

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)

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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

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**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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**Mahal-Ritzel Funeral Home**

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Mark J. Mahal – Funeral Director

### *Prove Your Faith by Your Trust*

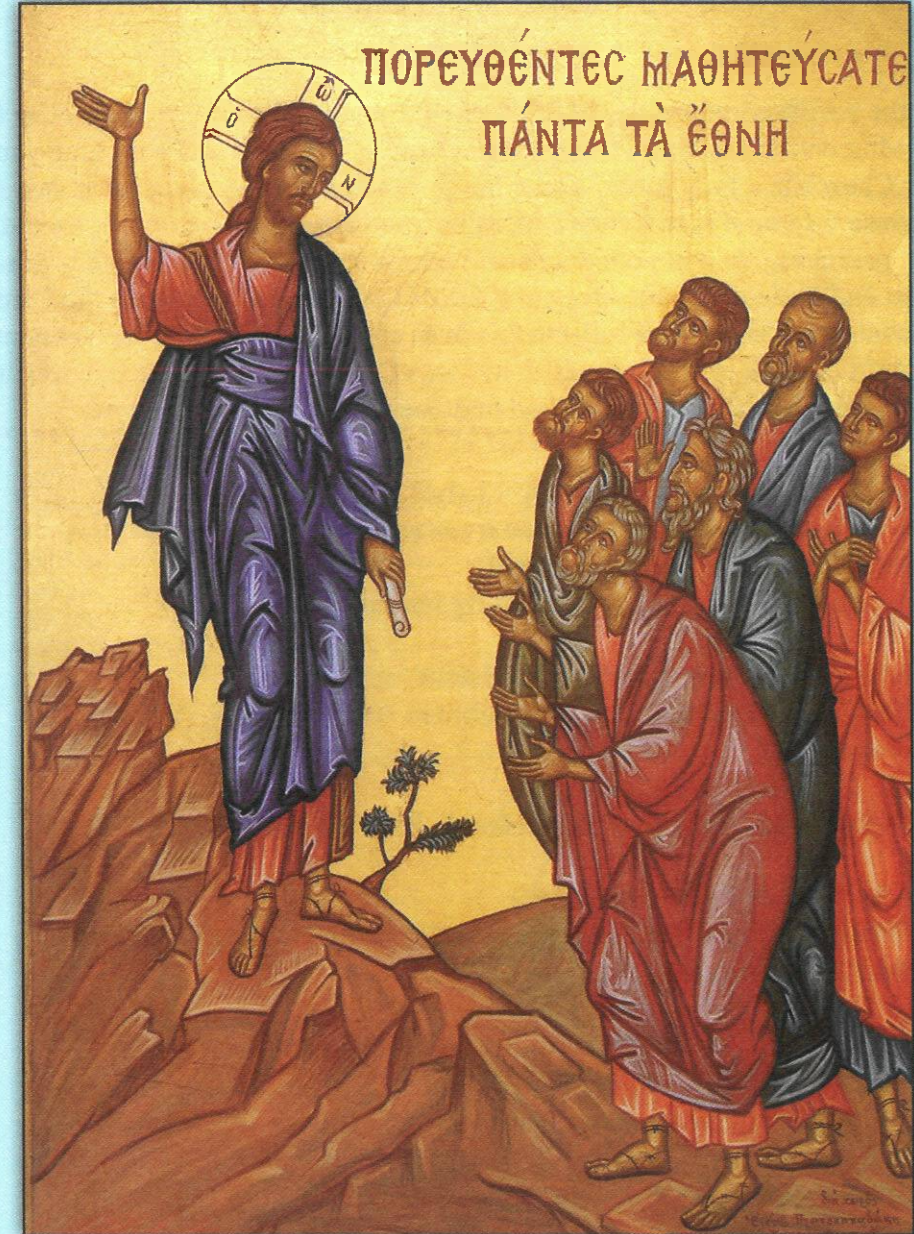
“Look at the birds of the air,” says Jesus. What a splendid example for our faith to follow! If God’s providence bestows an un-failing supply of food on the birds of the air who neither sow nor reap, we ought to realize that the reason for people’s supply running short is human greed. The fruits of the earth were given to feed all without distinction and nobody can claim any particular rights. Instead, we have lost the sense of the communion of goods, rushing to turn these goods into private property. The birds do not know famine because they do not claim anything specially for themselves and neither do they have any envy of others. “Consider the lilies of the field: not even Solomon in all his glory was arrayed like one of these.

