

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: tvrgjn@outlook.com

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: SS. Peter & Paul: Sunday One half hour prior to Divine Liturgy and Daily
prior to Divine Liturgy

St. Mary's: Saturday 3:00 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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Invited to the Banquet
Bulletins are sponsored by

Mahal-Ritzel Funeral Home
Minersville, PA 544-5111
Mark J. Mahal - Funeral Director

It is written in the Gospel: The Master sent out his servants to call them who wish to come, inviting them: "My banquet is ready." But those who were called began to excuse themselves, one saying: "I bought some yoke of oxen." Another: "I have married" (Luke 14:16ff). You see, he was ready who called, but the invited refused. They themselves were alone responsible in the way they answered.

Thus, so great is the dignity of Christians. Consider, the Lord has prepared for them the Kingdom and has called them to enter, but they have refused.

Concerning the gift that Christians will receive by way of their inheritance, one could rightly say that if anyone, from the time of Adam's creation to the end of the world, should battle against Satan and put up with afflictions, it would be nothing in comparison to the glory which he is to obtain. For he will reign forever together with Christ. Glory to Him who so loved such a person that He gave himself and His grace and entrusted himself to Him. Glory to His greatness!

Pseudo-Macarius

SUNDAY OF THE FOREFATHERS



Icon of the Great Banquet (Luke 14:16-24)

Volume 2022
Christ is among us!

Number 50
He is and will be!

**Sunday of the Forefathers
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.

December 11 – December 17, 2022

Saturday Vigil (at St. Mary)

4:00 p.m. + **Frank & +Anne Honyara** req. by Kevin Maccarone

Sunday

10:00 a.m. **Health & Blessing of the Parish Families of SS. Peter & Paul and Saint Mary**
(Livestreamed)

Tuesday

8:00 a.m. +**John & +Eva Bailey** req. by Marie Wanchick

Wednesday

8:00 a.m. +**John Lohin** req. by Elaine L. Kunze

Thursday

8:00 a.m. +**Jeanette Lohin** req. by Joseph & Cheryl Gera

Friday

8:00 a.m. +**George Konkus** req. by MM William Parker

Saturday Vigil (at St. Mary)

4:00 p.m. +**Mary Frantz** req. by Rosaline Frantz

Epistle Readers: 12/4 – Madeline Dinich; 12/6 – Marie Wanchick; 12/8 - Paulette Murphy; 12/11 – Jennifer Keer; 12/18 – Laura Mitchell; 12/25 – Beverly Kostishak.

Eastern Christian Formation: today, Sunday, December 11, in place of the annual breakfast St. Nicholas will visit the Children in the rectory following the Sunday Divine Liturgy.

Food for the Poor collection must continue especially during these difficult economic times. Mr. Ed Butler is requesting help at the Minersville Food Bank in our school building on Friday, December 16th.

Schedule for the Great Feast of the Nativity of Jesus Christ

Due to the Holy Day commemorating the Nativity of Jesus Christ falling on Sunday the usual Sunday Liturgy Schedule will be observed.

Saturday, December 24 4:00 p.m. at St. Mary

Sunday, December 25 9:00 a.m. at SS Peter and Paul

This allows for flexibility in meeting your celebrating Sunday and Holy Day precepts especially with the close proximity of our two parishes, (six miles port to port).

Candle Request: Mother of God, Jesus Christ and the Sacramental Table: **Health and Blessings for the Parishioners.**

A note from Father: Kindly vote on the following and return the ballot **Next Sunday**.

_____ I prefer to have the Sunday Divine Liturgy at 10:00 a.m. year-round.

_____ I prefer to have the Sunday Divine Liturgy at 9:00 a.m. year-round.

_____ I prefer to have the Sunday Divine Liturgy at 10:00 a.m. for the winter months

Please bring this ballot with you next Sunday and drop in the collection basket at the back of the Nave. This will be the only vote taken.

Whichever selection garners the most votes will be implemented after the first of the year.

HE LEFT THE WORLD RICHER

In tribute to faithful priests of Christ

Like Abraham, he went where he was called and was faithful in all things.

Like Moses, he led the people of God from doubts and fears to confidence for success in the face of many difficulties.

Like Joshua, he loved his country and fought and suffered for its success.

Like Jonathan, he met many a discouraged brother and cheered him by imparting strength from God.

Liked David, he sang the Church to victory and shouted on the battle of blessed triumph.

Like Isaiah, he constantly pointed the Church to higher and brighter days and better things in the future.

Like Jeremiah, he loved the beauty of God's house and so labored to make it reality for God's glory.

Like Daniel, he was true through life to the teachings of his boyhood days.

Like Malachi, he believed in bringing all the tithes into the Lord's storehouse.

Like St. John the Baptist, he delighted to cry to the multitudes: "Behold the Lamb of God."

Like St. John the Theologian, he believed with all his soul that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.

Like St. Peter, he honored the Holy Spirit by teaching the doctrine of the operation of the Divine Spirit in the souls of men.

