

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: tvrgin@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!

Publican and Pharisee: Humility vs Self-Righteousness

This parable represents to us two chariots on the race course, each with two charioteers in it. In one of the chariots it places righteousness with pride, in the other sin and humility. You see the chariot of sin outstrip that of righteousness, not by its own strength but by the excellence of humility combined with it, but the other is defeated not by righteousness, but by the weight and swelling of pride.

For as humility by its own elasticity rises above the weight of pride, and leaping up reaches to God, so pride by its great weight easily depresses righteousness. Although therefore you are earnest and constant in well doing, yet think you may boast yourself, you are altogether devoid of the fruits of prayer. But you that bears a thousand loads of guilt on your conscience, and only

think this thing of yourself that you are the lowest of all men, shall gain much confidence before God.

And He then goes on to assign the reason of His sentence. For every one who exalts himself shall be abased, and he that humbles himself shall be exalted. The word humility has various meanings. There is the humility of virtue, as, a humble and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise. There is also a humility arising from sorrows, as, He has humbled my life upon the earth. There is a humility derived from sin, and the pride and insatiability of riches. For can anything be more low and debased than those who grovel in riches and power, and count them great things?

Saint John Chrysostom

SUNDAY OF THE PUBLICAN AND PHARISEE



Icon of the Publican and Pharisee

Volume 2021
Christ is among us!

Number 04
He is and will be!

34th Sunday after Pentecost
Sunday of the Publican and Pharisee
Tone 1

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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January 24 - January 30, 2021
All Divine Services are livestreamed where noted

Saturday Vigil at SS Peter & Paul

4:00 p.m. + **Anna Filiac** req. by Helen Konkus

Sunday + (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. **H&B Susan Samargis** req. by brother & sister

Wednesday

8:00 a.m. +**Veronica Sekellick** req. by Marie Wanchick

Thursday

8:00 a.m. +**Veronica Sekellick** req. by sister, Helen Platko

Friday

8:00 a.m. +**Alera Baransky** req. by Tom Baransky

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

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

Epistle Readers: 1/23 – Gail Burgess; 1/24 – Anna Keer; 1/29 – Marie Wanchick; 1/30 – Dolores Kramer.

THE PUBLICAN AND THE PHARISEE

Lessons from the Fathers On Humility

Extirpate two thoughts within thyself: do not consider thyself worthy of anything great, and do not think that any other man is much lower than thou in worthiness. Learn humility beforehand, which the Lord commanded in word and showed forth in deed. Hence, do not expect obedience from others, but be ready for obedience thyself. *Saint Basil the Great.*

If thou wilt endure an offensive word, then thou hast extinguished an ember. But if thou wilt think about it, then, like someone kindling a fire, thou wilt produce smoke, which is confusion. However, one can conveniently extinguish it too by silence, prayer and a bow from the heart. *Venerable Dorotheus.*

If thou, being offended by anything, dost sense that grief and wrath have seized thee, preserve silence, and say naught until unceasing prayer pacifies thine heart. *Venerable Ammon of Nitria.*

Even if thy soul should suffer somewhat from an offense, keep the sorrow within thyself. For it is said: "*Within me my heart is troubled*" (Psalm 142:4), that is, the passion has not come out, but has been humbled like a wave that has broken up on the shore. Calm thy raging heart. Let thy passions be ashamed at the presence of reason in thee, as playful children are ashamed before a man commanding respect. *Saint Basil the Great.*

Has someone offended thee? Guard thy breast with the sign of the Cross; remember what took place on the Cross, and all will be extinguished. Think not of offenses only, but recall also whatever good thou hast received from the one who has offended thee, and at once thou shalt grow meek. Bring to mind the fear of God, and quickly thou shalt grow more temperate and calm. Train thyself not to offend another during offenses themselves, and then, when offended, thou wilt not feel grief. Think to thyself that he who is offending thee is in a frenzy and not in his right mind, and then thou wilt not be vexed at the offense. *Saint John Chrysostom.*

Believe that dishonors and reproaches are medicines that heal the pride of thy soul, and pray for those who reproach thee, as for true physicians of thy soul, being assured that he who hates dishonor, hates humility, and he who avoids those who grieve him, flees from meekness. *Venerable Dorotheus.*

He, who grieves sorely in his heart when dishonored or offended by others, ought to know from this that he bears within himself the ancient serpent. If he will bear the offense in silence, or will answer the one offending him with deep humility, then he has thereby weakened and crushed this serpent. *Venerable Simeon the New Theologian.*

Did You Know That ...

