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Beyond Medical Knowledge

Even without anyone to instruct us we are quite able, on the basis of what we see, live and feel, to understand how our body is formed. Its own nature teaches us. It may be useful, nonetheless, to consult experts to have a clearer idea. The science of anatomy has allowed us to know the positions of the individual parts of the human body. Other sciences help us to grasp their uses.

In a detailed study we must examine the organs as having three kinds of function: life, enjoyment and conservation.

The organs without which it is impossible to have life are three: the brain, the heart, the liver.

Then there are the gifts that nature gives to the human being to make life pleasant: the senses. The lack, which is not infrequent, of one or other of them does not result in death, but without being able to use them life is less enjoyable.

Finally, we should recall those organs which have no purpose in themselves but are useful to conserve life, for example, the stomach and the lungs.

The true and perfect life, however, is that of the soul. In the soul is found the beauty of the likeness of God, who created humanity with the words: "Let us make human beings in our own image, after our own likeness."

St. Gregory of Nyssa

Twenty-Third Sunday After Pentecost

Icon of Cosmas and Damien-- November 1st

1SS. Peter & Paul Byzantine Catholic Church
107 South Fourth Stret
Minersville, PA
570-544-2074
Father Gregory J. Noga, pastor

St. Mary Byzantine Catholic Church
131 South Morris Street
Saint Clair, PA
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Volume 2026
Christ is Among us!

Number 45
He is and will be!

23rd Sunday after Pentecost
Tone 6

Welcome to the parish communities of SS. Peter and Paul and St. Mary Byzantine Catholic Churches of Minersville and Saint Clare, 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 1 – November 7, AD2026

Vigil of Sunday		
Saturday	4:00 p.m.	**+Rev. Francis T. Gera** req. by the Estate *
Sunday	9:00 a.m.	**Health and Blessings of the Parishioners**
Monday	9:00 a.m.	**No Divine Liturgy Today***
Tuesday	9:00 a.m.	**No Divine Liturgy Today***
Wednesday	9:00 a.m.	**Private Intention***
Thursday	9:00 a.m.	**Increase in Vocations***
Friday	9:00 a.m.	**Private Intention***
Saturday	4:00 p.m.	**+Rev. Francis T. Gera** req. by the Estate*

*St. Mary
*SS Peter & Paul

Epistle Readers: 10/1 – Gail Burgess; 10/4 – 10/11 – Laura Mitchell; 10/18 – Paulette Murphy; 10/25 – Ellen Sinkovich; 11/1 Dolores Kramer; 11/8 – Marie Wanchick; 11/15 – Jennifer Kerr; 11/21 – Gail Burgess; 11/22 – Laura Mitchell; 11/29 – Dolores Kramer

Breakfast with Father:
Sunday, November 8 following Divine Liturgy.

Bible Study:
Sunday, November 22 following the Divine Liturgy.

Thanksgiving Day:
The Divine Liturgy will be offered on Wednesday, November 25, at 6:00 p.m.

St. Mary's:
The Saturday Vigil Divine Liturgy on November 21, will be celebrated at 5:00 p.m., one hour later than its usual time. I will attend the Blessing of the New Church in Toms River, NJ. This was my first pastoral assignment after my ordination. Kindly mark your calendar.

Pastoral Note:
As you are well aware, there is a shortage of priests to serve the People of God throughout the Catholic church. However there has been an uptick in vocations is Churches that have special devotions for vocations on a regular basis and in view of this trend, I decided to dedicate Thursdays as Vocation Prayer days. Why Thursday, you may ask? The institution of the priesthood by Jesus Christ began with His Mystical Supper or "Last Supper" as generally known, on what we call Holy Thursday.

Offering the Divine Liturgy for vocations on Thursday seems appropriate. Perhaps you could make the effort to attend and raise up your voices to the Holy Spirit asking Him to speak to the hearts of young men to consider the vocation to the priesthood.

I remind you that vocations are not just to the priesthood, diaconate and religious life, but also to married life and the single state. We all have been entrusted with a particular calling from God. Each takes courage to live as God wants us to live and be embracing each vocation with love and respect we can accomplish His Will for humanity.

Pray, also, for peace and tranquility in our world. Peace is God's gift to us, let us not squander it.

Did You Know That ...

...nothing is interesting if you are not interested?

...learning is that you suddenly understand something you have understood all your life, but in a new way?

...intentions *may* be written in pencil, but commitments *should* be written in stone?

...everyone complains of his memory, no one of his judgment?

...many of us are not really as interested in remembering the religious tenets of our faith as we think we are?

...success is simply the extension and utilization of an entire series of failures?

...one is foolish who does not know and does not know that he does not know?

...those need to be instructed who do not know and know they do not know?

...those are asleep who know, but do not know that they know?

...they are wise who know and know that they know; we should listen to them?

...you are in trouble if you are living on a one-way dead-end street and do not know how you got there?

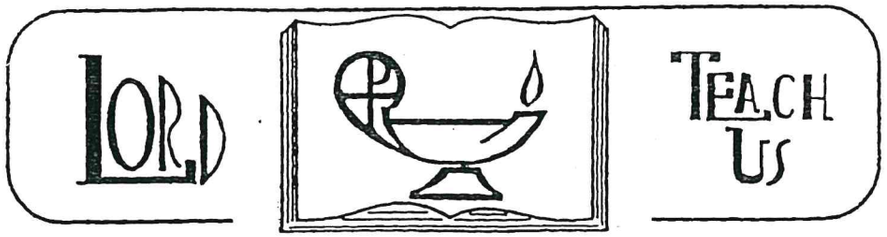
...when we fail, our failure should be a challenge for others to succeed?

