

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:

St. Mary's:

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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Christ and the Law

When Christ says to him, "if you would enter life, keep the commandments," the man expects him to add immediately, "My commandments." "Which ones?" he asks. He was quite deceived in his expectation. For Christ did not answer him as he expected, but simply pointed him to the law.

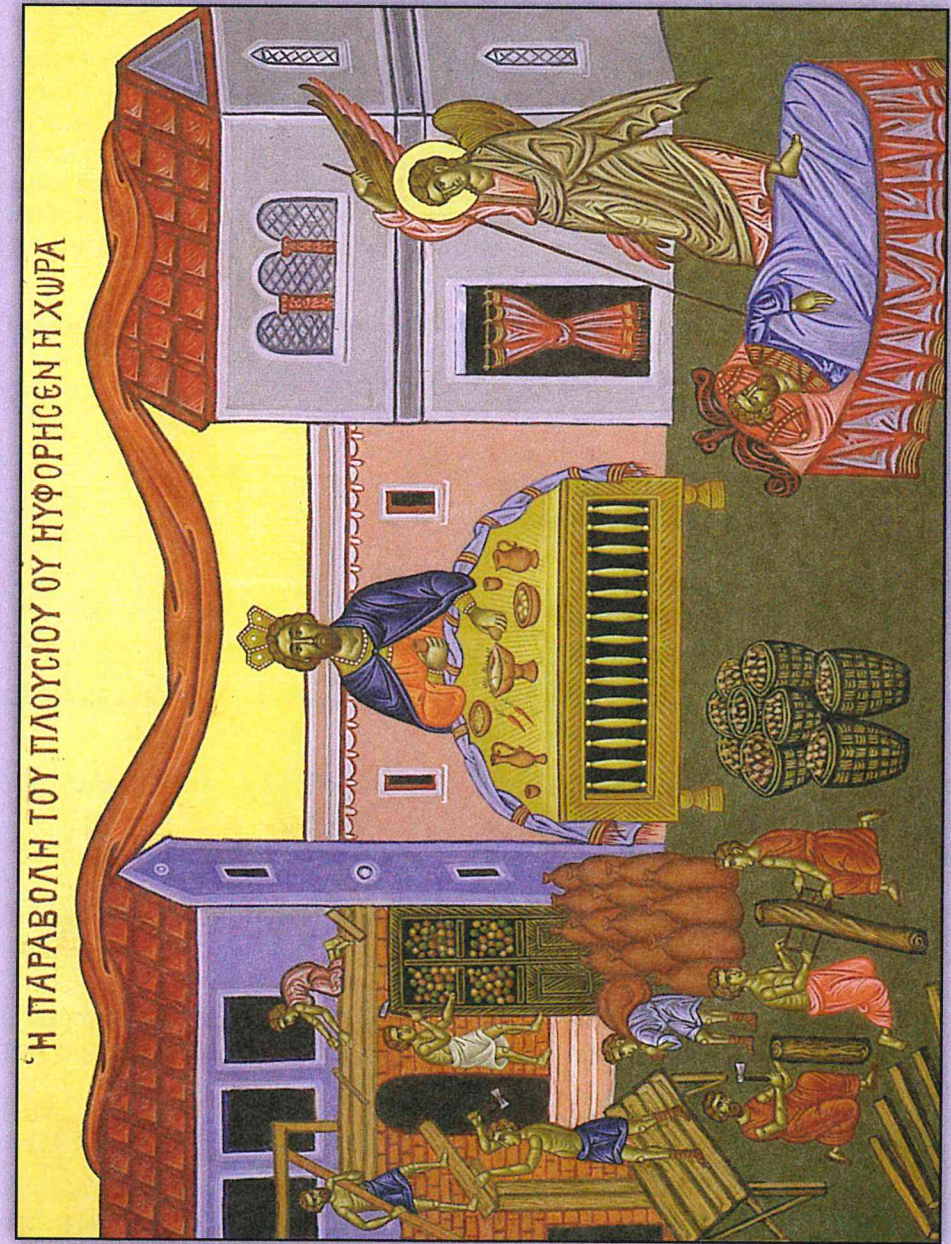
This is not because the law is perfection, for "no one is justified by the law," as it is written, but because the life lived according to the law is a kind of introduction to the eternal life, briefly acquainting trainees to the things above. "For the law was put in charge to lead us to Christ."

