

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

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

You are Forgiven and Healed

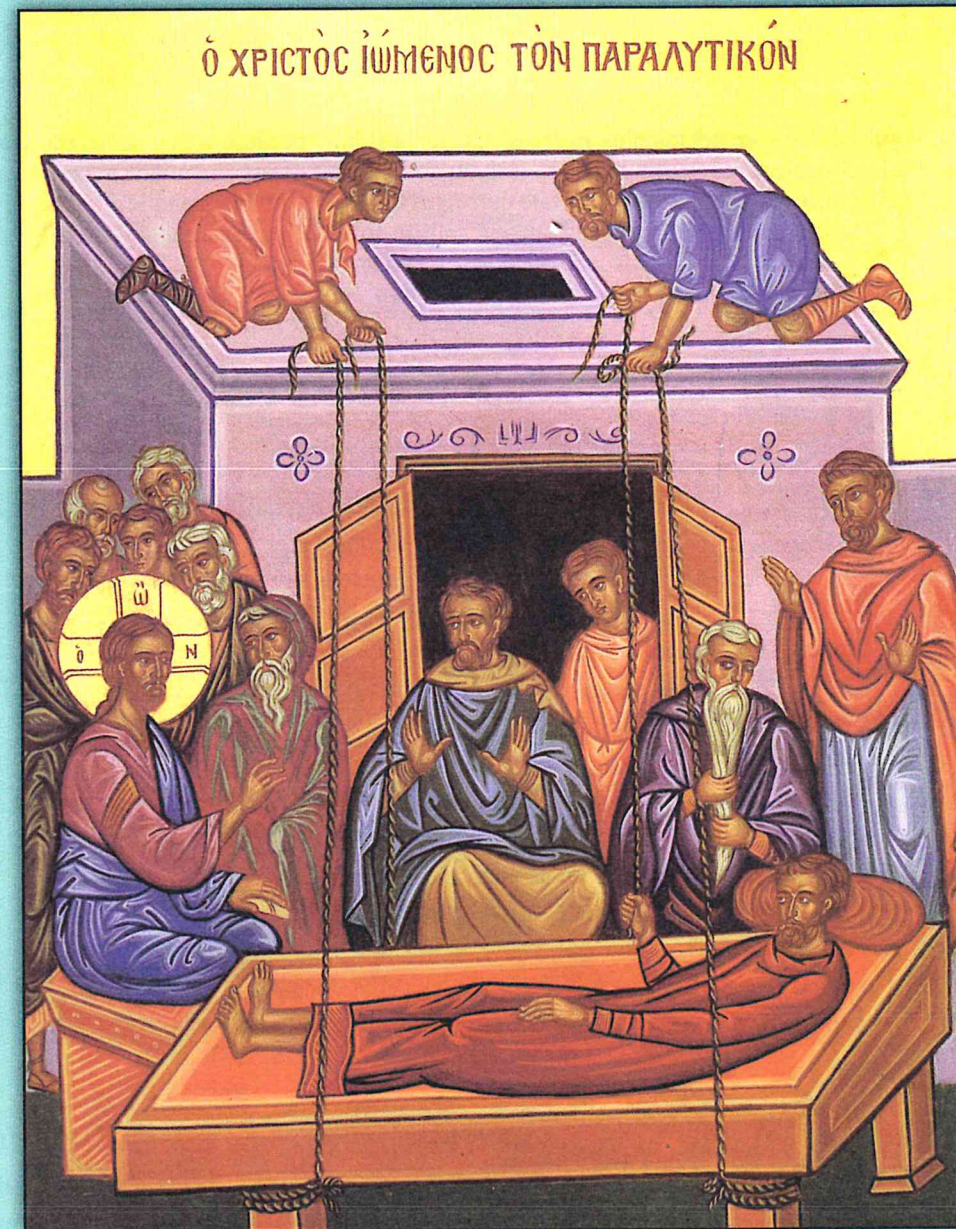
In Capernaum Jesus is surrounded by great numbers of people. As He preaches to the crowd, four friends of a paralyzed man lower him on his mat through the roof so that he can be close enough for Jesus to see him and cure him. Jesus responds to this act of faith, not by healing the man immediately, but by touching off the first of a series of controversial dialogues with the Scribes and Pharisees. When Jesus says, "Child, your sins are forgiven," He is as much as saying, "It is God whom you approach." In the Old Testament, only God is capable of forgiving sins; and it was expected that He would do so only at the end of time. It becomes clear why the Scribes murmur "he is blaspheming" and why Jesus brings it all out in the open. His claim to be able to forgive sins better reveals His identity as Son of God than do the miracles He performs.

