

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 Yasenachak

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!

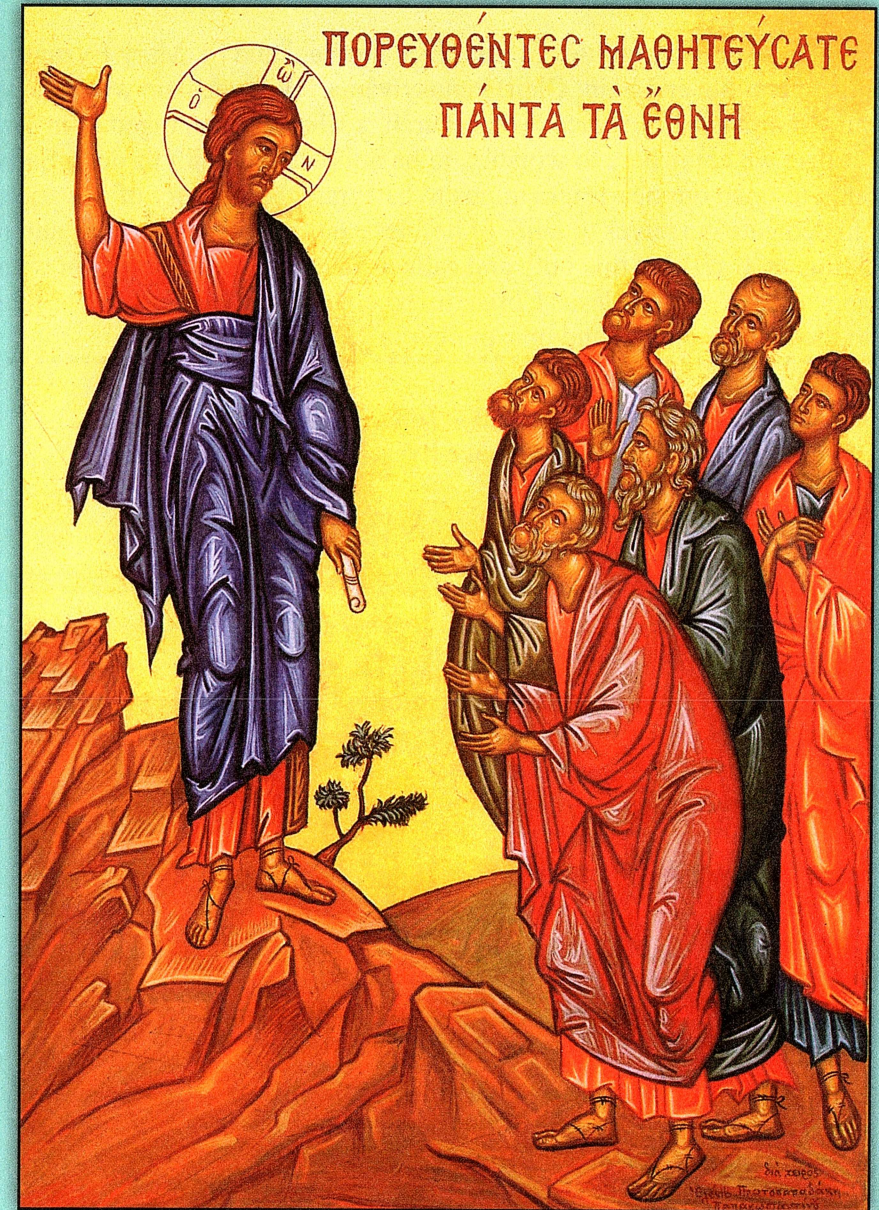
Prove Your Faith by Your Trust

'Look at the birds of the air,' says Jesus. What a splendid example for our faith to follow! If God's providence bestows an unfailing supply of food on the birds of the air who neither sow nor reap, we ought to realize that the reason for people's supply running short is human greed. The fruits of the earth were given to feed all without distinction and nobody can claim any particular rights. Instead, we have lost the sense of the communion of goods, rushing to turn these goods into private property. The birds do not know famine because they do not claim anything specially for themselves and neither do they have any envy of others. 'Consider the lilies of the field: not even Solomon in all his glory was

