

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)

Bulletins are sponsored by

Mahal-Ritzel Funeral Home

Minersville, PA 544-5111

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

Volume 2022
Christ is risen!

Number 21
Indeed, He is risen!

Sunday of the Fathers of the 1st Ecumenical Council
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 29 – June 4, 2022

All Divine Services are livestreamed where noted

Saturday Vigil of Sunday (at SS Peter & Paul)

4:00 p. m. + **Joseph Lohin** req. by Elaine L. Kunze

Sunday

8:00 a.m. +**Mary Marencin** req. by Francis Hummal (at St. Mary)

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

Tuesday

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

Wednesday

8:00 a.m. +**Jeanette Lohin** req. by Mrs. Robert Wytovich

Thursday

8:00 a.m. +**John Yuschock** req. by John & Lynn Lawler

Friday

8:00 a.m. +**Anna Lutz** req. by MM Steve Pinchorski

Saturday Vigil of Sunday (at SS Peter & Paul)

4:00 p.m. +**Michael Sinko** req. by mother, Regina Sinko

Epistle Readers: 5/29 – Paulette Murphy; 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:

10th Annual GCU Byzantine Family Day at KNOEBELS, Sunday 12, 2022

Ticket Booklets - \$16 each (\$4 value)

Children Lunch (ages 4 & under) – FREE

LUNCH (ages 5 & up) - \$10/person

Information and order form available on the GCU Website GCUusa.com or 1-800-722-4428 ext. 3810

Deadline for ticket orders – Wednesday, June 1, 2022

Catholic faith confesses that father and son are truly God. Hilary of Poitiers: But perhaps by saying "you the only," Christ severs himself from communion and unity with God. Yes, but after the words "you the only true God," does he not immediately continue, "and Jesus Christ whom you have sent"? I appeal to the sense of the reader: what must we believe Christ to be when we are commanded to believe in him also, as well as the Father the only true God? Or, perhaps, if the Father is the only true God, there is no room for Christ to be God. It might be so, if, because there is one God the Father, Christ were not the one Lord. The fact that God the Father is one leaves Christ nonetheless the one Lord. And similarly the Father's one true Godhead makes Christ nonetheless true God. For we can obtain eternal life only if we believe in Christ, as well as in the only true God. ... But the faith of the church, while confessing the only true God the Father, confesses Christ also. It does not confess Christ true God without the Father the only true God. Nor does it confess the Father as the only true God without Christ. It confesses Christ true God, because it confesses the Father the only true God. Thus the fact that God the Father is the only true God constitutes Christ also as true God, The only-begotten God suffered no change of nature by his natural birth. And he who, according to the nature of his divine origin was born God from the living God, is, by the truth of that nature, inalienable from the only true God. on the Trinity 9.34, 36.

"No, no, mere money is not a motivator and you will get no satisfaction from a salary raise."

"Well, if production does increase, will I be paid more?"

"Look," said the manager, "You obviously do not understand the motivation theory. Take this book home and read it; it explains what it is that really motivates you; that there is no greater satisfaction than a job well done."

As the man was leaving, he stopped and said, "If I read this book, will I be paid more?"

Priceless

A delightful wife and mother tells this interesting story: "Even as kids, Jeff and I knew we were meant for each other. When we were teenagers, we'd sit on my front porch dreaming about our future, the children we'd have, what we'd name them, how happy we would be. Jeff always said, "I'm going to take good care of you. I'll be a millionaire by the time I'm 30. You just wait and see."

Jeff and I did get married. True to his word, he worked hard and took care of us. But we were not wealthy. Three months after Jeff turned 30, I gave birth to our first child.

As we held our sweet baby, James, in the delivery room, I couldn't help but remember Jeff's dream. "Would you trade him for a million dollars?" I teased.

Jeff looked surprised, "Of course not. He's priceless."

"Congratulations," I said, "You're more than a millionaire. You're a father."

Rule For Success

Discover the talent God provided.

Be big.

Be absolutely honest.

Live with enthusiasm and expectation.

Do not let possessions possess you.

Do not worry about problems.

Look up to people when you can.

Never look down on anyone.

Do not cling to the past.

Assume full share of responsibility.

Pray consistently and confidently.

Anyone can observe the Sabbath, but making it holy sure takes the rest of the week.

Enormous Truth

Asking the right questions takes as much skill as giving the right answers.

Don't Wait

The great composer does not set to work because he is inspired, but becomes inspired because he is dedicated to his work. Beethoven, Wagner, Bach and Mozart along with Tschaiakovsky and Rachmaninov settled down day after day to the job and responsibility in hand. They did not waste time waiting for inspiration.

So it is true with the faithful believer. Because he is devoted the Saviour, he sets about achieving the salvation of his soul each day of his life without letup. Because he is devoted to the Saviour, his faith commitment grows and faith is enlarged. He is inspired by God's grace to persevere. He does not wait until he is in the mood, or the circumstances are "right."

Because He belongs to the Lord, the opportunity is ever present. Because of His devotion, he is always inspired. Christ is always His Lord and God. He needs nothing more than the sure realization he is destined for eternity with the Holy Trinity.

