

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 Yasenchak

\*\*\*\*\*

**CONFESSIONS:** Sts. Peter & Paul: Saturday 2:45-3:30 PM

St. Mary's: Saturday 1:00 – 1:30 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

### *Pushing or Pulling?*

A couple, vacationing in Maine, visited the harbor to watch the boats return from fishing and trapping lobsters. One lobster boat docked near where they sat and unloaded buckets of fresh lobsters. The wife became intrigued as she watched the lobsters scurry about in a bucket. She noticed that as soon as one lobster began to climb its way out of the pail, the other lobsters would pull it back down. It seemed to her that it would have been fairly easy for each lobster to escape from the bucket, except that they always were being pulled back down by the others.

Lobsters certainly can teach us about human nature as well. Doesn't it seem that as soon as one person decides to climb out of the "bucket," there are so many others trying to

pull him or her back down? Rather, shouldn't we try to support and push the other person farther along?

Let us look at the icon on the cover of the bulletin. The icon depicts people traveling from earth to heaven on a ladder. Can we see ourselves on the ladder? Let us ask ourselves: Do we push our neighbor further up the ladder to Heaven, or do we pull them down?

In the Gospel reading today, Jesus speaks of our obligation to assist other people in every need. Moreover, Our Lord tells us that whatever we do to others we do to Him. Conversely, if we neglect others, we neglect Our Lord. "Whatever you do to the least of My brothers, you do to me." (Matthew 25:40)

## SUNDAY OF MEATFARE



*Icon of the Ladder of Divine Ascent*

Volume 2022  
Christ is among us!

Number 7  
He is and will be!

**Sunday of Meatfare  
Tone 6**

Welcome to the parish communities of SS. Peter and Paul and St. Mary Byzantine Catholic Churches of Minersville and Saint Clair, 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.

.....

**February 20 – February 26, 2022  
All Divine Services are livestreamed where noted**

Saturday Vigil of Sunday (at SS Peter & Paul)

4:00 p. m. + **Joseph Lohin** req, by Elaine Lohin Kunze

Sunday

8:00 a.m. +**John Sternick** req. by Ron & Doloeres Kramer (at St. Mary)

10:00 a.m. **Health and Blessing of the Parishioners** (at SS. Peter & Paul)

Livestreamed

Tuesday

8:00 a.m. +**Helen Mitchell** req. by Michael Tokonitz

Wednesday

8:00 a.m. **No Liturgy Today**

Thursday

8:00 a.m. +**Agnes Valosin** req. by Joanne & Ken Shafer & Child

Friday

8:00 a.m. +**Michael Cherrybon** req. by MM frank DeLaney, Sr.

Saturday

4:00 p.m. Vigil of Sunday (at SS Peter & Paul)

+**Joseph Gerchak** req. by MM William Conskue

**Epistle Readers:** 2/2 – Laura Mitchell; 2/5 – Gail Burgess; 2/6 – Ellen Sinkovich; 2/12 – Marie Wanchick; 2/13 – Jennifer Keer; 2/19 – Laura Mitchell; 2/20 – Anna Keer; 2/26 – Gail Burgess; 2/27 – Marie Wanchick; 3/5 – Laura Mitchell..

**Candles** in front of the Mother of God and Christ the Teacher are offered for Health and God's Blessing; on the Sacramental Table (Tetrapod) offered for Special Intention. Anonymous donor.

\*\*\*\*\*

In the Old Days today Meatfare Sunday, we would have our last taste of meat products in preparation for the Great Fast. According to the tradition of Lenten practices, next Sunday would be the last partaking of dairy products and eggs in preparation of Pascha, six weeks later.

Of course, these pious practices are no longer obligatory, but wholesome practices for preparing our souls for the Resurrection of Jesus Christ. You are encouraged to perform some sort of penitential practices nonetheless, either physical or prayerful. Many in the world today are looking for mystical experiences or for anything to fill the void in their lives and we have traditions and a Tradition that does that, yet so many of our Byzantine practitioners fail to utilize that which Holy Mother Church provides. If you are one of them, perhaps this Lenten season could be the start of a more intimate relationship with the Lord our God.