arrayed like one of these. If God so clothes the grass which is alive today and tomorrow is cast into the oven, how much more will he clothe one of you!' Listen to these stupendous and uplifting words. With this parable of flowers and grass the Lord urges us to hope that God will also be merciful to us. Nothing is more persuasive than a glance at unthinking creatures who have received such beautiful dress from Providence. Surely we should be all the more ready to believe that human beings, if they entrust themselves completely to God and free themselves of all their worries, will not lack anything.

St. Ambrose of Milan

THIRD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST



Icon of Christ Teaching on the Mount

**Third Sunday after Pentecost
Tone 2**

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.

.....

**June 13 – June 19, 2021
All Divine Services are livestreamed where noted**

Saturday Vigil Divine Liturgy (at SS Peter & Paul)
4:00 p.m. + **Larry Burgess** req. by Larry & Lorraine Palko

Sunday
8:00 a.m. +**Mary Hubb** req. by Leo A. Klitsch (at St. Mary)
10:00 am **Health and Blessing of the Parishioners** (at SS. Peter & Paul)
Livestreamed

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

Tuesday
8:00 a.m. +**Helen Hashin** req. by +Emil & Catherine Simodejka.

Wednesday
8:00 a.m. +**Margaret Kostishak** req. by Elizabeth Davis & Mark Pojerski

Thursday -
8:00 a.m. +**Helen Mitchell** req. by MM Charles Hashin Family

Friday
8:00 a.m. +**Mary Ihnatolya** req. by +Mary Hubb & Son

Saturday **Vigil Divine Liturgy** (at SS. Peter & Paul)
4:00 p.m. +**Naomi Pinchorski** req. by Dollie Suchar

Epistle Readers: 6/12 – Angela Frank; 6/13 – Jennifer Keer; 6/19 – Dolores Kramer; 6/20 – Anna Keer; 6/24 – Ellen Sinkovich; 6/26 – Marie Wanchick; 6/27 – Beverly Kostishak; 6/29 – Madeline Dinich.

A request: Kindly stop sealing with scotch tape the Offering Envelopes. There is simply no need for this added security. It slows down the process of opening and tabulating the collection each week. Your cooperation is appreciated.

A Reminder: The reservations for the Roast Beef Dinner are due on Tuesday. This is a “hard date,” meaning reservations are closed on Tuesday and none will be accepted after that date.

Also, the Dispensation from the Sunday Obligation **has been revoked** and physical attendance at the Divine Liturgy is required to fulfill the Sunday Precept under the pain of Serious Sin, under the usual circumstances. Although the Divine Liturgy will continue to be livestreamed, for the benefit of the home-bound, it does not fulfill the Sunday Precept, which, as you know, is the Third Commandment.

Have you wondered why the Altar is vested in red vestments? We are in the **Apostle's Fast** in preparation for the Holy Day celebration of the Apostles Peter and Paul, patrons of our parish church. In the Byzantine Catholic Metropolia of Pittsburgh this fasting period is one of penitence unlike the former usage which required strict fasting on Monday, Wednesday and Friday from the Monday following All Saints until the feast day itself. However, the Church still recommends fasting on a voluntary basis to enhance our celebration of this great Holy Day of Obligation.

As you know, Saint Peter was chosen by Christ to tend His sheep and strengthen his fellow Apostles in time of temptation. Saint Peter was tempted and denied Christ and was thus a perfect example of remorse, repentance and resolve in preaching Christ. Likewise, Saint Paul was a persecutor of the followers of Christ and after experiencing the revelation of Jesus on the road to Damascus, was himself a preacher and defender of what became known as “The Way.” Both Saints were martyred in Rome for their steadfast belief in Jesus Christ as the Son of God and Saviour of the world.