Aware of the silent censure His forgiving word has caused in the crowd, Jesus proceeds to prove that "the Son of Man has authority to forgive sins on earth" by commanding the man to rise and walk in the sight of everyone. In concluding this miracle, Mark asks his readers to praise God for His presence in their midst as the forgiver-healer, just as the crowd did, even in the face of those who did not believe.

It is significant that Mark has chosen to present this miracle and teaching about Jesus' power to forgive sins so early in his Gospel drama. It shows that the need for the experience of God's forgiveness was as important to first-century Christians as it is today. Mark's readers praise God for saying clearly, and even today, "My sons, my daughters, I absolve you from your sins."

For publications on Eastern spirituality, visit
www.ecpubs.com

SECOND SUNDAY OF THE GREAT FAST SUNDAY OF ST. GREGORY PALAMAS



Icon of Healing the Paralytic

**2nd Sunday of the Great Fast
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.

.....

February 25 – March 2, AD2024

Vigil of Sunday at St. Mary

Saturday 4:00 p.m. **+Edward J., +Sophia & +Edward, Jr. Demko** req. by Theresa Wagner*

Sunday 9:00 a.m. **Health and Blessing of the Parishioners***
(livestreamed)
Baptism/Chrismation w/Eucharist of **Charlee Jean Thompson**

Monday 9:00 a.m. No Service Today

Tuesday 9:00 a.m. **1st Lentin Canonical Hour***

Wednesday 7:00 p.m. **Liturgy of Presanctified Gifts***

Thursday 9:00 a.m. **3rd Lentin Canonical Hour***

Friday 12:00 p.m. **Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts***

Saturday 9:00 a.m. **+All Souls Liturgy w/Diptych***

Saturday Vigil 4:00 p.m. **+Mary Nagg** req. by MM Joseph J. Hydock

Sunday 9:00 a.m. **Health & Blessing of the Parishioners***

*St. Mary

*SS Peter & Paul

Epistle Readers: 2/4 – Jennifer Keer; 2/11 – Dolores Kramer; 2/18 – Judy Kostura; 2/25 – Jennifer Keer; 3/3 – Beverly Kostishak; 3/10 – Gail Burgess; 3/17 – Marie Wanchick; 3/24 – Paulette Murphy; 3/25 – Judy Kostura; 3/26 –

Candle Offering: Candles before the Icons of the Mother of God and Jesus Christ and the Sacramental Table are offered for

Breakfast with Father

Today the 2nd Sunday of the Great Fast following the Divine Liturgy we will have Bible study with a light lunch in the church dining hall.

.....

We offer our prayerful support and congratulations to Keith and Lauren Thompson as we welcome their daughter Charlee Jean into the Body of Christ through the reception of the Holy Mysteries of Initiation of our Byzantine Catholic Church.

SECOND SUNDAY OF GREAT LENT

INTRODUCTION

How audacious is the faith of the four who dug a hole in someone else's roof to get a sick man to Christ. Often times the manner in which they impressed Jesus with their faith, and compassion towards their friend is emphasized in sermons that are taken from this text, Mark 2:1-12. However, there is more than meets the eye in this account that happens early in the ministry of the Savior in his headquarters, the city of Capernaum. This passage has two climaxes. The second, remarkable act is the manner in which Jesus chooses to heal this man by speaking the words, "Son, thy sins be forgiven thee." This paper will attempt to extrapolate as much information from this extraordinary narrative account in the ministry of Christ, and its theme of proving that Jesus, the Son of Man, has the power and authority to forgive sins, as only God has.

