

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: [tyrgin@outlook.com](mailto:tyrgin@outlook.com)

Served by: Very Reverend Gregory J. Noga, Pastor

S. Peter & Paul Cantor: Mr. Paul Konkus St. Mary's Cantor: Dr. Peter Yasenchak

\*\*\*\*\*

**CONFESSIONS** : SS. Peter & Paul Sunday One half hour prior to Divine Liturgy and Daily  
prior to Divine Liturgy. Saturday 1pm to 2pm

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 570-544-2074

\*\*\*\*\*

Bulletins are sponsored by  
Mahal-Ritzel Funeral Home  
Minersville, PA 5445111  
Mark J. Mahal- Funeral Director

### *Knowledge of the True God Nurtures Us to Eternal Life*

Are we saying that knowledge is eternal life? Are we saying that to know the one true and living God will suffice to give us complete security for the future without need of anything else? Then how is "faith apart from works dead?" When we speak of faith, we mean the true knowledge of God and nothing else, since knowledge comes by faith. The prophet Isaiah tells us this: "If you do not believe, neither shall you understand." But he is not talking about a knowledge that consists in barren speculations, which is entirely worthless. For one of the holy disciples said, "You believe that God is one; you do well. Even the demons believe and shudder." What then shall we say to this? How is it that Christ speaks the truth when He says that eternal life is the knowledge of God the Father, the one true God, and with Him of the Son? I think, indeed, we must answer that the saying of the Savior is completely true. For this knowledge is life, laboring as it were in birth of the whole meaning of the mystery and

granting to us participation in the mystery of the Eucharist, whereby we are joined to the living and life-giving Word. And for this reason, I think, Paul says that the Gentiles are made fellow members of the body and fellow partakers of Christ, inasmuch as they partake in His Blessed Body and Blood. And our members may in this sense be conceived of as being members of Christ. This knowledge, then, which also brings to us the Eucharist by the Spirit, is life. For it dwells in our hearts, reshaping those who receive it into son-ship with Him and molding them into incorruption and piety toward God through life, according to the Gospel. Our Lord Jesus Christ, then, knowing that the knowledge of the one true God brings to us and promotes our union with the blessings of which we have spoken, says that it is eternal life. It is the mother and nurse of eternal life, being in its power and nature pregnant with those things that cause life and lead to life.

St. Cyril of Alexandria

## SUNDAY OF THE FATHERS OF THE FIRST COUNCIL



*Icon of the Fathers of the First Ecumenical Council of Nicaea*



Sunday of the Fathers of the 1<sup>st</sup> Ecumenical Council  
Festal Tone

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.

.....

June 1 – June 7, AD2025

Vigil of Sunday		
Saturday	4:00 p.m.	H&B Lee & Deborah Ballenger req. by Marie Wanchaick*
Sunday	9:00 a.m.	Health and Blessings of the Parishioners*
Monday	9:00 a.m.	No Divine Liturgy Today*
Tuesday	9:00 a.m.	No Divine Liturgy Today*
Wednesday	9:00 a.m.	+Charles Sinko req. by Paul Horwhat*
Thursday	9:00 a.m.	+Charles Sinko req. by MM John Hudock*
Friday	9:00 a.m.	+Michael Sinko req. by MM Charles Laurie*
Saturday	9:00 a.m.	+All Souls w/Reading of Names*
Saturday	4:00 p.m.	+Andrew & +Margaret Gerchak req. by Estate*

\*St. Mary  
\*SS Peter & Paul

Epistle Readers:  
6/1 – Laura Mitchell; 6/8 – Gail Burgess; 6/15 – Paulette Murphy; 6/22 – Laura Mitchell; 6/24 – Dolores Kramer; 6/29 – Ellen Sinkovich; 7/6 – Marie Wanchick.

Chicken Dinner Sale: \$1,796.00 net profit. Congratulations and many thanks for your hard work.

On this Sunday, we commemorate the Fathers of the 1st Ecumenical Council. The Council was held in 325AD in the city of Nicea, not far from Constantinople. It ended on May 29 and came to be observed on the Sunday following the Feast of the Ascension.

The Council of Nicea I was a significant moment in Christianity as it settled the argument about Jesus' divinity. The bishops were concerned that some Christians were denying Jesus' divine nature, despite knowing that He had a human nature and Mary was His mother. The council concluded that Jesus is the true Son of God with both a human and divine nature, “one in essence with the Father,” conceived through the power of the Holy Spirit and Mary. The Council also officially defined the date for Pascha.