...to see a man beaten not by a better opponent but by himself is utter tragedy?

...nothing can match the treasure of common memories, of trials endured together, of quarrels and reconciliations which endure?

...half of getting what you want is knowing what you must give up to get it?

...the joys of life have nothing to do with age?



God's Acceptance

Come to him, a living stone, rejected by men but approved, nonetheless, and precious in God's eyes. You too are living stones, built as an edifice of spirit, into a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ 1 Peter 2: 4, 5.

"I tell you, that is why her many sins are forgiven - because of her great love. Little is forgiven the one whose love is small." He said to her, then, "Your sins are forgiven" Luke 7: 47, 48.

Who is there like you, the God who removes guilt and pardons sin for the remnant of his inheritance; Who does not persist in anger forever, but delights rather in clemency, and will again have compassion on us, treading underfoot our guilt? You will cast into the depths of the sea all our sins Micah 7: 18, 19.

You yourselves were once alienated from him; you nourished hostility in your hearts because of your evil deeds. But now Christ has achieved reconciliation for you in his mortal body by dying, so as to present you to God holy, free of reproach and blame. But you must hold fast to faith, be firmly grounded and steadfast in it, unshaken in the hope promised you by the gospel which has been announced to every creature under heaven, and I, Paul, am its servant Colossians 1: 21-23.

Bless the Lord, O my soul; and all my being, bless his holy name. Bless the Lord, O my soul and forget not all his benefits; He pardons all your iniquities, he heals all your ills. he redeems your life from destruction, he crowns you with kindness and compassion, He fills your lifetime with good; your youth is renewed like the eagle's Psalm 103: 1- 5.

As far as the east is fro the west, so far has he put our transgressions from us. As a father has compassion on his children, so the Lord has compassion on those who fear him Psalm 103: 12-13.

He is *Revealed* by many Names...

"...and His name shall be called..." Isaiah 9:6.

The Holy Name of our Lord, God and Saviour was revealed by the angelic visitor. Throughout salvation history, He is referred to in a variety of ways, each of which make known more and more of the enduring love of our Heavenly Father for each of us.

Wonderful

"For unto us a Child is born; unto us a Son is given; His name shall be called Wonderful" **Isaiah 9: 6.**

Jesus Christ is *"the same yesterday, today, and forever"* Hebrews 13:8, and those who think Him commonplace or at most only an unusual man, will some time stand ashamed, confounded, and doomed as they witness this prophecy fulfilled, *"His name shall be called Wonderful."* They will be overwhelmed when they come to realize how quietly and mystically He always labors for our salvation, many times when we do not even realize it or wish to admit it or confront it. Today in our midst He works just as wonderful things as when He created heaven and earth. Today He works such wonderful works on our behalf just as He did when He created us. His wondrous grace, His wondrous omnipotence, His wondrous labors on our individual behalf are for the awesome child of God who needs Him and trusts Him even today. The awesome sacramental Mysteries of our Church are intended for us to participate in His wondrous life. Wondrous are His works, as the Psalmist sings out, *"Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; too lofty for me to attain. Where can I go from your spirit; from your presence where can I flee?"* Psalm 139: 8. If we by grace, attempt great things and in faith commitment expect great things from Him, we will also sing His praises because we will not be confounded or disappointed. Has He not involved us in the wonder of His creation and love? *"I give thanks to you that I am fearfully, wonderfully made; wonderful are your works. My soul also knew you full well; nor was my frame unknown to you"* Psalm 139: 14, 15.

The Old Country Priest says...

All you have to do to change your life is to change your mind. It really is that simple, but it isn't always easy. All you have to do to stop feeling bad is to start feeling good...but feeling good is not a one-time event; it is a conscious decision we make minute-by-minute, day by day. It is participation in God's creation. The way to change the world is to change yourself and your attitude toward it, not just once, but every day!

Finding Out Why

The little boy came in the other day with a serious look on his face and said to his father, "Dad, can I ask you a question? Where do I come from?" The father said it was a question he had been dreading, but nevertheless, he sat him down and told him, as gently as He could, all about the birds and the bees. When he finished, the boy was very quiet and he got up and politely said, "Thank you, Dad," and headed for the door. Then the father inquired of him, "So what made you ask me?" The young boy turned around and said, "I just wanted to know because Bobby next door always is telling me he comes from Atlanta."

"God of God" *Nicene Creed from the Council of Nicea.*

The Council of Antioch wrote against Paul of Samosata, who declared that Jesus was the Son of God by adoption. Hence, the name of the heresy was adoptionism. This meant that Jesus was just a man and not really God. If Christ is not God, then the crucifixion cannot save us because it is the death of only a man.

The Council of Nicea wrote the above line against Arius who said that Jesus did not share the same substance (divinity) with the Father.

St. Gregory of Nyssa points out that it is Christ's union of humanity and divinity at the Resurrection allows us also to rise from the dead. "For as the principle of death took its rise in one person and passed on in succession through the whole of humanity, in like manner the principle of Resurrection-life extends from one person to the whole of humanity." (*The Catechism* 16)