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Advice for Christian Living

Let everything you do be done for God, both deeds and words. Refer all that is yours to Christ. Constantly turn your soul to God; and put your thought on the power of Christ, as if in some harbor by the divine light of the Savior it were resting from all talk and action. And often by day speak your thoughts to men, but most of all to God at night as well as by day. Don't let too much sleep keep you from your prayers and hymns to God, since long sleep is a rival of death. Show yourself always a partner of Christ, who makes the divine ray shine from heaven. Let Christ be to you continual and unceasing joy.

Do not relax the tension of your soul with feasting and drunkenness, but consider what is needful to be enough for the body. And do not rush early to meals, before the time for dinner comes; but let your dinner be bread, and let earth's grasses and the ripe fruits of trees be set before you; and go to your meal with composure, showing no sign of raging gluttony. In place of such pleasures, choose the joys that are in divine words and hymns, joys supplied to you by wisdom from God; and let heavenly meditation ever lead you upward to heaven.

And give up the many anxious cares about the body by taking comfort in hopes toward God; because for you He will provide enough of all the necessary things: food to support life, covering for the body, and protection against winter cold. For to your King belongs the whole earth and all that is produced from it; and God treats the bodily parts of His servants with exceeding care, as if they were His, like His own shrines and temples. On this account do not dread severe diseases, nor the approach of old age, which must be expected in time; for even disease will come to an end, when with wholehearted purpose we do His commandments.

St. Clement of Alexandria

Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Icon of Saint Hierotheus, Bishop of Athens -- October 4th

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Minersville, PA
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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 41
He is and will be!

19th Sunday after Pentecost
Tone 2

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 4– October 10, AD2026

Vigil of Sunday		
Saturday	4:00 p.m.	**+George & +Marion Demko** 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.	**H&B Deborah Ballenger** req. by Marie Wanchick*
Wednesday	9:00 a.m.	**Private Intention***
	6:00 p.m.	Akathist Hymn to the Theotokos
Thursday	6:00 p.m.	**Private Intention***
Friday	9:00 a.m.	**+Irene Dallago** req. by Neice Laura & Steve Mitchell*
Saturday	4:00 p.m.	**+John & +Julia Demko** req. by D. Duffy*

*St. Mary
*SS Peter & Paul

Epistle Readers: 9/27 – Jennifer Keer; 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 .

Turkey Dinner: The annual Turkey Dinner will be held on Sunday, November 1. More details will be forthcoming soon.

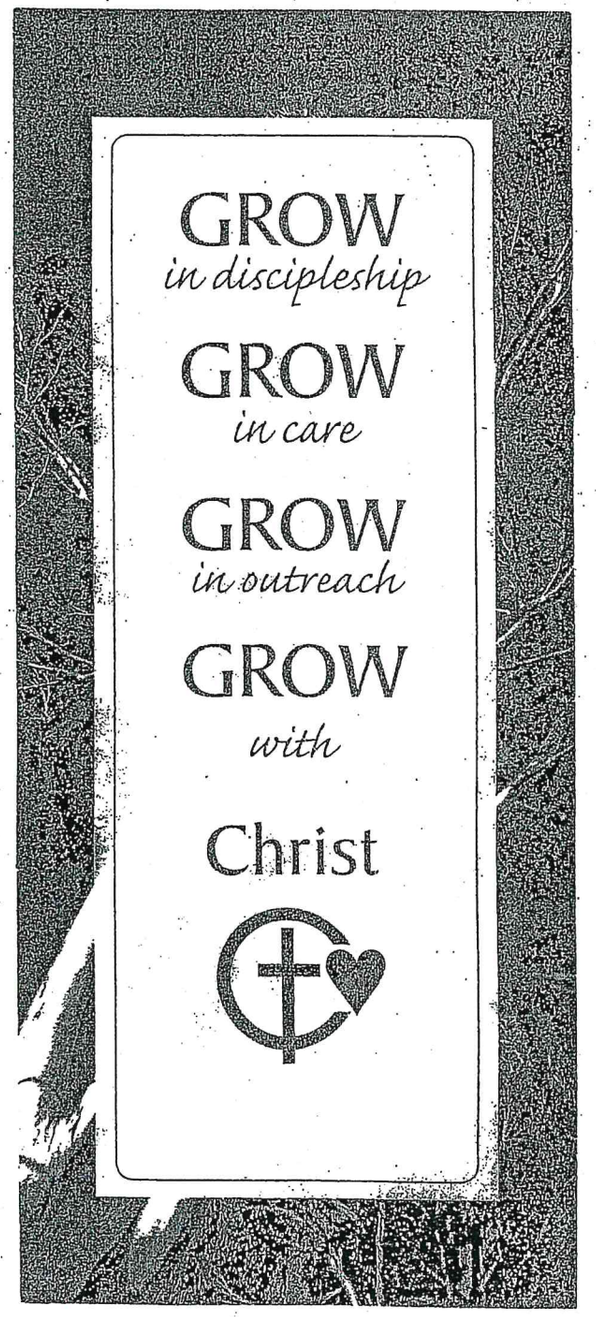
Breakfast With Father: **Sunday, November 8** following Divine Liturgy.

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!

News of Great Joy:
This year we have been blessed with the Baptism/Chrismation of two children: **Ella Eichenberg** daughter of Garret and Leah Eichenberg and **Callahan Conway** son of Cody and Amber Conway.

Today we are blessed to receive into our parish family **Camryn Thompson** the daughter of Keith and Larun Thompson, through the Sacred and Holy Mysteries of Baptism and Chrismation.



Encouragement

Moses said to God, 'Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?' He said, 'I will be with you and this shall be the sign for you that it is I who sent you'
Exodus 3: 11, 12.

