

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

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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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The Best Role of All

The church school was getting ready for the annual Easter pageant and all the children were asked to choose which part they wanted to play. One child chose to play Mary Magdalene, other children chose to play Saint Peter, or Joseph of Arimathea, and so forth. But, when it came time for Johnny's turn to choose, he happily wanted to be the angel who rolls away the stone that sealed the tomb of Our Lord.

After the pageant was over and Johnny was going home with his parents, his mother expressed how disappointed they were that he didn't choose a larger, more prominent role in the play. Johnny, however, was bouncing excitedly all over the back seat, obviously thrilled with his performance in the pageant. Finally, his mother turned to him and asked, "Tell me, Johnny, why are you so happy about just being

the angel who rolls away the stone from the tomb? Wouldn't you have liked to have had a bigger part to play?" Johnny replied quite innocently, "Oh, no, mom, just think! I'm the one who gets to let Jesus out! What role could be better than that?"

"The myrrh-bearing women arrived just before the dawn at the tomb of the Giver of Life and found an angel seated on the stone who spoke these words to them: 'Why do you seek the living among the dead? Why do you mourn the Incorruptible among those subject to decay? Go announce the good news to His disciples!'" (From *Resurrection Matins*) Let us continue to announce the good news and joyfully sing out: "Christ is Risen! Indeed He is Risen!"

SUNDAY OF THE MYRRH-BEARING WOMEN



Icon of the Myrrh-bearing Women

Volume 2022
Christ is risen!

Number 17
Indeed He is!

**Sunday of the Myrrh-Bearers
Festal Tone**

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.

May 1 – May 7, 2022

All Divine Services are livestreamed where noted

Saturday Vigil of Sunday (at SS Peter & Paul)

4:00 p. m. **H&B Fr. Yuriy & Kateryna Oros** req. by Anna Jane Petty

Sunday

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

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

Tuesday

8:00 a.m. **+Jeanette Lohin** req. by Anna Leshko

Wednesday

8:00 a.m. **+Stephen Fedeles** req. by Anna Sabadesh & Daughters

Thursday

8:00 a.m. **+Margaret Heim** req. by Ed, Colleen & Mark Fox

Friday

8:00 a.m. **+Michael Bailey** req. by Peter & Elizabeth Zelinsky

Saturday Vigil of Sunday (at SS Peter & Paul)

4:00 p.m. **+George Sinko** req. by MM Ray Williams

Epistle Readers: 4/23 – Gail Burgess; 4/24 – Dolores Kramer 4/30 Marie Wanchick; – Laura Mitchell; 5/1 – Ellen Sinkovich; 5/7 – Paulette Murphy; 5/8 – Beverly Kostishak; 5/14 – Laura Mitchell; 5/15 – Jennifer Keer; 5/21 – Gail Burgess; 5/22 – Judy Kostura; 5/26 – Ellen Sinkovich; 5/28 – Dolores Kramer; 5/29 – Paulette Murphy. (If you cannot be present for any time, kindly contact another reader to cover for you).

Candle Offering: Health & Blessings of the Parishioners by Cheryl Mason

Did You Know That ...

...along with everything else, the facilities for getting into trouble have improved?

...liquor is trouble in liquid form?

...the easiest thing to find is fault?

...the formula for sure failure is trying to please everyone?

...success is sweet because its secret is sweat?

...spiritual knowledge is spiritual power only when it is tuned into the Holy Spirit's guidance?

...we should not entertain ideas, but put them to work?

...some people go through life getting results while others only get consequences?

...if at first you don't succeed, you are running about average?