If God so clothes the grass which is alive today and tomorrow is cast into the oven, how much more will he clothe one of you!”

Listen to these stupendous and uplifting words. With this parable of flowers and grass the Lord urges us to hope that God will also be merciful to us. Nothing is more persuasive than a glance at unthinking creatures who have received such beautiful dress from providence. Surely we should be all the more ready to believe that human beings, if they entrust themselves completely to God and free themselves of all their worries, will not lack anything.

*St. Ambrose of Milan*

## THIRD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST



*Icon of Jesus preaching to His Disciples*

Volume 2022  
Christ is among us!

Number 25  
He is and will be!

**3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday after Pentecost  
Tone 2**

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.

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**June 26 – July 2, 2022**

**All Divine Services are livestreamed where noted**

Saturday Vigil of Sunday (at SS Peter & Paul)

4:00 p. m. +**Jeanette Lohin** req. by The Holly Family

Sunday

8:00 a.m. +**Helen Platko** req. by Sandra Rickert (at St. Mary)

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

Tuesday

8:00 a.m. +**Agnes Valosin** req. by Jacqueline & Rick Van Langen & Children

Wednesday **SS. Peter & Paul** (Obligation)

9:00 a.m. +**Michael Cherrybon** req. by Gary & Gail Bedford (at St. Mary)

7:00 p.m. **H&B Parishioners**

Thursday

8:00 a.m. +**Mary Chaposky** req. by Rick & Shirley Ricigliano & Family

Saturday

1:30 p.m. Thompson/Leshko Wedding

Saturday Vigil of Sunday (at SS Peter & Paul)

4:00 p.m. +**Stephen Fedeles** req. by Mary Hartranft

**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:**

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**Third Sunday After Pentecost**

Trust in the Lord - Jesus teaches us to trust in God our Father at all times and in all circumstances. St John Chrysostom, in his commentary on Matthew, speaks to us about the meaning of the images used in this passage. Just when the lilies of the field are all decked out Jesus no longer calls them lilies but “grass of the field.” He then points further to their vulnerable condition by saying “which are here today.” Then He does not merely say “and not tomorrow” but rather more callously “cast into the oven”. These creatures are not merely “clothed” but “so clothed” in this way as to be later brought to nothing. Do you see how Jesus everywhere abounds in amplifications and intensifications? He does so in order to press home his point. Then He adds, “Will he not much more clothe you?” The force of the emphasis is on “you” to indicate covertly how great is the value set upon your personal existence and the concern God shows for you in particular. It is as though He were saying, “You, to whom He gave a soul, for whom He fashioned a body, for whose sake He made everything in creation, for whose sake He sent prophets, and gave the law, and wrought those innumerable good works, and for whose sake he gave up his only begotten Son.” This is a powerful message.

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We were awaiting a final determination of the best way to remedy the problem of a sinkhole. The other option was to relocate the compressor which would have necessitated moving the plumbing and so forth.

The air conditioning compressor will be replaced in its original space after the sinkhole is filled in and the concrete pad is bridged to the church and sidewalk for greater stability.

The renovation/updating of the church hall kitchen is set to be on July 11. If all goes well, we will conduct our next scheduled fundraising dinner.

## A New World

The only permanent basis for a brave new world is upright character. Without such character, treaties will become scraps of paper in a world of conflagration. The only dependable foundation for noble character is our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. He is the only sure foundation for individuals, groups, and nations. Let us so live and relate to one another that our parish is found worthy to be a beacon of His love in our community.

