

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 Yasenach

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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Mark J. Mahal – Funeral Director

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

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.

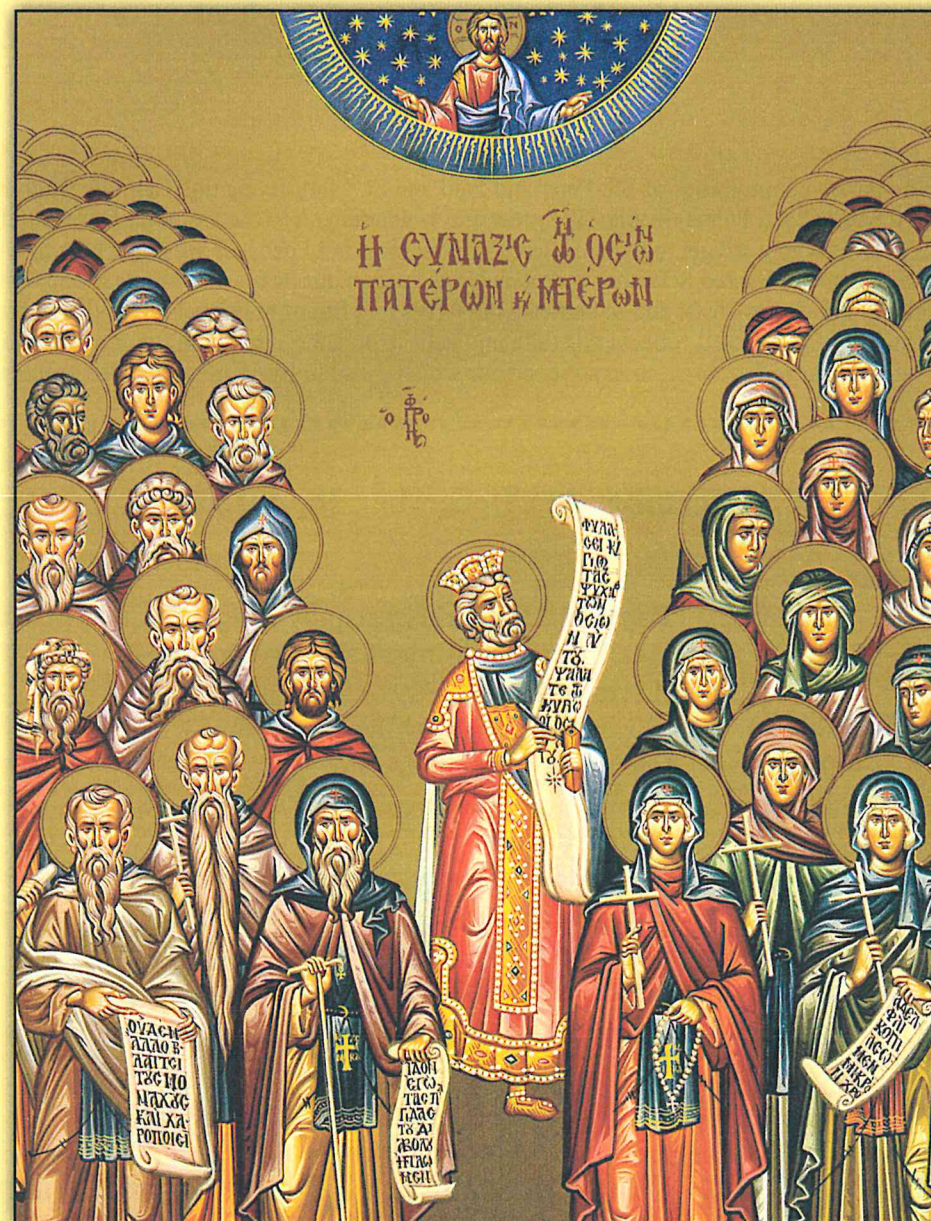
A God who did not hesitate to use the scheming as well as the noble, the impure as well as the pure, men to whom the world hearkened and women upon whom the world frowned – this God continues to work through the same melange. If it was a challenge to recognize in the last part of

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 The Nativity of Our Lord
Sunday of the Ancestors
Tone 6

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.

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December 22– December 28, AD2024

Vigil of Sunday		
Saturday	4:00 p.m.	Raymond Lavenberg req. by Joseph & Cheryl Gera *
Sunday	9:00 a.m.	Health and Blessing of the Parishioners* (Livestream)
Monday	9:00 a.m.	Elizabeth Raymond Lavenberg req. by Paul Lohin
Tuesday	4:00 p.m.	Intention of the Giver
Wednesday	9:00 a.m.	Health and Blessing of the Parishioners* (Livestream)
Thursday	4:00 p.m.	+ Peter Dembinsky, Sr. req. by Mary Dembinsky *
Friday	9:00 a.m.	+Michael Sinko req. by Don & Thelma Kunnigham *
Saturday	4:00 p.m.	Intention of the Giver

*St. Mary
*SS Peter & Paul

Epistle Readers: 12/22 – Marie Wanchick; 12/25 – Dolores Kramer; 12/26 – Gail Burgess; 12/27 – Laura Mitchell; 12/29 – Anna Keer; 1/1 – Marie Wanchick. 1/5 - Paulette Murphy; 1/12 - Ellen Sinkovich

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**

Pastoral Note:

“Unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the Kingdom of Heaven.” (Jn. 3:5)

This Friday past, we began the journey that will bring us to the Holy Day of the Nativity of our Lord God and Saviour Jesus Christ. Although our thrice-blessed Church has designated the period (Philip's Fast) as a penitential period Tuesday is a Fast Day, traditionally a Strict Fast culminating with the Holy Supper, it is recommended to keep the Fast as best as one can in order to better prepare for the Nativity celebrations.

Families get together enjoying each other's company, eating special meals and exchanging gifts. Children especially enjoy this part. Did you know that the exchanging of gifts properly belongs to the celebration of the Holy Day of St. Nicolas? He was the original gift-giver. He gave three gold bags of money anonymously, to house where three very poor virgins lived so they would not have to become prostitutes to survive.

So how should we celebrate the Nativity of Jesus? Even though I said that St. Nicholas was the first or original gift-giver, that is true he was the first in this life. God was the original and best gift-giver. He gave us His only begotten Son that we may have life to the fullest.

St. John the Evangelist, when speaking to Nicodemus, (3:5) told how to receive this gift: in Water (baptism) and the Spirit (Chrismation) wherein we can attain Heaven. But sadly today, not everyone wants that Gift. They would rather have they material gifts that rust and corrode and turn to dust.

Those of us who take seriously our baptism and chrismation receiving the precious Body and Blood of Jesus, living according to the Will of God, will prepare not only for the one day of the year from December 24 till December 31 that we commemorate His Birth, but will carry that joy and celebration through the rest of our lives as if they never end.

In Christ's Name, I extend to you who have been entrusted to my spiritual care, His peace and love for the rest of your time here in the New Jerusalem, otherwise known as the Eschaton realized but not recognized.