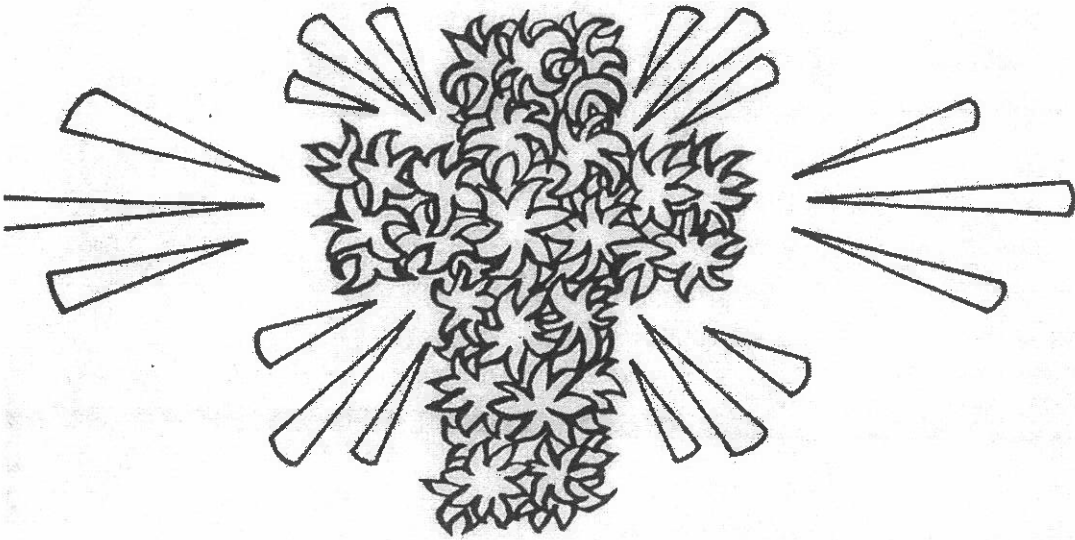
...you should not blow your whistle too much because the whistle does not pull the train?

...to be rich in God is far better than to be rich in material goods?

...God's correction is never cruel, but simply corrective?

ALL FOR LOVE

THE FLOWERS APPEAR ON EARTH



THE TIME OF SINGING HAS COME

Scripture In Color

moment and give no indication how Christ rose, the iconographer has accepted the mysterious and unfathomable character of the event and the actual impossibility of depicting it.

In fact, Byzantine tradition is rather aspects of the Resurrection, operating on the belief that one who stops short at the mere

Contrary to the usual western imaginary artistic portrayals, the traditional Byzantine icon of the Resurrection is unique in that the actual rising from the dead of Christ is never shown. Following the mystical lead of the gospels, which are silent about the

+++ Come back! But could I? Would God be bothered with me now? Oh Yes. His love for you is beyond imagination. Come back! +++ In substance God asks nothing from you but your love. +++ What would you give God that is not His own? Only one thing: your love. +++ The Lord says to all of us: "Give me to drink" (John 4:7) which means "Give your love to me!" +++ Christ's words upon the Cross, "I thirst," (John 19: 28) could be completed thus: "I thirst for your love." +++ To follow the gospel means to have love in your heart. +++ The Almighty finds His paradise in the heart of those who love Him. +++ Do not worry about the things of the world. Only one thing is necessary: to love God. +++ If God is true love, then the conclusion is inescapable: your spiritual life must begin with the love of God. +++ Every man is loved by God to an infinite degree, but no man ever loves enough. +++ You will become what you love. +++ If God is the One you love, you will become like God; if you love the world, you will become worldly. +++ As sure as the certainty of death, the man who has no love for God, will love an idol. +++ As a baptized person, you really have but one task to achieve upon the earth: to love God. +++ Jesus speaks to us of boundless love. +++ At the end of our life when we come to Jesus, He will ask but one thing: "Where are your love wounds?" +++ The words of the Mother of God are: I love Jesus, my Son and my God; do you also love Him? +++ The whole life of an Byzantine believer centers around love as its center. +++ On Pentecost, flames of fire settled upon the Apostles to indicate the purpose of announcing the gospel was to inflame hearts in love for God. +++ What would happen if Jesus also had to say of you: "I showered upon you all my love, but you never showed any appreciation?" +++ God says to all of us through all creation: "Return my love to me." +++ Even if a man were cast into hell forever, it would be an immense consolation for him if he could say, "At least once I loved God on earth." +++ The reason why so many love Christ so little is that few remember how unspeakably much He suffered for them. +++ Your "doing much" should amount to your "loving much." +++ Talent, achievement, and success count little, the important thing is to strive for "more" in love. +++ You may not be able to spend enough time in prayer each day, but you can spend enough time in prayer each day, but you can spend enough time in loving God. +++

