

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
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Saint Clair, PA 17970

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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)

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Examples for Us

Every year, on the Sunday after Pentecost, we celebrate the Sunday of All Saints. After we remember the descent of the Holy Spirit on the Apostles, we remember those men and women who have shone forth over the history of the Christian Church as bearers of the Holy Spirit. Pentecost is where the Incarnation is headed, the movement is always toward the descent of the Holy Spirit – after Christ redeems our fallen nature on the Cross, the Holy Spirit is sent to guide us into all truth.

God wants to live in us, to join us to Himself. This was the Divine Will from the moment of creation, finally realized on the day of Pentecost.

The Holy Spirit descends on the Apostles to live in them. He fills them with power from on high, He grants them spiritual gifts,

and enables them to walk in the commandments of Christ.

For us today, the Saints are proof of Pentecost, testimony to the ongoing Pentecost in the Church. There continue to be people whose lives are transformed in Christ, who exude the love of God, who walk faultlessly in the commandments of Christ, filled with the divine gifts of the Holy Spirit. The resurrection of Christ is the proof of His ministry, St. Paul says.

And the existence of the Saints is the continuing proof of both the work of Christ, and the activity of the Holy Spirit in the world today. And since they attain to the life that we are called to, the Saints of the Church are wonderful examples for us today.

SUNDAY OF ALL SAINTS



Icon of All Saints

Volume 2022
Christ is among us!

Number 23
He is and will be!

Sunday of All Saints
Tone 8

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.

June 12 – June 18, 2022

All Divine Services are livestreamed where noted

Saturday Vigil of Sunday (at SS Peter & Paul)

4:00 p. m. + **John Malusky** req. by MM Robert Mikonis and
Mrs. Eva Harturg

Sunday

8:00 a.m. +**Helen Platko** req. by MM David Stepenosky (at St. Mary)

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

Monday

8:00 a.m. **H&B Fr. John Kachuba** req. by Ralph & Barbara Lutz

Wednesday

8:00 a.m. +**Peter & Anna Kostura** req. by Family

Thursday

8:00 a.m. +**Helen Platko** req. by MM Leonard Hamera

Friday

8:00 a.m. +**Peter Dembinsky** req. by MM John Samec

Saturday Vigil of Sunday (at SS Peter & Paul)

4:00 p.m. +**Charles Kostura** req. by cousin, John Kostura

Epistle Readers: 6/4 – Marie Wanchick; 6/5 – Ellen Sinkovich; 6/11 – Dolores Kramer; 6/12 – Laura Mitchell; 6/18 – Gail Burgess; 6/19 – Judy Kostura; 6/24 – Ellen Sinkovich; 6/25 – Dolores Kramer; 6/26 – Paulette Murphy; 6/29 – Ellen Sinkovich; 7/2 – Marie Wanchick; 7/3 – Jannifer Keer. (If you cannot be present for any time, kindly contact another reader to cover for you).

Candle Offering:

ALL SAINTS SUNDAY

Mirror with which to See Inside Ourselves

Holy Scripture is presented to the mind's eye like a mirror in which the appearance of our inner being can be seen. In this mirror we can see both the ugliness and the beauty of our soul. We can tell what progress we are making or whether we are making any progress at all. Holy Scripture recounts the good deeds of the saints and encourages the hearts of the weak to imitate them. In recording the prowess of the saints, Scripture also underlines our weakness in the face of the onslaught of the vices. But its words ensure that the more the soul sees of the triumphs of so many heroes of the faith, the less it is alarmed in the midst of its own battle. Sometimes, however, Holy Scripture does not only record the victories of the saints but also mentions their defeats, so that we may see from their failures what we ought to be afraid of, besides learning from their triumphs what we ought to aim at. For example, Job is described in the Bible as being exalted by temptation, whereas David is represented as humiliated by it. By this means, our hopes may be nourished by the valor of people in the past, while because of their weakness we may gird on the protection of humility. The victories of the saints give our spirits wings through the joy they cause; their failures give us pause through fear. From Scripture the soul of the reader learns the confidence of hope and the humility of fear. Thanks to the weight of the fear, it does not have the temerity to be proud; but this fear does not cast it into utter despair, because the soul is fortified in the strength of hope by the examples of valor.

