

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](http://www.sspeterandpaulminersville.com)  
Email: [tvrgjn@outlook.com](mailto:tvrgjn@outlook.com)

Served by: Very Reverend Gregory J. Noga, Pastor

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

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**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)

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Mahal-Ritzel Funeral Home  
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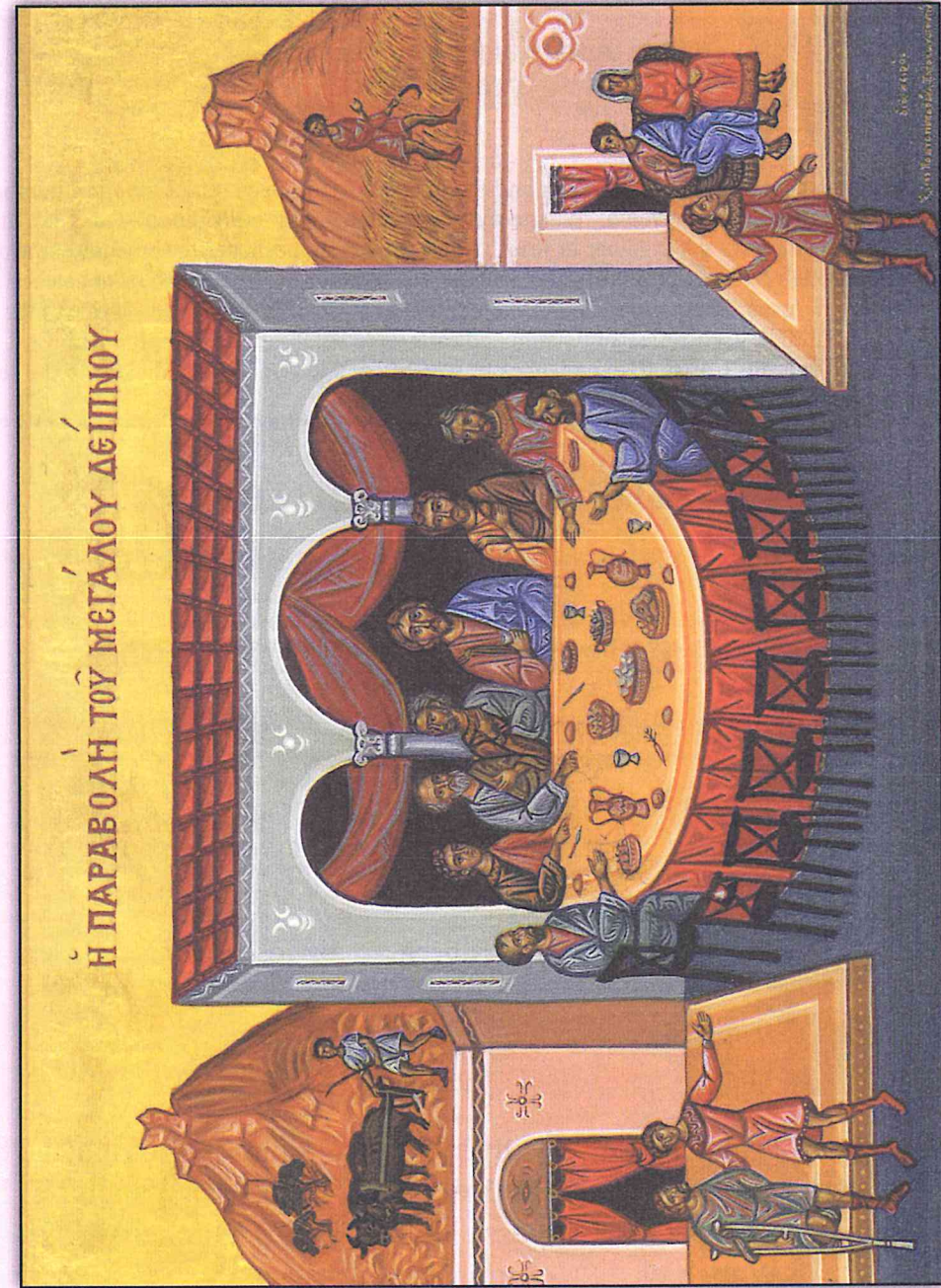
### *The Great Feast*

