

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

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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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*Bulletins are sponsored by*

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Mark J. Mahal – Funeral Director

### *The Gift of Mercy*

A story is told about a little boy who was sent to the school principal for misbehaving. After the little boy told him what he had done wrong, the principal took out a piece of paper and wrote the boy's name upon it, as well as the date and the reason for which the boy had been sent to him.

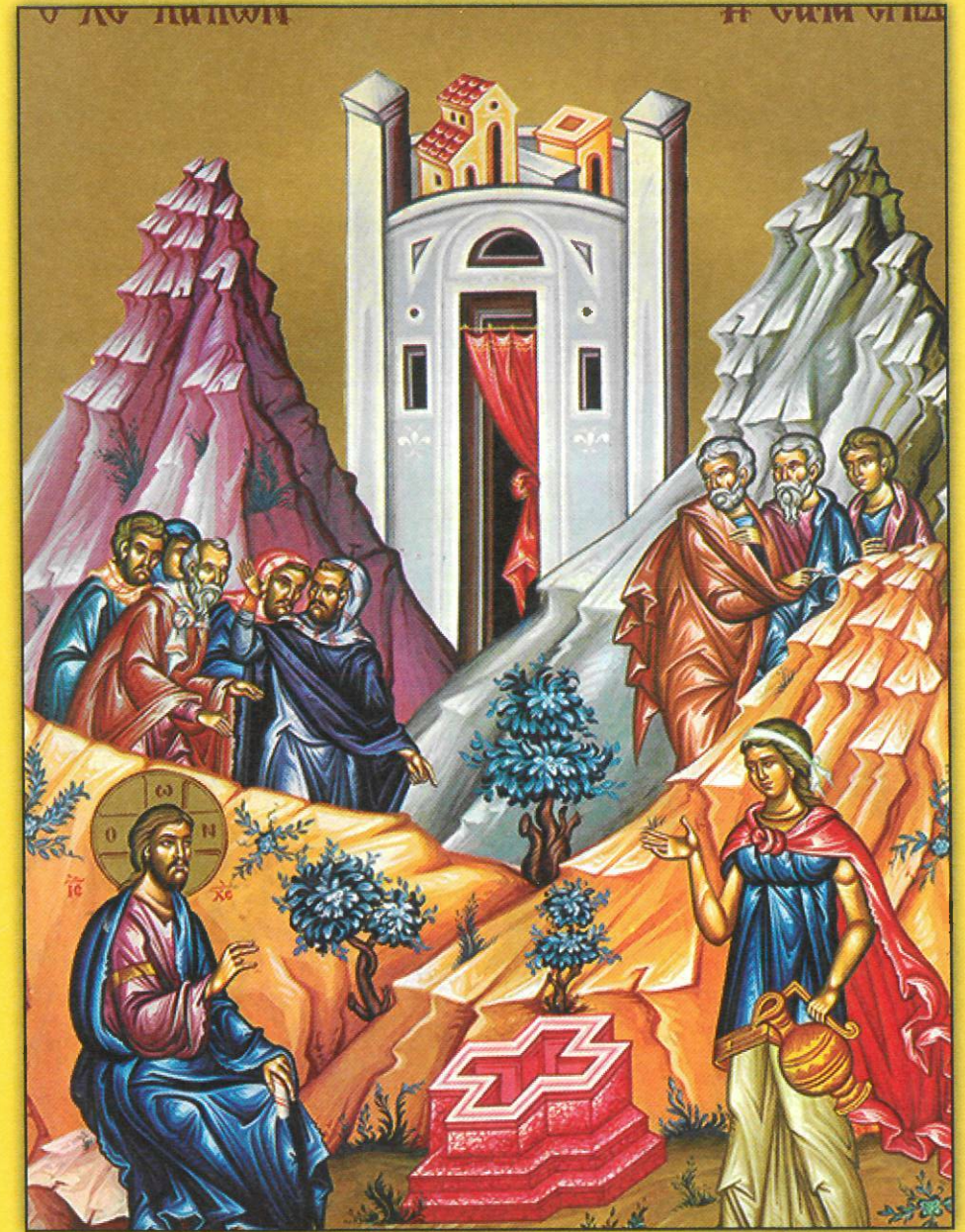
Then, the principal told the boy, "Timmy, I know that you are a good boy and you've never before been sent to me for misbehaving. Therefore, if you are not sent to me again this year for misbehaving, I will tear up this piece of paper and no one will ever know anything about it." The little boy remembered this as the most powerful lesson in mercy that he had ever learned.