BE HAPPY—LETTER BY LETTER

Life fully lived shows us that happiness is like everything else; you have to work at it. Use this quiz based on the word *HAPPY* to see if you are doing all you can to experience the joy of living:

HARMONY. Is your life in balance? Home and work life? Are you a believer who can readily be recognized for Christ in your life? Or are you out of harmony with God?

APPRECIATION. Are you aware of the many blessings and good things in your life as well as the things that keep you up at night? Are you thankful for these blessings?

PARTICIPATION. Are you a major player in your own life? Are you fulfilling what the Lord expects of you? Do you share the gift of salvation and grace with the ones you love?

PURPOSE. Do you have goals that drive you forward to overcome your limits? Are you still excited about being a chosen child of God? How serious to you is the salvation of your soul and those of the ones you love?

YEARN. Are your most enriching dreams and aspirations still alive? Do you call upon the grace and strength of the Holy Spirit to make them come alive? Are you as eager to be a citizen of heaven as you were on the day of your baptism?

If you have any "No" answers, now is the time to turn them around to "Yes." The positive approach of our blessed faith commitment teaches us the simplest way to predict our future is to fully embrace and totally create it!

"Blessed are they who hunger and thirst for holiness; they shall have their fill"
Matthew 5: 6.

historical event can never comprehend the full significance and mystery of the event for all mankind. Anyone who is preoccupied with those kinds of details is certainly not interested in the concerns of the soul, but in the sophistry and pride of the intellect.

For the Byzantine Catholic the real significance of Christ's Resurrection is the Passover from death to life. St. John Chrysostom stresses this point in his famous homily still read at Resurrection Matins: "O death, where is your sting; O hell where is your victory? Christ is risen and you are cast down; Christ is risen, and the demons are crushed; Christ is risen and the angels sing for joy; Christ is risen and life has overcome; Christ is risen, and the tomb is emptied of the dead; for Christ the Resurrection has become the first fruits of the dead. To Him be glory and power for ever and ever. Amen."

Against all that we know, see or feel, the Resurrection of Christ teaches that death is no more that we are now sons and daughters of the Resurrection. Even the dead in the graves are no longer under the power of death but already have within themselves the seed of new life. In the Passover of Christ from death to life we now accomplish this passover as His people, His community, His chosen inheritance, His Body.

Thus the Resurrection of Christ is never considered as a thing apart but only in relation to the transformation of our mortality that it effects: the Risen Christ is the principle of our incorruptibility and deification.

The icon of the Resurrection, therefore, does not depict the actual moment of Christ's rising as that would be presumptuous, but rather the descent into the resting place of the Old Testament righteous souls. This takes place in the depths of the earth shown by the rock like formations and the gaping black abyss in the foreground. Dominating hell is the figure of the Risen Christ, larger in scale than the other figures and by His very posture, indicative of vibrant life, animated movement and pulsating action.

Resplendent in brilliant white garments and surrounded by a mandorla of light in shades of blue covered with stars, the Christ figure shatters the darkness of hell by His simple contrasting presence. Below Him in the abyss, lie broken chains, locks, fetters, keys and sometimes the very gates of hell, heralding the complete destruction of the power of death over man from this moment on. And yet, amid the glory and the victory, the wounds of the passion are clearly visible on the hands and feet of the Saviour as the profoundly expensive cost of salvation for mankind, and, as ever, Christ leads

to glory through suffering, pain and self-immolation as the Suffering Servant immortalized in Resurrection glory.

The central message of the icon is seen in the tender lifting up of Adam and Eve from the tombs of their imprisonment darkness and death. Listless and lifeless, they contrast with the vitality and animation of Christ, Who is Life itself, and Who draws them to Himself, into the radiance of new life and light of incorruption which is now to be theirs.

