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The Works of Jesus

Those who believe in one God the Father Almighty ought to believe in His only-begotten Son. Jesus says: "I am the door. No one can come to the Father but by me" (Jn 10: 9; 14: 6).

Anyone who does not accept the door cannot possibly reach the Father. Anyone who wishes to pray to the Father should adore the Son, or his prayer is not accepted.

The Son is called Christ, which means anointed, that is, consecrated. He was not anointed by human hands but consecrated by the Father to become a priest forever. He died, but He did not remain, as all human beings do, in the underworld. He is the only one free among the dead.

The Savior becomes all things to all, according to the need of each: to those who ask for joy, he becomes the vine; to those who wish to enter, he becomes the door; to those who are under the weight of sin, he becomes a lamb, a lamb slain for them. He becomes all things to all, but He remains nonetheless what He is.

He is called by a twofold name: Jesus because He gives us salvation, and Christ because He is priest. He is the healer of bodies and the doctor of souls. As He made whole those who were physically blind, so He gave light to their minds. As He gave the lame the chance to walk, so He urges the steps of sinners in the direction of the way of penitence.

St. Cyril of Jerusalem

Twenty-First Sunday after Pentecost

Icon of Saint Luke -- October 18th

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

St. Mary Byzantine Catholic Church
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Volume 2026
Christ is Among us!

Number 43
He is and will be!

21st Sunday after Pentecost
St. Luke, Apostle
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.

October 18 – October 24, AD2026

Vigil of Sunday		
Saturday	4:00 p.m.	**+deceased Demko Family** req. by D. Duffy*
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***
	6:00 p.m.	Akathist Hymn to the Theotokos
Thursday	9:00 a.m.	**No Divine Liturgy Today***
Friday	9:00 a.m.	**+Nicholas Kostishak** req. by Family*
Saturday	4:00 p.m.	**+deceased Demko Family** req. by D. Duffy*

*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 .

Dinner and a Movie Night: Our Parish Synod is offering a Dinner movie on Communism on **October 22 at 6:00 p.m.** Parental Discretion is advised. Sign-up sheet is available in main vestibule of our church.

Turkey Dinner: The annual Turkey Dinner will be held on Sunday, November 1. Refer to the flyer posted in both vestibules for details.

Breakfast With Father: **Sunday, November 8** following Divine Liturgy.

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

This year GCU is asking parishes to get involved in their Mission Statement--"Strengthening Communities." We, at Ss Peter and Paul parish, support our local food bank by offering space in the school building. During the month of October, we will have a second collection every Sunday to raise monies for the food bank. As an added incentive, GCU will **match** our church's donation up to $500 this year! Thank you for your participation!

The month of **October** is dedicated to **Respect Life.** And this pares well with the collection of monies for our local food bank as noted above. However, Respect Life only about food drives, it also confronts aspects of violence against women, racial prejudices, intolerance of others' views and abortion. In order to confront these issues, we need to fast and pray for guidance in electing government officials in our communities that they too, reflect on these issues and promote guidance to begin to eliminate these conflicts in our communities.

Did You Know That ...

...the same God who gave us life, gave us liberty at the same time?

...liberty means responsibility; which is why most people dread it?
...you cannot legislate intelligence and common sense into people?

...big print gives to man and small print takes it away?

...it is the spirit of the law and not its letter or form that keeps justice alive?

...the nation finds it very hard to look up to leaders who have their ears to the ground?

...language is the armory of the human mind and at once contains the trophies of its past and the weapons of its future conquests?

...even though the learned fool writes his nonsense in better language than the unlearned, it still remains nonsense?

...life is not the opposite of death, it is the absence of death?

...laughter is the tonic, the relief, the surcease for pain?

...we can pretty well judge the character of a man by what he laughs at?

...law is valuable not because it is law, but because there is some right in it?

...liberty does not work as well in practice as it does in theory?

...life is not lost by dying, but minute by mine as it is squandered on nonsense which some consider important?

...the best use of life is to invest it in something that outlasts it?