How To Pray When You Do Not Have Time

Praying when you do not have time is a tall order, particularly if you are a woman. Usually you will roll out of bed, the first blurred words of your Morning Offering confused with the last bleep of the alarm clock. You may as well accept the inevitable truth right now, that, with family demands and perhaps a job to go to, you are not going to get much formal praying done; and your experience tells you what happens to the global resolutions made at this point. Better tackle the next hour, preferably in ten minute segments.

As you shower, assuming you can get your turn, or even as you splash cold water on your face, remember that you are baptized again with each fresh morning, as you are washed clean in the showers of God's grace. Water is a glorious creation of the Lord and the instrument of your physical cleansing. Permit it to remind you how vital spiritual cleansing is as well. Think about how you have been blessed with yet another day of life and an opportunity to sing God's praise and enjoy His grace.

Preparing breakfast, when everybody is in a rush and nobody wants the same thing, can be damaging to an early morning disposition, but not if you can think-a-prayer, offered to ease the heart-break of mothers who have nothing to prepare for their families. Think seriously of the blessings you have with ample provisions in the pantry with which to nourish the body of your children and loved ones. Think about the equally demanding responsibility of nourishing their spiritual life and how you can effect that for their eternal benefit. A thought-prayer takes very little time and maybe through your membership in the Body of Christ, our Byzantine Catholic Church, someone on the other side of the world, or on the other side of the street, will feel a little better and never know your prayer helped. Think of the people you know who are limited and perhaps, even deprived, and offer a mental prayer to the Lord on their behalf. It is a heart-warming thought.

Be certain to look up at the sky as you leave the house, not to check the weather, but to offer the glory of the universe and its inspiration back to the One Who made it so beautiful for you. Even if the weather is bad, be aware of the power of God and of His wisdom in varying the

weather for us that we might appreciate and enjoy it more. For what is the joy of spring if we did not have the snows and storms of winter? When we think of God's special and particular love for each of us, the smoke-pearl sky will be as soul-satisfying as the blue and gold.

If your disposition seems to be less than sunny as you drive to work or taxi the children to school, or your spouse off to the train station, try to think positively and remember, "How would I act if this were the last time I would see my them?". This is an arresting thought, but it need not be a disturbing one, just startling enough to confront us with reality. Simply ask our heavenly Father to protect family members and loved ones, and while you are about it, ask Him to keep His hand on their shoulders, guiding and directing each family member throughout the day.

Being alone presents a lovely chance to talk to God. Better still, talk with Him. Switch off the radio because of its distraction. You have already, no doubt heard the news any way. Roll up the windows of your car and talk to Him aloud, so you can hear your conversation and derive some benefit from it. Make it an intimate dialogue. This does work because you actually hear yourself and it will be easier to make sense and stay on the subject if you are listening. If passing motorists see you, they will probably think you are lip singing a song to the radio and it just might help others start the day off right if they figure out what you are actually doing. Make it a spiritually enriching time in your day. Plan the day with Him, enlist His helping grace for the many needs of family members. Thank Him for the gifts bestowed upon you and your family members. Work out your schedule and ask Him to help you get things done correctly the first time. Who else could care about how your day comes out?

Think of the seemingly endless moments spent just standing in line, for instance at the supermarket. This can be a positive windfall of time for silent meditative prayer. You can't go any place or do anything else anyhow, so instead of toe-tapping or admiring the clothing on the lady in front of you, invest this time to grow in soul. Instead of fingernail biting nervously, you may offer a quick prayer for the check-out person, for your neighbor or someone who looks like they need an extra disinterested, but concerned prayer. Secure the grace of God for anyone you see because they are also a child of God. If you see a harried, tired mother with several children and no smile, give her one of yours and make it a prayer for strength to persevere successfully in her vocation. This is what makes a Christian of us in our thoughts.