...perhaps we really have not lost faith, just transferred it from God to Whom it belongs to the medical profession?

...even our God cannot alter the past, but man makes a sincere attempt anyway?

...a clear conscience begins with a clear memory?

...some use statistics like a drunken man uses a lamp post, for support rather than illumination?

...some get the facts first, then distort them as they please?

...pity is for the living and envy really for the dead?

...life is like playing the violin solo in public and learning the instrument as one goes on?

...the worst cliques are those that consist of one man?

...when some men grow virtuous in their old age, they are merely making a sacrifice to God of the devil's leavings?

...there is no man so friendless but what he can find a friend sincere enough to tell him disagreeable truths?

...the strength of man's virtues should not be measured by his special exertions, but by his habitual acts?

...the reason crime does not pay is because when it does it is given a more respectable name?

...every man of genius is considerably helped by being dead?

...a perpetual holiday is a good working definition of hell?

...the highest virtue is always against the law of the land?

...when two men in business always agree, one of them is unnecessary?

WISDOM! BE ATTENTIVE!

Your abundant tears made the wilderness sprout and bloom in spirituality. Your sufferings made your labors fruitful a hundredfold: you became a shining torch over the world. O Holy Father Theodosius, pray to Christ God that He may save our souls! Troparion, Feast of St. Theodosius the Great, founder of the Caves monastery in Kiev.

You were planted in the court of your Lord and blossomed forth with beautiful and admirable virtues, O master of God's holy sheepfold! You multiplied your children in the wilderness and gave them to drink with your abundant tears. Wherefore we cry out to you: "Joy to you, O Father Theodosius!" Kontakion, Feast of St. Theodosius the Great, founder of the Caves monastery in Kiev.

Father Antony, you equaled Elias in his zeal and followed John the Baptist in his holy way of life: you peopled the wilderness and established the world on the firm foundation of your prayers. Intercede with Christ God that He may save our souls. Troparion, Feast of St. Antony the Great, founder of monasticism in the Eastern Church.

Antony, most venerable, you rejected the troubles of this world and spent your life in peace by imitating John the Baptist. With him, we exalt your name, for you are a perfect example of noble action. Kontakion, Feast of St. Antony the Great, founder of monasticism in the Eastern Church.

The sweet melody of your theological teachings has overcome the noisy blasts of orators, for God has granted you the power of penetrating spiritual depths, and the gift of brilliant literary talent. Gregory, our Father, intercede with Christ God that He may save our souls. Troparion, Feast of St. Gregory Nazianzen, Byzantine Doctor of the Church.

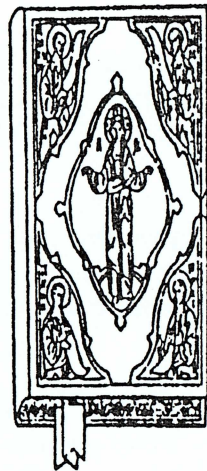
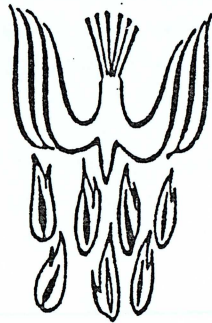
Glorious Gregory, your theological knowledge has solved the problems raised by rhetoricians: you have robed the Church with true theology inspired from on high. The Church puts on this robe and cries out with us your children: "Joy to you, O Father whose theological intelligence is so great." Kontakion, Feast of St. Gregory Nazianzen, Byzantine Doctor of the Church.

