

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

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: 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

Mark J. Mahal – Funeral Director

The Christ

Now, in the mystery of Christ's Baptism in the Jordan River, we again encounter and represent the truth of the Lord's incarnation and His manifestation as the Christ. Jesus' Baptism is in fact His definitive manifestation as the Messiah or Christ to Israel, and as the Son of the Father to the entire world. Here we find the dimension of the Epiphany which was His manifestation to all nations. The Father's voice from heaven shows that Jesus of Nazareth is the eternal Son and the descent of the Holy Spirit in the form of a dove shows the Trinitarian nature of the Christian God. The true and unique God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, shows Himself in Christ, through Him, with Him and in Him.

The Baptism in the Jordan returns to the great Christmas theme of "Christification", Jesus of Nazareth's spiritual anointing, His presentation

as the Anointed One par excellence, the Messiah or the One sent by the Father for the salvation of mankind. The Spirit that descended on Jesus shows and seals in an incontrovertible way the "Christification" of Jesus' humanity that the Word had already fulfilled from the first moment of His miraculous conception by Mary. Jesus, from the very beginning, was always the Lord's Christ, He was always God. Yet, His one, true humanity, that which is perfect in every way, as the Gospel records, constantly grew in natural and supernatural perfection. "And Jesus increased in wisdom, in stature, and in favor with God and with men" (Lk2:52). In Israel at 30 years of age, one reached full maturity and therefore could become a master. Jesus came of age and the Spirit, descending and remaining on Him, definitively consecrated His whole being as the Christ.

SUNDAY BEFORE THEOPHANY



Icon of Theophany -- January 6th

**Sunday before Theophany
Festal 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.

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January 1 – January 7, 2023

Saturday Vigil (at St. Mary)

4:00 p.m. +**Bertha Petrishko** req. by Barbara & David Stepenosky

Sunday

9:00 a.m. **Health & Blessing of the Parish Families of SS. Peter & Paul**
(Livestreamed)

Tuesday

8:00 a.m. +**John Lohin** req. by Elaine Lohin Kunze

Wednesday

8:00 a.m. +**Jeanette Lohin** req. by Joseph & Cheryl Gera

Thursday Vigil of Holy Theophany (at SS. Peter & Paul)

4:00 p.m. Vespers with the Liturgy of St. Basil and the Great Sanctification of Water.
+**Helen Platko** req. by Charlie Kostura

Friday Theophany of Our Lord

9:00 a.m. +**Bertha Petrishko** req. by Nicholas & Jennifer Steponosky (at St. Mary)
Sanctification of Water

7:00 p.m. **Health and Blessings of the Parishioners (at SS. Peter & Paul)**

Saturday

Sunday Vigil (at St. Mary)

4:00 p.m. +**Andrew & +Margaret Gerchak** from The Estate

Next Sunday

9:00 a.m. **Health & Blessings of the Parishioners (at SS. Peter & Paul)**

Epistle Readers: 1/1 – Madeline Dinich; 1/6 – Judy Kostura; 1/8 – Ellen Sinkovich; 1/15 – Laura Mitchell; 1/22 – Dolores Kramer; 1/29 – Marie Wanchick; 2/2 – Paulette Murphy; 2/5 – Beverley Kostishak.

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Please Note: In the tradition of our Byzantine Catholic Church during the Octave of Theophany, that is, the week following the Great Sanctification of Water, homes are blessed with the new Jordan Water. If anyone would like to have their home blessed during this week, kindly call the rectory and speak with Father Gregory to make those arrangements.

Also note, January 6 is a Holy Day of Obligation, meaning the requirement to attend the Divine Liturgy either on the Vigil or on the day is the same as on Sunday, the Lord's Day. Try looking at it as an act of love for our God Who provides us with many blessings rather than as something we must do! If, we truly love God we will do what we can to be with Him. If we do not love Him such to be with Him every chance we get, then perhaps a good examination of conscience and reorientation of our priorities is in order.

Why are our churches not filled? Perhaps we have a crisis of Faith, meaning it is overshadowed by the culture of death and consumerism which clouds proper thinking of our religious nature. We have been created in the Image and Likeness of God; has it been darkened that we don't recognize it any longer?

