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Treasury and Treasurer

Mary alone forms the boundary between created and uncreated nature, and no one can come to God except through her and the Mediator born of her, and none of God's gifts can be bestowed on angels or men except through her. As in the case with lamps on earth constructed of glass or some other transparent material, it is impossible to look at the light or enjoy its rays except through the lamp, so it is beyond the reach of all to look upwards to God or be helped by Him to make progress in any direction, except through the Ever-Virgin, this God-bearing lamp who is truly radiant with divine brightness. "God is in the midst of her," it says, "she shall not be moved" (Ps 46: 5).

If God requites us according to the measure of our love for Him, and he who loves the Son is loved by Him and by His Father, and becomes in a mysterious way the dwelling of Both, as they make their home and walk in his soul, as the Lord promised (Jn 14: 23; cf. 2 Cor 6: 16), who could love Him more than His Mother? For not only was He her only Son, but she bore Him on her own without a spouse, so her parental love was naturally double, not being shared with a partner.

Thus she is both the treasury and the treasurer of the riches of the Godhead, and the highest ranks of Cherubim look to her and trust in her. They, above all others, are seized with longing for her, as, more than all others, they long for the outpouring of light and the granting of indescribable divine graces which come through her.

St. Gregory Palamas

Fifteenth Sunday After Pentecost

Icon of the Nativity of the Theotokos, the Mother of God -- September 8th

1SS. Peter & Paul Byzantine Catholic Church
107 South Fourth Stret
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 37
He is and will be!

15th Sunday after Pentecost
Tone 6

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.

September 6 – September 12, AD2026

Vigil of Sunday		
Saturday	4:00 p.m.	+**Rev. Francis T. Gera** req. by The Estate*
Sunday	9:00 a.m.	**Health and Blessings of the Parishioners**
		Birth of the Theotokos
Tuesday	9:00 a.m.	**Private Intention***
Wednesday	7:30 a.m.	**Private Intention***
Thursday	7:30 a.m.	**Private Intention***
Friday	7:30 a.m.	+**Mary Kovich** req. by Marie Wanchick*
Saturday	4:00 p.m.	+**Rev. Francis T. Gera** req. by The Estate*

*St. Mary
*SS Peter & Paul

Epistle Readers: 9/6 – Ellen Sinkovich; 9/8 – Dolores Kramer; 9/13 – Paulette Murphy; 9/14 – Marie Wanchick; 9/20 – Laura Mitchell; 9/27 – Jennifer Keer; 10/1 – Gail Burgess.

Candle Offering: The candles are burning in front of the Icons of Christ and the Theotokos and on the Sacramental Table in memory of **Frank and Anne Honyara** offered by Kevin Maccarone.

Pastoral Note: The Nicean-Constantinopalitan Creed used in the Divine Liturgy is recited for a reason, viz., so that you profess your faith audibly. So few people are accustomed to singing, or at least willing to sing, that reciting the Creed was instituted in our parish, that everyone could participate. This means the roof should be raised in hearing everyone proclaim the Faith as enunciated in the Creed. Last Sunday I detected a "little voice" proclaiming the Creed and I was delighted to hear it! Will there be a repeat? I hope so.

Synodal Group: We will meet on Sunday, September 13 immediately after the Divine Liturgy.

Pilgrimage to St. Therese at Annunciation Monastery, Sugarloaf, PA on Saturday, September 26 beginning at 8:00 a.m. and concluding with a Hierarchical Divine Liturgy at 11:00 a.m.

Bible Study: Sunday, October 4 following the Divine Liturgy.

Breakfast With Father: Sunday, October 11 following Divine Liturgy.

Please excuse our mess while we improve our restrooms. At present the men's room cannot be used, so be sure to check the ladies' room to be sure it is vacant. And men, be sure not to make a mess!

Did You Know That ...

...love has uncounted miracles in store for us if we become one with it?

...we should do to others what you would have others do to you?

...if we ask the animals of the land, the birds of the air and fish of the sea; they will tell you, 'Let God teach you'?

...a fire rises at the bottom, becoming a burning bush, reminding us we are on holy ground?

...communicants of the Church are bound together into one sacred community of faith?

...we live to be a blessing to others?

...we are put on earth as little beams of light that we might learn to bear beams of love?

...a myriad of faith experiences weave the authentic fabric of our lives celebrating wonderment, joy and exaltation?

...hope can and will come from the least expected quarters, whether in the secret corners of our own hearts, or those of others?

...compassion seems to be powerful element in the soul?

...we live and work to bring all people into union with our heavenly Father and with one another?

...when caught in the grip of fear, like St. Joseph, we come to rely on the Presence that says 'Do not be afraid'?

...as we celebrate the gift of life, may we all have quiet moments to listen to the voice of our heavenly Father?