The law is the starting point for social justice. Christ is the perfection. For the beginning of good is to act justly, He says. Just action then is shown by the law, but goodness is shown by Christ. The law taught us to repay those who wish to harm us, as in "eye for eye, tooth for tooth."

But Christ taught us to let go such balanced vengeance, with the view to the greater good, teaching that "if anyone strikes you on the right cheek, turn to him the other also; and if anyone would sue you and take your coat, let him have your cloak as well."

St. Cyril of Alexandria

TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST



Icon of the Rich Fool (Luke 12:16-21)

24rd Sunday after Pentecost
Tone 7

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.

November 20 – November 26 2022
All Divine Services are livestreamed where noted

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

Monday Entrance of the Theotokos
10:00 a.m. at SS Peter & Paul in Minersville
6:00 p.m. at St. Mary's in Mahanoy City

Epistle Readers: 11/20 Madeline Dinich; 11/27; Laura Mitchell; 12/4 – Judy Kostura; 12/11 Anna Keer; 12/18 Dolores Kramer
(If you cannot be present for any time, kindly contact another reader to cover for you).

Giving Tree is now up. If you are able, please take an Angel from the tree return the gift by December 3.

Food Bank – food distribution will be on December 15th. If you are able to help prepare prior to the 15th or can help distribute on the 15th please let us know. You can contact Ed Butler 570-449-2739 or Peggy Butler 570-640-9261.

Coming Soon:

Adult Enrichment Program with breakfast following the Sunday Divine Liturgy. Topics to be explored are the Holy Bible; the Holy Mysteries; the Four Last Things; Contemporary Issues; Tradition verses tradition. If you have a particular subject you would like to know about, write down that topic and give it to Charles Keer or John Kostishak or drop in the collection basket.

Christ is among us!

My brothers and sisters in Christ,

I have some very good news to share. My medical leave will conclude on November 30 and I will return to the parish thereafter. Due to circumstances that still exist I am adjusting the Divine Liturgy schedule to compensate for these issues. The Saturday Vigil Liturgy will be celebrated at St. Mary Parish on Saturdays at 4:00 p.m. and Sunday at SS. Peter and Paul at 10:00 a.m. beginning December 3/4, 2022.

I look forward to serving your Spiritual needs and being among you once again because I'm not yet ready to retire.

Father Gregory

As you are aware the Nativity Fast began on Tuesday, November 15. Traditionally, on Monday, Wednesday and Friday we observe Strict Fast and Simple Abstinence on the other days. The Council of Hierarchs has decreed this to be a period of penitential observance, meaning the Fast although laudatory, is voluntary. Thanksgiving and St. Nicholas celebrations factor into the bishops' decision to mitigate the fast. With that said, I encourage you to determine how best to prepare for the celebration of the Lord's Nativity.

November 21

Entrance into the Temple of our Most Holy Lady, the Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary

The origin of the feast is found in an account in the apocryphal Protoevangelium of Saint James. According to this document, after Saint Ann's miraculous birth-giving, the Most Holy Virgin having completed her second year, Joachim said to his wife: "Let us lead her to the Lord's Temple, as we promised Him." Ann said: "Let us yet wait until her third year, so that the child will not clamor for her father or mother, thus she will not walk straight before the Lord." When the child was three years old, Joachim said: "Let us call from among the daughters of the Hebrews those who are undefiled, and let them each take a lamp and let these lamps be lit, that the child not turn to look backward and her heart be not held captive outside the Lord's Temple." They did thusly. Zachary the priest received her and said to her: "May the Lord crown your name with glory!", and he set her down on the altar step. There, Mary was nourished by an angel until she was twelve years old. When the time came for her to marry, Joseph received her from the priests' hands, and took her from the Lord's Temple.

Whatever the foundations of this gracious legend may be, the Church invites us above all to meditate on the mystery of the internal preparation of Mary for her vocation as Theotokos. This preparation is a total self-commitment, in the "immaculate victim," "as a most holy vessel" which must receive the body of the Word incarnate, "a living temple and throne of the King, elected to be his Mother," "the spiritual ark enclosing the incomprehensible Word." The miracle of her subsistence by the hand of the Archangel is the symbol of her spiritual life entirely nourished by the will of God.

Historically, this feast had its origin in the dedication of the Church of Saint Mary the New in Jerusalem (November, 543). It was spread throughout the whole East in the Seventh century. Pope Gregory XI introduced it at Avignon at the end of the Fourteenth century. Then it was generalized in the Roman Church in 1585 by Sixtus V.