On this holy day we pray for Francis, Bishop of Rome and visible head of the Church together with our bishops: William, Metropolitan of Pittsburgh, Kurt, Bishop of Passaic; Milan, Bishop of Parma and John, Bishop of Phoenix who have the responsibility of leading the People of God in salvation to the Eternal Now of the Kingdom of God.

Water and Word

We are inspired and guided by the Holy Spirit to understand and accept the teachings of Christ and the Church concerning the sacramental Mysteries. Is the Lord's table a place of profound gravity merely because it is the locus of fellowship with Christ, where we experience Christ present in proclamation and as such, a place also where the Body and Blood of the Lord are present in the meager means of bread and wine which offer redemption and forgiveness of sin. Therefore, does not preparation for participation in the grace of the Lord's Supper or Divine Liturgy involve confession of sin, repentance, and absolution granted and pronounced by the shepherd of souls as by Christ himself?

Regarding baptism, does its power reside in the method of aquatic application and in the faith of the believer, or in the power of the Word that accompanies the application of the water "in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit"? Is it not appropriate to follow the liturgical rite observed by the Lord being immersed in the river Jordan?

We have been taught that "...he saved us not because of our works, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit" Titus 3: 5. The sacramental Mystery of Baptism is the clearest demonstration imaginable that faith is a gift, pure and simple, "...for baptism now saves you" 1 Peter 3: 21.

Water and word – that is the faith of Jesus Christ in his Body and Bride, the Church. That the Holy Spirit works faith when and where He wills in no way detracts from the power of baptism, to save infants as well as adults.

We dare not turn God's gracious gifts into our act of obedience. Those who teach authentic Christianity must boldly confess the power of the sacramental Mysteries and offer clear scriptural teachings regarding these, God's greatest gifts of grace.

Third Sunday

Our Lord shares with us today some not so literal home-spun heavenly wisdom when He reminds us, "See how the lilies of the field grow; they neither labor nor spin, yet I say to you, that not even Solomon in all his glory was arrayed like one of these" Matthew 6: 29. Our Lord wishes to remind his listeners about the former kings given earlier to the chosen people because of their blind insistence. They wanted to be like people of the world, not God's people. They demanded a king and the Lord granted their wish which is a reminder even to us this day to be careful what we pray for. The Jews got their prayer answered and then didn't know how to respond appropriately to it. The first king, Saul was followed by David who bequeathed the throne to his son Solomon who then left it for his son Rehoboam at which time the entire kingdom was divided and shattered in three short generations. That is all it took for people to realize they had no clue how to be responsible cities of an earthly kingdom which would prepare them for heavenly citizenship.

Although he commanded cities and seaports to be built, he is especially recognized for building the temple in Jerusalem (1 Kings 6). He is believed to have written many of the proverbs in the book of Proverbs and the book of Ecclesiastes was composed in his honor. Although he was endowed with great wisdom, he personally behaved very foolishly by marrying women who turned him away from God (1 Kings 11), since he thought as king there are no limitations to his lifestyle or behavior and thus he flaunted his authority before the people and castigated our God as a result.

Thus Solomon began to worship false gods and idols, so the prophet Abijah predicted that one of his officials would rebel and take away the ten tribes from the kingdom and that is exactly what happened. From then until the time of our Lord the kingdom is divided, separated, at odds with one another because the people's choice turned out to be the abysmally wrong choice, as is almost always the case in human history. People's votes mean nothing in the sight of our God. The majority can most of the time witness for evil and sin just as easily for good and morality. It is God's word alone that is unchangeable and immutable; the value of God's promises that are vital and certainly not man's foolish interpretation and outlook.

When our Lord surveys the gradiosity of creation, He immediately concludes even the flowers of the field, in all their created unique incomparable glory by far exceed what Solomon in his limited earthly splendor tried to accomplish simply because it was all

tainted with his sinful, carnal baseness. Values of the world have no consideration in the outlook of our Creator God. Therefore the Lord enunciates plainly, "You cannot serve God and mammon."