As Adam and Eve, the first-born of the race of men, are raised; so all of us, their descendants, experience with them His boundless love and celebrate with them the annihilation of death, the destruction of hell and the beginning of a new life which is now eternal. As the great theologian, St. John Damascene expressed it; "When he had freed those who were bound from the beginning of time, Christ returned again from the dead having now opened for all of us the way to Resurrection."

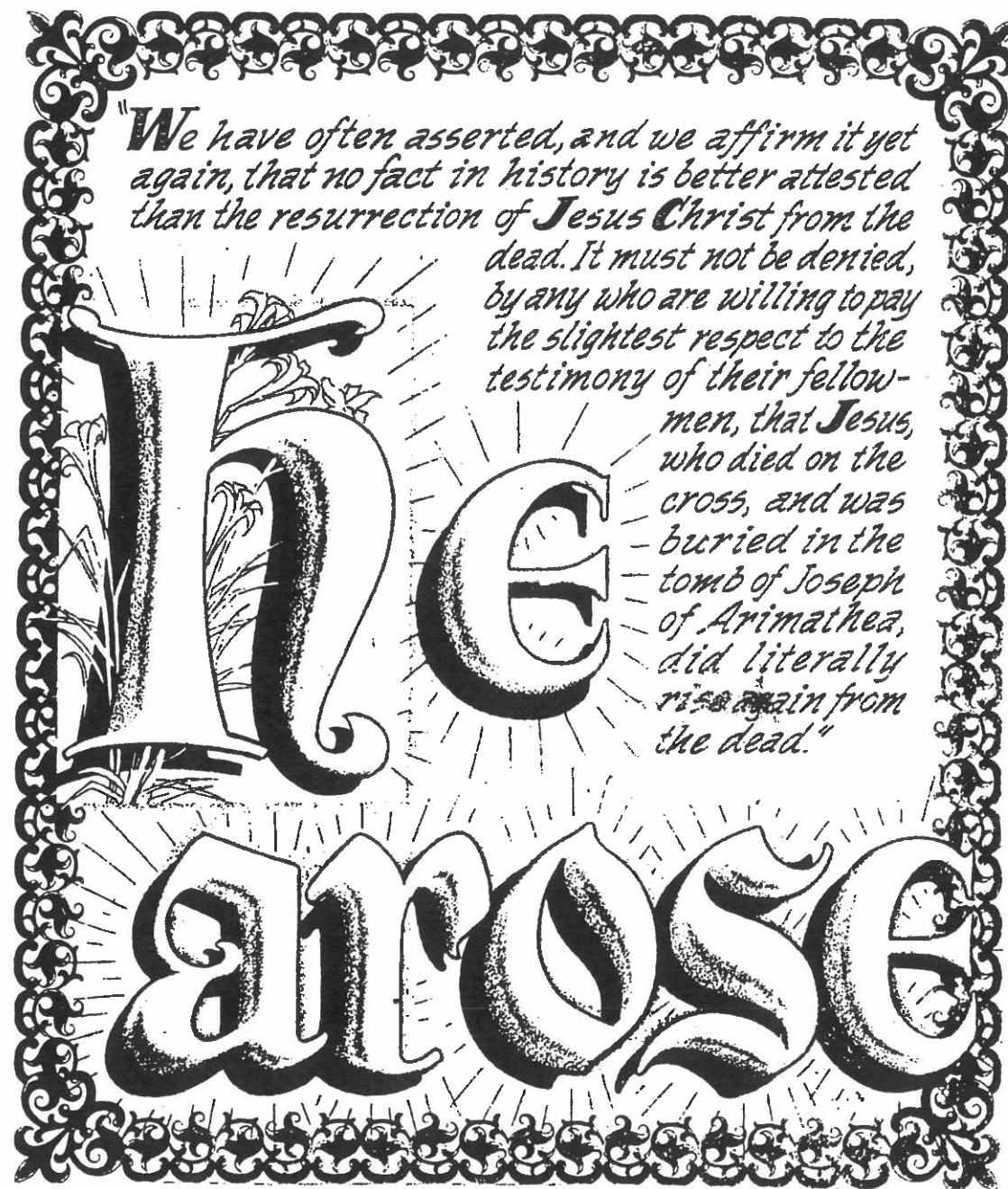
Approaching this wonderful panorama of the Resurrection of all mankind as experienced in the rising of Adam and Eve, are the Just Ones of the Old Law who had hoped with ardent expectation for this day. Especially significant among the patriarchs, prophets and holy men are David the king with regal crown of office, accompanied by St.