St. Gregory the Great *Commentary on the Book of Job*, 2, 1 (SC32, P180)

May/June is the customary time for Graduations and we are pleased to confer our best wishes and congratulations upon all of our Graduates. May God bless you and sustain you as you go forward, either to higher education or vocational pursuits.

Wrestling With God

“And Jacob was left alone; and there wrestled with him a man until the breaking of the day” Genesis 32: 24.

God is wrestling with Jacob more than Jacob is wrestling with God. It was the Son of Man, the Angel of the Covenant; it was God in human form pressing down on and pressing out the old Jacob life, and before the morning broke, God prevailed and Jacob fell with his thigh dislocated. But as he fell, he fell into the arms of God, and there he clung and wrestled, too, until the blessing was obtained; and new life was born and he arose from earthly to heavenly; the human to the godly, the natural to the supernatural. And as he went forth that morning he was a weak and broken man, but God was now present in him instead. The heavenly voice proclaimed, “You shall no more be called Jacob, but Israel, for you have contended with divine and human beings and have prevailed” Genesis 32: 29.

Every changed and transformed life depicts this very same event. There comes a crisis hour in each one of us when we face either ruin or something brighter and better than we have ever dreamed of; when we must have infinite help from our God, and yet if we would have it, we must let something else go, we must relinquish all that is ungodly in us. We must surrender completely; we must cease from our own wisdom, strength, righteousness, and become crucified with Christ and live in Him. We must submit our will to the will of the Almighty. God alone knows and understands how to lead us up to this crisis, and He alone knows how to lead us through it! And He alone grants us victory!

Can you therefore say the Lord is thus leading you in your life? What are you wrestling with in the depth of your conscience and lifestyle? Or are you leading yourself and having a fool to follow after? Is this the meaning of your difficult trial or deep pain? Is this that seemingly impossible situation, or that trying place through which you cannot pass without Him? Is this the terrifying moment of your life? Is this the time you are called upon to leave your “old” self behind so that the “new” man may arise in victory? Can it be that our God has insinuated Himself into

WISDOM! BE ATTENTIVE

You came down from on high, O merciful Lord. You accepted the grave for three days to deliver us from our passions. O Lord, our resurrection and our life, glory be to You! Troparion, Sunday of All Saints.

Your Church, throughout the world, O Lord, is clothed with the blood of Your martyrs as with fine linen and purple robes. And so, the Church cries out to You, O Christ our God: “Send down Your goodness upon Your people; grant peace to Your Church and great mercy to our souls” Troparion, Sunday of All Saints.

To You, O Lord, Author of the whole creation, the universe offers the God-bearing martyrs as the first fruits of nature. Through their prayers and the intercession of the Mother of God, preserve Your Church, Your dwelling place, in perfect peace, O most Merciful One! Kontakion, Sunday of All Saints.

Make vows to the Lord and fulfill them Prokimenon, Sunday of All Saints.

Praise the Lord from the heavens, praise Him in the highest. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia! Communion Hymn, Sunday of All Saints.

Come, O believers, let us today stand in order and rejoice with true worship. Let us extol with praises the memory of the all-honored, all revered saints, saying aloud: Rejoice, O glorious apostles, prophets, martyrs and bishops! Rejoice, O company of the righteous and just! Rejoice, rank of honored women! Vesper Hymn, Sunday of All Saints.

You are the pillars of the Church, and the fulfillment of the gospel, O divine ranks of martyrs. By your deeds you have fulfilled the words of the Saviour; for through you the gates of Hell, once opened against the Church, have now been closed; and through the shedding of your blood, you dried up the sacrifices poured out for the idols. And having built up the faith of believers through your martyrdom, you filled the heavenly spirits with admiration. You stand before Christ, wearing your crowns; intercede with Him for our souls Vesper Hymn, Sunday of All Saints.

Instead, we go it alone, or rather without His grace and encounter the flattery of the evil one who then easily enlists us with pernicious flattery and we gladly succumb to it. We alienate ourselves further from the Lord and lose almost entirely the path to salvation and saintliness. In time, we see nothing wrong with our sinfulness and even come to fully embrace and enjoy it!

We have been so long telling the lord "NO" to overtures for holiness that we cannot say "YES" when He seeks to offer pardon for our sins.