In one of the most incredible moments of God's revelation to us in Scripture, the Lord of Israel, the Creator of the universe makes an offer to a mortal man, that is to Solomon, the son of David and newly anointed king of Israel. Just like the archtypical genie in the bottle, our God asks Solomon to make a wish. But Solomon's historic opportunity becomes his greatest tragedy.

This may also be one of the saddest stories in the Bible.

It is the account of a man who literally had every thing. The only thing more difficult to comprehend than his great mind, his talents, his enormous wealth and overwhelming power were the prospects of what he could have done with these gifts. Solomon had the incredible capability to change the world for the cause of God. And so our Lord looks at an ordinary flower and witnesses from heaven's perspective that the simple bloom is far more radiant, far more glorious, far more compelling, far more notable, far more successful in God's scheme of things than the munificently unheard of and richly endowed Solomon. What a lesson for us to learn that the simple flower looks better to God than some of us with our self-perceived worth and inflated value! A few colored petals appeal to their Creator more than the prime creation of God, made in his actual image, but hell-bent on self exaltation and self-destruction!

In spite of doing many good things during his lifetime, Solomon actually squandered his potential. He built a name for himself. Ask anyone to finish this sentence : "That guy over there has the wisdom of" and everyone will be able to fill in the blank.

But what happened to Solomon? Why does our Lord use him as an example to be avoided? The reason for the pathetic failure is actually quite clear. He broke the commandment: "You shall not make for yourself an idol in the form of anything in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the waters below. You shall not bow down to them or worship them, for I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God" Exodus 20: 4, 5.

Solomon should have known better and in fact he did know better. As his father, David was dying, Solomon heard these words: "Observe what the Lord God requires; walk in his ways and keep his decrees and commands, his laws and requirements, as written in the Law of Moses, so that you may prosper in all you do and wherever you go."

round corners
science fiction
silent scream
steel wool
student teacher
sun shade
taped live

tentative conclusion
thinking aloud
tight slacks
turned up missing
virtual reality
working vacation

But NONE are as
astounding as this one:

**I believe in God,
but don't go to church.**

Many areas of culture and society can be reached only by the witness of faithful laymen and laywomen who are passionate for Christ and live passionately his way of truth and love.

OXYDENTALLY ON PURPOSE

Some favorite oxymorons—the combination of two normally contradictory terms—old and new:

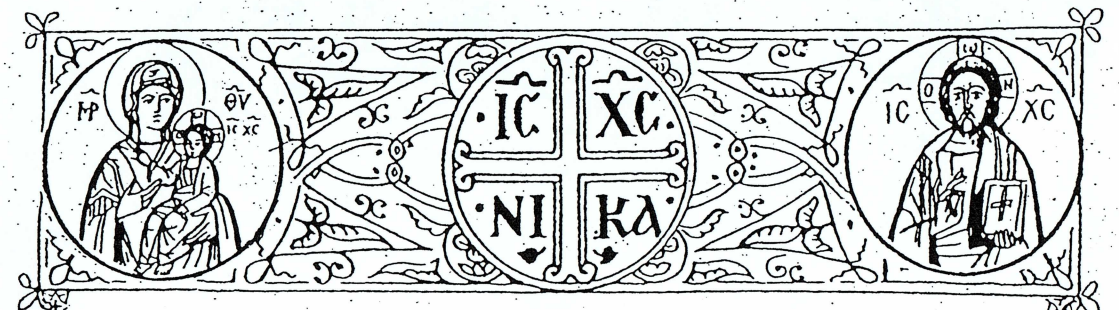
accurate estimate	easy labor
accurate rumors	elevated subway
act naturally	false hope
actual reenactment	fire water
alone together	firm estimate
altogether separate	freezer burn
amateur expert	good grief
among the first	ill health
authentic reproduction	jumbo shrimp
assistant supervisor	junk food
athletic scholarship	living dead
baby grand piano	midnight sun
bad health	minor disaster
bad sport	mud bath
balding hair	natural artifact
black light	new classic
books on tape	nothing much
brief survey	only choice
calm winds	open secret
certain risk	organized confusion
clearly confused	paid volunteer
clogged drain	peace force
cold sweat	plastic glasses
constant change	pretty ugly
constant variable	pure evil
deliberate mistake	quiet storm
detailed summary	recent history
devout atheist	recycling dump
double solitaire	rock opera

