

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

Parish Office: (570) 544-2074

Website: www.sspeterandpaulminersville.com

Email: tvrgjn@outlook.com

Served by: Very Reverend Gregory J. Noga, Pastor

SS. Peter & Paul Cantor: Mr. Paul Konkus St. Mary Cantor: Dr. Peter Yasenachak

CONFESSIONS: SS. Peter & Paul: Saturday 1:00 - 2:00 p.m. and Sunday 8:00 – 8:30 a.m. prior to
Divine Liturgy and Daily prior to Divine Liturgy

St. Mary's: Saturday 3:00 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

The Rich Man vs. Lazarus

Lazarus, the beggar, is called by his name because he was a saint, but the man who is rich and proud is not deemed worthy of a name. ... The meaning of Lazarus' name is boethoumenos, one who has been helped; he is not a helper, but one who has been helped. He was a poor man and, in his poverty, the Lord came to his assistance. "Who lay at his gate, covered with sores." The rich man, in purple splendor, is not accused of being avaricious, nor of carrying off the property of another, nor of committing adultery, nor, in fact, of any wrongdoing; the evil alone of which he is guilty is pride. Most wretched of men, you see a member of your own body lying there outside at your gate, and have you no compassion? If the precepts of God mean nothing to you, at least take pity on your own plight, and be in fear lest you become such as he. Why do you save what is superfluous to your pleasures? Give in alms to your own

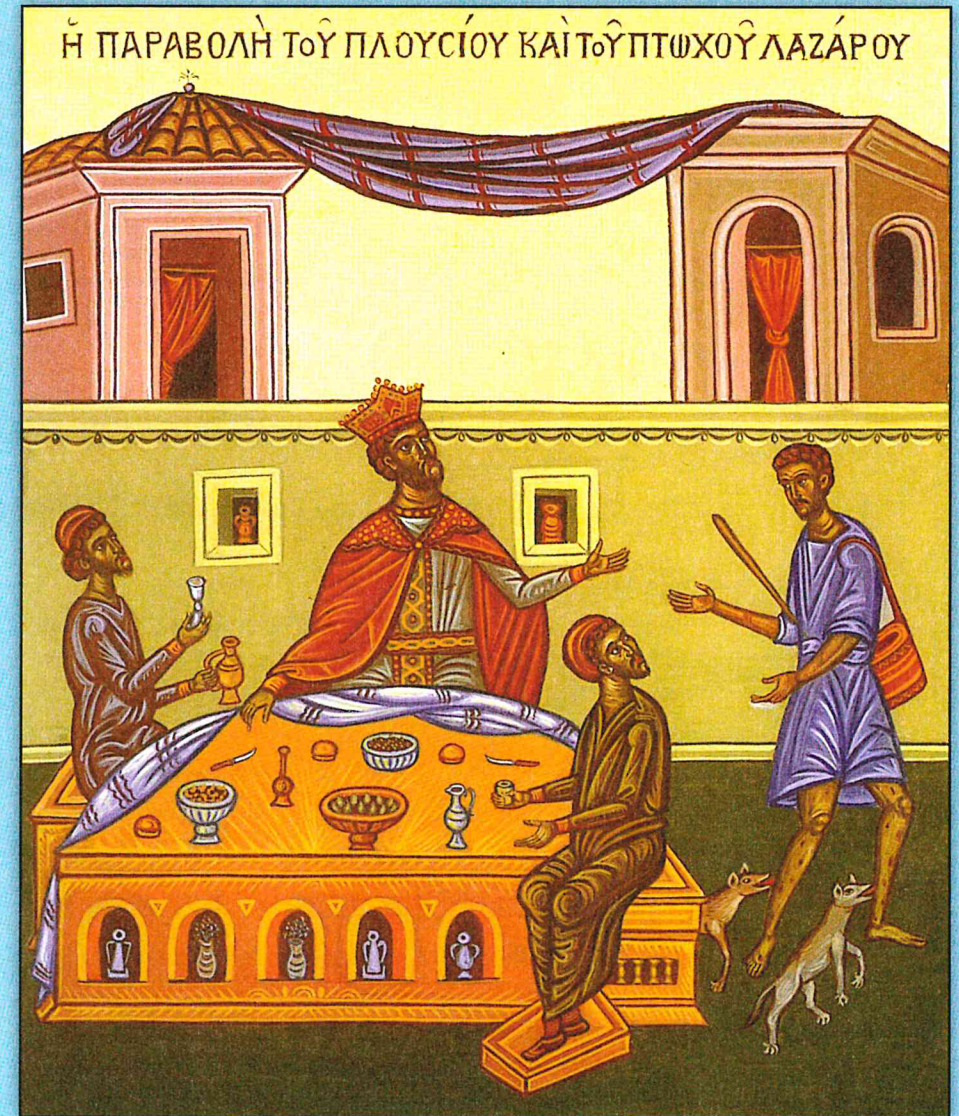
member what you waste. I am not telling you to throwaway your wealth. What you throw out, the crumbs from your table, offer as alms.