Monday, February 28<sup>th</sup> is the First Day of Lent in our Byzantine Catholic Church. It is a Day of Strict Fast (no meat, eggs or dairy products are permitted) for all individuals who received Holy Communion.

**To usher in the Great Fast**, on Sunday, February 27, immediately following the Divine Liturgy, we will have a **Social** in the Dining Hall. On the Sundays of the Holy Season of the Great Fast (Lent) Vespers will be celebrated at 5:30 p.m. followed by a Strict Lenten meal and enrichment program. The topic of discussion will be revealed next week.

**Reminder:** Every Friday from 12 Noon until 3:00 p.m. the SS Peter & Paul church is open for private prayer. The Mystery of Forgiveness is offered from 2:00 p.m. until 3:00 p.m.

Come, spend some time with our Saviour each week in addition to Sunday Worship for the many blessings He provides each day.

## WISDOM! BE ATTENTIVE

*When You will come to earth in glory, O God, and all creatures will tremble before You, the river of fire will flow before Your judgement seat, and the books will be opened and all hidden things revealed; deliver me from the unquenchable fire and make me worthy to stand at Your right hand, O righteous Judge. Kontakion, Meatfare Sunday.*

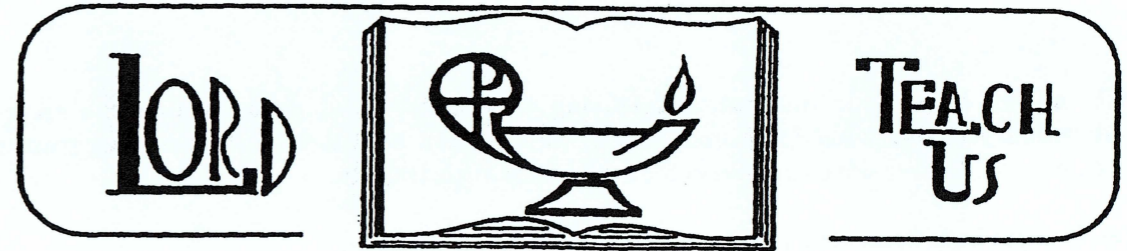
*When You shall come to render just judgement, O righteous Judge, You shall sit upon Your throne of glory. A river of fire shall flow before Your judgement seat; the powers of heaven will be there with You. Filled with fear, all humanity will be judged according to their deeds. At this hour, O Christ, spare us, and because of Your great love, grant that the faithful who pray to You, may be given a place with Your chosen ones. Vesper Hymn, Meatfare Sunday.*

*The books will be opened and the secrets laid bare before Your awesome judgement seat; and the whole valley of tears shall resound with a dreadful sigh, when it sees sinners sent to eternal punishment by Your just judgement, and hears them weeping hopelessly. Therefore, O God of mercy, we pray to You: Spare us who sing to You, O only Good One. Vesper Hymn, Meatfare Sunday.*

*The trumpets shall sound and the tombs shall be opened; humanity shall come forth trembling. Those who have done good shall rejoice, as they await the reward they shall receive. Those who have done evil shall shriek in terror, as they are sent to punishment and separated from the elect. In Your goodness, spare us, O Lord of glory, and grant that we may enjoy a place with those who love You. Vesper Hymn, Meatfare Sunday.*

*I weep and lament when I think of the outer darkness and eternal fire, together with Hades, the worm that consumes, and the gnashing of teeth, the unceasing grief that falls upon those who have sinned without measure, and who have provoked You to anger, O God, most good. Alas, among these sinners, I am the first. But in Your great mercy, O Judge, save me. Vesper Hymn, Meatfare Sunday.*

*Alas! O my darkened soul, how long will you persist in sin? How long will you lie in laziness? Why do you not think of the dreadful hour of death? Do you not fear the awesome judgement seat of the Saviour? How will you defend yourself? How will you be vindicated? Your works are there to convict you, and your actions to witness against you. Moreover, time is growing short, O my soul; hasten and cry out in faith: I have sinned, O Lord, I have sinned; but I know Your love and Your mercy. O Good Shepherd, in Your goodness, do not deprive me of a place at Your right hand. Vesper Hymn, Meatfare Sunday.*



