

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

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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

The Story of the Origin of Jesus Christ, Son of David, and the Rest of the Names

Mark J. Mahal - Funeral Director

Matthew's genealogy is extraordinarily comprehensive in his theology of the roots of Jesus' story in the Old Testament. But that is only one part of the story of Jesus Christ. The story has a sequence as well; and the continuing sequence is what makes the genealogy "good news" for Matthew's audience and for us. Human being have been empowered to preserve, proclaim, and convey the salvation brought by Jesus Christ throughout history. The God who wrote the beginnings with crooked lines also writes the sequence with crooked lines, and some of those lines are our own lives and witness.

A God who did not hesitate to use the scheming as well as the noble, the impure as well as the pure, men to whom the world hearkened and women upon whom the world frowned - this God continues to work through the same melange. If it was a challenge to recognize in the last part of

Matthew's genealogy that totally unknown people were part of the story of Jesus Christ, it may be a greater challenge to recognize that the unknown characters of today are an essential part of the sequence. The proclamation of that genealogy in the Advent liturgy is designed to give us hope about our destiny and our importance.

By stressing the all-powerful grace of God, the genealogy presents its greatest challenge to those who will accept only an idealized Jesus Christ whose story they would write only with straight lines and whose portrait they would paint only in pastel colors. If we look at the whole story and the total picture, the Gospels teach us that Jesus' ministry was not thus; the history of the church teaches us that the sequence as not thus. God's grace can work even with people like us.

Father Raymond E. Brown, S.S.

SUNDAY BEFORE THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD
SUNDAY OF THE ANCESTORS



Icon of the Holy Ancestors

Sunday before Nativity
The Holy Ancestors
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 18 – December 24, 2022

Saturday Vigil (at St. Mary)

4:00 p.m. + **Mary Frantz** req. by Rosaline Frantz

Sunday

10:00 a.m. **Health & Blessing of the Parish Families of SS. Peter & Paul and Saint Mary**
(Livestreamed)

Tuesday

8:00 a.m. +**Michael Popovich** req. by Sophie & Maryanne Genovese

Wednesday

8:00 a.m. +**Joseph Gretskey** req. by Andy & Helen Mehalshick & Family

Thursday

8:00 a.m. +**Agnes Valosin** req. by John & Tammy Van Balarcume

Friday

8:00 a.m. **Day of Simple Abstinence**

Christmas Vigil (at St. Mary)

4:00 p.m. **Health & Blessing of Parishioners of St. Mary**

Epistle Readers: 12/4 – Madeline Dinich; 12/6 – Marie Wanchick; 12/8 - Paulette Murphy; 12/11 – Jennifer Keer; 12/18 – Laura Mitchell; 12/25 – Beverly Kostishak; 12/26 – Judy Kostura; 12/27 – Ellen Sinkovich; 1/1 – Madeline Dinich.

Eastern Christian Formation: No Class Today

Food for the Poor collection must continue especially during these difficult economic times.

Sunday Before the Nativity of Our Lord

St. Gregory Palamas: The genealogy of Christ

Matthew... begins with those born first, and makes no mention of anyone born before Abraham.

He traces the line down from Abraham until he reaches Joseph to whom, by divine dispensation, the Virgin Mother of God was betrothed (Matt. 1:1-16), being of the same tribe and homeland as him, that her own stock may be shown from this to be in no way inferior.

Luke, by contrast, begins not with the earliest forebears but the most recent, and working his way back from Joseph the Betrothed, does not stop at Abraham, nor, having included Abraham's predecessors, does he end with Adam, but lists God among Christ's human forebears (Lk. 3:23-38); wishing to show, in my opinion, that from the beginning man was not just a creation of God, but also a son in the Spirit, which was given to him at the same time as his soul, through God's quickening breath (Gen. 2:7).

It was granted to him as a pledge that, if, waiting patiently for it, he kept the commandment, he would be able to share through the same Spirit in a more perfect union with God, by which he would live forever with Him and obtain immortality.

By heeding the evil counsel of the pernicious angel, man transgressed the divine commandments, was shown to be unworthy, forfeited the pledge, and interrupted God's plan.

God's grace, however, is unalterable and His purpose cannot prove false, so some of man's offspring were chosen, that, from among many, a suitable receptacle for this divine adoption and grace might be found, who would serve God's will perfectly, and would be revealed as a vessel worthy to unite divine and human nature in one person, not just exalting our nature, but restoring the human race.

