

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

Email: tyrgjn@outlook.com

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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Minersville, PA 544-5111

Mark J. Mahal – Funeral Director

Facing Death with Us

There is a legend about a tribe of people who, many years ago, had the custom of offering one of their maidens in sacrifice. When the appointed time arrived, the young girl was placed in a boat and allowed to drift over the falls to her death below. The chief of the tribe was a good man who loved his family very much. He was very saddened when his daughter was chosen to be the next sacrifice. When the day for the sacrifice arrived, the chief was not to be found. Nevertheless, the tribesmen put the chief's daughter in a boat, and set her adrift on the river towards the raging falls.

As the girl floated down the river, she passed the spot where her father secretly waited in his own boat. He paddled quickly

and brought his boat next to hers. When he was close enough, he grasped her hand and pulled her close to him. Then, they both went down the falls together!

It is interesting that the legend does not say that the father rescued the girl. Instead, he gave up his own life so that she should not have to face death alone. The same is true with our Lord, Jesus Christ. He does not take away the reality of death from us. Instead, by His crucifixion and resurrection, He makes death powerless! By His death, Christ has conquered death. Christ is with us at the time of our own death and leads us to eternal life. This is the great victory of the Cross – which we gloriously exalt today!

SUNDAY AFTER THE EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS



Icon of Saint Euphemia -- September 16th

**Sunday after the Exaltation of the Cross
Tone 8**

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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**September 19 – September 25, 2021
All Divine Services are livestreamed where noted**

- Saturday Vigil Divine Liturgy (at SS Peter & Paul)
4:00 p.m. + **Mary Marencin** req. by Julia Legaze
- Sunday
8:00 a.m. **John Malusky** req. by MM John Konapelsky (at St. Mary)
10:00 am **Health and Blessing of the Parishioners** (at SS. Peter & Paul)
Livestreamed
- Monday
8:00 a.m. **No Divine Liturgy Today**
- Tuesday
8:00 a.m. +**Jeanette Lohin** req. by George & Ellen Sinkovich
- Wednesday
8:00 a.m. +**John Kostura** req. by Gail Burgess
- Thursday
8:00 a.m. + **Anna Lutz** req. by Mrs. Anna Shomper & Family
- Friday
8:00 a.m. + **Mary Whalen** req. by sister, Alice
- Saturday **Vigil Divine Liturgy** (at SS. Peter & Paul)
4:00 p.m. +**Michael Sinko** req. by Regina Sinko

Epistle Readers: 9/18 – Dolores Kramer; 9/19 – Anna Keer; 9/25 – Marie Wanchick; 9/26 – Ellen Sinkovich; 10/1 – Beverly Kostishak.

On Fridays the church is open from 12 noon until 3:00 p.m., the time that Jesus Christ hung upon the Cross in reparation for the sins of humanity, giving us the opportunity to pray privately for the courage and strength to follow in His footsteps in our daily lives.

The Mystery of Forgiveness (Confession) is also 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

Our **Eastern Christian Formation School of Religion** will begin this month. Parents interested in registering their children for the ECF program are encouraged to do so calling our ECF Coordinator, Mr. Charles Keer at 570-988-6289 by Sunday, September 12.

Parish Breakfast: On Sunday, October 10th we will be serving breakfast to our parishioners following the Divine Liturgy. There is no cost, but is open only to current parishioners as a thank you for your continued support of the parish. It will be the first event since the pandemic.

Kindly fill out the registration form at the bottom of this page and return it by October 3 so adequate preparations may be made.

Nativity High School is having a Yard Sale September 25 at the high school from 8:00 am until 12:00 pm.

Parish Breakfast Reservation: Deadline to register: October 3, 2021

Name

Number Attending

Did You Know That ...

...God develops the fruit of the Spirit by allowing you to experience circumstances in which you are tempted to express the exact opposite quality?

...we think temptation lies around us, but our God teaches us it is within us?

...temptation is a sign that satan hates you, not a sign of weakness or worldliness?

...the battle for sin is won or lost in your mind; whatever gets your attention will get you?

...the truth is whatever you cannot talk about is already out of control in your life?

...while we worry about how fast we grow, God is concerned about how strong we grow?

...there is no growth without change and no change without fear or loss and loss without pain?

...God is never in a hurry, but He is always on time?

...if I have no desire to serve the needs of others, I must question whether Christ is really in my life?

...spiritual maturity is never an end in itself; we grow up in order to give out?

