

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

Website: www.sspeterandpaulminersville.com

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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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Jesus the Lord of Life

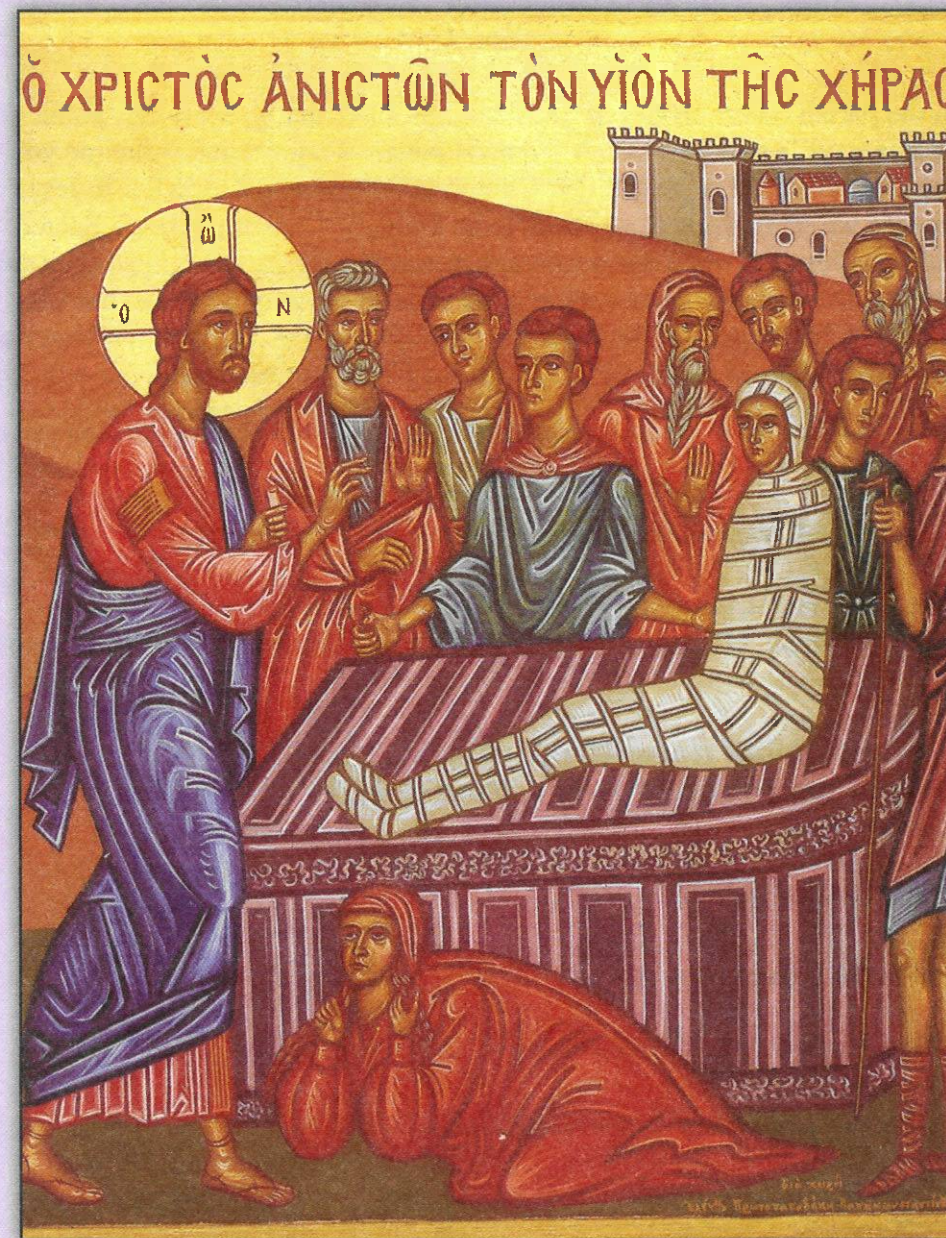
How do you respond to the misfortunes of others? In a number of places the gospel records that Jesus was “moved to the depths of His heart.” Our English word “compassion” is a weak translation of the Hebrew word for “sympathy.” Why was Jesus so moved on this occasion? Jesus not only grieved the untimely death of a youth, but he showed the depth of his concern for a woman who lost not only a husband, but an only child as well.

The scriptures make clear that God takes no pleasure in the death of anyone (e.g., Ezekiel 33:11); God desires life, not death. Jesus not only had compassion, He also had power – the ability to restore life and make whole again. Jesus, however, incurred grave

risk by approaching the bier, since contact with a dead body made one ritually impure. His touch not only restored life but brought freedom and wholeness to soul as well as body.