Beginning Perfection

Back in the fourth century, a long-time Eastern desert solitary monastic, sent a disciple, and perhaps, the heir apparent in spiritual leadership to the quickly growing but separate gathering of eager followers after the Lord. Because the young man was eager and the need was even greater, profound and penetrating perfection was the objective. The

experienced man hoped to teach the young man basics of being a good spiritual leader. When the young man arrived at the outpost further in the desert, he went alone to a nearby oasis-like area. After one year, he was to return to the superior to describe what he had observed of the environment.

When he returned, the great teacher asked the young man to describe all that he could hear. "Father," replied the young man, "I could hear the desert sparrow sing, the leaves rustle, the hummingbirds hum, the crickets chirp, the grasses blow, the bees buzz and the wind whisper and sometimes holler." When the young man finally finished, the superior told him to go back to the same place to listen to what more he could hear. The young aspirant was puzzled by the master's request. Had he not discerned every sound already?

For days and nights on end, the young man sat alone in the oasis like setting listening. But he heard no sounds other than those he had already described. Then one morning, as he sat silently beneath the trees, he started to discern faint sounds unlike anything he ever heard before. The more acutely he listened, the clearer the sounds became. A feeling of enlightenment enveloped the aspirant. "These must be the sounds the master wished me to discern," he reflected.

When the young man returned to the outpost, the superior asked him what more he had heard. "Father," responded the young man reverently, "when I

listened most closely, I could hear the unheard, the sound of flowers opening, the sound of the sun warming the earth, and the sound of the grass drinking the morning dew, and the soul of man yearning for its Source of life."

The superior nodded approvingly, "to hear the unheard," he remarked is "a necessary discipline for a spiritual leader, elder and warrior. For only when a monastic has learned to listen closely to the heart of the people he provides spiritual care for, for those he cares about and prays for, hearing their feelings uncommunicated, pains unexpressed, and complaints not spoken, of problems never made known, can he hope to inspire confidence in his people, understand when something is wrong and meet the true needs of fellow believers in the vexations of their earthly pilgrimage. Spiritual fathers must be able to hear pain in the soul separated by sin from God.

The anxiety of neglecting the value of spiritual life must be perceived. The demise of faith commitment has many times occurred because spiritual fathers listen only to superficial words and do not penetrate deeply into the souls of the people to hear their true opinions, feelings, needs, hopes, aspirations, desires and obstacles faced." How abruptly and strongly many times the devil separates believers through superficialities from genuine faith commitment. He continued, "It is far easier to guide and direct a soul which is well known and understood and as a result, loved by a genuine spiritual father."

Smart Mistakes

If you want to be resilient, get on friendly terms with your mistakes. Remember that most major scientific discoveries started with a "mistake." Henry Ford said, "Even a mistake may turn out to be the one thing necessary to a worthwhile achievement." Great literature, art, and music depend on "fine surprises" which often started as mistakes, for their power.

Even Jonah in the Old Covenant had to learn from his mistaken impression that if he avoided God, God would not expect anything from him!

Whenever you try to second guess every move you make, you are trapped in an infinite "What if?" spiral. If you are not making mistakes, you are not moving forward. Rather than spending your life trying to make right decisions, concentrate on making decisions right.

The benefit of mistakes or what we decide at the time are mistakes, is that they can teach us the effect of our actions. Then we decide whether the same action might have different results in the future, or if we should try something else. Sometimes we get so caught up in our emotional response to the "mistake" – and how it is perceived by others – that we fail to step back and think about it circumspectly. We are too busy beating up on ourselves to learn the lesson we have already paid for!

There are "smart" mistakes and "foolish" mistakes. The "foolish" ones are when

you do the same thing over and over, despite ample evidence that your action isn't going to achieve the result you want. We still must learn that if we wish the Lord's blessings on our efforts, we must make a serious effort to do the Lord's will. "Smart" mistakes on the other hand, offer tremendous potential. The secret is to draw a wise conclusion from a foolish choice so that everything can work out in serving God's glory for good.

Failure must be made part of success. There is no such thing as a bed of roses all our lives. Failure will never stand in the way of success if we learn from it.

Confidence

Courage and confidence can be learned. Faith commitment can and does grow. When bomb disposal experts were interviewed on whether they were selected because of their extraordinary courage, the results were clear. Ordinary people, once they gain the technical knowledge, skills, and competence in understanding how to disarm bombs, have little fear of them. They are courageous in situations which would cause others great fear. Their fear is dissipated as a result of becoming competent. This is no doubt the reason St. Paul emphasizes our faith is strengthened by hearing the word of God taught.

The more we learn about, the better we know Christ, the more intimate and personal our relationship with Him, the greater our faith commitment will become.

The better we know Him Who loves us beyond comprehension, the more confident we shall become in our daily living and in our service to Him.

Insight

Very few can boast or claim they love to exercise; what they really love is all that it does for them.

In submitting themselves to the rigors of altering the contours of the flesh, they look forward to an increase in health and stamina. In the realm of the soul, the same may be true. Initially at least, many will complain about praying so much, worshipping too long and too often, concentrating on eternal values instead of those which fleetingly pass.

But as they persist and pursue the will of God for their lives, they begin to discern a gradual, though inevitable transformation taking place in the depths of their soul.

What began perhaps as mere and painful duty, now has been transformed into sheer pleasure.

Truth Is Not Found In Theories

A manager who had just returned from a motivation seminar called an employee into his office and said, "Henceforth, you are going to be allowed to plan and control your job. That will raise productivity considerably, I am sure."

"Will I be paid more,?" asked the worker.