### Studying God's Word

*Consequently, faith comes from hearing the message and the message is heard through the word of Christ Romans 10: 17.*

*For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through endurance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope Romans 15: 4.*

*The grass withers and the flowers fall, but the word of God stands forever Isaiah 40: 8.*

*My son, do not forget my teaching, but keep my commands in your heart, for they will prolong your life many years and bring you prosperity. Let love and faithfulness never leave you; bind them around your neck, write them on the tablet of your heart. Then you will win favor and good name in the sight of God and man Proverbs 3: 1 – 4.*

*Search the Scriptures in which you think you have eternal life; they also testify on my behalf. Yet you are unwilling to come to me to possess that life John 5: 39, 40.*

*No, the word is very near you; it is in your mouth and in your heart so that you may obey it Deuteronomy 30: 14.*

*He remembers his covenant forever; the word he commanded for a thousand generations 1 Chronicles 16: 15.*

*Accept instruction from his mouth and lay up his words in your heart Job 22:22.*

## How Can We Blame It All On Guns?

With all the disasters in our nation involving our children and guns, no one can seem to understand precisely what happened. If only parents had kept their children away from the guns, we would never have experienced or witnessed such tragedy.

Yes, it might have been very well have been the guns...

It could not have been because half of our children are being raised in broken homes.

It could not have been because our children get to spend an average of 30 seconds in meaningful conversation with their parents each day. After all, we do give our children quality time!

It could not have been because we treat our children as pets and our pets as children.

It could not have been because we as parents practice our faith devotedly and our children see in us examples of loving family life to be emulated with determination.

It could not have been because we allow our children to watch, on average, seven hours of television a day filled with the glorification of sex and violence that is not even fit for adult consumption.

It could not have been because we allow our children to enter into virtual worlds in which, to win the game one must kill as many opponents as possible in the most sadistic way possible.

It could not have been because we glorify such scurrilous events in the media and show to everyone how prevalent and matter-of-fact such thinking and actions are.

It could not have been because we have sterilized and contracepted our families down to sizes so small that the children we do have are so spoiled with material things that they come to equate the receiving of the material with actual love.

It could not have been because our children, who historically have been seen as a blessing from God, are now being viewed as either a mistake when contraception fails or inconveniences that parents try to rear in their spare time.

It could not have been because our nation is the world leader in developing a "culture of death" in which 20 million to 30 million babies have been killed by abortion and is attempting to extend this to the older generation.

It could not have been because we give two year prisons sentences to teen-agers who kill their new-borns because they are overwhelmed with what has happened.

It could not have been because our school systems teach children that they are nothing but glorified apes who have evolutionized out of some primordial soup of mud by teaching evolution as a fact and by handing out condoms as if they were prizes.

It could not have been because we teach our children that there are no laws of morality that transcend us, that everything is relative and that actions do not have consequences. What the heck, even the president gets away with it!

It could not have been because our children have continual access to the drug culture which our government has spent billions of dollars attempting to over come.

It could not have been because they only emulated the examples of their heroes in the music, political and drug cultures by loose living with no accountability to any one.

It could not have been because we allow complete and total access to our children on the Internet so they can become aware of what is going on in the world.

It could not have been because we failed to teach our children how to pray, the value by our own example of religious commitment to Christ and the importance of regular worship of our Creator.

Nah, it must have been the guns!



"He Who, as the writing of the prophets says, 'knows all things before they came to be,' following our, or rather perceiving beforehand by His power of foreknowledge what, in a state of independence and freedom, is the tendency of man's will."

Gregory of Nyssa, *On the Making of Man*, XVI. 14.

God is aware of the choices that we are going to make not because of predestination but because God has foreknowledge. God knows everything from the beginning of time to the end of time.

Just because God knows what someone is going to choose, this knowledge does not make Him responsible. God is no more responsible than the teacher who gives a student a test knowing the student is going to fail because he or she did not study.