This Sunday’s Gospel reading, John 17:1-13, speaks to this reality of Jesus being the Son of God, one in essence with the Father. In this passage, Jesus prays to God the Father saying, “Now glorify me, Father, with you, with the glory that I had with you before the world began.” Through these words, Jesus tells us that He has existed before all creation and thus, that He is one with the eternal Father, not merely human but a divine person with a human nature and a divine nature. This union of divinity and humanity that we see manifest in Jesus Christ is a great mystery but is also the way in which our salvation is accomplished: God lowered Himself so that He could raise us up to be united to Him for eternity.

After Nicea  
Arianism regained momentum and evolved (becoming popular with some of the tribes that were invading the Roman Empire, like the Visigoths) and survived in some form until the reigns of Gratian and Theodosius, at which time, St. Ambrose (c. 340–397) set to work stamping it out.

But the debate by no means was over in the 4th century. Debate continued into the fifth century and beyond, with:

"... confrontation between the Alexandrian school, with its allegorical interpretation of scripture and its emphasis on the one nature of the divine Logos made flesh, and the Antiochene school, which favoured a more literal reading of scripture and stressed the two natures in Christ after the union." (Pauline Allen, 2000)

Then will the eyes of the blind be opened, the ears of the deaf cleared.  
Then will the lame leap like a stag, then the tongue of the dumb will  
sing Isaiah 35: 5, 6.

The spirit of the Lord is upon me because the Lord has anointed me;  
He has sent me to bring glad tidings to the lowly, to heal the broken-  
hearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives and release to the prisoners  
Isaiah 61: 1.

The miracles were accomplished in order to lead people to a faith commitment that  
would endure. They were to make known the saving power of God our Father which  
was working in Jesus.

Jesus said, "If you can?" Everything is possible to a man who has faith"  
Mark 9: 23.

They were not compelling signs of God's power, for some of the leaders of the  
people saw fit to attribute them to the power of the devil.

"...He is out of his mind," while the scribes who arrived from Jerusalem  
asserted, "He is possessed by Beelzebub," and "He expels demons by  
the help of the prince of demons" Mark 3: 22.

But to those who had eyes to see, the miracles were signs that God was at work in  
Jesus in fulfillment of all the promises He made. They were able to place their faith  
commitment in Jesus. His miracles confirmed that faith commitment we make. The  
foremost miracle of the New Testament is the Resurrection. This is confirmed by  
historical and reliable trustworthy sources.

I handed over to you first of all what I myself received, that Christ died  
for our sins in accordance with the Scripture; that he was buried  
and, in accordance with the Scriptures, rose on the third day; that  
he was seen by Cephas, then by the twelve. After that, he was seen  
by five hundred brethren at once, most of whom are still alive,  
although some have fallen asleep. Next he was seen by James; then  
by all the apostles. Last of all, he was seen by me, as one born

out of the normal course 1 Corinthians 15: 3 - 8.

We can readily come to understand our Lord's tender concern for those who believe  
in Him.

...but the crowds found this out and followed him. He received  
them and spoke to them of the kingdom of God, and he healed all  
who were in need of healing. As sunset approached, the Twelve  
came to him and said, "Dismiss the crowd so that they can  
go into the villages and farms in the neighborhood and find themselves  
lodging and food, for this is certainly an out of the way place." He  
answered them, "Why do you not give them something to eat  
yourselves?" They replied, "We have nothing but five loaves and  
two fishes. Or shall we ourselves go and buy food for all these  
people?" There were about five thousand men. Jesus said to  
his disciples, "Have them sit down in groups of fifty or so." They  
followed his instructions and got them all seated. Then, taking five  
loaves and two fishes, Jesus raised His eyes to heaven, pronounced  
a blessing over them, broke them and gave them to his  
disciples for distribution to the crowd. They all ate until they had  
enough. What they had left over and above, filled twelve baskets  
Luke 9: 11 - 17.

This text is one which calls to mind the Eucharist, where Jesus feeds us with His  
Body and Blood. Let us reread the passage questioning whether such an event could  
have taken place. The crowds were following Jesus and were far away from towns  
where they could purchase something to eat. We must remember there are not  
convenience stores at this time. Jesus was speaking of the kingdom of God and was  
healing those who were sick. The disciples came and asked Him to send the crowd  
away. Jesus challenges them and here is an interesting note. When people traveled  
they always carried a pouch which had a little food to sustain them as they went  
their way, until they could get to the next town and purchase something substantial  
to sustain them. What if the miracle was that Jesus encouraged them who had food  
with them to share what they had and not hoard it only for themselves? Then, what  
would we learn from this event? We would be able to see that Jesus had compassion  
on the crowd and even demonstrated the compassion of our heavenly Father for all



people.. He also was able to encourage people to share, as He did, to practice selfless love, which He would demonstrate for us in His passion and death. In cooperation with the Saviour, the result was abundance; abundance of food, of sustenance, of faith commitment and of love for our heavenly Father, which is the very purpose the miracles were worked!