"Who lay at his gate." He was lying at the gate in order to draw attention to the cruelty paid to his body and to prevent the rich man from saying, "I did not notice him; he was in a corner; I could not see him; no one announced him to me." He lay at the gate; you saw him every time you went out and every time you came in. When your throngs of servants and clients were attending you, he lay there full of ulcers. If your eyes disdained to look upon putrid flesh, did not your ears, at least, hear his plea? "Who lay at his gate, covered with sores." He did not have just one sore, his whole body was sores, so that the magnitude of his suffering might arouse your utmost compassion.

St. Jerome

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TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST



Icon of the Parable of the Rich Man and Lazarus

**21st Sunday after Pentecost
Tone 4**

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.

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October 22– October 28, 2023

Vigil of Sunday (at St. Mary)

Saturday	4:00 p.m.	+ Charles Keer, Sr. req. by George & Ellen Sinkovich
Sunday	9:00 a.m.	Health and Blessings of the Parishioners (livestreamed)
Monday	9:00 a.m.	No Divine Liturgy Today
Tuesday	9:00 a.m.	H&B Priscilla, Sarah, Caroline, John, Andrew,, Charles House & House Family req. by Andrew Stim
Wednesday	9:00 a.m.	H&B Christopher, Susan, Alicia, Fr. Guckin, Fr. David Sr. Sarah * All MSBT req. by Andrew Stim
Thursday	9:00 a.m.	+ Thomas & +Helju, +Msgr. John, +Andrew, +Julie, +Sr. Andrea & +Joan House req. by Andrew Stim
Friday	9:00 a.m.	+ John & +Anna Sinko req. by Joanne, Gary & Nicole Killian

Vigil of Sunday (at St. Mary)

Saturday 4:00 p.m. +**Steve Pereborski** req. by Joseph Katchur

Next Sunday 9:00 a.m. **H&B Parishioners** (livestreamed)

Epistle Readers: 10/1 – Jennifer Keer; 10/8 – Judy Kostura; 10/15 – Dolores Kramer; 10/22 – Laura Mitchell; 10/29 – Beverly Kostishak.

Candle Offering: The Candles in front of the Jesus Christ; the Mother of God and on the Sacramental Table are for the intention of **Fr. Gregory** for his health and God's blessing on the occasion of his 44th anniversary of Ordination offered by The ECF Catechists and Students

Breakfast with Father:

Today, Sunday, November 12, 2023 following the Divine Liturgy. All are welcome to attend.

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Eastern Christian Formation Class: Class today following Divine Liturgy.

The Annual Turkey Dinner Kindly refer to the poster

Kindly Note:

On the first weekend of November, i.e., 4/5 only one Divine Liturgy will be celebrated for both SS. Peter and Paul and St. Mary parishes. The Divine Liturgy will be celebrated on November 4 at 4:00 p.m. at SS. Peter and Paul Church.

In case of an emergency during my absence (Nov. 5-10) kindly call Fr. Jim Carroll, OFM at 570-773-2631.