...God never wastes anything?

...an unopened gift is worthless?

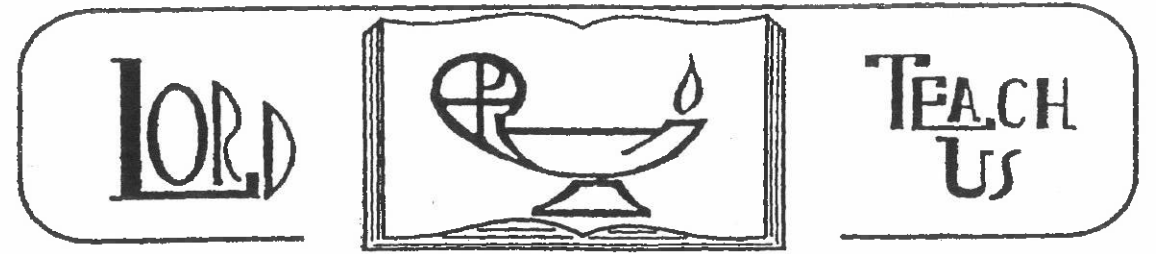
...when you are doing what you love to do, no one has to motivate you?

...what you are able to do, is what God wants you to do?

...it feels good to do what God made you to do?

...for God to use your painful experiences you must be willing to share them?

...you will never know what you are good at until you try?



God Is A Spirit

See, I go forward, but he is not there; and back, but I do not see him; I am looking for him on the left hand, but there is no sign of him, and turning to the right, I am not able to see him Job 23: 8, 9.

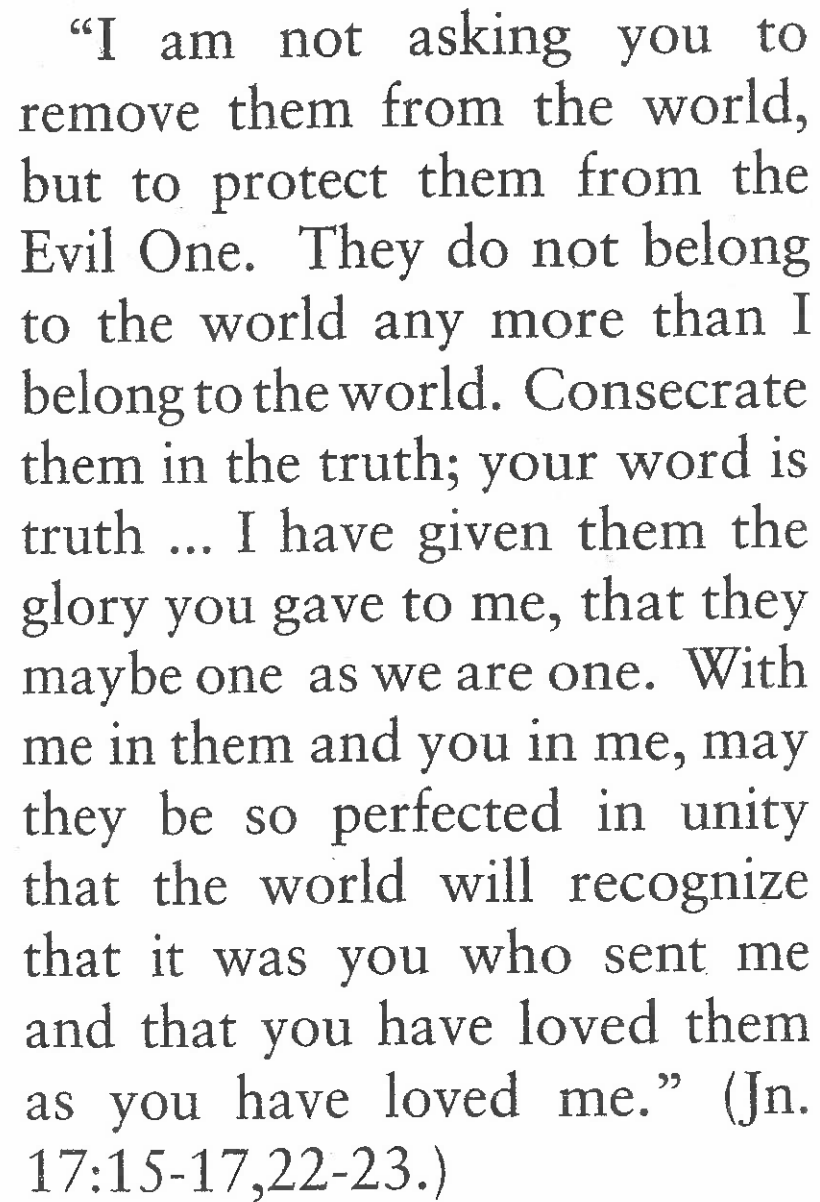
No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known John 1: 18.