Christ worked the miracles to strengthen us, to confirm us, to draw us closer to Him and assure our salvation. He did not want us to doubt, to wonder, to even legitimately question in the inner recesses of our heart and soul. He performed miracles so that we could plainly and firmly believe He effected the salvation of our souls.

MIRACLES OF JESUS				
EVENT	MATTHEW	MARK	LUKE	JOHN
HEALING OF PHYSICAL AND MENTAL DISORDERS				
Leper	8:2,3	1:40-42	5:12,13	
Centurion's servant	8:5-13		7:1-10	
Peter's Mother-in-law	8:14,15	1:30,31	4:38,39	
Two Gadarenes	8:28-34	5:1-15	8:27-35	
Paralysed man	9:2-7	2:3-12	5:18-25	
Woman in Hemorrhage	9:20-22	5:25-29	8:43-48	
Two blind men	9:27-31			
Man dumb and possessed	9:32,33			
Man with withered hand	12:10-13	3:1-5	6:6-10	
Blind, dumb and possessed	12:22		11:14	
Canaanite's daughter	15:21-28	7:24-30		
Epileptic boy	17:14-18	9:17-29	9:38-43	
Bartimeus, blind man	20:29-34	10:46-52	18:35-43	
Deaf and dumb man		7:31-37		
Man possessed		1:23-26	4:33-35	
Bethsaida blind man		8:22-26		
Woman bent over			13:11-13	
Man with dropsy			14:1-4	
Ten lepers			17:11-19	
Malchus' ear			22:50,51	

In general, the miracles were affected by the power of the spoken word or touch; they did not rely on magical tricks as some would contend.

All who looked on, were amazed. They began to ask one another:  
"What does this mean? A completely new teaching in a spirit of authority! He gives orders to unclean spirits and they obey"  
Mark 1: 27!

I command you: Stand up! Pick up your mat and go home Mark 2: 11!

Taking her hand he said to her: "*Talitha, koum,*" which means, "Little girl, get up" Mark 5: 41!

The miracles were not performed to bring glory or renowned to Jesus but that all might give glory to God for His bountiful mercy and love.

Fear seized them and they all began to praise God. "A great prophet has risen among us," they said; and "God has visited his people"  
Luke 7: 16.

The miracles demonstrated God's love for suffering and stricken humanity.

My heart is moved with pity for the crowd Mark 8: 2.

These events were seen as the fulfillment of the Hebrew Scriptures and its promises that at the time of salvation God would heal people's bodies as well as their souls.

Jesus gave this response; "Go and report to John what you have seen and heard. The blind recover their sight, cripples walk, lepers are cured, the deaf hear, dead men are raised to life, and the poor have the good news preached to them Luke 17: 22.

On that day the deaf shall hear the words of a book, and out of gloom and darkness, the eyes of the blind shall see. The lowly will ever find joy in the Lord, and the poor rejoice in the Holy One of Israel  
Isaiah 29: 18, 19.



## Did You Know That ...

...to love another, you have to undertake some fragment of their destiny?

...no one is rich enough to do without a neighbor?

...if we discover the truth of Christ, we will showcase it by living it?

...there is nothing deep down inside us except what we have put there ourselves to build on God's grace?

...love stretches your heart and makes you big and inclusive inside?

...pessimists calculate the odds while optimists believe they can overcome them?

...we should never ruin an apology with an excuse?

...words can destroy; what we call each other ultimately becomes what we think of each other and it does matter?

...love produces a certain flowering of the whole personality which nothing else can achieve?

...sometimes one must travel far to discover what is near?

...everybody needs somebody?