The Ten Commandments were given us, not as a hindrance to our enjoyment, but as a guide post to that enjoyment we so desire. The first three commandments speak to our love of God and the following seven to our love or relationship with our fellow pilgrims in the journey in life which is a journey to the Eternal Now (in the very presence of God). If you have forgotten the Commandments, take the time to revisit them and begin the journey to saintliness.

Financial Concerns:

As we begin the New Year our financial books will be closed this week and next week the Statements for Tax Season will be prepared. If you wish a statement of your offerings, kindly call the rectory. Also, if you have not yet picked up your Offering Envelopes and or a calendar, they are in the anteroom of the narthex.

Happy New Year and God's Blessings be upon you.

How To Grow As A Christian

Pray without ceasing 1 Thessalonians 5: 17.

Rejoice in the Lord always Philippians 4: 4.

Add to your faith, virtue 2 Peter 1: 5.

You have not because you ask not James 4: 2.

Whatever he says to you, do it John 2: 5.

Only fear the Lord and serve him 1 Samuel 12: 24.

Remember the words of the Lord Jesus Acts of the Apostles 20: 35.

Keep yourself pure 1 Timothy 5: 22.

Go into the world and preach Mark 16: 15.

In all your ways acknowledge him Proverbs 3: 6.

Vow and pray to the Lord your God Psalms 76: 11.

Endure hardness as a good soldier of Christ 2 Timothy 2; 3.

Prayer

Prayer is so simple,
it is like quietly opening the door
and slipping into the very presence of God;
There in the stillness to listen to his voice;
perhaps to petition
or only to listen.
It matters not; just to be there
in his presence
is Prayer.



But I am like an olive tree,
thriving in the house of God.
I trust in God's unfailing love
forever and ever.

PSALM 52:8

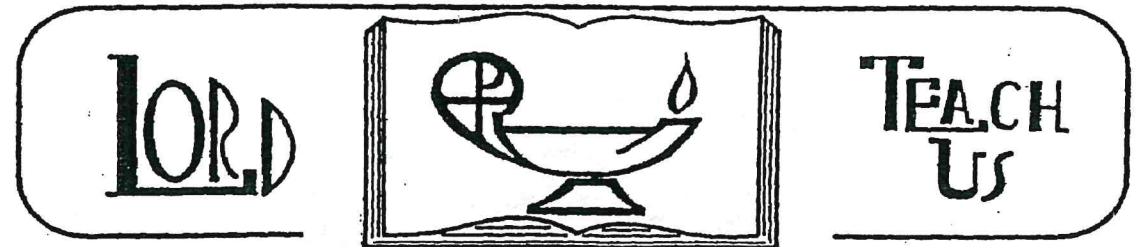
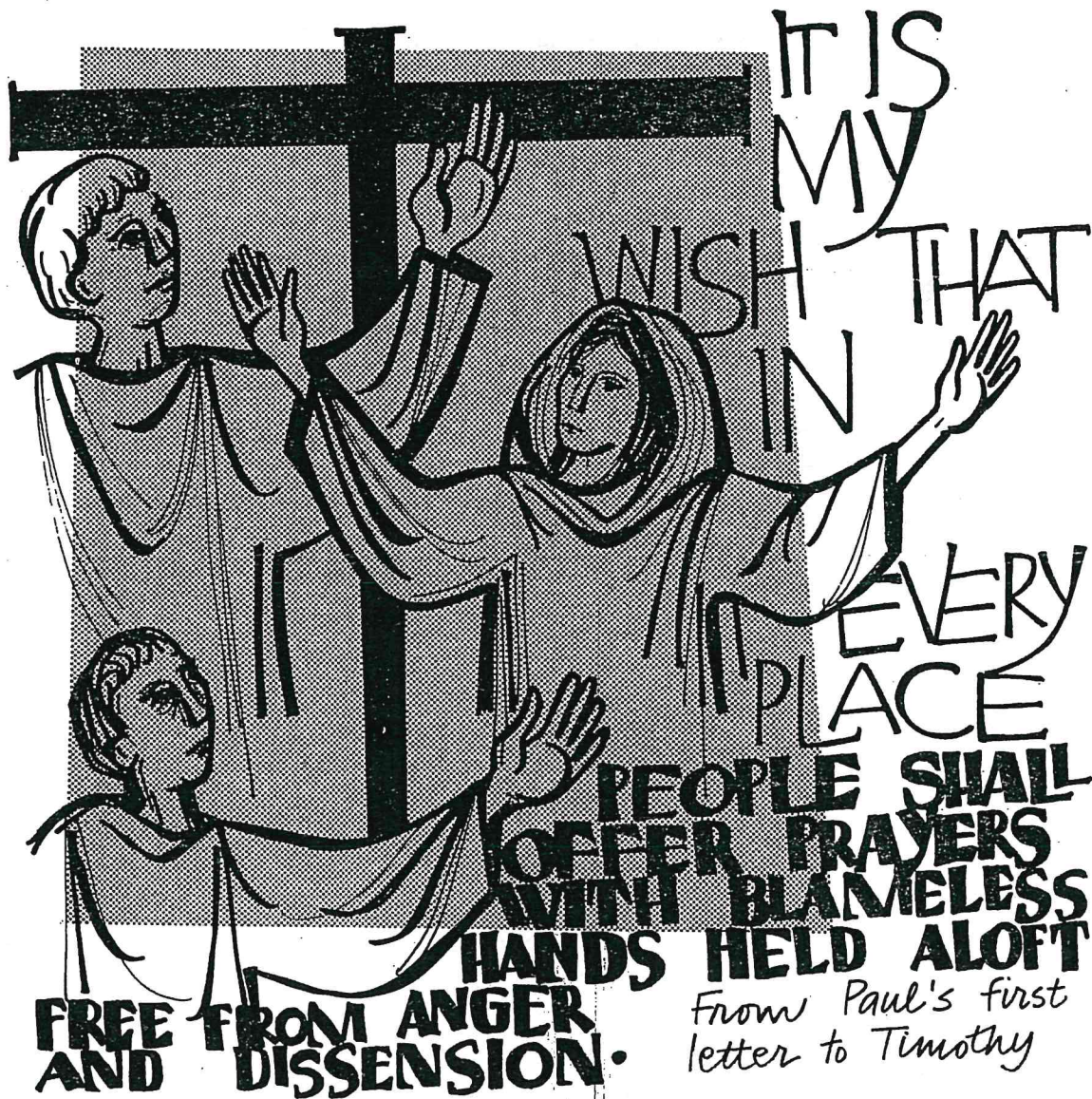
Wisdom Of
The