This familiar parable is read in the Church each year just two Sundays before the feast of our Lord's Nativity. In it we are reminded of the great care with which God prepared the way of His incarnation. All of the Law and the Prophets look forward to this moment, the moment when the God-man Jesus Christ comes into the world. He is, in fact, the fulfillment of the Law and the Prophets – the goal towards which they were all aiming. The whole world was prepared by them for this great event. As the parable tells us the King – that is God – has prepared a great feast for us and has invited us to come and enter into the joy that He has prepared for us.

Today we begin in earnest to move toward the

feast of the birth of our Incarnate Savior Jesus Christ. Today we are called to see the great preparation that has gone into this event, to marvel at the great love and care of God for us that He would labor so long and with such great care for us. Today we look back at the whole of the history of the people of God and see that it is the history of God's preparation all leading to the moment when He would take flesh, become incarnate and enter the world as a child. We have been given an invitation to come and join the feast, to abandon the world and enter the Kingdom of God, to leave our own life and receive instead the Life of Christ. We have been invited, chosen by God – will we then accept the invitation and choose Him?

## SUNDAY OF THE FOREFATHERS



Icon of the Parable of the Great Feast (Luke 14:16-24)

Sunday of the Forefathers  
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.

**December 15– December 21, AD2024**

Vigil of Sunday

Saturday	4:00 p.m.	<b>CANCELED*</b>
Sunday	9:00 a.m.	<b>Health and Blessing of the Parishioners*</b>
Monday	9:00 a.m.	<b>No Divine Liturgy Today*</b>
Tuesday	9:00 a.m.	<b>No Divine Liturgy Today *</b>
Wednesday	9:00 a.m.	<b>No Divine Liturgy Today*</b>
Thursday	9:00 a.m.	<b>No Divine Liturgy Today*</b>
Friday	9:00 a.m.	<b>No Divine Liturgy Today*</b>
Saturday	4:00 p.m.	<b>Raymond Lavenberg req. by Joseph &amp; Cheryl Gera *</b>

\*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 January 12. 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 the **Health and Blessing of the Parishioners**

**Ambition and Humility**

Ambition drives us to greatness; humility keeps us within our appropriate human boundaries. Yet it is well that we excel in achieving spiritual maturity. A type of greatness flows from our God-centered yearning, not from some illusory ambitions. Jesus gives us a model for such excellence: the heart of a child.

The qualities necessary for participation in the Reign of God are docility to God's Word, openness to the Spirit's inspiration, a sense of wonder to all God's creation, and a willingness to follow in the steps of Christ. A true child of God witnesses to these dispositions. Speak in prayer to the Creator about freeing and honoring the child in you to be like the child that Jesus talks about.

**Friend of sinners:** *“a lover of drunkards and friend of sinners...”* Matthew 11:19

These are the words of our Lord Himself. He quotes His enemies' words as applied to Himself. What a title! What a description! How accurate and wonderfully true it is. A friend of sinners. So He was and so He is today. Laying aside the royal robes of eternity in heaven, He comes among us to befriend sinful man. It is a life-work that cost Him His very life. Even though we are sinners, it is far beyond a sinful price He pays to free us. How gladly He pays the price of eternal friendship. As we take up the work of daily living, are we also friends of sinners? If not, we are not like our Lord. We ought to cultivate the friendship of sinners to provide them with a Christ-like example that they prosper and grow in the life of His Body, our Church. Christ is the friend of sinners and He rejoiced in it. Lord, the world is full of friendless sinners. Make me Your instrument that they may know You are their friend. What better gift can we offer our Lord?

*“...and His name shall be called...”* Isaiah 9:6

The Holy Name of our Lord, God and Saviour was revealed by the angelic visitor. Throughout salvation history, He is referred to in a variety of ways, each of which make known more and more of the enduring love of our Heavenly Father for each of us.