The grace that shines forth from your mouth like a torch has enlightened the universe, bestowed treasures of generosity upon the world and shown us the depth of your humility. While you teach us by your words, Father John Chrysostom, pray to the Word, Christ our God, that He may save our souls. Troparion, Feast of St. John Chrysostom, Byzantine Doctor of the Church.

SCRIPTURE

TRIVIA

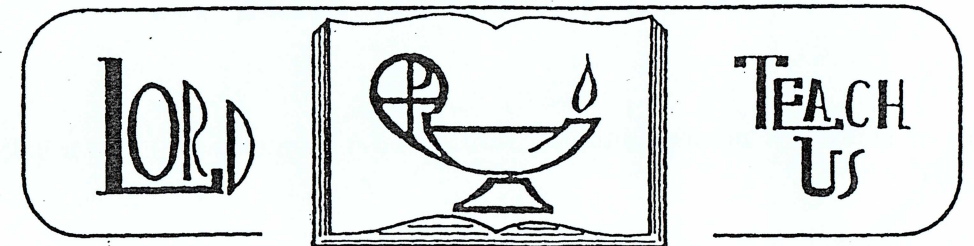
QUIZ



1. What would happen to Ezekiel if he refused to warn the wicked when God told him to do it?
2. With what did Noah seal the ark to make it water proof?
3. Who was the second wife of Abraham?
4. What does the name "Moses" mean and why was it given to him?
5. What bird in the book of Job is said to have no true motherly love?
6. What three kinds of fruit did the spies bring back from Canaan?
7. Who came first, Noah or Abraham?
8. What took Solomon thirteen years to build?
9. What happened to the people of Israel when they looked at the bronze snake that Moses attached to a pole?
10. How old was Lamech when Noah was born?
11. Who wrote the Ten Commandments on the tablets of stone?
12. Which prophet's wife committed adultery?
13. In Genesis, whose funeral procession had a great number of chariots, cavalry, and people?

ANSWERS TO TRIVIA QUIZ

1. He would die. (Ezekiel 3:18)
2. Tar. (Genesis 6:14)
3. Keturah. (Genesis 25:1)
4. "To draw out." Because Pharaoh's daughter drew him out of the water." (Exodus 2:10)
5. The ostrich. (Job 39:13)
6. Grapes, pomegranates, and figs. (Numbers 13:23)
7. Noah.
8. His own palace. (1 Kings 7:1)
9. They recovered from snake bites. (Numbers 21:9)
10. 182 years old. (Genesis 5:28)
11. God Himself. (Exodus 34:28)
12. The wife of Hosea. (Hosea 2:5)
13. The funeral of Jacob. (Genesis 50:6-9)



PARENTS

"If it does not please you to serve the Lord, decide today whom you will serve, the gods your fathers served beyond the river or the gods of the Amorites in whose country you are dwelling. As for me and my household, we will serve the Lord." Joshua 24:15

And fathers, do not nag your children lest they lose heart. Colossians 3:21

Take to heart these words which I enjoin on you today. Drill them into your children. Speak of them at home and abroad, whether you are busy or at rest. Bind them on your wrist as a sign and let them be as a pendant on your forehead. Write them on the doorposts of your houses and on your gates. Deuteronomy 6:6-9

Train a boy in the way he should go; even when he is old, he will not depart from it. Proverbs 22:6

Indeed, I have singled him out that he may direct his sons and his posterity to keep the way of the Lord by doing what is right and just, so that the Lord may carry into effect for Abraham the promises he made about him. Genesis 18:19

"Honor your father and your mother, that you may have long life in the land which the Lord, your God is giving you." Exodus 20:12

Happy are you who fear the Lord, who walk in his ways! For you shall eat the fruit of your handiwork; happy shall you be, and favored. Your wife shall be like a fruitful vine in the recesses of your home; your children like olive plants around your table. Behold, thus is the man blessed who fears the Lord. The Lord bless you from Sion; may you see the prosperity of Jerusalem all the days of your life. May you see your children's children! Psalm 128

May the Lord bless you more and more, both you and your children. Psalm 115:14