

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

CONFESSIONS: Sts. Peter & Paul: Saturday 2:45-3:30 PM, Sunday 8:00-8:30 AM,

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) IMMEDIATELY.

Bulletins are sponsored by

Mahal-Ritzel Funeral Home

Minersville, PA 544-5111

Mark J. Mahal – Funeral Director

Our parish is grateful for their support – May the Lord bless their efforts!

If You Love God, You will Love your Neighbor; If You Love your Neighbor, You will Love God

Surely everyone knows that human beings are social creatures and for that reason are not made for a solitary and uncivilized life. Nothing is better suited to our nature than to have continual relationships to seek one another out and to love one's own kind. The Lord asks no more than the fruit of the seed He has implanted in us, when He says: "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another." (John 13:34) To lead us to obey this precept He does not want the badge of recognition of disciples to consist in miracles. Rather He asserts: "By this all will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another." (John 13:35) And between the commandment to love God and the commandment to love your neighbor, He has established so close a bond that He takes as done to Himself anything done to our brothers or sisters. He says: "I was thirsty and

you gave me drink." (Matt. 25:35) And He adds: "As you did it to one of the least of these my brethren, you did it to me." (Matt. 25:40) The keeping of the first commandment includes the keeping of the second, and in the fulfillment of the second the first is fulfilled. Whoever loves God loves his neighbor. The Lord says: "Anyone who loves me will keep my word" (John 14:23) and "This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you." (John 15:12) So then, whoever loves his neighbor loves God, and God reckons our unity with our brothers and sisters is unity with Him. One is reminded of Moses. He loved his brothers and sisters so much that he asked to be blotted out of the book of the living if the people did not receive forgiveness of their sins. (Exod. 32:32).

Saint Basil the Great

SUNDAY OF MEATFARE JUDGMENT SUNDAY



Icon of the Last Judgment

**Sunday of Meat Fare
Tone 3**

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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February 7 – February 13, 2021
All Divine Services are livestreamed where noted

Saturday Vigil at SS Peter & Paul

4:00 p.m. + **John Laychock** req. by John, Justine & Tara Lohin

Sunday +**John Torola** req. by Tim & Linda Koller (at St. Mary)

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

Monday

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

Tuesday

8:00 a.m. +**Steve Pereborski** req. by Mary Low

Wednesday

8:00 a.m. **Typika**

Thursday

8:00 a.m. +**John Laychock** req. by John & Anna Hudock

Friday

8:00 a.m. **Typoika**

Saturday **Saturday Vigil** (at SS Peter & Paul)

4:00 p.m. +**John Kalochie** req. by Mary Pincharski & Robert

Epistle Readers: 2/6 – Gail Burgess; 2/7 – Ellen Sinkovich; 2/13 – Marie Wanchick; 2/14 – Jennifer Keer; 2/20 – Dolores Kramer; 2/21 – Beverly Kostishak; 2/27 – Angela Frank; 2/28 – Marie Wanchick

Something to think about.

4. Honor your Father and Mother

Do I give my parents the respect they deserve or am I insolent and disrespectful? If my parents are deceased do I pray for them, offer a Divine Liturgy for them remembering they gave me life and love?

5. You shall not kill.

This commandment applies not only to the physical killing of the body, but also to the killing of another's good name and reputation. Do I gossip? Have I belittled another because I disagree with his or her opinion? Do I retaliate when I feel hurt? Do I spread rumor and innuendo to get ahead or to deter someone from getting ahead?

6. You shall not commit adultery.

Adultery is sleeping with another woman not your wife or husband when both parties are married. Fornication is when having sexual relations when both parties are unmarried. Today many people, young or older, do not think having sexual relations with a girlfriend or boyfriend is wrong, yet it is and is a grave sin. It is the sin of lust which must not be confused as love. Truly loving another person requires respecting the dignity of the individual. Treating another person as an object of satiating one's animal drive is not love; it is lust. Viewing pornography is against this commandment because the persons used to make these videos or photographs is demeaning their personhood, made in the image and likeness of God. Satisfying one's lust is shameful and degrading.