## On The Periphery

When our Lord was teaching, there were people on the outer fringes of the crowds gathered around Him. They were interested enough to stop and take notice. Some even pushed themselves through the crowd to get closer. Others, however, just stayed a while, listened, apparently amused, and then went on their way. They were afraid to get close. They didn't want our Lord to notice them. They enjoyed their quiet anonymity. After all, they reasoned within themselves, they were interested enough to stop and at least pay attention. But they didn't want to come closer and perhaps get involved with Christ. They wanted to remain on the periphery, near enough, but just beyond the Lord's reach and touch.

We still have a few families in our parish like this. They comfort themselves that they are parishioners associated with us as Byzantine Catholics. They like to think even though they come to the Divine Liturgy just sporadically that they are followers of Christ. They are afraid to come each and every Sunday and holy day because it would mean a commitment to the Saviour. They want to get just close enough to Him to be able to soothe their conscience that they are His, but not so close that His presence might produce faithfulness in them. They want to get 'safely' far enough away that He might not be able to notice and make demands on them. They do not want to be noticed because they might then be constrained to live a different sort of life.

These people are in danger. They recognize as Byzantine Catholics that their privileges in Christ's Church carry with them commensurate responsibilities. But they choose to secure the privileges and ignore the responsibilities our Baptism and Chrismation along with Eucharistic life places upon us. They are somewhat too cold to be genuine disciples

## REBECCA The Wife Of Isaac

Just about everyone finds it difficult to understand why God chooses certain people for importance while others are left to fulfill less important roles in life. Very often the choice that God makes contradicts what we would expect, what even seems just to us. We are left with the mystery that God's ways are not at all like ours. We see this profound mystery in the story of Rebecca, Isaac's wife. She had been brought to Isaac by one of Abraham's servants who had been sent to Mesopotamia to secure a wife from among his relatives. She showed herself graciously generous and kind in the way in which she treated Abraham's servant. Since Rebecca was a good woman and also related to Abraham, his emissary when to her home to arrange the marriage for his master's son. When asked whether she approved of this possibility, she quickly acceded. It is written that Isaac fell in love with her. Although she was childless for a while, she eventually bore twin sons, Esau and Jacob. Even in the womb these two sons competed with and battled each other. The first born, Esau, was to be the father of the Edomites while Jacob was to be the father of the Israelites. Rebecca became involved in God's choice with her two sons. God chose Jacob over Esau. Rebecca, likewise loved Jacob more than her elder born son, Esau. According to the judgment of the world, the blessing belonged to Esau, but God instead chose Jacob for a special role and He would let nothing stand in His way. Humanly speaking, however, Rebecca's favoritism for Jacob would have disastrous effects. Jacob would later also show undue favoritism for one of his sons, Joseph. That favoritism would eventually lead to Joseph's being sold into slavery by his brothers. It was only after a long time that his brothers were able to accept the fact that God had chosen Joseph above them and they would just have to live with God's choice if they did not accept it. Even for us it is sometimes difficult to accept the role that God has assigned to us in our life. Yet this is exactly what our God asks us to do, to take what He has bestowed on us, to take and examine our talents and to do our best with our lives. Most of all, He asks us to trust in Him, no matter what. "Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven" Matthew 6: 10!

We are initiating each time an encounter with the Lord. It is undoubtedly a two-sided relationship, but because of our one-sidedness, we are too greedy about pursuing the relationship. We push Him out just as soon as we have used and abused Him for our own benefit. After we think we have secured His forgiveness, we do not need Him any longer. There is nothing more we want from Him, so we terminate the relationship.

Do we ever consider He is not happy with being “used” and “abused” and then “discarded?” When we use Christ as the proverbial spirit hits us, and then try to intensify the moment by misusing the sacramental Mysteries, sacrilege occurs. This is a most serious sin, far more serious than not going to confession at all and it cries to heaven for vengeance. We are taking something holy, something sacred, something meant to reconcile us with God on a permanent basis, and instead, twist it to meet our own selfish needs and purposes. We then make a caricature of the sacramental Mysteries, not at all what Christ intended. If you become “religious” and “fervent” before the feast of the Nativity of our Lord or that of the Resurrection and forget about the Church, Christ, and the sacramental Mysteries in between, what you have been doing is immoral and gravely sinful.

