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: 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**.

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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!

John the Baptist and Forerunner

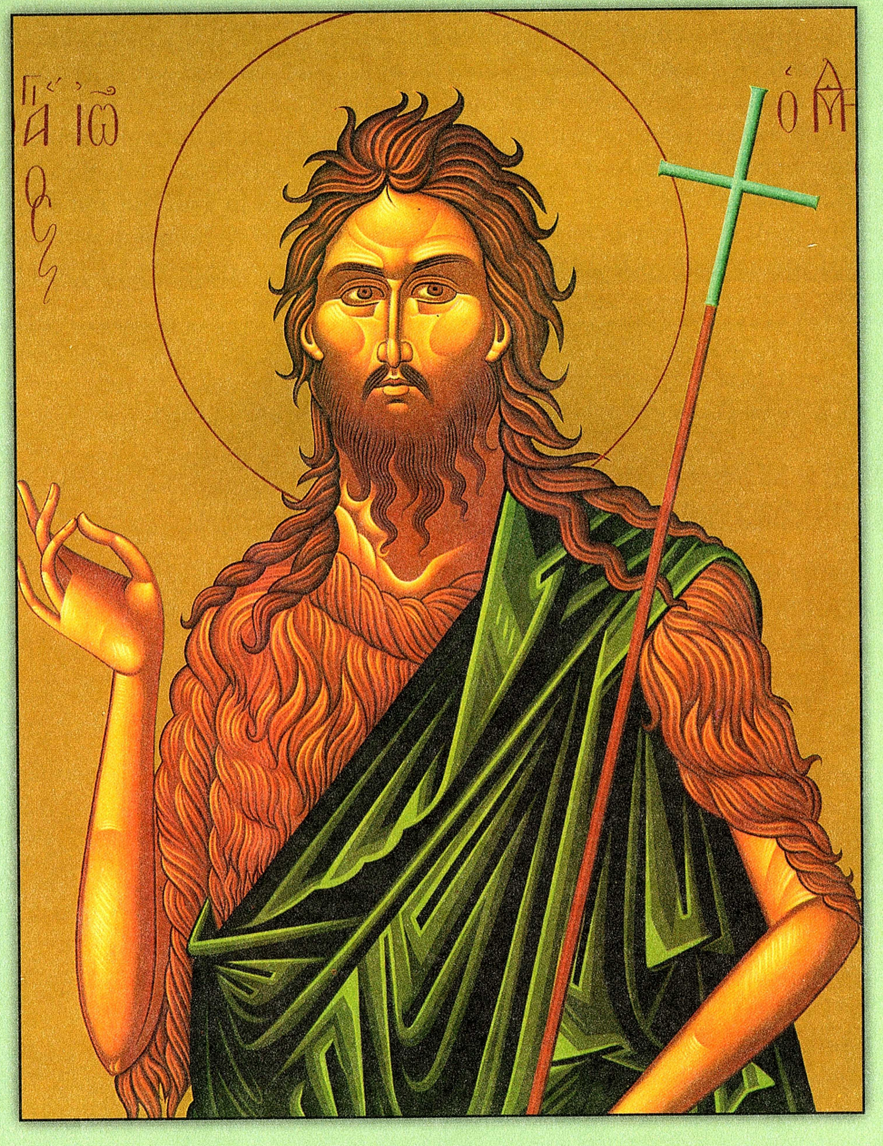
For the Church, John was a prophetic and tragic figure. He is called the 'Baptist' because he baptized those who came to him; he is called the 'Forerunner' because he went before Christ and prepared His way, making His paths straight, in accordance with the words of the prophet: "The voice of one crying in the wilderness ... make his paths straight (Mark 1:3). In the Old Testament, he is prophesied as "the voice of him that cries in the wilderness," in the passage from Isaiah quoted above. In other texts, he is referred to as 'the voice of the Word', 'the lamp of the Light', 'the friend of the Bridegroom', 'the morning star before the Sun'.

John began his work at the age of 30, in the fifteenth year of the reign of the Emperor Tiberius (27 or 29 AD). To begin, he journeyed around the southern part of Judah, near the river Jordan, preaching and prophesying. The central theme of his preaching was repentance: he called upon men to repent and to change their ways of thinking, so that they would be ready to receive the teaching of Christ, their Savior – "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand" (Matthew 3:2).

