

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

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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

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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The Lord Has Made His Salvation Known to the Whole World

The loving providence of God determined that in the last days He would aid the world, set on its course to destruction. He decreed that all nations should be saved in Christ. A promise had been made to the holy patriarch Abraham in regard to these nations. He was to have a countless progeny, born not from his body but from the seed of faith.

In the persons of the Magi let all people adore the Creator of the universe; let God be known, not in Judea only, but in the whole world. ... As Isaiah prophesied: the people of the Gentiles, who sat in darkness, have seen a great light, and for those who dwelt in the region of the shadow of death a light has dawned. He spoke of them to the Lord: The Gentiles, who do not know you, will invoke you, and the peoples, who knew you not, will take refuge in you. ...

This came to be fulfilled, as we know, from the time when the star beckoned the three wise men out of their distant country and led them to recognize and adore the King of heaven and earth. The obedience of the star calls us to imitate its humble service: to be servants, as best we can, of the grace that invites all men to find Christ.

Dear friends, you must have the same zeal to be of help to one another; then, in the kingdom of God, to which faith and good works are the way, you will shine as children of the light: through our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with God the Father and the Holy Spirit for ever and ever. Amen.

St. Leo the Great

SUNDAY AFTER THE NATIVITY JOSEPH THE BETROTHED, DAVID THE KING, JAMES THE BROTHER



Icon of the Visit of the Magi

Sunday after Nativity
Tone 6

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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December 26, 2021 – January 1, 2022
All Divine Services are livestreamed where noted

Sunday

8:00 a.m. +**Michael Kovich** req. by Joann Fazenza (at St. Mary)
10:00 am **Health and Blessing of the Parishioners** (at SS. Peter & Paul)
Livestreamed

Monday

9:00 a.m. +**Lewis R. Tokarick, Sr.** req. by Bruce Tokarisck

Wednesday

8:00 a.m. **No Divine Liturgy**

Thursday

8:00 a.m. **No Divine Liturgy**

Friday **Vigil of the Circumcision of Jesus** (at St. Mary)

4:00 p.m. +**Veronica Steranko** req. by Kathleen Kelly

Saturday **Circumcision of Jesus** (at SS Peter & Paul)

9:00 a.m. **H&B Parishioners**

4:00 p.m. Vigil of Sunday (at SS Peter & Paul)

H&B Anna Leshko req. by The Leshko Family

Epistle Readers: 12/26 – Ellen Sinkovich; 12/27 – Marie Wanchick; 1/1 a.m. – Dolores Kramer; 1/1 p.m. – Laura Mitchell; 1/2 – Gail Burgess; 1/6 – Marie Wanchick; 1/8 – Beverly Kostishak; 1/9 – Jennifer Keer; 1/15 – Laura Mitchell; 1/16 – Gail Burgess; 1/22 – Dolores Kramer; 1/23 – Ellen Sinkovich; 1/29 – Marie Wanchick; 1/30 – Beverly Kostishak.

Candles in front of the Icons and on the Sacramental Table are offered for: Miss B. offered by Anon.

The Nativity of our Lord brings to the forefront of our minds the Incarnation of Jesus Christ our Saviour, the mystery of the Word of God becoming a man as described by St. John, “And the Word became flesh, and made his dwelling among us and we saw his glory, the glory of the Father’s only Son, full of grace and truth.” (Jn. 1:14) An essential element of this mystery is the womb of Mary, the God-bearer, that is, the woman who carried God to birth in the flesh. This title of Mary, the God-bearer, or Birth-giver of God is *Theotokos* in Greek, and was translated in Old Church Slavonic as *Bohorodica*. It has always been seen as the most important title and description of the Mother of God and links her closely to the feast of Christ’s Incarnation at the Annunciation and its manifestation in the Nativity of our Lord.

Saint John Damascene explains, “It is with Justice and truth that we call holy Mary *Theotokos*. For this name embraces the whole mystery of the divine dispensation. For it is she who bore Him is Theotokos, assuredly He Who was born of her is perfect God and likewise also perfect man. The name Theotokos in truth signifies the one subsistence and the two natures and the two modes of generation of our Lord Jesus Christ” (De Fide Orthodoxa, III, 12). On the church calendar, therefore, three feasts of Mary are closely connected with the Birth of the Lord: her Entrance into the Temple on November 2321; the Conception by St. Anne on December 9, and the Synaxis of the God-bearer on the day following the Nativity, December 26.

Reminder: Every Friday from 12 Noon until 3:00 p.m. the SS Peter & Paul church is open for private prayer. The Mystery of Forgiveness is offered from 2:00 p.m. until 3:00 p.m.

Come, spend some time with our Saviour each week in addition to Sunday Worship for the many blessings He provides each day.

WISDOM! BE ATTENTIVE

Before the dawn of time, He was begotten of the Father without a mother. Now on earth He becomes a man without a father, being virgin-born from you, O Mother of God. Therefore a star announces the good news to wise men, while the angels and shepherds sing the glory of your giving birth, O woman full of grace! Kontakion, Feast of the Synaxis of the Mother of God.

O my soul, extol the Most Holy Virgin Mother of God who is more worthy of honor than the angels of heaven. O Virgin, it would be better for us to keep an awesome and reverent silence of love than to try singing songs composed with such depth of feeling; but O Mother, grant us the power to accomplish whatever is your desire Hymn Instead of It is Truly Proper, Feast of the Synaxis of the Mother of God.

O first martyr and apostle of Christ, you fought the good fight. You exposed the perversion of the persecutors, for when you were killed by stoning at the hands of wicked men you received a crown from the right hand on high, while you cried out to God, saying: "O Lord, do not charge this sin against them." Troparion, Feast of St. Stephen Protomartyr.