By faith, by believing God, we know that the world and the stars, in fact, all things, were made at God's command; and that they were all made from things that cannot be seen Hebrews 11: 3.

By faith, Moses, when he became of age, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter, choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God than to enjoy the passing pleasures of sin, esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt; for he looked to the reward. By faith he forsook Egypt, not fearing the wrath of the king, for he endured in seeking Him who is invisible Hebrews 11: 24 - 27.

So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen. For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal 2 Corinthians 4: 18.

Yet the time is coming ...when authentic worshippers will worship the Father in Spirit and truth...God is Spirit and those who worship him must worship in spirit and in truth John 4: 23, 24.



“I am not asking you to remove them from the world, but to protect them from the Evil One. They do not belong to the world any more than I belong to the world. Consecrate them in the truth; your word is truth ... I have given them the glory you gave to me, that they maybe one as we are one. With me in them and you in me, may they be so perfected in unity that the world will recognize that it was you who sent me and that you have loved them as you have loved me.” (Jn. 17:15-17,22-23.)

Romans 14: 17. At the same time the Church is an effective sign and instrument in accomplishing God's work of "...delivering mankind from the powers of darkness" and transferring the human family to "...the kingdom of his beloved Son" Colossians 1: 13. Thus we speak of the Church as the universal sacramental mystery of salvation in the sense her spiritual dimension can only be understood through faith.

Today it has become somewhat common to separate the institutional Church from its only dimension in the spirit. We like to talk about secular and spiritual, worldly and eternal, man-made ordinances and divine mandates. In other words, the day-to-day visible life of the Church is sometimes said to have little to do with her real mission. Such who think in this way err seriously because there is but one Church comprised of human and divine elements. However, the human elements have been sanctified, elevated and made holy and acceptable in the sight of God our Father. The visible is a sign of the invisible, the human is the mirroring of the divine.

We see the significance of the Church as the living sign and instrument of God's kingdom when we reflect on Church as people of God. While we are each rightly concerned for our individual salvation, we are not saved "in isolation or separation" but rather as a part of God's people. The Church as the people of God has for its origin God the Father, for its head Jesus Christ and for its hallmark the dignity and freedom inspired in our hearts and souls by the Holy Spirit to be children of God. The law of the Church is the new commandment of love; for its mission is to be salt of the earth and the light of the world while its destiny is to be the kingdom of God already begun hereon earth.

As baptized communicants of this people we come to share in Christ's role as priest, prophet and king. We participate in the priestly, prophetic and kingly office of Christ by offering ourselves, body and soul, in spiritual sacrifice to our heavenly Father, by bearing witness to our faith before the world and by serving the needs of others.

The principal image of the Church in the inspired writings of St. Paul is the "Body of Christ," which describes the solidarity of the varied communicants of the Church, through whom Christ acts. Just as the human body has many varied members with different functions, so it is with Christ and his Body, the Church. Each communicant is to contribute to the life of the Church according to his or her vocation and out of concern for the common good. Just as the fullness of divinity is found in Christ, the head of his Body, so too are its communicants filled with divine life. Christ's spirit is the animating principle of the Church. Indeed, so close is the union of head and members in the Church that it can be said

they form the whole Christ. Head and communicants form, as it were, one and the same mystical being, the Body of Christ, the Church..

Another beautiful image of the Church is “the Bride of Christ”, found principally in the writings of St. Paul but also in the gospels (Mark 2: 19). This image draws on an Old Testament passage that speaks of the Lord’s spousal love for his people, Israel. In the Ephesian epistle (5: 22), St. Paul uses the relationship of husband and wife to show how deeply Christ loves the Church to whom He has joined himself in an everlasting unbreakable covenant. His purifying and life-giving love has made the Church the mother of God’s children.

Another significant image to be considered is the Church as temple of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit dwells and subsists in the Church as her animating principle or “soul.” Thanks to the presence of the Holy Spirit who raised Jesus from the dead, the Church grows as place of faith, worship; and service constructed of living stones of which Christ is the cornerstone. It is built up by preaching the Word of God, by living the sacramental Mysteries, by glorifying the Holy Trinity on Sundays and holydays, by virtues and charisms, special gifts of the Holy Spirit bestowed on individuals for the good of others.