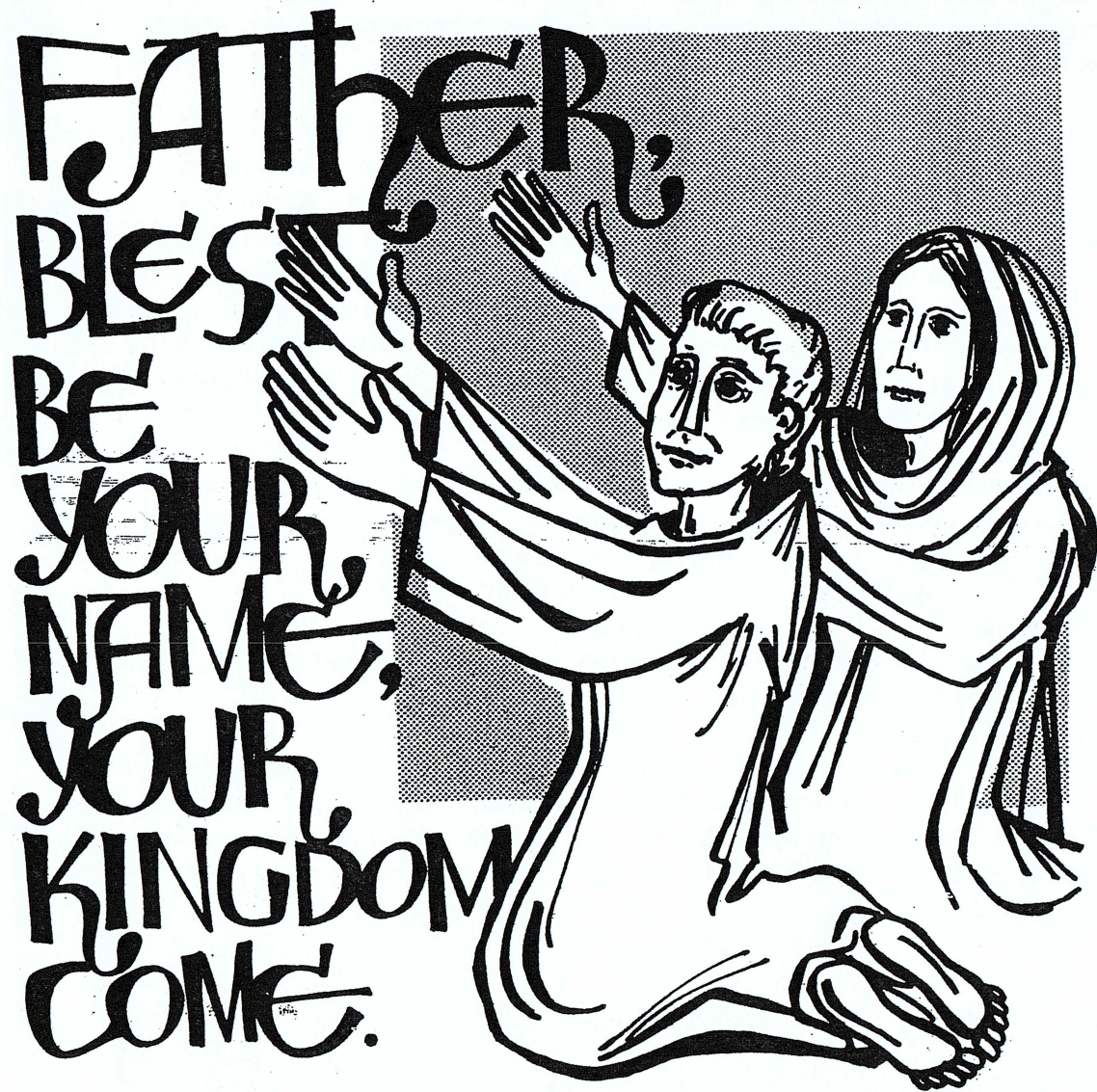
Some how Solomon thought he could be an exception, the one who could break and flaunt God's law without suffering the consequences. But our God did not ignore all the idols, all the fake altars set up to please foreign faithless wives, pagan women who, in pleasing his lustful desires, were permitted to introduce paganism and idolatry to the people, thus equating God with a stone idol!