Byzantine
Fathers

He Church is the Bride of Christ, his beloved, for whom He offers the supreme sacrifice. Symbolized by Eve, drawn from Adam's side, the Church flows forth in visible form from the wounded side of Christ. The Word was made flesh and the Church is a member of Christ's Body, she who was born of his side by water and received life by his blood. The flesh in which the Word was born, who exists from all eternity as Son of God, dwells among us sacramentally....The Church is made up of publicans and sinners, of people from among nations. Only the heavenly Second Adam is without sin. Nevertheless, the Church will be saved despite her human limitations by bringing into the world offspring who will persevere in their faith St. Hilary of Poitiers.

One does not think of the Father without the Son, one does not conceive of the Son without the Holy Spirit. For it is impossible to attain to the Father except by being raised by the Son and it is impossible to call Jesus Lord save in the Holy Spirit St. Gregory Nyssa.



Afraid

The Lord is my light and my salvation; I will fear no one. The Lord protects me from all danger; I will never be afraid Psalms 27: 1 – 3.

God is our shelter and strength, always ready to help in times of trouble. So we will not be afraid, even if the earth is shaken and the mountains fall into the ocean depths; even if the seas soar and rage, and the hills are shaken by violence Psalms 46: 1.

In God I have put my trust; I shall not be afraid. What can man do to me? Psalms 56: 11.

Where God's love is, there is no fear. God's perfect love takes away fear. It is punishment that makes a person fear. Anyone who has fear does not have perfect love 1 John 4: 18.

Wait for the Lord; be strong and take heart and wait for the Lord Psalms 27: 14.

Fear not for I am with you; be not dismayed for I am your God. I will strengthen you. I will help you, I will uphold you with my victorious right hand Isaiah 41: 10.

When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you Isaiah 43: 2.

Be strong and take heart all you who hope in the Lord Psalms 31: 24.