In pursuing this kind of spiritual madness, we are doing irreparable spiritual damage to ourselves. We are attempting to manipulate our Lord and misuse His sacramental Mysteries, cheapening the spiritual value of Christ, and of the Church and the means He established for our salvation and spiritual life.

Our Lord is emphatic to His priests what course of action they are to take:

Do not give what is holy to the dogs or toss your pearls to the swine. They will trample them under foot, at best, and perhaps even tear you to shreds Matthew 7: 6.

St. Paul goes to great length to explain to his faithful parishioners how sensitive of soul are they to be in receiving the Body and Blood of the Saviour. He is emphasizing the deep sensitivity of soul necessary for believers. He is talking about serious personal preparation. He is talking about not misusing the sacramental Mysteries which have as their purpose only to sanctify. So he admonishes them,

...to examine yourself 1 Corinthians 11: 31,

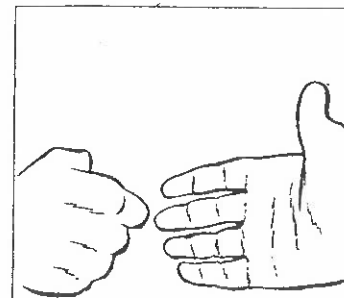
so that

...we would not be falling under judgment this way 1 Corinthians 11: 31.

The very self-same applies to misguided parents who do not practice their Byzantine Catholic faith, yet in the process of life give birth to a child, and want it baptized without any sincere desire to change their spiritual status. Why they wish to impose on the child what they themselves don't accept or believe is a mystery even they cannot provide insight into. They wish to remain “outside” the life of the Church and sneak into it whenever convenient. They become very upset when Father refuses under these circumstances to baptize their child unless they begin living and practicing their faith. They fail to realize they have no religious or spiritual values to impart to the child with which to continue the grace of baptism. They must change their lives and take Christ seriously.

Whoever does not enter the sheepfold through the gate but climbs in some other way is a thief and a marauder John 10: 1.

It is not our hope to discourage reception of the sacramental Mysteries, but to discourage reception for the wrong reasons. Nothing could be worse than doing the right thing for the wrong reason, which in this instance means sinful reasons. No inner transformation takes place, otherwise a faithfulness to Christ would be the result. Admit you were wrong, confess your sins, come the Divine Liturgy on Sundays and holy days and daily live your baptismal faith. We have a right to the sacramental Mysteries only within the life and the Body of the Church.



*An Impossible Act*

People with clenched fists can't shake hands.



*Closing the Distance*

Laughter is the shortest distance between two people.

## Purpose of Amendment

In the sacramental Mystery of Reconciliation, we are taught that forgiveness of sin depends on sorrowful repentance and a firm purpose of amendment; namely, an honest and serious intention to improve one's life with the help of the grace of the Holy Spirit because we cannot do it alone. For some, this will require the elimination of serious sin. For others, it will entail weeding out smaller sins and imperfections with seriousness and sincerity. The purpose of amendment does not constitute an absolute certainty about the future but an honest and serious declaration of the intention to strive prayerfully to avoid sin and advance in virtue and become more and more Christ-like.

Although amendment is contained in the very idea of contrition, we ought to make a distinct, a formal act of amendment to remind us that regret for past sin is not enough. Sorrow must be accompanied by a resolution to avoid those sins in the future so they do not take control of our life.

The purpose of amendment must be firm, an honest resolve here and now to avoid sin in the future. This does not mean that sin will never be repeated, but it does mean that one will seriously strive to avoid it. There is always the possibility that sin can and may be repeated, and even a suspicion that it will may be present, but this is not a lack of sorrow but simply the recognition of the weakness of the human will.