The most powerful example of mercy that

we, as Christians, have ever witnessed is our Lord's resurrection, which we still continue to gloriously celebrate. However, earlier this week, on Wednesday, we also celebrated the Feast of Mid-Pentecost. Mid-Pentecost begins to set our sights on the reception of another of God's great gifts of mercy - the Gift of the Holy Spirit, Who will descend upon us on Pentecost Sunday.

Through the Resurrection, we know of God's mercy in that He has given us the gift of eternal life. Through the Descent of the Holy Spirit, we know of God's mercy in that He has not abandoned us. Rather, He sent the Holy Spirit to dwell among us, to dwell within us, and to nourish us, bless us and heal us - especially through the Holy Mysteries.

## SUNDAY OF THE SAMARITAN WOMAN



*Icon of Christ and the Samaritan Woman*

By the side of the lake, He treated His disciples to a surprise breakfast of broiled fish. Or, as one poetic soul put it, "Christ throws a party at dawn and splashes water in the face of unbelief."

Obviously, His attempts worked with those disciples because they followed closely in His footsteps which led all save one to a martyr's death. But they now knew they could face the difficulties of life and even death because Christ had come back from the grave to tell them He did it and how *they* could do it too. That is the meaning of the victorious sequence of events on Resurrection day. Christ our hope is risen!

Imagine in the mind's eye this modern situation. A famous trapeze artist announces he is about to do the impossible: cross over the Grand Canyon and come back again. No one believed he could do it. Everyone considered it madness, even his closest friend. The day arrived and he did it. His friend admitted his own lack of faith in the venture and congratulated him on his success. So the trapeze artist replied: "Well, now that you see that it can be done, will you try it?" "No way!" came the swift reply. "Even if I go across with you?" "Never!" "Then you still do not really believe, do you?" he asked.

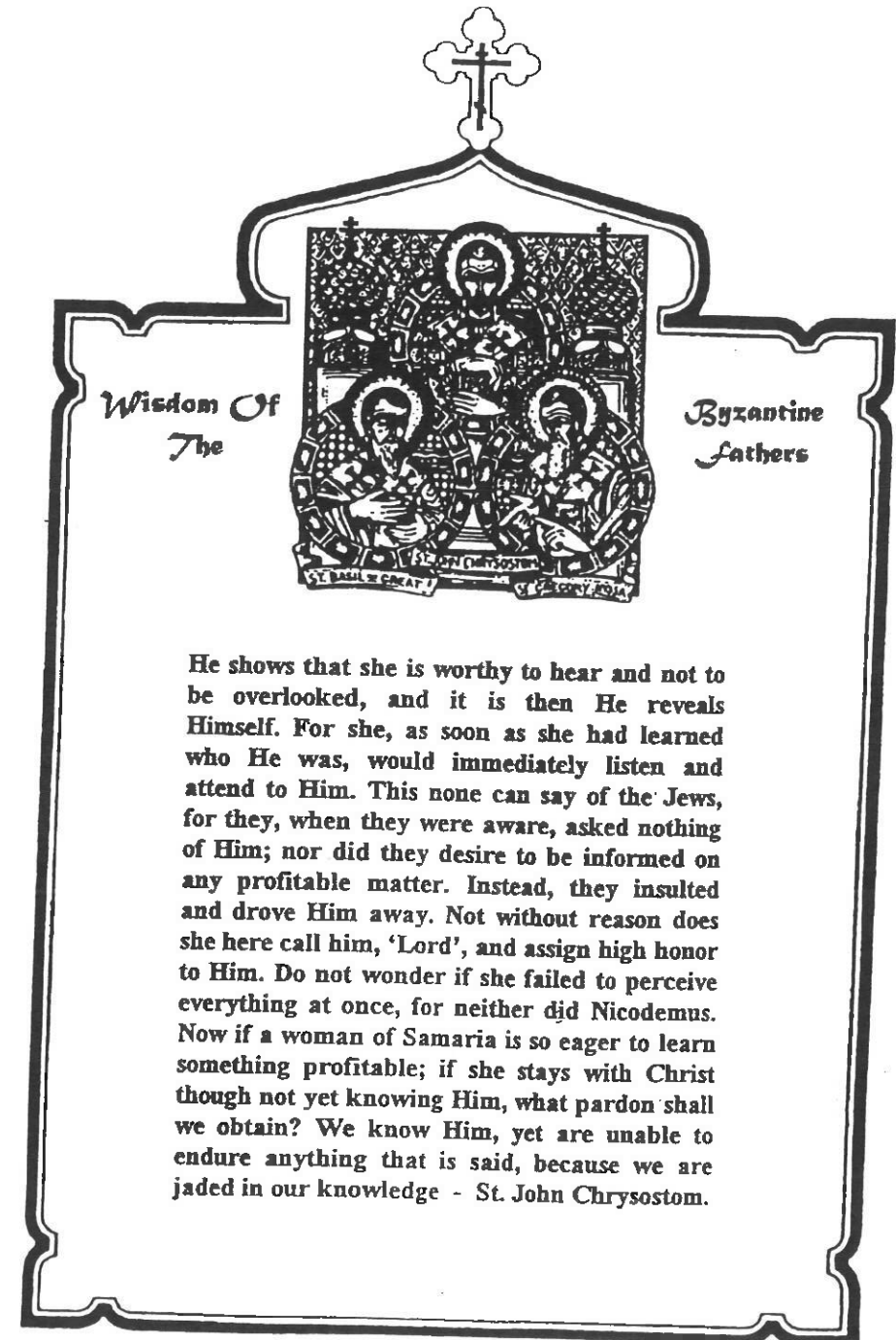
And that is how our Lord must feel about us at times. He asks us to live the pattern of His life, death and Resurrection. We *say* we will and that we *do* believe, but we are afraid to go all the way. We do not really believe that Christ will be there to accompany us so that we do not fall.