Every faithful believer gives thanks for the Church as a people brought into unity from the unity of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, according to the thinking of St. Cyprian of Carthage. The Lord always blesses the Church and her communicants!

THE TEN PLAGUES

The Old Testament speaks of ten plagues that would befall Egypt if the Pharaoh did not release the Jewish people from slavery. They are:

- | | |
|-------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. Blood | 6. Boils |
| 2. Frogs | 7. Hail |
| 3. Lice or gnats | 8. Locusts |
| 4. Flies | 9. Darkness |
| 5. Cattle disease | 10. Death of the firstborn |

Afraid to Fail”

The harvest is great but the laborers are few

Luke 10: 2

Things have not changed much in two thousand years. Jesus observed in his day what a thoughtful Christian follower observes in ours: “The harvest is great.”

Stroll through any bookstore and you can see shelves of books on “new age” and “spirituality.” But what is now called “new age” is merely a contemporary age-old desire to make some sense out of life. Citizens of our time try to satisfy their thirst for significance by drinking too much, eating too much, watching too much television. What they are longing for is the security of Jesus Christ. And since Byzantine Catholics are not providing them an alluring example, they look everywhere else for fulfillment.

The great Catholic theologian, Augustine, took the pulse of his time and ours when he observed, “O Lord, You have made us for yourself and our heart is restless until it finds its rest in you.”

The harvest has never been greater, but our Lord rightly noted, “...the laborers are few.” Why are there not enough workers to gather in the crop? There certainly are enough professing Christians to make at least a dent in the harvest! Truth is, we do not want to be harvesters. We watch at the sidelines as the harvest is allowed to be lost. Is it a fear that we may fail? Are we afraid that people will reject us and our message? Will we feel inferior when we do not succeed?

Fear cannot be allowed to stop us. We must go out into the “field” of our family, neighbors and friends, even among our fellow workers and acquaintances. Are our parents and children actual believers? What about a wayward husband or wife? If you like their company here on earth, can you be assured of it for eternity? Are we providing them with an example that will draw them to Christ? Are we where we belong on Sundays and holydays? Are your grandchildren devoted Byzantine Catholics? It is true you cannot control the response, but you can still preach the message.

We must go with the power the Lord eagerly provides and led by the Holy Spirit each day, we do not even consider failure a result of the mission He sends us into since if faith in Christ is worth having, it certainly is worth sharing!