This miracle is reminiscent of the prophet Elisha who raised another mother's son (see 2 Kings 4:18-37). Jesus claimed as His own one whom death had seized as its prey. By His word of power He restored life for a young man marked for death. Jesus is Lord not only of the living but of the dead as well. Jesus triumphed over the grave and He promises that because He lives, we also shall live in Him (John 14:19). Do you trust in the Lord's power to give life and hope in the face of misfortune and despair?

TWENTIETH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST



Icon of the Healing of the Widow's Son (Luke 7:11-16)

**20th Sunday after Pentecost
Tone 3**

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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October 10 – October 16, 2021

All Divine Services are livestreamed where noted

Saturday 4:00 p.m. Vigil Divine Liturgy (at SS Peter & Paul)
+ **Andrew & +Richard Valosin** req. by wife & mother, Elizabeth Valosin —

Sunday
8:00 a.m. +**Joseph Bulino** req. by Frank Bulino (at St. Mary)
10:00 am **Health and Blessing of the Parishioners** (at SS. Peter & Paul)
Livestreamed

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

Wednesday
8:00 a.m. +**Metro Cremo** req. by wife, Elizabeth Cremo

Thursday
8:00 a.m. **Thanksgiving: 42nd Anniversary of Ordination**

Friday
8:00 a.m. +**Joseph Lohin** req. by daughter Elaine L. Kunze

Saturday 4:00 p.m. **Vigil Divine Liturgy** (at SS. Peter & Paul)
+**Margaret Kostishak**

Epistle Readers: 10/9 – Marie Wanchick; 10/10 – Madeline Dinich; 10/16 – Angela Frank; 10/17 – Jennifer Keer; 10/23 – Beverly Kostishak; 10/24 – Ellen Sinkovich; 10/30 – Dolores Kramer.

The Mystery of Forgiveness (Confession) is available from 2:00 until 3:00 p.m. each Friday, again on Saturday at 1:00 p.m. at St. Mary and 3:00 p.m. at SS Peter & Paul

Candles in front of Jesus Christ and on the sacramental table (tetrapod) were offered this past week by Marie Wanchick for the intention of: Lee, Deborah and Joan.

This week's intention placed before the Icon of the Mother of God is: We pray that you spread your mantle over our country and its democracy.

St Mary Church News:

A **Soup Sale** will be held on Saturday, October 23rd from 9:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. Further details will be provided in next week's bulletin.

If you would like to be an announcer of the Apostolic Reading (Epistle) during the Divine Liturgy, kindly let Father Gregory or Doc Pete know your intention. A schedule will then be printed in the bulletin as is done for SS. Peter & Paul Church.

20th Sunday After Pentecost:
Collegeville Bible Commentary

7:11-17 The widow and her son. Another demonstration of Jesus' compassion follows in the Galilean village of Naim. The comparison of Jesus to the prophetic figures of Israel's past underlies the narrative. His action of revivifying the son of a widow along with the expression "he gave him to his mother" alludes to the earlier act of power by Elijah (1 Kgs 17:23). When the people see what has happened, their reaction is to recognize a "great prophet." Jesus' compassion for the woman draws him to the scene. As in the previous story, there is a possibility of ritual uncleanness (by touching a corpse: Num 19:11). The response of the people is first fear, but ultimately the praise of God, as in the healing of the paralyzed man (Luke 5:26). Faith is not mentioned preliminary to the deed as in the healing of the centurion's servant; but the action elicits faith in the form of divine praise.

Diseases in the Bible

Here are just a few illnesses mentioned in the Bible and some of the people who suffered because of them.

Disease or Condition	People Who Had It	Law or Advice Concerning the Disease	The Treatment
Dropsy (also known as edema—a disease where the body swells with fluid)	While at the home of one of the Pharisees, one of the guests had this condition (Luke 14:2).	This disease is mentioned only in the New Testament.	Although the Pharisees complained, Jesus healed the man on the Sabbath.
Fever	Peter's mother-in-law had a fever (Mark 1:30-31).	In the Old Testament, some fevers were considered punishment for disobedience (Leviticus 26:16).	Jesus healed Peter's mother-in-law (Mark 1:30-31).
Internal or regular monthly bleeding	Unnamed woman who touched the hem of Jesus' robe and bled for 12 years (Mark 5:29).	The person was considered unclean for seven days or as long as the bleeding continued (Leviticus 15:25).	Two turtledoves or two pigeons had to be offered (Leviticus 15:28-30).
Leprosy (skin diseases, including Hansen's disease)	While traveling, Jesus met ten lepers (Luke 17:11-13).	The person had to tear his or her clothes and cry out "Unclean!" (Leviticus 13:45-46).	Jesus healed the ten lepers and told them to show themselves to the priest (Luke 17:14-17).
Sores or boils	Job suffered from painful sores (Job 2:7).	Leviticus 13:1-39	The priest has to examine the area. The person could be quarantined for seven days (Leviticus 13:2-21).
"Incurable" or "horrible" disease (This could be tuberculosis—"consumption" in the King James Version—or some other disease lacking a cure.)	The people of Israel who grumbled against Moses and Aaron (Numbers 16; Psalm 106:15)	This type of disease was considered a punishment for disobedience (Leviticus 26:16).	Obedience to God is the only way to prevent this (Leviticus 26:14-15).
Withered limbs	At the synagogue, Jesus saw a man with a withered hand (Matthew 12:9-10).	Because God promised to allow diseases as a result of disobedience, such a health issue might have been considered a curse (Deuteronomy 28:28, 33).	Jesus healed the man to show his compassion.