22nd SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

St. Ephrem the Syrian – The Lord compared the priests of the people with him who was clothed in purple. Nothing is more honored than purple clothing. He compared the disciples of the cross with Lazarus. There were none more lowly than Lazarus was. He revealed the names of his beloved ones through Lazarus, his beloved one. He also wished to reveal the name of his enemies through the words, "If they do not listen to Moses and the prophets." It is not the case that all those living are alive, or that all those buried are dead.

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Don't Sell It!

While your glance flits to it, it is gone

Proverbs 23: 5.

Esau was almost home when the smell hit him. His stomach growled, his mouth watered, and his steps quickened. His day of fruitless hunting left him depressed and weak with hunger and longing. Now he could think of just one thing: lentil soup!

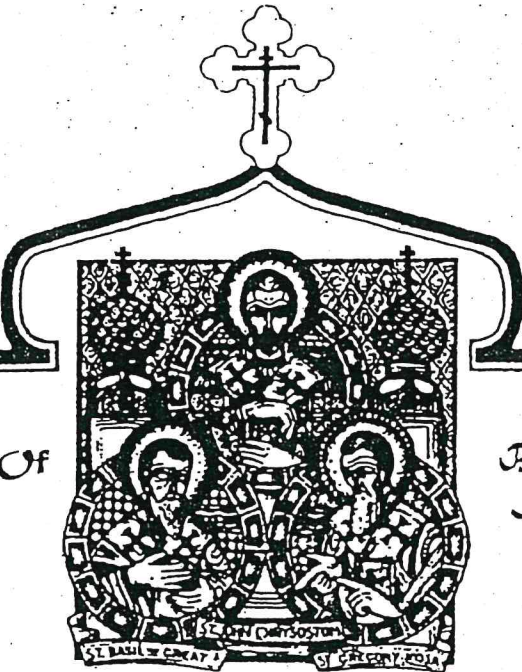
He belligerently burst into the tent, "Jacob, give me some of your lentil soup. I smelled it a mile away. I am starving!" Jacob continued to stir the slowly boiling soup a moment before answering. He throws out a condition because he knows the soup smell is compelling, even seductive to a hungry soul. "Under one condition. Sell me your birthright, and I will give you a bowl of my soup."

Esau scowls at his business-minded brother. Of course, everything has a price as we so often hear. But when you are starving, surely no price is too much to pay for something so good to satisfy the soul. So, "Just give me the soup. First things first. What good is the birthright once I have died of hunger?"

"Swear to me first," Jacob demands. So Esau swears away his birthright and devours his lusted- after porridge. To all future generations he becomes a symbol of making a really bad deal. The book of Genesis says he despised his birthright of primogeniture. The book of Hebrews calls him a profane or godless person. He traded his future, his blessing from God and from his father, for nothing more than a simple bowl of common soup. How like those who submit to the temptation of the devil and give up discipleship in Christ? How related to those who want to please friends and give up friendship with Christ! How similar to the soul who desires unending life in a temporary world compared to eternal life in the never-ending kingdom?

Are you tempted to sell your birthright? Have you considered trading a pure mind for a little carnal pleasure? Would you trade your integrity for a thousand dollars? Which would you rather have: a Christian church or all the "things" you have dreamed of? Would it be a good deal to trade your reputation and the reputation of the Church of Christ for a little earthly fun? Why not cheat on your husband since what he does not know will never hurt him? Share with our wife you are having an "innocent" relationship with a woman who is attracted to you so you wont experience too much guilt and everything will be out in the open!

Purchase virtue and buy the truth; sell it not! Consider well the value of your baptismal birthright and the comparative value of a mere pot of soup! Do not make yourself an eternal fool by trading a birthright of salvation for a mixture of vegetables in boiled water, regardless how compelling their smell or taste! Recognize the worst thief of all is the one who will rob you of truth.



*Wisdom Of
The*

*Byzantine
Fathers*

Speak when your words are more desirable than silence, but love silence when it is better than words St. Gregory Nazianzen.