I Believe in the Church

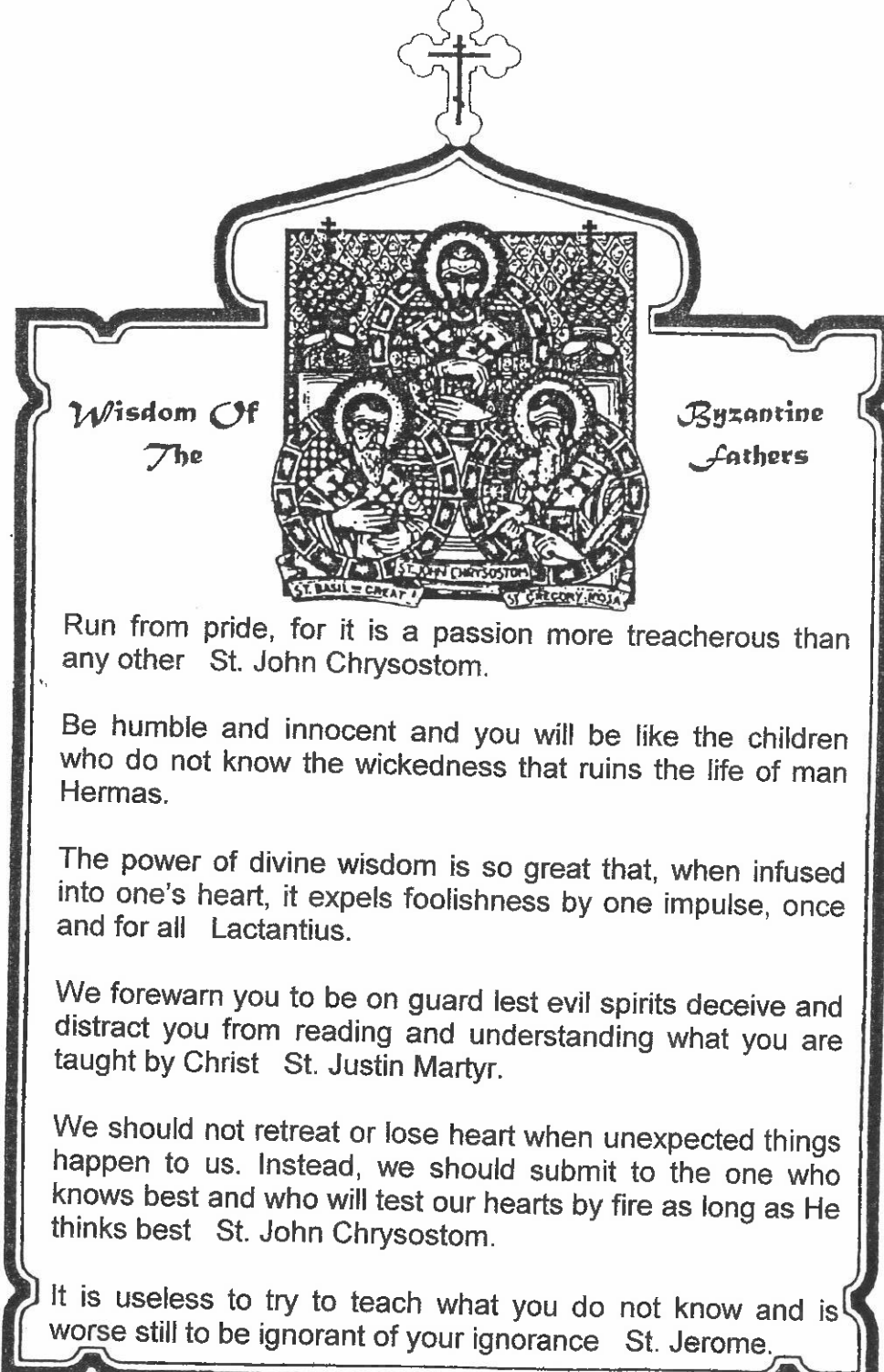
The Church, the Body of Christ is a sign of the kingdom of God on earth. On Pentecost, the Holy Spirit overshadowed the Apostles and the Church's mission began in earnest. Henceforth, Christ lives and acts in and with his Church, especially through the preaching of the Word of God and celebration of the divine mysteries. The Church will come to fulfillment when, at the end of time, she is gathered in exultant glory around the throne of the Triune God.

In the New Testament, the Greek word for church, *ekklesia*, is used 114 times, 65 times by St. Paul alone. This word refers to the people whom God calls together from every part of the world. To be sure, it is more than a group of like-minded people gathered together to support a cause. Rather, it is an assembly of faith and worship made up of those who through faith made possible by baptism have become children of God, members of Christ, temples of the Holy Spirit. As members of Christ, we are to glorify God by living our vocation faithfully and robustly for the common good.


There are many beautiful images of the Church found in the New Testament that have their roots in the Old Covenant and that attained fulfillment in Christ. These images fit together and highlight particular facets of the mystery of the Church.

Jesus summarizes the mission of the Church entrusted to the Apostles in these words, "Go, therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you" Matthew 28: 19, 20. In preaching the Word and baptizing, the Church seeks to spread the kingdom of God among all nations on earth. The kingdom for which we pray daily in reciting the Our Father is a kingdom of truth and like a kingdom of holiness and grace, a kingdom of justice, love and peace.

The Church, however, does not only point to the kingdom of God, rather the Church is the kingdom of God already. Her mission is to engender the kingdom of God within each of us so that we may live in "...righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit"



*Wisdom Of
The*



*Byzantine
Fathers*

Run from pride, for it is a passion more treacherous than any other St. John Chrysostom.

Be humble and innocent and you will be like the children who do not know the wickedness that ruins the life of man Hermas.

The power of divine wisdom is so great that, when infused into one's heart, it expels foolishness by one impulse, once and for all Lactantius.

We forewarn you to be on guard lest evil spirits deceive and distract you from reading and understanding what you are taught by Christ St. Justin Martyr.

We should not retreat or lose heart when unexpected things happen to us. Instead, we should submit to the one who knows best and who will test our hearts by fire as long as He thinks best St. John Chrysostom.

It is useless to try to teach what you do not know and is worse still to be ignorant of your ignorance St. Jerome.