Like St. Paul, he rejoiced that Jesus died for all men and he did his best to let the world know this blessed truth with pen, song and sermon. He pleaded to send gospel freedom to all.

Like Jesus, the Divine Master, whom he followed daily, "he went about doing good."

Like Enoch, "he walked with God, and he was no more, for God took him." A blessed and consecrated Christian priest, he was true to his God, his country, His Church, and his fellow man. He sought to inspire others to share his enthusiasm and worked to the very last moment of his busy life for the interest of the unsaved world.

The world is richer because he lived, worked and died in the faith of our Lord Jesus Christ. When he went to his eternal reward, there is only one place he could go. Let us pray for his soul today he already has a pretaste of heaven as it seems we hear him sing, "Worthy the Lamb of God who was slain for us."

The False Self

Out of the depths I cry to you O Lord; Lord hear my voice
Psalms 130: 1.

The core of our being is drawn like stone to the quiet depths of each moment where our heavenly Father, our Lord God waits for us with eternal longing. The opening hymnology of our Vesper service reminds us of our proper disposition at the end of each day. As darkness of night approaches, the poetic mind of the Church calls us to observe the joy of Christ's bright light, the eagerness to remain faithful to our Christian vocation in all circumstances and conditions. Even sleep should not separate us or take us away from the worship of our God. The Lord hears our introspective singing voice but we do not seem to seriously seize on enough grace to be enveloped by the warmth of God's love. To those depths the false self will not let us travel.

Like stones skipped across the surface of the water we are kept skimming along the peripheral, one-dimensional fringes of life. To sink is to vanish, we think. But to sink into the unknown depths of God's call to union with himself is to lose all that the false self knows and cherishes. We are familiar with it because we exist in it. We like it because it does not challenge us.

The false self does not face or even acknowledge the darkness within us, but we become preoccupied with the self-perceived, but incorrect character instead of being enveloped by the glory and grace of our God. To the contrary, being enveloped by our Creator is misunderstood as the darkness of God but in reality is proclaimed to be the brightest of lights. The false self, like a ruling despot, demands unquestioning obedience and man too readily submits.

We think that everything must be kept moving in an endless cult of domination and exploitation. We think it is better for us to introduce our values in darkness to the place we occupy in the world than being liberated and freed from our limitation in sin by Christ's graceful light. We prefer the so-called security of a palace of nowhere than even dungeon space in the security of heaven's delight.

We are called upon to see the nets of slavery that entangle us from head to foot. After each day's experiences, we seek seriousness and sincerity to call upon the Lord to free us.

of the Apostles 13, 14). Both of them attended the subsequent council of the Apostles in Jerusalem (Acts of the Apostles 15: 1 – 29).

On their first joint missionary journey, they were accompanied by Mark, the nephew of Barnabas. Barnabas was mistaken for Jupiter and Paul for Mercury, which gives an idea of the charismatic and compelling personalities of both men. In the gospel of St. Luke, it is clear that Barnabas was regarded as a figure who was as important as Paul. They later traveled and taught in Seleucia, Iconium and Derbe.

Fear on the part of the Jewish people that Christian messianism, particularly as preached to the Gentiles, threatened their own cultural heritage caused them to be suspicious of Paul's gospel. The inability of Christian missionaries to allay this apprehension inevitably created a situation wherein the gospel was preached more and more to the Gentiles. Toward the end of Paul's career and that of Barnabas, the Christian communities with the exception of those in Palestine itself, were mainly of Gentile membership.

When the second missionary journey was being planned, Barnabas wanted to take his nephew Mark again, even though Mark deserted them during the first journey. Paul would not hear of it. And the two men parted company. Barnabas went with Mark to Cyprus and Paul to Syria. He is considered the founder of the Cypriot Church. After that, Barnabas is not mentioned again in the documents. It is believed he met his end as a martyr at Salamis. It is odd that such a prominent and significant figure should disappear without a trace.

It is thought he died in 61 at Salamis, the victim of stoning. It has been recorded he was holding a copy of the Gospel of St. Matthew which he made by hand. He was known to the Corinthian Christians as St. Paul refers to and mentions him, "Is it only myself and Barnabas who are forced to work for a living?" 1 Corinthians 9: 6. It is witnessed he is reconciled with Paul in the Corinthian epistle. He is hailed as a peacemaker and used as intercessor in circumstances of hailstorms. He is patron of Antioch and Cyprus. His piety is mentioned "...He encouraged them all to remain firm in their commitment to the Lord, since he himself was a good man filled with Holy Spirit and faith" Acts of the Apostles 11: 24. His devotion to the Lord is brought to our attention by St. Luke, "...our beloved Barnabas and Paul, who have dedicated themselves to the cause of our Lord Jesus Christ" Acts of the Apostles 15: 26.

Following Tertullian, a few modern scholars have attributed to Barnabas authorship of the Epistle to the Hebrews. The apocryphal epistle that bears his name is certainly not the work of Barnabas; it was probably written in Alexandria about 125 AD. His feast day is celebrated on June 11.