John the Baptist and Precursor and Forerunner, whose hand pierces the mandorla of light, forever pointing out Him Who is the Light of the salvation of all men.

Far from being an attempt to depict the historical setting, the icon of the Resurrection is a profound meditation on the deepest theological meaning of this glorious feast day. This is truly the Passover, for Christ through His Passion and Resurrection made us return from the curse of Adam and the bondage of satan to the star of the people of God.

"It is the day of Resurrection, O People, let us be enlightened by it. The Passover is the Lord's passover, since Christ, our God has brought us from death to life and from earth to heaven. Therefore, let us sing the hymn of victory." Ode One, Resurrection Canon.

"Christ is risen from the dead, by death He conquered death and to those in the graves, He granted life." Comprehending this great Mystery of Mysteries, and Feast of Feasts, let us glorify His Resurrection on the third day!



Did You Know That ...

...the best impromptu speeches are those written well in advance?

...a truly successful personality knows how to overcome the past, use the present, and prepare for the future; but unless we can first surmount the past, we cannot effectively cope with either the present or the future?

...it is not by doing things we like, but by doing the things we should be doing that we can discover life's blessings?

...the best substitute for experience is being sixteen years old?

...just because you do not get the meaning, does not at all mean it is not meaningful?

...losers pass the buck while winners make it?

...the bad news is time flies while the good news is you're the pilot?

...if fear wins, you lose?

...change is the only constant?

...for a good cause walk the talk and for great causes, run the talk?

...smart people learn from their own mistakes; smarter people learn from the mistakes of others?

...to get people to hear what you say, speak from the head; to get people to feel what you say, speak from the heart?

...with a bit of courage and a shot of self-discipline a small talent can go a long way?

...it is only as we develop and enable others that we permanently succeed?

...it takes hard writing to make easy reading?

...your life is not a coincidence; it is a reflection of your soul?



Resurrection

Whoever believes in the Son of God possesses that testimony within his heart. Whoever does not believe God has made God a liar by refusing to believe in the testimony he has given on his own Son's behalf. The testimony is this: God gave us eternal life and this life is in his Son. Whoever possesses the Son possesses life; whoever does not possess the Son of God does not possess life 1 John 5: 10 - 12.

No need then, brothers to be surprised if the world hates you. That we have passed from death to life we know because we love the brothers. The man who does not love is among the living dead. Anyone who hates his brother is a murderer, and you know that eternal life abides in no murderer's heart. The way we came to understand love was that he laid down his life for us; we too must lay down our lives for our brothers 1 John 3: 13 - 16.

Little children, let us love in deed and in truth and not merely talk about it. This is our way of knowing we are committed to truth and are at peace before him no matter what our consciences may charge us with; for God is greater than our hearts and all is known to him. Beloved, if our consciences have nothing to charge us with, we can be sure that God is with us and that we will receive at his hand whatever we ask. Why? Because we are keeping his commandments and doing what is pleasing in his sight. His commandment is this: we are to believe in the name of his Son, Jesus Christ and are to love one another as he commanded us. Those who keep his commandments remain with him and he in them. And this is how we know that he remains in us: from the Spirit he has given us 1 John 3: 18 - 24.

I do not ask you to take them out of the world, but to guard them from the evil one. They are not of the world, any more than I belong to the world. Consecrate them by means of truth - 'Your word is truth.' As you have sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world; I consecrate myself for their sakes now, that they may be consecrated in truth John 17: 15 - 19.