7. You shall not steal.

Appropriating things or money from another is unjust and outright sinful. Do I or have I taken something of value from my employer or relative or friend without permission? Do I "borrow" an item without ever intending to return it? When performing volunteer work at a soup kitchen, for example, and help myself to a meal without the express permission of the valid organizer because I deserve it? Nothing that belongs to another is there for my use unless specific permission is granted. It is easy to rationalize our way out of such situations.

Again, the holy season of Great Lent is soon upon us. These reflections are being offered to assist us in making a good period of repentance to enhance our celebration of Pascha.

WISDOM! BE ATTENTIVE

When You will come to earth in glory, O God, and all creatures will tremble before You, the river of fire will flow before Your judgement seat, and the books will be opened and all hidden things revealed; deliver me from the unquenchable fire and make me worthy to stand at Your right hand, O righteous Judge. Kontakion, Meatfare Sunday.

When You shall come to render just judgement, O righteous Judge, You shall sit upon Your throne of glory. A river of fire shall flow before Your judgement seat; the powers of heaven will be there with You. Filled with fear, all humanity will be judged according to their deeds. At this hour, O Christ, spare us, and because of Your great love, grant that the faithful who pray to You, may be given a place with Your chosen ones. Vesper Hymn, Meatfare Sunday.

The books will be opened and the secrets laid bare before Your awesome judgement seat; and the whole valley of tears shall resound with a dreadful sigh, when it sees sinners sent to eternal punishment by Your just judgement, and hears them weeping hopelessly. Therefore, O God of mercy, we pray to You: Spare us who sing to You, O only Good One. Vesper Hymn, Meatfare Sunday.

The trumpets shall sound and the tombs shall be opened; humanity shall come forth trembling. Those who have done good shall rejoice, as they await the reward they shall receive. Those who have done evil shall shriek in terror, as they are sent to punishment and separated from the elect. In Your goodness, spare us, O Lord of glory, and grant that we may enjoy a place with those who love You. Vesper Hymn, Meatfare Sunday.

I weep and lament when I think of the outer darkness and eternal fire, together with Hades, the worm that consumes, and the gnashing of teeth, the unceasing grief that falls upon those who have sinned without measure, and who have provoked You to anger, O God, most good. Alas, among these sinners, I am the first. But in Your great mercy, O Judge, save me. Vesper Hymn, Meatfare Sunday.

Alas! O my darkened soul, how long will you persist in sin? How long will you lie in laziness? Why do you not think of the dreadful hour of death? Do you not fear the awesome judgement seat of the Saviour? How will you defend yourself? How will you be vindicated? Your works are there to convict you, and your actions to witness against you. Moreover, time is growing short, O my soul; hasten and cry out in faith: I have sinned, O Lord, I have sinned; but I know Your love and Your mercy. O Good Shepherd, in Your goodness, do not deprive me of a place at Your right hand. Vesper Hymn, Meatfare Sunday.

Death, Then Moving On

One of the certainties of life is that not all of us can be sure what kind of life will be ours. We dream, we make plans, we have hopes and anticipations and we work for success and happiness, but as we read God's revelation to us, we grow in wisdom, "...you have no idea what your life will be like tomorrow. You are a puff of smoke that appears briefly and then disappears" James 4: 14.

Another truth we come to realize in this life is found in the Old Covenant: "Justice is with the Lord, our God..." Baruch 1: 15; 2: 6, to which we might add, 'and not with man.' Human justice is dependent in our frail court system upon legal technicalities, plea bargaining and 'nolo contendere,' a type of plea which may be entered with leave of the court to a criminal complaint or indictment by which the defendant does not admit to nor deny the charges though a fine or sentence may be imposed pursuant to it.

Thirdly, we read this certainty in God's wisdom: "All flesh grows old, like a garment, the age-old law is: All must die" Sirach 14: 17. With death to this life, however, there are two uncertainties: we do not know how or when. There are as many 'hows' and 'whens' as there are individual people. This does not

really concern us unless we face this possibility ourselves.

When, however, the prospect of death to this life becomes personal, our reaction may be entirely different. The thought that our life may end imminently, can be frightening. Add to this the concepts that we will have to leave our family and friends, that we have so much yet to do, or that there is yet so much to accomplish, that our temporal affairs are not in order and that we may have to endure horrendous physical and spiritual pain in the process of dying, then, the weight of all these things can be the cause of collapse.