What an indictment our Lord makes of some of the practices of his unfortunate ancestor! Man in all his created glory, with his reasoning mind and exalted intellect loses in comparison to the primal and elementary flower which faithfully grows only where it is planted and fulfills totally and completely the entire story of its plant nature. In being faithful to itself; it is faithful to its Maker. It does in fact do what God created it to do; it blooms and inspires the soul of reflective man to obedience before the throne of our Saviour. It has but one will and eagerly submits itself to fulfill the desire of its Maker and Creator and exalt his glory. It responds generously to the light of the Son and grows by invigorating the mind and heart of man.

What a contrast in challenge for every human being who looks upon a plain flower and practices some introspection of its meaning in the world! What a difference in inspiration of Solomon for the emperor Justinian who built the glorious and august basilica of the Holy Wisdom in Constantinople and on the day of its consecration, permitted to fall from his lips, "Solomon, I have surpassed you!" In reality he says, "I join you in readily accepting limited human understanding and join the chorus of human pride and human exaltation."

Let us learn from the mind of our Saviour. From the least in creation, the ordinary flower is exalted to the greatest on earth! From the smallest to the most splendid! What a humbling and loving experience that the Son of God takes the time to resettle us in our rightful place before the throne of Almighty God! May his all-holy name be glorified forever among us!





WISDOM! BE ATTENTIVE

When You descended to death, O immortal Life, You destroyed the Abyss by the radiance of Your divinity. And when You raised the dead from the depths of the earth, all the heavenly powers cried out: O Giver of life, Christ our God, glory be to You Troparion, Resurrection Tone Two.

You arose from the grave, almighty Saviour. Seeing the miracle the Abyss was struck with fear; the dead arose. At this sight, all creation rejoices with You. Adam joins in exultation, and the World, O my Saviour, sings Your praise forever Kontakion, Resurrection Tone Two.

My strength and my praise is in the Lord, and He has been my Saviour Prokimenon, Resurrection Tone Two.

Come let us worship the Lord born of the Father before all ages; the Word of God, incarnate of the Virgin Mary. He freely suffered Crucifixion; laid to rest in a tomb, now risen from the dead; He has saved me who had been lost Vesper Hymn, Tone Two.

O Christ crucified and buried, the angel proclaimed You Lord saying to the women: "Come see where the Lord was laid to rest. Because He is almighty, He is risen as He said." We worship You Who are alone immortal, O Christ, Giver of life, have mercy on us Vesper Hymn, Tone Two.

The gates of death opened to You out of fear, O Lord. The gate-keepers of the Abyss saw You and trembled. They trembled again when You crushed its gates of bronze and iron bars. You delivered us from the shadow and gloom of death. You broke our own bonds Vesper Hymn, Tone Two.

O wondrous event exceeding every miracle that ever happened! Who ever heard of a Virgin Mother that she would hold the Lord Who contains the universe? This was the will of the One born of you, O Woman most pure, never cease to intercede for us who honor you together with the Lord you carried in your arms. You have the power of a mother: Intercede with Him to have mercy and save our souls Vesper Hymn, Tone Two.