As we celebrate this feast of Baptismal Dignity, we are asked to renew our promises of initiation. At our Baptism we were lowered into the Church's baptismal font, which is both Christ's tomb and the Church's womb causing us to die to sin with Christ and to rise with Him to new everlasting life. We should not renew our baptismal promises too hastily. We should ponder all the implications of what it is we are doing. We ought examine how we are living.

Being a Christian is more than church once or twice a year, or every few Sundays; it is also more than not eating meat on Wednesday and Fridays during the year or abstaining from it all during the Great Fast. Risen life in Christ is a daily following of the Lord both when actually convenient and seemingly inconvenient.

Each time we are gathered together by the Holy Spirit for worship at the Divine Liturgy and we respond and cooperate, our prayer in effect is, "let our celebration today raise us up and renew our lives." That is the Resurrection message, the daily renewal of our lives, Modeled on the life, death, and Resurrection of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

We ought to permit each celebration of the Resurrection of the Lord be an ideal preparation and foretaste of the eternal Resurrection we all seek. May sins sleep and death soon for me pass, that awakened from both, I may again salute the last and everlasting day.



Volume 2022  
Christ is risen!

Number 19  
Indeed He is risen!

**Sunday of the Samaritan Woman  
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.

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**May 15 – May 21, 2022**

**All Divine Services are livestreamed where noted**

Saturday Vigil of Sunday (at SS Peter & Paul)

4:00 p. m. + **Anna Berzulak** req. by MM Michael De Stefan

Sunday

8:00 a.m. + **Mary Lutz** req. by MM Ronald Snyder (at St. Mary)

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

Monday

8:00 a.m. + **Nicholas Kostishak** req. by Vincent Kurtek Family

Tuesday

8:00 a.m. + **Anna Becker** req. by Daniel & Anna Marie Ruppert

Wednesday

8:00 a.m. **No Divine Liturgy Today**

Thursday

8:00 a.m. **No Divine Liturgy Today**

Friday

8:00 a.m. **No Divine Liturgy Today**

Saturday Vigil of Sunday (at SS Peter & Paul)

4:00 p.m. + **Helen Platko** req. by Joanne & Mark Schultz

**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:**

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**Donations in memory of +Helen Platko**

David and Sandra Rickert \$150

Robert and Marian Harris \$100

Irene Dallago \$100

George and Ellen Sinkovich \$100

**Thank You** All Who have prepared and executed and participated in any way in the Chicken Dinner today. Your participation is gratefully appreciated and needed.