Fortunately, few of us really know how and when we will die. We can count this as a blessing from our heavenly Father because we are free from this worry. We are not burdened with anxiety and fear that could make us immobile physically and spiritually. We continue to lead productive lives, becoming more prosperous in virtue and remaining emotionally and spiritually stable.

The reaction of those actually expecting death varies. One elderly patient whom we attended spiritually said to us, "Father, I am ready and I want to go." On the other hand, another refused

to accept the probability of death, even though he was in an Intensive Care Unit and refused both the sacramental Mysteries of Anointing of the Sick and even a simple prayer. But he died nevertheless.

Some experience depression, particularly when burdened not only with old age and infirmities, but also being shuttled off to a nursing home. Younger persons awaiting death can even become angry because they must depart this only known to them life while more senior persons live on in seemingly good health. Others, of all ages, plead with God for additional life and make promises to Him that they will fulfill provided He but grants them a continuation of their earthly temporal existence.

It is our faith in God that helps us to deal with the fact that we will all die to this life. There is more importantly, eternal life. Do we not read the promises of our God in the words of Christ, "Just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the desert, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that all who believe in him may not die but have eternal life. Yes, God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son, that whoever believes in him may not die, but have eternal life" John 3: 14 – 16.

In this life, we are body and soul. The body is that which contains us. St. Paul teaches us, "Indeed, we know that when the earthly tent in which we dwell is destroyed we have a dwelling provided us by God, a dwelling in the heavens, not made by hands but to last forever"

2 Corinthians 5: 1. This tent is our body.; it is the physical encasement for our soul.

The soul is the spiritual/immaterial part of man; our very personhood, our personality, equipped with the faculties of mind, will and emotions. This soul goes onto eternal life when it separates from the body, a process we call death. St. Paul, writing again says, "...it is appointed that men die once and after death be judged" Hebrews 9: 27. That is, the body lies dead and the soul goes on to judgment. "The Father himself judges no one, but has assigned all judgment to the Son, so that all men may honor the Son just as they honor the Father" John 5: 22, 23.

At the celebration of every Divine Liturgy, we remind ourselves as we profess the Nicene Creed, "I expect the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come." This refers to the resurrection of the body to be reunited with the soul in eternal life. The Sadduces did not believe in any resurrection and they confronted Jesus with this by asking Him whose wife the woman would be in the resurrection when she married in this life seven brothers sequentially after each one died. Jesus replied, "You are badly misled because you fail to understand the Scriptures and the power of God. When people rise from the dead, they neither marry nor are given in marriage, but live like angels in heaven. And as to the fact that the dead are raised, have you not read what God said to you, 'I am the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, the God of Jacob? He is the God of the living, not of the dead'" Matthew 22: 23 – 32.

Abraham, Isaac and Jacob are not dead. They live on in eternal life!

At the end of the world, Christ will come again in glory to pronounce Judgment. "The Son of Man will come with his Father's glory accompanied by his angels. When he does, he will repay each man according to his conduct" Matthew 16: 27.

All the dead will rise again on the last day with their bodies, the same bodies they had here on earth. However, the bodies of the just will be remodeled and transfigured to the pattern of the risen Christ. The bodies of the godless will rise again in incorruption and immortality, but they will not be glorified or transfigured.

Our bodies and our souls will be reunited at the end of the world because our bodies were the instruments of our deeds, both good and bad, and thusly, deserve reward or punishment just as do the faculties of the soul. When the body and the soul separate in death to this world, the soul is judged as an individual, or as the Church defines it, the "immediate" and "particular judgment."

At the general judgment, at the end of the world, we will be judged not as individuals but as members of created human society, communicants of His Body the Church., before the entire community. "The dead were judged according to their conduct... Each person was judged according to his conduct... anyone whose name was not found inscribed in the

book of the living was hurled into the pool of fire" Revelation 20: 12, 13, 15.

This second judgment will not change anything; it will just be public. The purpose for this is to show God's everlasting justice and goodness as well as His faithfulness to His own word and promise. His vengeance promises from all time are fulfilled. "Beloved, do not avenge yourselves, leave that to God's wrath, for it is written, 'Vengeance is mine; I will repay,' says the Lord" Romans 12: 19. The believer's sense of true justice will then be confirmed for the scoffing world to see and witness.