TEN COMMANDMENTS FOR THE VERY MARRIED

1. Remember that you are married to share a life.
2. You must be disciplined to succeed in marriage.
3. You must think and make decisions.
4. You must schedule time alone.
5. Let your partner be and become.
6. Keep love alive by outward expression.
7. Choose the time for fights and delicate discussions.
8. Remember that sexual love is the outward expression of inward intimacy.
9. Remember that you were husband and wife before you were father and mother.
10. Talk to one another; really communicate.

TWO FORGIVE IS TWO FORGET!

your mundane life to "wrestle" you to the narrow and righteous path? Then die to your own wisdom and insight, die to your own feeble perceptions; die to your own directions; die to your own likes and preferment's and cast yourself into His loving arms and rise, like Jacob finally did, into His strength and self-sufficiency, a changed and heroic being because "I have seen God face to face...,yet my life has been spared" Genesis 32: 31!

In the dark of your night, in the difficulty of your problems, in the depth of your alienation from God, He approaches you and engages you. He demands you press your case. He looks for honesty from you. He wishes thereby to show you the folly of your thinking and direction. He even "wrestles" with you so it becomes plain how dependent upon Him you really are. He shows the folly of pursuing your own pathway. If it takes all night, He will remain with you so that by dawn you will come to your senses, you will more easily and finally understand how victory only comes through the love of God. In the loneliness of your self inflicted separation, be assured it is God Who is with you, who will not permit you "...to be left there alone" Genesis 32: 25. When you give evidence of your ability and honest persistence, He will provide you with His grace to persevere. He will match grace with your newly acquired insights and you will transcend the untimely diversion in your life.

Just as truly as Jacob underwent his struggle with an angel of the Lord, and unknowingly wrestled with God, and then emerged a changed and new man, be assured you in your daily serious struggles after holiness and sanctity will also be recharged and renewed. Your new hopes and aspirations, your new goals and strivings will reveal you as a "begotten from above" John 3: 3, follower of Christ because you will still recognize the old man you formerly knew, but will rally and revel in the "new creature" 2 Corinthians 5: 17, you have become because of your direct encounter with God. You have shown the Lord how serious you are about your struggle after holiness and He has revealed and imparted to you the godly way of achieving your goal. You have wrestled with God and both you and He are winners.

Every difficulty, every problem, every opportunity that challenges us in our life is really an opportunity to "wrestle" with God that His strength and His desires for us

be permitted to emerge and show themselves. God is looking to change us, to literally change our names as He did for Jacob who became Israel, the very name of an entire nation of people who must daily struggle and "wrestle" with God's values, God's hopes and aspirations for their lives. The middle name of every believer is "Israel", or one who wrestles with God.

The Assembly of The Saints

Our Lord said, "This is what the Kingdom of God is like. A man scatters seed on the land. Night and day, while he sleeps, when he is awake, the seed is sprouting and growing; how, he does not know. Of its own accord the land produces first the shoot, then the ear, then the full grain in the ear. And when the crop is ready, at once he starts to reap because the harvest has come" Mark 4: 26- 29.

The Kingdom of God is the assembly of the saints, those among us who have seriously answered God's call to repentance and faith commitment. In this parable, Christ is teaching us that the acquirement of fundamental holiness, the observance of all the commandments, the avoidance of mortal, deadly sin of any kind, is itself a great mystery. The commandments of God are easy to understand, but difficult at times to follow. But a great many people do nevertheless succeed.

Where do the people who hear the voice of Christ and act upon it come from? We do not know. Just as with the planter of the seed. Even today, science cannot explain the growth of a single stalk of grain. Science can show us how it happens, but certainly not why it happens.

So, too, with one repentant person, many repentant and believing souls emerge in a fallen and corrupt world which we have created for ourselves. Describing the mystery and awesomeness of the acceptance of the call to holiness, our original

condition in paradise before the fall, Christ said, "The wind blows where it pleases; you can hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit" John 3: 8. Each person who follows after the Saviour and has truly come to live a life of faith is really a miracle in flesh.

Sin is easy enough to explain. The vastly greater number of people who try to make themselves equal to God and make up their own code of behavior, who defy the moral laws of the Lord are transparent in their origin and in their motives. They follow lives of cold-blooded and unabashed impurity, untruth, dishonor, and selfishness.