At the same time, he was severe in his rebuking of evil and sin. Another element of his teaching was that of the practical form – how each of us should love our fellow brothers and sisters.

As we anticipate the coming Great Fast in a few weeks, are we prepared to repent and change our ways, and rebuke evil and sin as Saint John taught?

Sunday after the Theophany/Epiphany of our Lord



Icon of Saint John the Baptist

Volume 2021 Number 02

Christ is among us! He is and will be!

Sunday after Theophany
Tone 7

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.

January 10 - January 16, 2021
All Divine Services are livestreamed where noted

Saturday Vigil at SS Peter & Paul
4:00 p.m. + **Helen Hashin** req. by Frank, Vivian & Sophie Gogno

Sunday +**Ella Berish** req. by Anna Yourish (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. +**Mary Ihnatola** req. by MM Thomas Pogash
Wednesday
8:00 a.m. +**Naomi Pinchorski** req. by Irene Deichert
Thursday
8:00 a.m. +**Walter Moshing (sp?)** req. by Nellie Moshing (sp?)
Friday
8:00 a.m. +**James Kilraine** req. by Mrs. Harry Oakhill, Sr.

Saturday **Saturday Vigil** (at SS Peter & Paul)
4:00 p.m. +**James P. Hertz** req. by brother Paul and Frances Hertz

Epistle Readers: 1/6 – Marie Wanchick; 1/9 – Angela Frank.; 1/10 – Jennifer Keer; 1/16 – Dolores Kramer; 1/17 – Ellen Sinkovich; 1/23 – Gail Burgess; 1/24 – Anna Keer; 1/29 – Marie Wanchick; 1/30 – Dolores Kramer.

Thank you: I want to thank all who have sent in their contributions through the "pandemic year 2020." Your continued support of the Church enables us to continue messaging the Gospel of Jesus Christ to all. As we begin the "New Year" I hope we can reach more individuals who are searching to fill the emptiness in their lives, an emptiness that only Jesus Christ can fill with His love.

Through our Baptism and Chrismation completed in the reception of the Holy Eucharist it is the **vocation of all Christians** to foster the love of Christ in others. We accomplish this in many small ways demonstrated by our faithfulness to Him Who is all in all. As a faith community let us "lift up our hearts and give thanks to the Lord" for all He accomplishes through our cooperation as His instruments of grace.

Sunday After Theophany
Directions

As an old man was lying on his deathbed, it was clear to his pastor that something was troubling him. Finally, the old man broke the silence and said, "When I was a youngster, I played a prank that haunts me to this day. One day, I twisted the highway route signs in opposite directions so that the arrows would direct travelers in the wrong direction." "As I lie here now," he reflected, "I wonder how many people I misdirected by that action."
How many people have we misdirected by our actions? Jesus warns us against this when He says, " ...it would be better for anyone who leads astray one of these little ones, who believes in Me, to be drowned by a millstone around his neck... " (Matthew 18:5). We pray God that we will never intentionally lead someone astray or deliberately cause scandal. Yet, because of human frailty, our unguarded words or uncontrolled emotion sometimes does just that. Therefore, there is a constant need for repentance and reform in our lives.
This is the great lesson taught to us by Saint John the Baptist. He was the last of the great prophets who announced the coming of the Messiah (the Christ) to all. He was the prophetic road sign who pointed people in the proper direction of Christ. "Reform your lives; the kingdom of God is at hand," he proclaimed. (Matthew 4:17).
The reform that Saint John preached was called *metanoia* - a change of heart. If our hearts belong to Christ, our words and deeds will as well. Does your heart belong to Christ?

Did You Know That ...

...if you would live in ease, do what you ought, not what you please?

...people wrapped up in themselves make small packages?

...if you would persuade others, speak of interest, do not use reason?

...he that takes wife, takes care?

...a pair of good ears will drink dry a hundred tongues?

...a learned blockhead is a greater blockhead than an ignorant one?

...it is not necessary to approve of him who agrees with all you say?

...it is better to teach a child to hold his tongue because he has plenty of time to learn how to speak?

...he that is rich need not live sparingly, and he that can live sparingly need not be rich?

...the discontented man finds no easy chair?

...virtue and a worthwhile trade are a child's best portio

...the first degree of folly is to concede oneself as swell, wise and wonderful and the second is to believe it?

