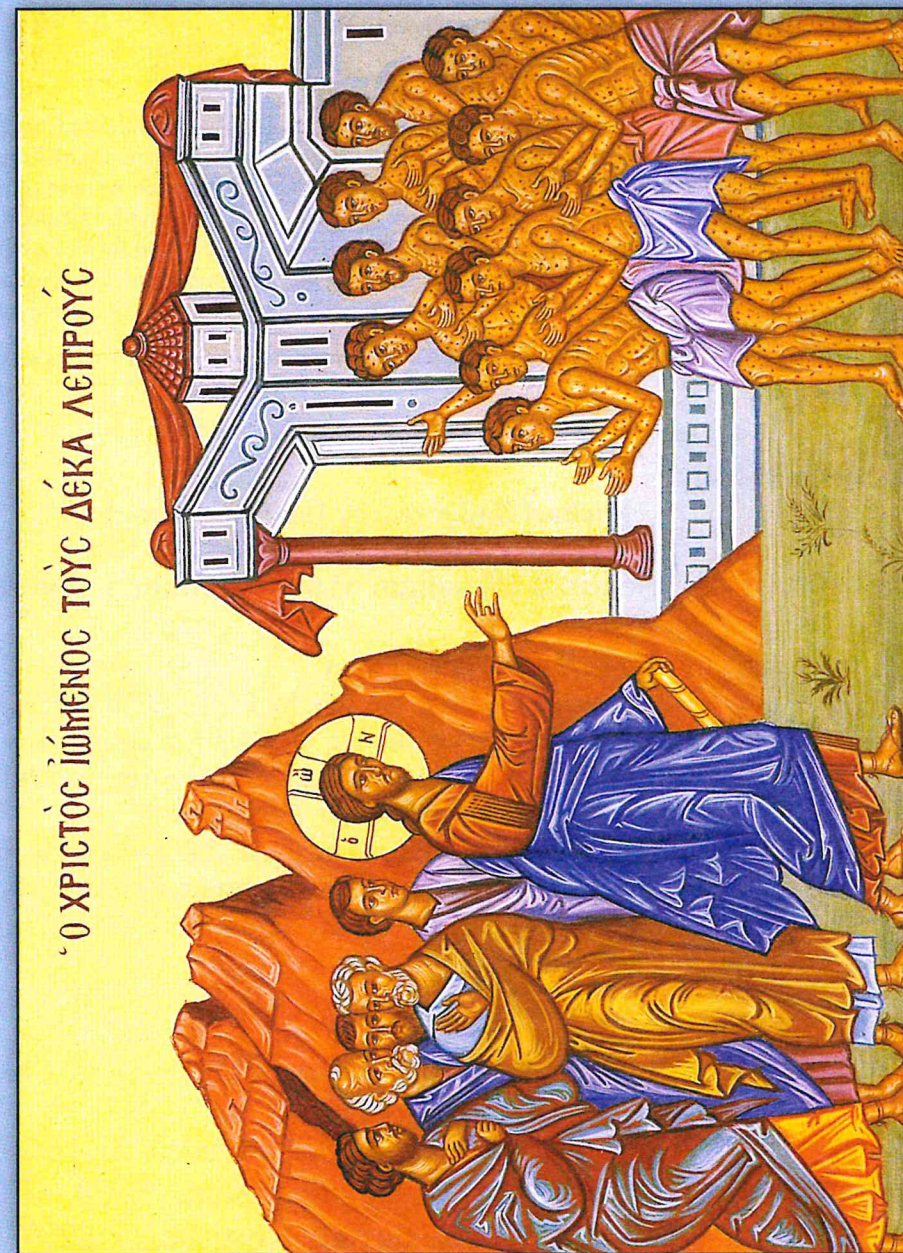
Once, as Jesus was passing through Samaria on His way to Jerusalem, ten lepers met Him. They stood afar off and cried: "Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!" Jesus saw them and said: "Go, show yourselves to the priest." So in this case He did not touch them. Instead, He tested their faith to see whether they would obey and go to the priests to get a certificate of healing even before they had been healed. They obeyed and were healed.

And one of them returned and with a loud voice glorified God and fell at His feet, giving Him thanks. He was a Samaritan. And Jesus said: "Were there not ten cleansed? Where are the nine? Were there not any found to give glory to God except this for-

eigner?" And Jesus said to him: "Arise, go your way. Your faith has made you well." The Samaritans accepted Christ as the Messiah and became Christians, while the Jews rejected Him.

The Fathers of the Church see a lesson in this for us. The ten lepers signify mankind. We are all leprous, but only one in ten give thanks to God for the salvation He has brought to us. In the same way, only some of the seed sown by God (in the Parable of the Sower) brings forth good fruit. We can all be cleansed by Him, but if we do not return to Him in gratitude and to glorify Him, we cannot be saved.