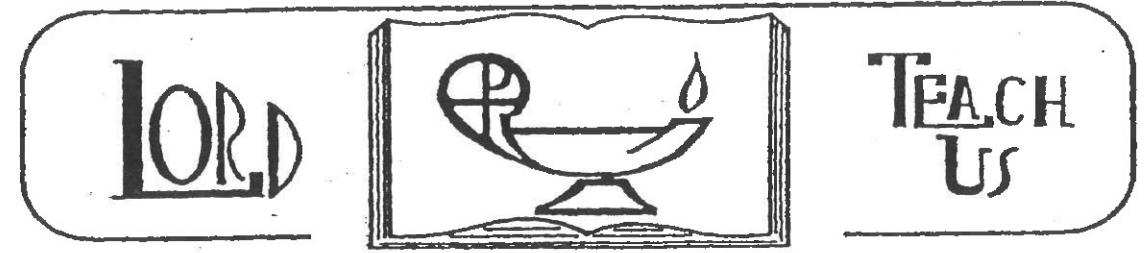
But their great downfall is not sinning so much as never repenting of sin, never raising themselves up from the mire and stench of that sinfulness. Because, after all, we are victims of sin and prone to it. But the fundamental and essential difference between the sinner and the saint is that the saint keeps rising, by God's grace, each time he falls, each time he sins, keeps insistently asking God's forgiveness each time he sins and is alienated.

God's grace is freely imparted to each individual baptized and chrismated believer. God has done His part. The difference between sinner and saint is what the saint and the sinner do, how they respond to the grace offered them by a loving Father. Is it spurned? Is it neglected? Is it counted as insufficient? Is it looked upon as worthless? Or is it eagerly sought in the sacramental Mystery of Reconciliation? Is it prayed for? Is God thanked for His gift of forgiving grace? Is God recognized as the Source of all blessings, particularly the acutely needed blessing of salvation?

We become confident in a world like ours that we can do all things if we have the right positive attitude and generous will power. We have convinced ourselves we are self-sufficient. It has never occurred to so many of us that our heavenly Father is willing and waiting to assist in our salvation.

Did You Know That ...

- ...a person's greatest emotional need is to feel appreciated?
- ...life requires us to acknowledge every gift, no matter how small?
- ...when a friend is in need, help him without him having to ask?
- ...people ought to be measured by the size of their generous heart, not the size of their bank accounts?
- ...hidden in every adversity is a life-giving opportunity?
- ...even when someone lets you down, don't give up on them?
- ...you should never take any action when you are angry?
- ...the person with big dreams is more powerful than the one with all the facts?
- ...the kindness of Christ can be shared by surprising a new neighbor with one of your favorite homemade dishes and include the recipe?
- ...you should not watch violent television shows and not buy the products that sponsor them?
- ...you can choose work that is in harmony with your values?
- ...never deprive anyone of hope because it might be all they have?
- ...Christ inspires us to so live our lives that your epitaph could read, "No regrets"?
- ...it is easy to keep all your promises?
- ...it is easier spending your life lifting people up, not putting them down?
- ...always be as eager to forgive yourself as you are to forgive others?
- ...the most effective way of being faithful to the Lord is learning to show cheerfulness even when you don't feel like it?



Understanding The Freedom Of The Saints

There is no condemnation now for those who are in Christ Jesus. The law of the spirit, the spirit of life in Christ Jesus, has freed us from the law of sin and death Romans 8: 1, 2.

My brothers, remember that you have been called to live in freedom, but not a freedom that gives free reign to the flesh. Out of love, place yourselves at one another's service Galatians 5: 13.

There does not exist among you Jew or Greek, slave or free man, male or female. All are one in Christ Jesus Galatians 3: 28.

There is, on the other hand, the man who peers into freedom's ideal law and abides by it. He is no forgetful listener, but one who carries out the law in practice. Blessed will this man be in whatever he does James 1: 25.

It is I, Jesus, who have sent my angel to you to give you this testimony about the churches. I am the root and the offspring of David, the morning star shining bright. The Spirit and the Bride say, "Come!" Let him who hears answer, "Come!" Let him who is thirsty come forward; let all who desire it accept the gift of life-giving water Revelation 22: 16, 17.

And you shall know the truth and the truth will set you free. If the Son therefore has made you free, you will be free indeed John 8: 32, 36.

The Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom 2 Corinthians 3: 17.