

Saints Peter & Paul St. Mary's (Dormition of the Mother of God)
 Byzantine Catholic Church Byzantine Catholic Church
 107 South Fourth Street 131 South Morris Street
 Minersville, PA 17954 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

Faults of the Pharisee

Many are the faults of the Pharisee. First of all, he is boastful, and without sense, for he praises himself, even though the Sacred Scriptures cry aloud, "Let a neighbor praise you, and not your own mouth: a stranger and not your own lips" (Prov. 27:2). ... Our virtue, therefore, must not be contaminated with fault, but must be single-minded and blameless and free from all that can bring reproach. For what profit is there in fasting twice a week, if you so doing serve only as a pretext for ignorance and vanity, and if it makes you prideful, haughty and selfish? You tithe your possessions and make a boast of it; but in another way you provoke God's anger, by condemning men generally on this account and accusing others. And you yourself are puffed up, though not crowned by the divine decree for righteousness, but on the contrary, heap praises upon yourself. For I am not, he says, as the rest of mankind. Moderate yourself, O Pharisee: "Set a guard, O Lord, over your mouth, keep watch over the door of your lips" (Ps. 140:3).

You speak to God Who knows all things. Await the decree of the Judge. None of those skilled in the practice of wrestling ever crowns himself; nor does any man receive the crown of himself, but awaits the summons of the arbiter. Lower your pride, for arrogance is both accursed and hated by God. Although, therefore, you fast with puffed up mind, your so doing will not avail you; your labor will be unrewarded; for you have mingled dung with your perfume. Even according to the law of Moses a sacrifice that had a blemish was not capable of being offered to God; for it was said unto him, "Of sheep, and ox, that is offered for sacrifice, there must be no blemish therein" (Lev. 22:21). Since, therefore, your fasting is accompanied by pride, you must expect to hear God saying, this is not the fast that I have chosen (Cf Isa. 58:5) ... You offer tithes, but you wrong in another way Him Who is honored by you, in that you condemn men generally. This is an act foreign to the mind that fears God.

St. Cyril of Alexandria

SUNDAY OF THE PUBLICAN AND PHARISEE



Icon of the Publican and Pharisee

Sunday of the Publican and Pharisee
Tone 1

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.

January 21, AD2024

Vigil of Sunday at St. Mary

Saturday	4:00 p.m.	+ John Holige req. by MM Joseph Geles
Sunday	9:00 a.m.	Health and Blessing of the Parishioners (livestreamed)
Monday	9:00 a.m.	+ Anna Leshko req. by Paul Lohin
Tuesday	9:00 a.m.	+ Charles Keer, Sr. req. by George & Ellen Sinkovich
Wednesday	9:00 a.m.	+ Andrew & +Margaret Gerchak req. by the Estate
Thursday	9:00 a.m.	+ William Holcovich, Jr. req. by MM George Holcovich & Family
Friday	9:00 a.m.	H&B Susan Samargis req. by Family
Saturday Vigil	4:00 p.m.	+ George Konkus req. by Rose & Nick Baruka
Sunday	9:00 a.m.	Health & Blessing of the Parishioners (at SS Peter & Paul)

Epistle Readers: 1/1 – Jennifer Keer; 1/6 – Dolores Kramer; 1/7 – Judy Kostura; 1/14 – Jennifer Keer; 1/21 – Beverly Kostishak; 1/28 – Gail Burgess; 2/4 – Marie Wanchick.

Candle Offering: Icons of the Mother of God and Jesus Christ and the Sacramental Table are offered for the Health and Blessing of the **Leshko Family**

Breakfast with Father

Sunday, February 11, 2024 following the Divine Liturgy. ECF Class will participate in place of the regular class time. All are welcome to attend. Following breakfast Forgiveness Vespers will be celebrated to facilitate the beginning of the Great Fast.

Sunday's of the Great Fast following the Divine Liturgy we will celebrate Lenten Vespers followed by a bible study with a light lunch in the church dining hall.

Dates to Remember:

February 12 the **Great Fast** begins, a day of **Strict Fast**, i.e., no meat, eggs or dairy products may be consumed on that day and on March 29 Great and Good Friday.

March 31 the **Resurrection of our Lord God and Saviour Jesus Christ.**

0 faithful, let us not pray as the Pharisee, * for those who exalt themselves shall be humbled. * Let us humble ourselves before God, * and with the Publican let us say: * Lord, have mercy on me a sinner. *(2 times)*

The Pharisee, overcome with his pride, * and the Publican, bent down in repentance, * came before You, the only Lord: * the first trusted in himself and was deprived of your blessings; * the other spoke but a few words and received your blessings in abundance. * Behold my tears and strengthen me, 0 Christ our God, * for You are indeed the Lover of Humankind.

0 almighty Lord, I realize the power of tears: * they saved Hezekiah from the gates of death; * by them the sinful woman was forgiven all her sins; * and through them the Publican was justified, but the Pharisee was not. * Number me with them, 0 Lord, and have mercy on me.

Students of the Month:

Congratulations to Kole Laughlin and Bradley Kostishak for being honored as student of the month for December. Kole was student of the month at Blue Mountain High School and Bradley was student of the month at Schuylkill Technology Center – South

WISDOM! BE ATTENTIVE

Let us bring to the Lord the sighs of the Publican and as sinner let us approach the Lord. He desires the salvation of all mankind; He grants forgiveness to all who repent. For us He became man while remaining God, co-eternal with the Father. Kontakion, Sunday of the Pharisee and Publican.

