

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

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Served by: Very Reverend Gregory J. Noga, Pastor

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

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**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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Mark J. Mahal – Funeral Director

### *On the Mountain*

He led them up to the mountain that He might also reveal to them Who this Son is, and Whose Son is He. For when He asked them: Whom do men say that the Son of man is, they said to Him: some Elias, some others Jeremias, or one of the prophets. And so He led them up into a high mountain, and showed them that He was not Elias, but the God of Elias; that neither was He Jeremias, but He that had sanctified Jeremias in his mother's womb; that neither was He one of the prophets, but the Lord of the prophets, and He that had sent them.

And He showed them also that He was the Creator of heaven and earth and the Lord of the living and the dead; for He spoke to the heavens, and they sent down Elias; He made a sign to the earth and raised Moses to life again... For God the Word dwelt in the womb of the Virgin: and the fire of His Divinity consumed not the members of the virginal body; and in that

dwelling place she kept watch over him for the space of nine months. He dwelt in the womb of the Virgin, not despising our nature; and from it God came forth clothed in human flesh, that He might redeem us.

He took them up into a high mountain apart, that He might also show them the glory of His Divinity, and that He might declare Himself the Redeemer of Israel, as He had foretold by the prophets, and so that they would not be scandalized in Him when they would see Him in the Passion He had taken upon Himself; and which for our sakes He was about to suffer in His human nature. For they knew that He was man, but they knew not that He was God. They knew Him as the Son of Mary, and as a man sharing their daily life in the world. On the mountain He revealed to them that He was the Son of God, and Himself God.

*St. Ephrem the Syrian*

## NINTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST



*Icon of the Transfiguration of Our Lord -- August 6th*

Volume 2022  
Christ is among us!

Number 31  
He is and will be!

**9<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost**  
**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.

**August 7 – August 13, 2022**

**All Divine Services are livestreamed where noted**

Saturday Vigil of Sunday (at SS Peter & Paul)

4:00 p. m. + **Joseph Lohin** req. by Elaine L. Kunze

Sunday

8:00 a.m. **For the Greater Honor & Glory of God** req. by Marie Wanchick (at St. Mary)

10:00 a.m. **Health & Blessing of the Parishioners** (at SS. Peter & Paul)  
livestreamed

Tuesday

8:00 a.m. +**Mary Chaposky** req. by Marth McGowan

Wednesday

8:00 a.m. **H&B Elizabeth Davis** req. by Ron & Dolores Kramer

6:00 p.m. Akathist Hymn to the Mother of God (at SS Peter & Paul)

Thursday

8:00 a.m. +**Michael Bailey** req. by Edward Davis

Friday

8:00 a.m. +**George Sinko** req. by Anna Chesonis

6:00 p.m. **Moleben to the Theotokos** (at St. Mary)

Saturday Vigil of Sunday (at SS Peter & Paul)

4:00 p.m. +**Earl Kostura** req. by John, Helen & Julia Kruel

**Epistle Readers:** 7/9 – Marie Wanchick; 7/10 – Beverly Kostishak; 7/16 – Dolores Kramer; 7/17 – Laura Mitchell; 7/20 – Marie Wanchick; 7/23 – Judy Kostura; 7/24 – Ellen Sinkovich; 7/30 – Dolores Kramer; 7/31 – Paulette Murphy; 8/6 – Ellen Sinkovich; 8/7 – Jannifer Keer; 8/13 – Beverly Kostishack; 8/14 – Anna Keer; 8/15 – Judy Kostura; 8/21 – Gail Burgess; 8/27 – Paulette Murphy; 8/28 – Laura Mitchell; 8/29 – Marie Wanchick.. (If you cannot be present for any time, kindly contact another reader to cover for you).

**Candle Offering:** Mother of God – Peace in the World.

Monday, August 15 is a Holy Day of Obligation of the Dormition of the Theotokos. Traditionally, we bless flowers on this day. A table will be set up in front of the sacramental table (tetrapod) for this purpose.

To help prepare for this Holy Day an Akathist will be celebrated at SS Peter and Paul on Wednesday evening and a Moleben on Friday evening at St. Mary Church.

**Dormition of St. Mary Church News:**

The GCU has approved the request for the Matching Funds program from the recent Soup Sale and has awarded the full amount. The monies will be deposited in the Cemetery Account.

**9<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

*Collegetown Bible Commentary*

*14:22-33 Walking on the water* (see Mark 6:45-52; John 6: 15-21). The transitional passage in verses 22-23 situates the disciples at sea and Jesus alone in prayer on the mountain. The disciples are on their own, and they are faring badly. The boat may well be a symbol of the church (see 8:23). In the disciples' time of need, Jesus comes to rescue them and appears as the lord over the powers of nature (vv. 24-27). Into this episode Matthew has inserted the story of Peter's attempt to walk on the water and his subsequent failure on account of his little faith (vv. 28-31). Peter represents the disciples (and all Christians) in his enthusiastic love and insufficient faith. In his fright he addresses Jesus with a prayer ("Lord, save me"), and he receives a criticism of the smallness of his faith. The story climaxes with the adoring confession from the disciples that Jesus truly is the Son of God (vv. 32-33).