"The guy on this team even with the least natural ability may play a lot this year because of his desire to play," said the high-school coach. "Never sell yourself short," advises the professor. "Persistence is often the last key on the ring which opens the door," read the slip of paper inside the fortune cookie. These words of encouragement are like an admonition from our heavenly Father to us: "I have a plan for you. Do not give up before I am finished."

Throughout God's revelation to us in Scripture and in the life of his Body, our blessed Church, we consistently read of his choosing rather ordinary people to do extraordinary tasks. God had plans for Moses, Deborah, David, Mary, Paul and He gives each of us unique and significant gifts in order to accomplish the task He has in mind for us to achieve.

Ordinary people are capable of performing extraordinary tasks because God sees strengths that we are unable to see. But if we follow Christ faithfully, God can use even those of us with seemingly little natural ability to do what no one imagined possible.

As communicants of the Church, we need to learn that our God is always with us, leading us even when we are unsure of ourselves. In faith response to God's first shown loving concern, we need confidence to know that with his help, we can accomplish whatever it is He asks us to achieve.

Simply said, what our Lord is looking for is individual believers who will lend themselves to being used by God and directed as well as affirmed by his grace. Many times our Lord is only looking for a cooperative human medium through whom He can achieve great things for mankind. Our generous response to his overtures inevitably then leads us to sanctity. If we submit ourselves to his will, we agree to walk in the same salutary procession which includes the Great Lawgiver, Moses.

If we do not render ourselves usable to God, we place ourselves out of the running for heavenly recognition. If we are so full of ourselves, the image of God is blotted out and we become useless in the process of salvation. Let us positively respond to God's encouragement as did Moses.

Peace Be With You

These earnest words of blessing by the priestly celebrant at all divine services are also a reminder of true requirements in the soul to properly approach and worship our God. No distraction of soul disposes us to worship, but God's peace stabilizes, assures and confirms us in our vocation. And St. Paul provides the insight that one of the "...fruits of the Spirit is...peace" Galatians 5: 33, so it is to be sought after and recognized as heaven-sent. After Jesus assures the disciples of the presence of "...the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name," He makes a promise to them: "Peace I leave to you, my peace I give to you..." John 14: 25 – 27. It is not only the result of humility of soul, but the vital purgation of sin within, for did not the Lord insist, "If you bring your gift to the altar and recall that your brother has anything against you, leave your gift at the altar, go first to be reconciled with our brother and then come and offer your gift" Matthew 5: 24. In other words, the gift of peace requires from us a seriousness about our vocation in Christ. We must come with the proper disposition of soul that Christ's peace permeate our being.

The self-same greeting imparted by Christ to the fleeing and hurried women at the tomb, "Peace" Matthew 28: 9! is precisely the same He bestows on the disciples in the Upper Room, "Peace be with you" Luke 24: 36! Peace is an awareness of His presence in our praying midst, it is the reality and strengthening assurance of His presence so that we are eager that He "...stay with us" Luke 24: 29 because "...were not our hearts burning as he talked to us...and explained the Scriptures to us" Luke 24: 32? Peace is unquestionably stability of soul in all circumstances of life.

Anchored as we must be in Christ, the priestly celebrant frequently turns about from the altar table and literally "throws" the sign of the Cross to us as he intones, "Peace be with all." We are to catch that cross, make it upon ourselves in faith that it is spiritually invigorating and transforming, that by the Cross we are changed and elevated. Its continuing repetition at the Divine Liturgy shows that peace is a vital sign of heaven itself, for it is not simply the absence of ill-will and rancor, but the recognition that we "...must put on the new man created in God's image, whose justice and holiness are born of truth" Ephesians 4: 24, so that we can be filled with the "fullness of God" Colossians 2: 9 since "of his fullness we have all had a share, love following upon love" John 1: 16.

The invitation to peace and God's command to observe and uphold it is to already experience the overwhelming joy of heaven which we have entered in our worship at the Divine Liturgy. "I do not give it to you as the world gives peace" John 14: 27.

Our Remarkable Strength

A popular investment magazine has released the results of a survey of financial executives responding to the question, "How long will it take for the financial sector to return to strength?" More than 50% of those surveyed responded that it will take three to five years, and an additional 20% said it would take six or more years. Already many people have lost their savings and pensions, others have lost jobs and homes; still others have seen health care and educational opportunities disappear. If financial experts are correct, these painful circumstances will linger for a longer time as we work to find a way out of this deepening global recession.

As if this were not enough, we see just about every day new signs of uncertainty, pessimism and even fear. At a time when charities are hoping to do more, many are reporting a dramatic downturn in contributions.

We give thanks to God that while we have not been unaffected by this financial crisis, we remain extraordinarily strong. Our faithful attend regularly and celebrate God's goodness in grace. We utilize the grace offered us by the Holy Spirit. Our parish faithful have been generous in their support of the parish and in investing their time and talents to the fellowship activities and fund-raising events. We have not been discouraged or diminished our prayer life by current social events.

The strength of our parish lies not only in our ability to offer worldly treasure, but also in our ability to do things for people in need. Our effective grass roots structure of prayer is motivated by the Christian principles of charity, unity and fraternity. Our deep personal sharing in the needs and suffering of others becomes a sharing of our very self with them. We give to others not only something which is our very own, but our very selves because we believe we must be personally present in our gift.

The Church is God's family in the world. This family cannot stand idly by while its neighbors suffer. Although this may not be a time in which many can make dramatic increases in cash contributions, we can all afford to give something extra, our time and our talents which is to say, to give something extra of ourselves in prayerful devotion. Throughout our history as a parish, we have faced many challenges and have responded with determination and creativity. May it always be so!