As noted in last Sunday's bulletin the next few weeks feature upgrades to our property. We have already begun addressing the water leakage problem that has unmined the structural integrity of one of the air conditioning compressors. The kitchen upgrade also will begin soon. Thank you for your patience as the repairs and upgrades commence.

**Resurrection Life**

An important function of the parish priest is to liberate and enable. This is precisely what our Lord did when He established the sacramental Mysteries of the Eucharist at the Mystical Supper and Reconciliation on the afternoon of the Resurrection. Confessing our sins and obtaining forgiveness liberates the soul. The Body and Blood of the Saviour enables us to live in cooperation with the grace of the Holy Spirit so that a Christ-like life is the result.

There is a declining world market for words. The only thing the world believes in is behavior, because we all see it instantaneously. The only way we can preach anymore is by behaving, by offering the world a Christ-like example. By your lifestyle and example, show the world **Christ is Risen!**

## WISDOM! BE ATTENTIVE

*The joyful message of the Resurrection was heard by the faithful women from the angel. And being freed from the ancestral curse, they boasted to the apostles: "Dead and despoiled is death; Christ our God is risen, giving great mercy to the world." Troparion, Sunday of the Samaritan Woman.*

*When the Samaritan woman came to the well with faith, she beheld You, O Water of Wisdom; You allowed her to drink abundantly, and glorified her eternally, for she inherited the eternal kingdom. Kontakion, Sunday of the Samaritan Woman.*

*When the Paschal feast is half-completed, quench my thirsty soul with the waters of devotion, for You, O Saviour, have announced to all: "Let him who is thirsty come to Me and drink." O Christ God, Source of our life, glory be to You! Troparion, Mid-Pentecost Feast.*

*O Christ God, Creator and Lord of all, when the Paschal feast was half-completed, You told those present: "Come and draw the water of immortality," Let us therefore adore You and cry out with faith: "Grant us Your goodness, for You are the Source of our life!" Kontakion, Mid-Pentecost Feast.*

*You fought the good fight with faith, O Martyr of Christ, George. You exposed the perversion of the persecutors and offered an acceptable sacrifice to God. Therefore, you also received a crown of victory and through your prayers, O holy one, obtained the forgiveness of sins for all. Troparion, Feast of St. George the Martyr.*

*Inspired by God, you sowed the seeds of piety, harvesting sheaves of virtue. You sowed in tears but reaped in joy; and having honorably fought and given your blood, you were received by Christ. Through your prayers, O holy one, obtain the forgiveness of sins for all. Kontakion, Feast of St. George the Martyr.*

# JESUS IS RISEN!

"Seeing is believing," is a common saying. It is also a theme in the gospel of St. John the Theologian which is prescribed liturgical reading during this Passover season. So often John in effect, ends a miracle story with an expression similar to the one we hear at the time of the Resurrection, "He saw and believed" John 20: 8. Throughout His public ministry, Jesus gave His disciples many opportunities to see Him at work and in action as He changed water into wine, as He multiplied the loaves and fishes, as He cured the man born blind, as He raised Lázarus from the dead.

The beloved disciple calls these miracles "signs" John 20: 30. In other words, these miracles tell us something about the miracle-worker Himself. They also reveal that Jesus might be able to accomplish even greater things. And that exactly is what John wants us to understand because each of these signs is a part of a mounting crescendo leading us to Jesus' greatest sign, His own Resurrection and victory over death.

What was the popular reaction to Jesus' signs two thousand years ago? Scripture witnesses that some "saw and believed" but others refused in spite of very convincing proofs. Why? Faith in God and in His Son is a gift. In God's mysterious plan, we have been given that gift, while millions of others have not. Some people have rejected faith because they know that Gospel life will require them to change their everyday behavior, as St. Paul reminds us. They would have to put God first rather than themselves. And so they miss out on this greatest opportunity for a truly fulfilling human life.

After His Resurrection, Jesus continued to give His followers the chance to see and so to believe. He appeared to Mary Magdalene, who hurried off shouting, "I have seen the Lord!" He appeared to Thomas who cried out, "My Lord and my God!" He encountered Peter who exclaimed, "Lord you know well that I love you!"