The holy Maid and Virgin Mother of God was this vessel, so she was proclaimed by the Archangel Gabriel as full of grace (Lk. 1:28), being the chosen one among the chosen, blameless, undefiled and worthy to contain the person of the God-Man and to collaborate with Him.

Therefore God pre-ordained her before all ages, chose her from among all that had ever lived, and deemed her worthy of more grace than anyone else, making her the holiest of saints, even before her mysterious childbearing.

For that reason, He graciously willed that she should make her home in the Holy of Holies, and accepted her as His companion to share His dwelling from her childhood.

He did not simply choose her from the masses, but from the elect of all time, who were admired and renowned for their piety and wisdom, and for their character, words and deeds, which pleased God and brought benefit to all.

Sins of Others In Whose Guilt We Can Share

Counseling sin.

Commanding sin.

Consenting to sin.

Not punishing sin.

Persistence of our heart in sin.

Inciting to sin.

Praising sin.

Concealing sin.

Giving example to sin.

Sins Clamoring to Heaven For Vengeance

Willful Murder

Sodomy

Oppression of orphans and widows

Depriving the laborer of his wages

The Final Things

Death

Judgment

Heaven

Hell

Prologue

“As for you, let what you heard from the beginning remain in your hearts. If what you heard from the beginning does remain in your hearts, then you in turn will remain in the Son and in the Father. He himself made us a promise and the promise is no less than this: eternal life. I have written these things about those who try to deceive you, the anointing you received remains in your hearts 1 John 2: 24 - 27.

Catechism

Review

For

Adults

The Ten Commandments

1. I am the Lord your God, you shall have no other gods before me.
2. You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain.
3. Remember to keep holy the Sabbath day.
4. Honor your father and mother that it may be well with you and that you may live long on the earth.
5. You shall not kill.
6. You shall not commit adultery.
7. You shall not steal.

8. You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

9. You shall not covet your neighbor's wife.

10. You shall not covet your neighbor's goods.

The Precepts of the Church

1. To sanctify holydays and holy times.
2. To worship at the Divine Liturgy on Sundays and holy days.
3. To observe all fasts as prescribed by the Church.
4. To confess sins and receive Holy Communion at least once a year.
5. To support your Church

The Sacramental Mysteries

Baptism

Chrismation

Holy Eucharist

Penance or Reconciliation

Ordination

Matrimony

Anointing with Oil

Summary Of
Catholic
Essential Beliefs

There is one God in three divine Persons, all co-equal: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit.

God is a just Judge Who grants the kingdom of heaven to the just and punishes the wicked in eternal hell.

The Son of God became man to redeem us from everlasting damnation.

The soul of man is immortal.

The grace of God is essential for salvation. Man cannot save himself by himself.

The Theological Virtues

Faith

Hope

Love

The Seven Cardinal Virtues
Opposed to the Seven
Deadly Sins

Humility

Generosity

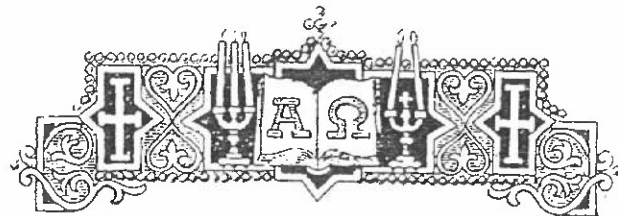
Chastity

Charity

Moderation

Patience

Constancy in the praise of God



Seven Deadly Sins

Pride

Greed

Lust

Envy

Overindulgence

Anger

Laziness in the praise of God

The Spiritual Acts of Mercy

Correct the sinner

Teach the ignorant

Advise those in doubt

Pray to God for our neighbor

Console the unfortunate

Bear injustice

Forgive transgressions

The Seven Corporal Acts of
Mercy

Feed the hungry

Give drink to the thirsty

Clothe the naked

Visit the sick

Ransom the captive

Receive the traveler

Bury the dead

Sins Against the Holy Spirit

1. Presumption of God's mercy
2. Despairing of salvation
3. Stubbornness in not acknowledging known Christian truths
4. Envy of the grace of God in our neighbor
5. Persistence of our heart in sin
6. Final impenitence