Amendment must also have the power to produce the intended effect. True amendment requires that a person use such means as will assist in avoiding temptation and overcoming sin. This is accomplished through prayer, mortification, avoidance of people, places and activities which afford the opportunity to commit sin or lure one into sin. It is in this area that restitution is vitally important because we must always repair any harm which we have caused through our sinful misconduct. And amendment must include all sins. We cannot harbor a pet or favorite sin. One kind of sin cannot be protected and repeated to enjoy while firmly resolving to avoid another.

of the Lord, but too warm to pagans. Let us intercede for them before the throne of our Saviour Who teaches us,

I know your deeds. I know you are neither hot nor cold. But I wish that you were one or the other, hot or cold. But because you are lukewarm, neither hot nor cold, I will spit you out of my mouth.  
Revelation 3: 1.

### *Only In The Household Of Faith, Our Church*

The blessings and sacramental Mysteries Christ bequeathed to us for our sanctification and salvation are distributed only within the life of His Body, the Church. We do not offer Christ's grace to anyone except those who willingly believe what Christ teaches these Mysteries can spiritually achieve for us. If we truly believe, we associate ourselves with His Church and make a sincere commitment to Him. In other words, unless we are living the life of Christ which can be done only in His Byzantine Catholic Church, there is no need to interrupt our mundane earthly life from time to time to pursue sacramental grace. This is so because as committed people of the Lord, we constantly pursue Him and His grace which is necessary for salvation.

From time to time people request having their Confession heard. They do not belong to the parish or any other parish, for that matter. They do not attend the Divine Liturgy regularly on Sundays and holy days. They are in a frame of mind where they have no intention of doing so. But for a variety of reasons such as the Nativity feast day, the Resurrection of our Lord, etc., or because of some conscience problems, they decide to choose this isolated instance once in a while to seek sacramental grace in confession of their sins.

What these people must understand is that we cannot pick and choose when to have an encounter with Christ. We cannot stay away from Christ all year long, or even for just a few months, become guilty in our own minds, go to confession, attend one or two Liturgies and receive the Saviour in the Eucharist, and then finally, repeat the entire scenario once gain by staying away so that in a few months, when the same set of circumstances duplicate themselves in their lives, they come back to repeat the entire cycle once again.



# Did You Know That ...

...there are scores of so-called religious sects who are ready at a moment's notice to reveal the will of God on every possible subject?

...the best qualification for a prophet is to have a good memory?

...it is absurd to say a man cannot, by God's grace, love one woman all the time as it is to say a violinist needs several violins to play the same piece of music?

...the best way to win an argument is to begin by being right?

...it is not progress simply because a cannibal now uses a knife and fork?

...usually it is not what a person has done that has him in trouble, but what he has not done?

...many a man has a reputation for being energetic when he is merely fidgety?

...when we die, Byzantine Catholics can only take our deeds to the grave with us?

...the nail-pierced hands of our Saviour reveal the love-filled heart of God?

...more adults are wanted and need to participate in the Adult Education Program of our parish?

...the first person who saw the Risen Saviour was a woman?

...we enter the eternal dimension of heaven when we cross the portals of our parish church?

...devoted prayer creates miracles?

...a Russian proverb teaches us that when money speaks, truth is silent?

...knowing someone cares does not stop pain, but makes it easier to bear?

...for us Byzantine Catholics death is gain because it unites us with our Saviour and heavenly Father?



## Security in Christ

*Lift up your eyes on high and see who has created these: He leads out their army and numbers them, calling them all by name. By this great might and the strength of his power not one of them is missing* Isaiah 40: 26!

*I am sure of this much: that he who has begun the good work in you will carry it through to completion right up to the day of Christ Jesus* Philippians 1:6.

*Do not, then, surrender your confidence; it will have great reward. you need patience to do God's will and receive what he has promised.* Hebrews 10: 35, 36.

*In him who is the source of my strength I have strength for everything* Philippians 4: 13.

Thus we may say with confidence: "The Lord is my helper, I will not be afraid; what can man do to me" Hebrews 13: 6?

*God, my Lord, is my strength, he makes my feet swift as those of hinds and enables me to go upon the heights* Habakkuk 3: 19.

*We have this confidence in God; that he hears us whenever we ask for anything according to his will. And since we know that he hears us whenever we ask, we know that what we have asked him for is ours* 1 John 5: 14, 15.