Even if your soul should suffer somewhat from an offense, keep the sorrow within yourself. For it is said, "Within me my heart is troubled" Psalms 142: 4; that is the passion has not come out, but has been humbled like a wave that has broken up on the shore. Calm your raging heart. Let your passions be ashamed at the presence of reason in you, as playful children are ashamed before a man commanding respect St. Basil the Great.

I shall indicate to you the most direct and simple method to acquire the habit of silence...Reflect as often as you can on the pernicious results of indiscriminate babbling and the salutary results of wise silence. When you come to taste the good fruit of silence you will no longer need lessons about it St. Nicodemus of the Holy Mountain.

Did Jesus Own A Bible?

Today in the overwhelming presence of American short-lived religion, reading the Bible, as a newly discovered blessing is considered to be vitally important. And believers do not discount its value since it is the Church which canonized and codified it and offers it to believers. But it can only be understood in the life of the Body of Christ since it is literature of the Church of Jesus Christ. Those outside the salutary grace of Christ certainly cannot come to a correct understanding of its teachings by themselves, nor do they have the grace to pursue its truths in reality. We are not saying Bible reading is unimportant. What we are saying is God's revelation to us must be correctly understood if it is to be correctly lived and is not a part of personal interpretation.

No, Jesus Christ did not own a Bible. Why? Because it was not until long after the return of Christ to the right hand of the Father that the complete Bible as we know it today came about. What we call the Bible did not exist at the time of Christ. There was of course, oral tradition which was finally written down and was accepted under the prompting of the Holy Spirit by the Church as inspired writing.

Synagogues maintained collections of scrolls containing writings that have since become part of the Bible as we know it. Jesus read from the scroll of Isaiah at the synagogue in Nazareth (Luke 4; 16, 17). The apostle Paul heard the public reading of the law and the prophets in Antioch in Pisidia (Acts of the Apostles 13: 14, 15). And the disciple James said that Moses was "read aloud in the synagogues on every Sabbath" Acts of the Apostles 15: 21.

Did individuals in the first century own scrolls of Scripture? The Ethiopian eunuch of the court of Queen Candace evidently did, for he was "sitting in his chariot and reading aloud the prophet Isaiah" when the disciple Philip met him on the road to Gaza (Acts of the Apostles 8: 26 - 30) The Apostle Paul asked Timothy to bring the "scrolls, especially the parchments" 2

Timothy 4: 13. Though Paul did not say what scrolls they were, it is certain he was speaking of portions of Hebrew Scripture.

Personal ownership of Scripture scrolls among the Jews was probably only for privileged men in the Holy Land, for all who claimed to be educated for example the Pharisees and teachers like Nicodemus. The primary reason was cost. Paying a copier just for the Book of Isaiah could amount to a half year's wages in the time of Christ. .

As the inspiring Source of Scripture, Christ certainly did not need a Bible. He knew the Scripture and is depicted as always quoting it, expounding it and explaining it for the benefit of his listeners precisely what God's will was. The Church always considered Christ being the fulfillment and completion of God's revelation to us. Oral tradition in the time of Christ and in the early Church was vital and necessary and practical and in time led to the writing down of the actual teaching of the Lord. Jesus was well versed in Scripture and He knew it by heart (Matthew 4: 4, 7, 10: 19: 4, 5). The Birth-giver of God is depicted as having an intelligent and inspiring understanding of the Bible as she quotes it and uses it as an inspiration of her daily living. The average Jewish education at the time of Christ was primarily an explanation of God's revealed truth, so people were more Bible literate than today.

We are blessed as communicants of the Body of Christ to have so much of Scripture incorporated into so much of our worship, not only in the Divine Liturgy, but in the Matins and Vesper services sung daily in monasteries and on a regular basis in parish churches. Scripture is alive to us if we but study it ourselves, read it, pray it and learn to apply its lessons to our daily lives.

We need not quote it verbatim, but its spirit should resonate in our hearts and souls. We ought to upgrade our lifestyle by the standards of God's revelation to us in Scripture. We don't need to carry a Bible under our arms, but we must know enough about it to carry its transforming word in our hearts!