THIRTY-EIGHTH SUNDAY OF PENTECOST



Icon of the Cure of the Ten Lepers – Luke 17:12-19

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 10 – December 16, 2023

Vigil of Sunday (at St. Mary)

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| Saturday | 4:00 p.m. | + Michael Bailey req. by Holochuck Family |
| Sunday | 9:00 a.m. | Health & Blessings of the Parishioners (livestreamed) |
| Monday | 9:00 a.m. | No Divine Liturgy Today |
| Tuesday | 9:00 a.m. | + Charles Kostura, Sr. req. by MM Joseph Geles |
| Wednesday | 9:00 a.m. | + Kathryn Simodejka req. by Stephen Yuschock |
| Thursday | 9:00 a.m. | + Thomas & +Helju, +Msgr John, +Andrew, +Julia, +Sr. Andrea, +Jean House req. by Andrew Stim |
| Friday | 9:00 a.m. | H&B Priscilla, Sarah, Caroline, John, Andrew, Charles House & House Family, Christopher, Susan, Alicia, Fr. Guckin, Fr. David, Sr. Sarah & all MSBT req. by Andrew Stim |

Vigil of Sunday (at St. Mary)

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| Saturday | 4:00 p.m. | + Joseph & +Julia Gera req. by son, Joseph & Cheryl Gera |
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Epistle Readers: 12/3 – Judy Kostura; 12/6 – Marie Wanchick; 16/7 – Beverly Kostishak; 12/10 – Dolores Kramer; 12/17 – Judy Kostura; 12/24 – Ellen Sinkovich; 12/24 – Gail Burgess; 12/26 – Beverly Kostishak; 12/27 – Marie Wanchick; 12/31 – Judy Kostura; 1/1 – Jennifer Keer.

Candle Offering: Icons of the Mother of God; Jesus Christ; Sacramental Table For the Intention of God's blessing for the Parishioners of SS Peter and Paul

Breakfast with Father: The Annual St. Nicholas Breakfast

Sunday, December 17, 2023 following the Divine Liturgy. All are welcome to attend.

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Eastern Christian Formation Class: Following the Divine Liturgy.

Leprosy, According to Mosaic Law

Diagnosis: The priest was given the task of diagnosing whether an infection was leprous or benign (Leviticus 13:1-3). In addition, the priest also diagnosed leprosy arising from boils on the skin and from skin burns, whether it occurs on bare skin or in a person's hair (Leviticus 13:4-46). Clothing also was brought to the priest for inspection and diagnosis; if the clothing had leprosy that was spreading, the clothing had to be burned (Leviticus 13:47-59).

The Life of a Leper: Lepers were required to live alone or separated from society, outside the camp. His (or her) clothing was to be torn (as in a state of mourning); he had to keep his head uncovered and his mustache covered. Whenever non-lepers came along, the leper was required to say, "Unclean! Unclean!" to warn the non-lepers to stay away (Leviticus 13:45-46).

Purification of a Leper: When a leper was cleansed or healed, he needed to show himself to a priest for verification. The priest then met the leper outside the camp and checked him over (Leviticus 24:1-3). If the leper was indeed healed, a series of offerings were performed involving two live birds. One bird was killed over running water and the other bird was dipped in the bloody water and then released. The leper was sprinkled seven times with the bloody water (Leviticus 14:4-8).

Following this, the leper was shaved of all body hair, including his eyebrows, and then bathed. Eight days later, he was required to offer another offering involving three lambs (two males, one ewe) plus flour and oil. Only after all this could the leper return to normal society (Leviticus 14:9-32).

A VISION OF DAYS TO COME

The idea that the tale of Jonah expresses in story form is stated repeatedly by many of the prophets throughout the Old Testament. This is that God's love is both special and far-reaching. It is special in that it is directed toward 'the people of Israel and Judah' with whom God made a covenant at the time of Moses, and far-reaching in that it is not thereby limited to any particular people, time or place.

Its far-reaching qualities are evident in the first of these passages from Micah in which the prophet looks forward to the day of freedom when all nations shall worship God in peace.

*But in the last days, it shall come to pass,
that the mountain of the house
of the Lord shall be established
in the top of the mountains,
And it shall be exalted among the hills
and people shall flock into it
and many nations shall come, and say,
'Come, and let us go up
to the mountains of the Lord
and to the house of the God of Jacob.*

*And he will teach us of his ways,
and we will walk in his paths.'
For the law shall go forth from Zion
and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem.
And he shall judge among many people,
and rebuke strong nations afar off;
And they shall beat their swords
into plowshares
and their spears into pruning hooks.
Nation shall not lift up
a sword against nation
And they shall not learn war any more.*

The special qualities of God's love are clear from the second passage in which first God speaks, then the people of Israel, and finally, in the last verse, Micah himself. Micah's words represent the essence of the prophets' teaching: God requires of his people not sacrifices but lives of justice, kindness and peace.

*"O my people, what have I done to you?
And how have I worried you?
Give evidence against me.
I brought you out of the land of Egypt,
and redeemed you from slavery
and set before you Moses
and Aaron and Miriam."*

*"With what shall we come before the Lord?
and bow ourselves before the high God?
Shall we come before him
with burnt offerings,
with calves of a year old?"*

*"He has shown you, O man, what is good;
and what does the Lord require of you,
but to do justly,
and to love mercy
and to walk humbly with your God?"*

Brain cells need
food, too.

**read
good
stuff**

Do not miss a word
in the
Parish Bulletin.
Your soul will be
nourished as well!

Hold Me, God

Grab me by the shirt tail, God,
If I should start to wander
Hold me with Your patient love
That I'll not look off yonder.

Wrap peace around my days, God,
Let heart-songs rise from within.
Keep me close within Your reach
That I'll not look toward sin.

God, give me comfort in the night
Where dreams come softly sweet.
Wake me to the dawn of morrow
And guide my wayward feet.

One Tranquil Hour in Church

An hour of repose in a mad, busy week;
A place to reflect — and where better to seek
The answer to problems, unsolved and complex
Problems that threaten to sicken and vex.

One tranquil hour of deep meditation —
Renewal of strength through Christ's revelation.
I need this one hour in God's holy place
For faith and for courage life's trials to face.