## Jesus Calms The Storm

In his epic novel, *Hawaii*, James Michener tells of a small tribe leaving their island home in search of peace. They sailed northward slowly, leaving behind the stars they knew and by which they navigated. As they sailed ever farther from home under unknown skies, they noticed that one star was always in the same place. They began to chart their way by that star, assured that they were not aimlessly maneuvering about but headed towards a destination. The “somewhere” to which the star led them was their new home, the island kingdom they named Hawaii.

Through all the storms of their life journey, our God safely led these ancient islanders to a ready and safe destiny. A steady, sure Light is a wonderful thing for those of us making our way over the sometimes turbulent and often mysterious seas of our own history. But all too often we are looking for that sometimes elusive star “way out there,” when the real guiding Light is right at the helm of our boat. The One who placed the stars, who knows their course, is oh-so-close and ready to lull the storm or stir up the waters a little, as our needs arise and change.

What a wonderful thought that no matter how unknown our surroundings, how uncertain the seas beneath us or the sky above, the Light of the world is right beside us to lead us, close up. There is a symbolic recurring of these miracles in contemporary life. Just as realistically as Jesus calms and stills the waters of the Sea of Galilee, He also calms and stills the storms that rage in human hearts and minds today.

An old retired priest provides example of this assertion truth. Years before his twenty one year old daughter and the lad to whom she would some day have been married were both drowned. God did not stop that accident in a huge lake storm, but He did something more important by stilling and calming the storm in this priest’s heart so that somehow he and his wife came through that terrible time still on their own two feet.

What storm rages in you and your circumstances? Take a moment to open your spirit to the miracle of God’s concerned presence, not before or after the storm but in the very midst of it.

“One day he got into a boat with his disciples and said to them, ‘Let us cross over to the far side of the lake.’ So they set out, and as they sailed, he slept. A windstorm descended on the lake and they began to ship water and be in danger. They came to awaken him, saying, ‘Master, master, we are lost!’ He awoke and rebuked the wind and the tumultuous waves. The waves subsided and it grew calm. Then he asked them, ‘Where is your faith?’” Luke 8: 22 – 25.

Place yourself mentally and spiritually in the scene. Consider what you would hear, see, feel. Imagine our Lord asking you with the disciples to “...go across to the other side.” Where is Jesus calling you to go in your life? Are you being faithful to your vocation? What is the “other side” for you? What invitation is the Lord extending you for his glory and your salvation?

Now put yourself in the boat with the disciples as they are tossed about. What worries you most? What winds and waves toss you, challenge your faith commitment and response, or threaten to sink you? Listen for Christ calling you in the middle of the night, addressing your fears. Ponder the healing, affirming sound of his voice and the promise in his presence. Let Christ still the storm that rages in you. Carry Christ’s words of assurance with you through the day.

As you pray and meditate on this entire panorama of consoling events, may the God of Scripture step into the place where you live and work and respond to your needs, guiding, comforting, inspiring, transforming you into a faithful and stalwart disciple, surrounded by others of like mind and soul. Then sing hymns of praise to his name and glory to his honor!

And as we recognize God’s hand in our past, the easier it becomes to believe that He will continue to do wonderful things for us in the future. We are inspired and encouraged by the words, “Goodness and mercy shall follow me” Psalms 23: 6. We recognize readily our heavenly Father is with us when we struggle to remain faithful in difficult situations. His mercy and goodness always sustains us. No wonder God’s revelation to us encourages us to remember and mediate on what God has done in our lives.

“I will remember the deeds of the Lord, yes, I will remember your miracles of long ago” Psalms 77: 11.

## NO RETIREMENT

*I have followed the Lord my God wholeheartedly* Joshua 14:8.

Everyone who reads about him, loves old Caleb. Who wouldn't? He may have been 85 years old, but he was not ready to retire from following and serving the Lord wholeheartedly. If that meant continuing to conquer the land for the Lord, he was prepared to go forward in faith and obedience.

When Caleb was forty years old, he returned from a spying tour of Canaan. And Canaan was a land of giants and fortified cities. But Caleb was a faithful believer in the God of Israel who certainly was bigger than any of the giants Caleb viewed. He saw a great God and little giants. The other spies saw great giants because they had only little gods. So Caleb's God promised him an inheritance in the Promised Land. Caleb was an example to everyone when he was still young and he was an avid example of courageous faith when the people finally entered the Promised Land.

Forty five years after proclaiming his unwavering faith in God, Caleb claimed for himself the hill country with its giants and walled cities. He had followed the Lord all his life without reservation and he was not ready to retire particularly since he enjoyed good health. So God, through Joshua, honored Caleb's claim of faith and sent him out to battle at the astounding age of 85. Even then he was willing to serve the Lord in this extraordinary way. He would never give up the pleasure and privilege of serving the Lord.

It is still true there is no retirement from serving the Lord God. If good health prevails, every priest and deacon should remain at the altar. How sad when people leave their earthly jobs and are freed to spend more time in worship, they fail to do so. If there is devotion in the heart and soul, there ought to be a place for devotion to express itself faithfully. There is no retirement from a life of faith response and obedience and no retirement from fighting against the spiritual host of wickedness "Finally, draw your strength from the Lord and his mighty power...Our battle is not against human forces but against the principalities and powers, the rulers of the world of darkness, the evil spirits in regions above" Ephesians 6: 10, 12.