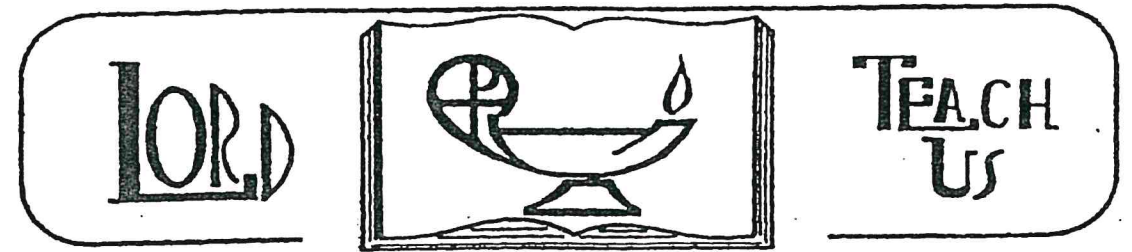
The Pharisee; overcome with his pride, and the Publican, bent down in repentance, came before You, the only Lord: the first trusted in himself and was deprived of Your blessings; the other spoke but a few words and received Your blessings in abundance. Behold my tears and strengthen me, O Christ our God, for You are indeed the Lover of mankind. Vesper Hymn, Sunday of the Pharisee and Publican.

Open to me the doors of repentance, O Giver of life. As we worship in your temple this morning, teach us how to purify the temples of our bodies, and in Your compassion, purify me by the goodness of Your mercies. Matins Hymn, Sunday of the Pharisee and Publican.

In parables Christ invites us to correct our life. He raises up the Publican in his humility and shows us how the Pharisee was brought down by his vanity. Seeing the dignity to which the humble are raised and the deep abyss into which the proud fall, let us imitate the virtue of the Publican and despise the sins of the Pharisee. Vain pretensions deprive us of every good deed, while humility purifies us of every evil. O faithful, let us embrace the ways of humility and totally despise the ways of vainglory. Wishing to find humility in the hearts of His disciples, the King of the universe charged them to imitate the Publican and his humble sighs for pardon. I sigh as the Publican, O Lord, and my groaning does not cease. Thus do I find the path to Your heart. Have mercy on me who now seeks to live in humility. Matins Hymn, Sunday of the Pharisee and Publican.

Vainglory brings to nothing both justice and its treasures, while humility scatters a multitude of passions. O Saviour, grant that we may imitate the Publican. O Faithful, let us vie with each other in zeal, and let us seek to do good. Let us live together in humility, and may our hearts sigh with tears and prayer so that we may obtain forgiveness from God. Matins Hymn, Sunday of the Pharisee and Publican.

Raised up by his humility, the Publican who formerly lamented now was justified for having said: Lord be merciful to me a sinner. He is the one whom we imitate from the abyss into which our hearts have driven us. From the depth of our heart we say, Spare us for we are sinners, O Saviour, Who alone loves mankind. The Word has shown us the best path to exaltation; it is the way of humility. For He Himself was lowered to take the form of a servant. By following His humility, we shall be exalted. Matins Hymn, Sunday of the Pharisee and Publican



Hate

You have let us be driven back by our enemies, those who hated us plundered us at will Psalms 44: 11.

Let God arise, let his enemies be scattered and those who hate him flee from before his face. As smoke vanishes, so are they driven, as wax melts before the fire, so the wicked perish before God Psalms 68: 2 - 4.

O God, do not remain unmoved, be not silent, O God, and be not still! For behold, your enemies raise tumult, and they who hate you lift up their heads. Against your people they plot craftily; they conspire against those whom you protect Psalms 83: 2 - 4.

The Lord loves those who hate evil; he guards the lives of his faithful ones from the hand of the wicked he delivers them Psalms 97: 10.

May all be put to shame who hate Sion...and those who pass by say not, 'The blessing of the Lord be upon you! We bless you in the name of the Lord!' Psalms 129: 5, 8.

How long fools, will you hate knowledge, how long will you turn away at my correction? Proverbs 1: 22.

There are six things the Lord hates, yes, seven are an abomination to him; haughty eyes, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood; a heart that plots wicked schemes, feet that run swiftly to evil, the false witness who utters lies, and he who sows discord among brothers Proverbs 6: 16 - 19.

Fear of the Lord is to hate evil; pride, arrogance, the evil way, and a perverse mouth I hate Proverbs 8: 13.

Picture Glossary



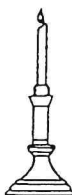
AER

A cloth that covers both the chalice and diskos. It is worn on the shoulders of the priest during the Great Entrance.



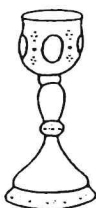
CENSER

The vessel in which incense is burned. It is suspended on three chains on which are attached twelve bells.



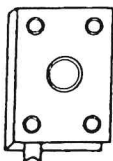
CANDLE

We light candles to show that Jesus is the Light of the world. We also light candles to show that we love God and that we want Him to hear our prayers.



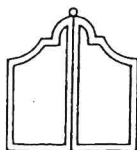
CHALICE

A cup which contains the elements of Holy Communion.



GOSPEL

Means good news. It is the first four books of the New Testament: Matthew, Mark, Luke and John.



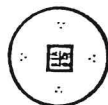
HOLY DOORS

The two main doors to the Sanctuary.



ICONOSTASIS

Or icon stand that separates the sanctuary from the nave of the church.



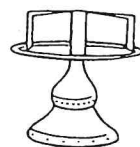
PROSPHORA

A specially prepared bread that is used during the Divine Liturgy.



SIGN OF THE CROSS

The way we hold our hand teaches us something. Holding three fingers together reminds us of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. The two left on the palm remind us that Jesus had two natures—He is both man and God at the same time.



STAR AND DISKOS

The diskos is a plate on which the Lamb—which will be the consecrated Holy Bread—is placed. The star is a gold plated metal frame that is placed over the diskos.



TABERNACLE

A specially designed container, often in the shape of a church, that holds reserved sacrament for the ill. It is kept on the altar.