WISDOM! BE ATTENTIVE

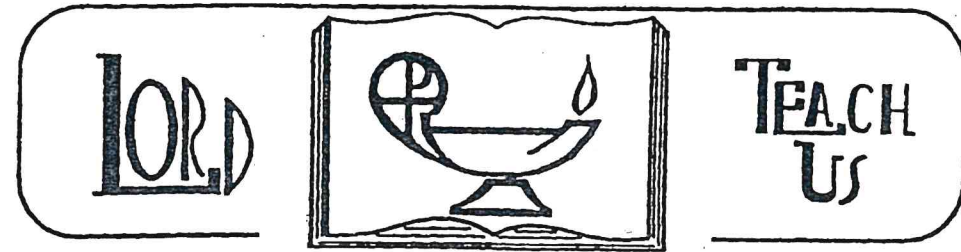
Today the time of earthly deeds is revealed, for judgment is at hand. Let us be found fasting, and let us bring tears of supplication, begging mercy and crying out: "My sins are more numerous than grains of sand at the sea, but forgive me, O Creator of all, that I may receive the crown which does not perish" Kontakion, Second Sunday of the Great Fast.

I have loved the fleeting pleasures of the earth and have thrown away eternal blessings, O Christ Jesus. You alone love mankind, and You do not cut sinners off without hope, pouring out mercy upon those who repent. O Jesus, do not turn from me now as I repent, but see in me the thief who was saved by his confession, the tax collector who was cleansed by mercy, and the prodigal who resolved to weep, for in all of these You have instilled a pattern of repentance. When You see me from afar repenting and running to You as Father, come out with warm and tender mercy. If You wish, You can forgive the sins by which I have polluted myself after baptism and my promise to lead a blameless life: but forgive us, O Creator of all, that we may receive the crown that does not perish Matins Hymn, Second Sunday of the Great Fast.

We do not glorify three gods, but only one divinity. In truth, we honor three Persons: the Father unbegotten, the Son begotten from the Father, and the Holy Spirit proceeding from the Father, the Trinity of one God, and in faith we glorify each with the name of God Matins Hymn, Second Sunday of the Great Fast.

With what lips shall we mortals praise this holy bishop? He is the teacher of the Church and the herald of divine light, the one who is immersed in the Trinity, for the most beautiful adornment of holy monks, renowned for his divine contemplation and the brightness of his virtues; the pride and glory of Thessalonica; and the holy Demetrius, whose relics flow with holy oil, shares with you the kingdom of heaven Matins Hymn, Second Sunday of the Great Fast.

O light of the true faith, teacher and support of the Church, adornment of monks and invincible rampart of theologians, O holy Gregory the Wonderworker, the glory of Thessalonica and herald of grace, intercede with God for the salvation of our souls Troparion of St. Gregory Palamas.



Giving To God

And I promise you that whoever gives a cup of cold water to one of these lowly ones because he is a disciple will not want for his reward Matthew 10: 42.

God is not unjust; he will not forget your work and the love you have shown him by your service, past and present, to his holy people Hebrews 6: 10.

One man is lavish yet grows still richer; another is too sparing, yet is the poorer. He who confers benefits will be amply enriched and he who refreshes others will himself be refreshed. He who seeks the good commands favor, but he who pursues evil will have evil befall him Proverbs 11: 24, 25, 27.

Give and it shall be given to you. Good measure pressed down, shaken together, running over, will they pour into the fold of your garment. For the measure you measure with will be measured back to you Luke 6: 38.

About the collection for the saints, follow the instructions I gave the churches of Galatia. On the first day of each week everyone should put aside whatever he has been able to save so that the collection will not have to be taken up after I arrive 1 Corinthians 16: 1, 2.

Keep the terms of the covenant, therefore, and fulfill them, that you may succeed in whatever you do Deuteronomy 29: 8.

Seek first his kingship over you, his way of holiness, and all these things will be given you besides Matthew 6: 33.