...you may delay but time will not?

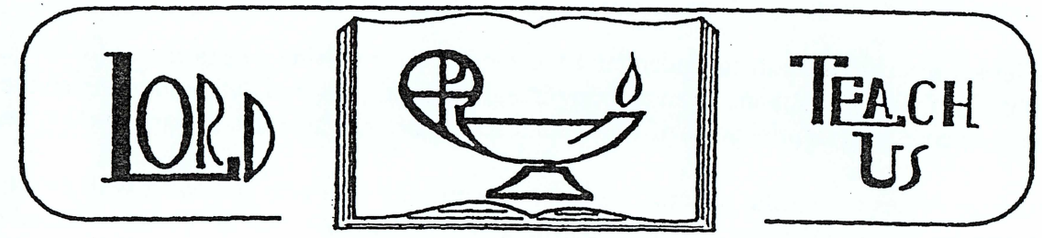
...despair ruins some, but presumption many?

...lost time is never found again?

...blame-all and praise-all are two blockheads?

...what one relishes, nourishes?

...you cannot hunt two rabbits with one dog?



Christ's Priesthood

Stir up the grace of God which is in you by the imposition of hands 2 Timothy 1: 16.

Be followers of me as I am of Christ 1 Corinthians 11: 1.

The lips of the priest uttered holy knowledge and the people sought the law at his mouth Malachias 2: 7.

The Scribes and Pharisees have sat in the chair of Moses. All things therefore, they shall teach you, observe and do Matthew 23: 2.

...ministers of his kingdom 1 Kings 24: 7; 26: 9.

You would have no power over me if it were not given you from above John 13: 11.

There exists no authority except from God Romans 13: 1.

He who hates you, hates me and he who despises me despises him who sent me Luke 19: 11.

Go into the world and preach the gospel to every creature. He who believes not shall be condemned Mark 16: 16.

If he refuses to hear the Church, let him be to you as a heathen and the publican Matthew 18: 17.

Marriage: *Love and Life in the Divine Plan*

Believers are called upon to understand the God-given meaning of marriage, for living it faithfully, for promoting and strengthening it and for protecting and defending it. Each theme communicates an essential point of Christian teaching on marriage as a sacramental Mystery.

Marriage comes to us from the creative hand of Almighty God who endows it with its proper form and purpose. Marriage is a union between man and woman that the Creator blessed and called "very good." It is not something that we invented or that we can redefine. The gift of marriage survived the menace of original sin and was redeemed in Christ and established as one of the sacramental Mysteries of the Body of Christ by which his love for us becomes present. In the sacramental Mystery of Matrimony, the gift of marriage is transformed and elevated by the action of Christ in his Church. The marital union then becomes a unique relationship in which spouses help one another achieve holiness and give witness to God's love in the world.

The creation stories of Genesis show that man and woman are made for each other. The ways that the male and female sexes complement each other are essential to the nature and purpose of marriage. This complementarity is biological, but it also exists in the ways men and women think, act and communicate. Sexual complementarity enables spouses to form an intimate union that is loving and life-giving. Same sex relationships cannot do this and making them equivalent to marriage violates the nature of marriage.
Marriage creates a one-flesh union or intimate communion that is meant to be love and life-giving. The purpose of marriage, called unitive and procreative are equal, inseparable and ordered to each other. That marriage is valid which is always open to the procreation of children.

The sacramental Mystery of Matrimony elevates the ordinary natural institution of marriage to a sharing of love larger than itself. This is the love of Christ for his bride, the Church. His love is faithful, fruitful, free and forever and Christian spouses are called to imitate and live this love. Since the sacramental Mystery makes Christ present in the marriage of man and woman, they can rely on his grace to help them grow and persevere in love even when it seems impossible.

The Christian family is an image of the communion of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. The love that spouses share and offer each other in their children overflows from the family to nurture the world. This familial love is an indispensable service to society and the Church.

The Lord's Prayer

Using the code (big letters) below, figure out what this phrase is.

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
K	D	U	Z	C	Y	Q	W	J
J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R
G	B	M	T	N	L	A	R	O
S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z	
P	S	V	X	E	F	H	I	

R C Q X P M Y W Q H Y R

P Q M Z N Y W P U W N ,

Y P O O R H W B K W

M Y F N P L W