The Lord Gives, The Lord Takes Away

...the Lord gave and the Lord takes away; blessed be the name of the Lord
Job 1: 21.

Here is the acme and pinnacle of resignation to the will of our heavenly Father, the climactic victory of faith. Job had suddenly lost all his possessions, and then in a moment his ten children were taken from him. Greater calamity can hardly be imagined. Under such blows it is no wonder brave men have fallen down. But Job recognized in all this the hand of the Lord and though stricken down with unspeakable grief, he asked not for the reason why, but worshipped God all the more, and acknowledged that since our heavenly Father had given him everything he enjoyed in life, He also had a right to do as He pleased in his infinitely wise purpose, which man so many times cannot understand, and so he says with sincerity and seriousness of heart: "Naked came I out of my mother's womb and naked shall I depart; the Lord gave and the Lord has taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord."

This is the victory of faith. It is easy to praise our God when all goes well but the real test of faith is our reaction when all goes badly in our lives. Many are in the deep sorrow of bereavement. Some of them say, "It is very easy to talk about victory in bereavement when one is not himself experiencing it." All realize keenly that this is true but bitterness and rebellion in the soul will not ease heartache at the death of a loved one. Only complete trust in him who makes no mistakes or has no second thoughts gives us rest.

In a central European village during the absence of the father of the household, during the infamous influenza epidemic around the time of the first world war, two boys died and their mother laid them on the family bed as was the practice until their father would return in a matter of hours. When the husband came home and she met him at the door, saying, "Sometime ago a friend entrusted some jewels to my care and today he wanted them back. Should I have given them to him?" Surprised, the husband said, "Of course, they belonged to him. He had a right to claim them." Thereupon she led him to the bed. For a few moments he was speechless with grief and then lifted his eyes to heaven and repeated the words of Job: "The Lord gave and the Lord took away; blessed be the name of the Lord."

Faith draws the poison from every grief and takes the sting out of every loss.

When We Do Not Know What To Say

*To him who is afflicted, kindness should be shown by his friend
Job 6: 14.*

A high school teenager sat in the family car in the funeral home parking lot for several minutes. It seemed like an eternity because he wasn't sure how to respond when his father put his head in his hands and moaned, "I don't know what to say!"

A friend from their church had been in a car accident. She had survived, but her three daughters had all died when a truck hit their vehicle. What could they possibly say to their friend at a time like this?

In God's revelation to us, we are told that during Job's time of grieving, his three friends came to mourn with him and to comfort him. For the first seven days they sat and wept with him because he was in deep sorrow. "Then they sat upon the ground with him seven days and seven nights, but none of them spoke a word to him; for they saw how great was his suffering" Job 2: 13. Their presence alone was a comfort to him.

But then, they began to lecture. They told Job he must have sinned grievously and that God was punishing him. They thought it was important for him to understand their insights about his troubles. "As I see it, those who plow for mischief and sow trouble, reap the same. By the breath of God they perish and by the blast of his wrath they are consumed" Job 4: 8, 9.

When Job was finally able to respond, he told his friends what he needed from them. His were simple and pure human needs in time of trouble. They coincide with the needs of every human being in similar circumstances. He

asked for reasons to continue hoping. "What strength have I that I should endure, and what is my limit that I should be patient. Have I the strength of stones or is my flesh of bronze" Job 6: 11?

He sought kindness. "A friend owes kindness to one in despair, through he have forsaken the fear of the Almighty. My brethren are undependable as a brook, as watercourses that run dry in the wadies; though they maybe black with ice and with snow heaped upon them, yet once they flow, they cease to be; in the heat they disappear from their place" Job 6 : 14 - 17.

He looks for words that did not presume guilt. "Think it over; let there be no injustice. Think it over; I still am right. Is there insincerity on my tongue, or cannot my taste discern falsehood" Job 6: 29, 30?

When we encounter circumstances of similar nature, may we remember the story of Job and his friends when we do not know what to say.

Dear Lord, grant me sensitivity
to people in their grief and pain.
To weep with them and exhibit your love
in ways mere words can never attain.

When another soul is grieving, simply listen and never lecture!

Then go home and pray for their intention.