...the pursuit of perfection in Christ is the pursuit of fullness and wholeness and oneness with Him?

...there are two kinds of light, the glow that illumines and the glare that obscures?

God Is Light

God is light and in him there is nothing dark 1 John 1: 5.

O Lord, you are my light! You make my darkness bright 2 Samuel 22: 29.

The Lord is my light and salvation Psalms 27: 1.

Your words are a lamp to my feet a light to my path Psalms 119: 105.

I am the light of the world John 9: 5.

Violence will disappear out of your land, all war will end. Your walls will be "Salvation" and your gates," Praise." No longer will you need the sun or moon to give you light, for the Lord your God will be your everlasting light and he will be your glory. Your sun shall never set; the moon shall not go down, for the Lord will be your everlasting light; your days of mourning all will end Isaiah 60: 18 – 20.

Once you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord; walk as children of light Ephesians 5: 8, 9.

Every worthwhile gift, every genuine benefit comes from above, descending from the Father of light, who cannot change and who is never shadowed over James 1: 17.

What Is Your Motive?

Do not be like hypocrites...I assure you, they have their reward
Matthew 6:16.

There is a priest who carries his Bible around every where. Some wonder if he is trying to make people think he is super-spiritual. He says he does not do it because he is strong spiritually, but simply because he knows how terribly weak he is. He had backslidden into temptation and sin several times, but now he is determined by the grace of God to stay true to the Lord. He reasons that as along as he carries the Word of God, he will be reminded of its warnings and strengthened by its grace and think twice about falling and permitting himself to become a victim of the devil.

How do the words of our Lord apply in this situation? "Be on guard in performing religious acts for people to see....do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing...keep your deeds of mercy secret...do not...pray in the synagogues or on the street corners in order to be noticed...pray to your Father in private....Matthew 6: 1 – 6.

Our Lord taught us it is wrong to parade our faith in public. On the other hand He teaches that we must let others see evidence of our faith. "...your light must shine before men so that they may see goodness in your acts and give praise to your heavenly Father" Matthew 5: 16.

The key to understanding the seeming contradiction is motive or intention. If our desire is to do right –to impart light – we are acting in the spirit of Christ. But if we only desire to appear right – to get the spotlight – we have the wrong motive.

By carrying his Bible with him, this priest may be misunderstood, but we know his motive is right and honorable. He alerts us to our own weakness and need for God's Word. "Deliver us from evil" Matthew 6: 13.

May our actions daily reflect a sincere and serious desire to please our heavenly Father, not to impress people. We should all be aware it is entirely possible to do right for the wrong reason.

The Immensity Of God's Love

When I consider ...the moon and the stars...what is man that you are mindful of him
Psalms 8: 3, 4?

How big is the universe? If you question an astronomer, he will tell you that the universe contains trillions of stars and that the most distant galaxies are billions of light years away. Not just thousands or millions or even billions of stars, but trillions of them spread out across the vast expanse!

Incomprehensible figures like that make some people conclude it is impossible to believe God's revelation to us in Scripture, for the earth and the humans who inhabit it are so utterly insignificant. But these mind-boggling dimensions need not shake our faith response to God's first shown love. Instead, they can increase our awe as we ponder the message of divine grace. In the Psalms, the inspired author marvels at God's creation and mankind's littleness and then breaks out in praise of God's utter greatness and sublime care and devoted interest in us.

To think that the Creator who made and upholds all this immensity has focused his redemptive love on tiny creatures like us – and sinful, separated creatures at that! He cherishes us individually as if each one were the object of his paternal attention. It is not only astounding, but amazing as well that, as St. Paul testifies, that Christ "...loves me and gave himself for me" Galatians 2: 20.

Instead of shaking our faith, the finding of astronomy should confirm us in loving response and fill our souls with wonder. The immensity of our heavenly Father's creation can remind us of the immensity of God's grandiose and abounding love. In creation we see the mighty hand of God. In redemption we see the immensity of his heart.

The God who made the firmament,
who created the deepest sea,
is the God who put the stars in place
and the One who cares for me!