Yesterday the Master came to us as a man and today His servant departs from life. Yesterday the King was born as a man, and today his servant is stoned to death. For the sake of Christ, holy Stephen became the first martyr Kontakion, Feast of St. Stephen Protomartyr.

O Joseph, announce to David, ancestor of Christ, the good news of these wonders you have seen: A Virgin giving birth to a Child. With the shepherds you have glorified Him, with the Wise Men you have worshipped Him, and an angel appeared to you. Ask Christ our God, to save our souls. Troparion, Sunday after the Nativity of our Lord.

Today, David, beloved of God, is filled with joy; Joseph and James offer hymns of praise, their joy is the crown of relationship with Christ. They sing praise to Him Who was wondrously born; and they cry out: O Merciful Lord, save those who honor you." Kontakion, Sunday after the Nativity of Our Lord.

WISDOM! BE ATTENTIVE

O Jesus, enthroned on high together with Your eternal Father and divine Spirit; You condescended to be born on earth of a maiden and virgin mother. On the eighth day, You were circumcised. Praised be your most noble decision; praised be your plan of salvation; praised be Your condescension. O Lord, You alone love mankind! Troparion, Feast of the Circumcision of our Lord.

The Lord of all endures circumcision and His goodness purifies the sins of men and grants salvation to the world today. Therefore, Basil the priest and torchbearer of the Creator, the divine mystic of Christ, rejoices on high Kontakion, Feast of the Circumcision of our Lord.

The Saviour condescended and accepted for the sake of mankind to be wrapped in swaddling clothes. For His mother, He was eight days old, and for His Father, He was eternal. He did not disdain circumcision in the flesh. O you faithful, let us cry out to Him: "You are our God; have mercy on us!" Vesper Hymn, Feast of the Circumcision of our Lord.

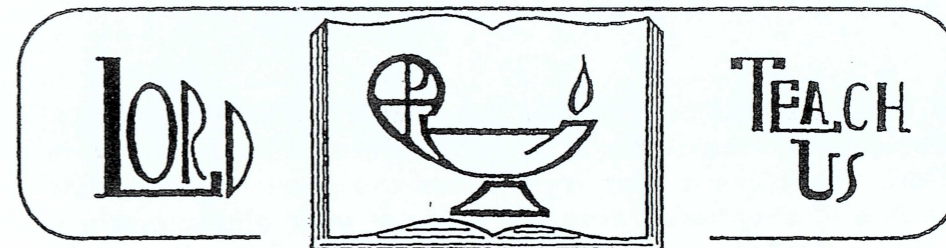
The most merciful God did not disdain circumcision. He offered Himself instead as a symbol and example of salvation to all. He made the Law, and yet submitted Himself to its commands and to what the prophets had foretold of Him. O our God Who hold all things in Your hands and yet were wrapped in swaddling clothes; O Lord, glory be to You! Vesper Hymn, Feast of the Circumcision of our Lord.

Your voice resounds throughout the world which has accepted the lessons so well taught by you. You have given explanation of divine truths, you have clarified the nature of created things, and you have made a rule of life for men. By your royal priesthood, O venerable father Basil, intercede with Christ to save our souls Troparion, Feast of St. Basil the Great.

Father Basil, you have acquired the virtues of the saints; the humility of Moses, the zeal of Elias, the faith of Peter, the divine intuition of John, and like Paul you did not cease to repeat: "Who is weak and I am not weak? Who stumbles and I do not burn?" Since you are in the company of all the saints, intercede for the salvation of our souls Vesper Hymn, Feast of St. Basil the Great.

Did You Know That ...

- ...the essence of inhumanity is to be indifferent toward your fellow human being?
- ...your future depends upon many things, but mostly on you?
- ...the most profitless thing to manufacture is an excuse?
- ...we have not passed that subtle line between childhood and adulthood until...we have stopped saying, "It got lost," and say "I lost it"?
- ...for a real quick energy boost, nothing beats having the boss walk in?
- ...without faith, nothing is possible; with it, nothing is impossible?
- ...plans are only good intentions unless they degenerate into hard work?
- ...to acquire knowledge, one must study, but to acquire wisdom, one must observe and apply what one has studied?
- ...insanity is heredity; you can easily get it from your children?
- ...you learn to love by loving, by paying attention and doing what one thereby discovers has to be done?
- ...it is a pity that things were not arranged so that an empty head, like an empty stomach, could not let us rest until we put something in it?
- ...the Christian believer is a dealer in hope?
- ...when I do good, I feel good; when I do bad, I feel badly?
- ...there is no free lunch, but there are better places to eat?
- ...a human being is most fulfilled and most successful when dedicated to a cause outside of his own individual selfish satisfaction?
- ...love builds highways out of dead ends?



Time

In prayer you call upon a Father who judges each one justly on the basis of his actions. Since this is so, conduct yourselves reverently during your sojourn in a strange land 1 Peter 1: 17.

We know that God makes all things work together for the good of those who love God and are called according to his decree Romans 8: 28.

Dismiss all anxiety from your minds. Present your needs to God in every form of prayer and in petitions full of gratitude. Then God's own peace, which is beyond all understanding will guard over your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus Philippians 4: 6, 7.

They are put to shame in an evil time; in days of famine they have plenty Psalms 37: 19.

For the needy shall not always be forgotten, nor shall the hope of the afflicted forever perish Psalms 9: 19.

"My child," replied Abraham, "remember that you were well off in your lifetime, while Lazarus was in misery. Now he has found consolation here, but you have found torment" Luke 16: 25.

But not only that - we even boast of our afflictions! We know that affliction makes for endurance, and endurance for tested virtue, and tested virtue for hope. And this hope will not leave us disappointed because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us Romans 5: 3 - 5.