...often should we recall the people, places and things that have touched our life and give thanks for them?

...we should often feel grateful for the special friends we have?

...all creation shouts for joy as we celebrate the goodness of soul in people around us?

Persecution of Jesus

Though I am mocked and cursed and shamed for your sake. Even my own brothers pretend they do not know me! My zeal for God and his work burns hot within me. And because I advocate your cause, your enemies insult me even as they insult you. Their contempt has broken my heart; my spirit is heavy within me. If even one would show some pity, if even one would comfort me! For food they give me poison; for my awful thirst they offered me vinegar. For they persecute the one you have smitten and scoff at the pain of the one you have pierced **Psalms 69: 7- 9, 20, 21; 1: 21.**

I am a symbol of failure to all mankind; when they see me they shake their heads **Psalms 109: 25.**

The Lord, the Redeemer and Holy One of Israel says to the one who is despised, rejected by mankind and kept beneath the heal of earthly rulers: Kings shall stand at attention when you pass by, princes shall bow low because the Lord has chosen you; he, the faithful Lord, the Holy One of Israel, chooses you **Isaiah 49: 7.**

They shall see my Servant beaten and bloodied, so disfigured one would scarcely know it was a person standing there **Isaiah 52: 14.**

With a rod they shall strike the Judge of Israel on the face **Micah 5: 1.**

After they were gone, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream. "Get up and flee to Egypt with the baby and his mother," the angel said, "and stay there until I tell you to return for King Herod is going to try to kill the child" **Matthew 2: 13.**

Then the Pharisees called a meeting to plot Jesus' death. But when the Pharisees heard about the miracle, they said, "He can cast out demons because he is satan, king of the devils" **Matthew 12: 14; Mark 3: 32.**

The Pretender

Hence, declare your sins to one another and pray for one another that you may find healing
James 5: 16.

When a night club waitress in Ohio asked to see a customer's driver's license, she was shocked when she saw the photo on the ID. It was that of a fellow worker! That waitress had lost her driver's license about a month earlier and this young woman was using it so she would have "proof" she was old enough to drink alcohol. The police were called, and the customer was arrested for identity theft. Trying to gain what she wanted, she pretended to be someone she wasn't, although there was a striking resemblance.

Jacob in the Old Testament did some pretending too. With his mother Rebekah's help, he fooled his dying father into believing he was his brother Esau so he could gain the blessing meant for the older son as we read in the 27th chapter of he first book of the Bible, Genesis. Jacob did get caught after his deceitful act, but it was too late for Esau to receive the coveted blessing.

Pretending does go on in many churches today. Some people put on a false front. They use ether right "Christian" words, attend church and even pray before meals. They pretend they have it all together in order to gain the approval of others. But inside they struggle with brokenness, guilt, doubt or an addiction or other persistent sin.

Our heavenly Father in his divine wisdom has placed us in a parish church, in a body of believers, under the guidance of a parish priest, a concerned spiritual father, to support one another in our pilgrimage towards heaven. There we can admit our imperfections through the sacramental Mystery of Reconciliation, there we can seek the counsel of a well-intentioned godly brother or sister in Christ, there our spiritual welfare is being guarded and guided.

Believers in Christ do not desire to hide behind sins and shortcomings and attempt to cover up failure in our challenging lives, pretending there is nothing wrong. Instead, we are grateful for the opportunity to find forgiveness and corrective strengthening grace by confessing sin and repenting. Then our God will fill our heart and soul with joyful song.

Colored Thinking

If there be any virtue and if there be any praise, think on these things
Philippians 4: 8.

A farmer relates for us an incident regarding his two-year-old son who accompanied him to the barn one day as he did some chores.

"Dad," asked the son, "what white cat is that?"

"White cat?" he thought to himself, "we don't have any white cat." When the farmer asked the son what he said, he repeated the question, "What white cat is that?"

Then he looked and saw the cat the boy was speaking of. It was the family orange cat. And the farmer for the first time noticed the beautiful line of white on the cat's even though he always noticed the orange fur and formed his opinion about the predominant color the cat was.

Often we see the "orange" in life, or even in each other instead of the "white." When it rains for a while, people grumble about rain. When the sun shines and it is warm, people grumble and wish it would cool off. When snow flies, they wish the wind would just calm down or even better, that summer would hurry up and arrive.

Grumble, grumble, grumble! What must our heavenly Father think? Instead of forming opinions on the negative side of life, we should focus on the blessings provided by our Creator. Let's look at the "white" of life instead of the "orange." It will serve us better both spiritually and physically. Those who can see the "white" can be a great encouragement to others.

Follow the example of the two-year-old son and focus on the "white" part of life. Look at the glass of water and see it half full instead of half empty!

Be careful the way you think because you are inevitably becoming what you think! You are being formed by your thoughts!