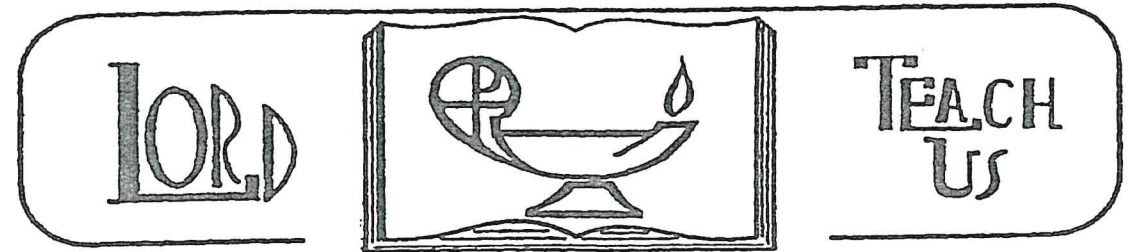
...love is a medicine for the sickness of the world; a prescription often given, but too rarely taken?

...heroes may not be braver than anyone else; they may be braver for just five minutes longer?

...we can get anywhere we want to go if we really want to go?

...if we always expect the best from God, we will see that the outcome is spontaneously contained in the expectation?

...wisdom is knowing what to do next while virtue is doing it?



### Investing

*Dear friends I pray that you may enjoy good health and that all may go well with you, even as your soul is getting along well 3 John 2*

*If you fully obey the Lord your God and carefully follow all his commands, I will give you today, the Lord your God will set you high above all the nations on earth. All these blessings will come upon you and accompany you if you obey the Lord your God. You will be blessed in the city and blessed in the country. The fruit of your womb will be blessed and the crops of your land and the young of your livestock – the calves of your herds and the lambs of your flocks. Your basket and your kneading trough will be blessed. You will be blessed where you come in and blessed when you go out. The Lord will grant that he enemies who rise up against you will be defeated before you. They will come at you from one direction but flee from you in seven. The Lord will send a blessing on your barns and on everything you put your hand to. The Lord your God will bless you in the land he is giving you. The Lord will establish you as his holy people, as he promised you on oath, if you keep the commands of the Lord your God and walk in his ways. Then all the people on earth will see that you are called by the name of the Lord and they will fear you. The Lord will grant you abundant prosperity – in the fruit of your womb, the young of your livestock and the crops of your ground – in the land he swore to your forefathers to give to you. The Lord will open the heavens, the storehouse of his bounty, to send rain on your land in season and to bless all the works of your hands. You will lend to many nations but borrow from none. The Lord will make you the head, not the tail. If you pay attention to the commands of the Lord your God that I give you this day and carefully follow them, you will always be at the top, never at the bottom Deuteronomy 28: 1 – 13.*

*But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness and all these things will be given you as well Matthew 6: 33.*





# MIRACLES OF JESUS

The gospel narratives contain at least thirty five instances when our Lord performed miracles. The people who witnessed them marveled at His wondrous deeds. The miracles included healings, exorcisms, power manifested over nature, and bringing the departed back to life. We have included a complete chart of the miracles of our Lord and where they can be found in God's revelation to us.

The miracle stories of the Gospels testify to the tremendous impression

the work of Jesus made on the people who followed after Him. More people became curious about Jesus and sought Him out because they wanted to see in person the man everyone was talking about Who would perform such signs, wonders and miracles. Some became fascinated with the Lord and in spite of His miracles, still did not consider Him God, but perhaps someone Who was possessed of extraordinary powers. Naturally, there was a whole variety of reaction to the Saviour.

In this so-called sophisticated age, many people pass over the miracle stories and dismiss them as enthusiastic exaggerations on the part of believers. They point out that there were other "magicians" around in the time of Jesus and that there were similar stories told and associated with them. When they do this they ignore some of the reasons why the miracles of Jesus were different from the others and some of the interpretations of the miracles of Jesus Himself being wrought only to witness to the glory of God and genuine individual need. The importance of Jesus' miracles lies not so much in the power they displayed as the significance that was attached to them both by believers and non-believers.

Official's son	4:46-54
Sick man at Bethsaida	5:1-9
Man born blind	9

## COMMAND OVER FORCES OF NATURE

Calming of storm	8:23-27	4:37-41	8:22-25	
Walking on water	14:25	6:48-51		6:19-21
5000 fed	14:15-21	6:35-44	9:12-17	6:5-13
4000 people fed	15:32-38	8:1-9		
Coin in fish's mouth	17:24-27			
Fig tree withered	21:18-22	11:12-14		
		20-26		
Catch of fish			5:1-11	
Water turned to wine				2:1-11
Another catch of fish				21:1-11

## BRINGING THE DEAD BACK TO LIFE

Jairus' daughter	9:18,19	5:22-24	8:41,42
	23-25	38-42	49-56
Widow's son at Naim		7:11-15	
Lazarus			11:1-44

