

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](http://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

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**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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### *Asking Jesus to Leave*

Of all the miracle stories of Jesus, the one recorded in today's Gospel reading stands out as unique. In most other occasions when Jesus healed or cured, the result was that more people came and asked to be cured. However, in the case of Jesus expelling demons from the man in the Gadarene territory, the result was that the whole village came out and asked Jesus to leave that area! (Matthew 8:34)

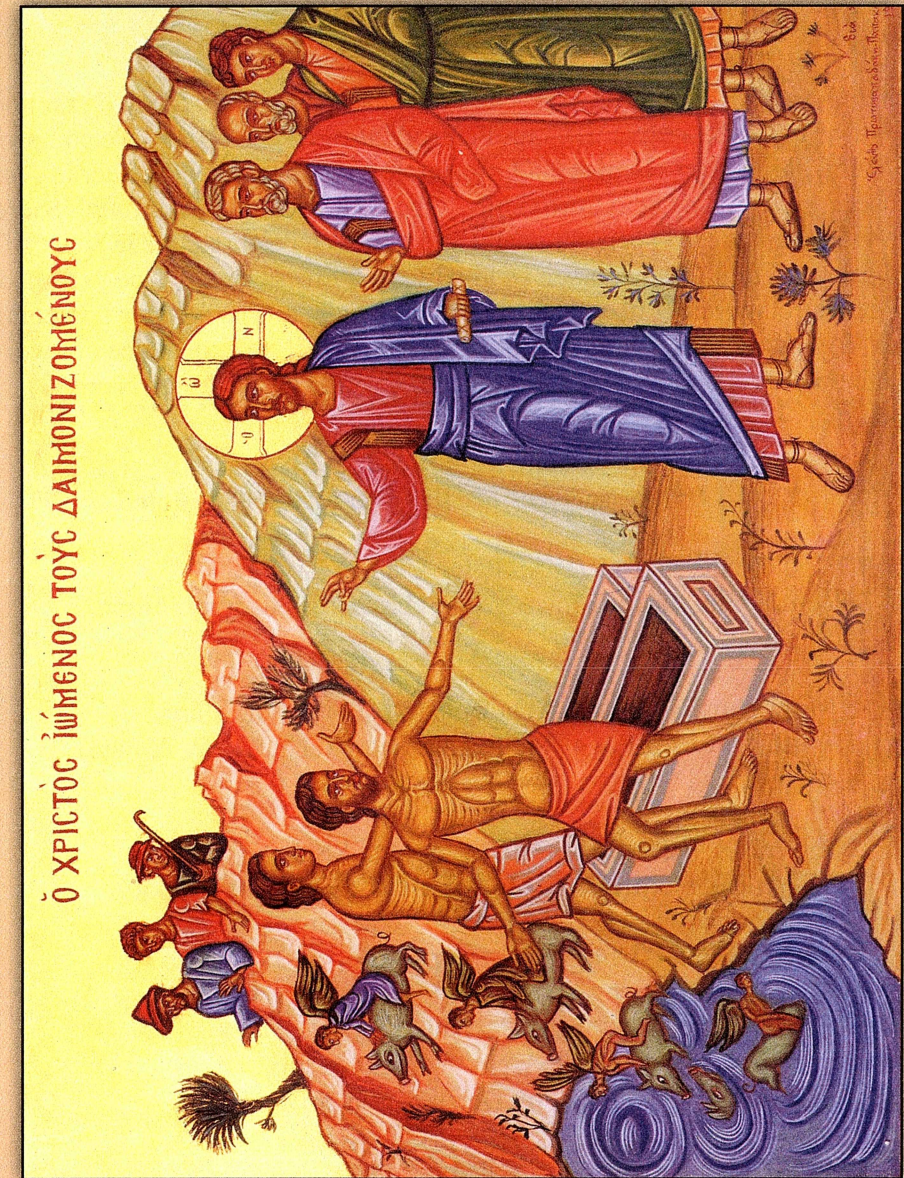
Ingratitude is certainly not the reaction we would expect the townsfolk to have since a member of their community restored to his right mind by the command of Jesus. Previously, he was prone to fits of madness and the source of his madness was understood to be demonic possession. Jesus commanded the demons to leave the man and restored the man to his right mind. Had this been the end

of the story, perhaps the people would have been filled with gratitude. However, Jesus sent the demons into a herd of swine, which then jumped over a cliff and drowned.

Why did Jesus send the demons into the swine? According to Jewish law, pork is considered to be an unclean product. Jews were to have no contact with pork. Because of this, the Jews of that town were breaking their own religious law.

By expelling the demons into the swine, Jesus not only healed a man, but also reestablished a forgotten value system in a town. Unfortunately, the inhabitants were not ready to receive this lesson. It is no surprise, then, why they met Jesus with such ingratitude and asked Him to leave their district.

### FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST



Icon of the Healing Gadarene Demoniacs

Volume 2021  
Christ is among us!  
be!

Number 26  
He is and will

**Fifth Sunday after Pentecost**  
**Tone 4**

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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**June 27 – July 3, 2021**

**All Divine Services are livestreamed where noted**

- Saturday Vigil Divine Liturgy (at SS Peter & Paul)  
4:00 p.m. + **Anna Honyara** req. by Joseph Schrader & Shannon Curran
- Sunday  
8:00 a.m. +**Mary Surmay** req. by MM Ronald Adley (at St. Mary)  
10:00 am **Health and Blessing of the Parishioners** (at SS. Peter & Paul)  
Livestreamed
- Monday Vigil of SS. Peter & Paul (Obligation) at SS. Peter & Paul  
6:00 p.m. +**Veronica Sekellick** req. by Barbara & David Stepenosky  
Livestreamed
- Tuesday SS Peter & Paul (Obligation) at St. Mary  
8:00 a.m. +**Mary Hubb** req. by MM Frank Koperna  
6:00 p.m. **Health & Blessings of the Parishioners**
- Friday  
8:00 a.m. +**Elizabeth Dullard** req. by Debbi & Nicky Dembinsky
- Saturday **Vigil Divine Liturgy** (at SS. Peter & Paul)  
4:00 p.m. +**Larry Burgess** req. by Marie Wanchick

**Epistle Readers** 6/26 – Marie Wanchick; 6/27 – Beverly Kostishak; 6/29 – Madeline Dinich; 7/3 – Marie Wanchick; 7/4 – Ellen Sinkovich; 7/10 – Angela Frank; 7/11 – Jennifer Keer; 7/17 – Madeline Dinich; 7/18 – Anna Keer

**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.

**The Council of Hierarchs of our Byzantine Metropolia of Pittsburgh**, set a common policy for all Eparchies within the Metropolia regarding stipends for Divine Liturgies. Effective immediately the stipend for a requested Divine Liturgy is \$20.00 (or more if offered) and the stipend for the five All Souls Liturgies is \$50.00 total. This change is not retroactive, but applies to all requests as of today.

**5<sup>th</sup> Sunday After Pentecost**

The Devil has not Full Power

Among the angelic powers the chief of the terrestrial order, the one to whom God had entrusted the task of looking after the earth, was not evil by nature, he had not received any trace of evil from his creator. He was good. However, he did not maintain the light and the honor that God had given him. By a deliberate act of his own free will he rebelled against the Creator. He turned his face away from goodness and fell into evil. Evil is in fact is merely the absence of good, as darkness is the absence of light. A host of angels placed under his command followed him in the fall. Despite their angelic nature, they also freely plunged from goodness down to evil and became wicked. The devils cannot do anything against us without God's permission. But with God's permission they are powerful. All wickedness, all the passions are inspired by them But listen: God allows them to suggest sin to a person, but they cannot force him to do it. We ourselves are responsible for accepting or rejecting their seductive suggestions.

By St. John Damascene - *The Orthodox Faith*, 2, 4 (PG94,873ff.)

**THE FLIGHT OF IDOLATERS. CHROMATTUS:**

The herdsmen fled at the sight of the divine power and reported to the town what had happened. The people entreated the Lord to depart from their district. This may symbolize the leaders of the Jews or the priests of idols, who, dispensing the food of their errors to unclean and unfaithful people, are feeding them like swine to perpetual death. TRACTATE ON MATTHEW 43.5.

Not finding You, sighing and lamenting, they  
cried out :

“ O Savior and King of all, how were you  
stolen?

Where does your life-giving Body lie now? ”

An angel appeared and said to them :

“ Do not cry but go proclaim the news :

The Lord is risen giving us joy :

He alone loves mankind. ”

5. Glory be to the Father ✝, and to the Son,  
and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and  
forever. Amen.

O Virgin most pure,

Listen to the supplication of your servants;

Protect us from our enemy;

Deliver us from sorrow.

You are our safe and secure haven;

We have you as our advocate.

Let those who call upon you never be put to  
shame.

Quickly answer those who call to you :

Hail Virgin, help of all,

Our joy, our protection, and salvation of our  
souls!

## VESPER VERSES ACCORDING TO THE EIGHT TONES

### TONE 4

1. We bow in worship to your life-giving cross,  
O Christ our God;  
We glorify your resurrection on the third day.  
By it you renewed our fallen nature, Almighty  
Lord.  
You gave us the assurance of heaven;  
You are gracious and the Lover of mankind.
2. Freely accepting crucifixion on the tree of the  
cross,  
You destroyed the penalty of the tree of sin.  
You descended into the Abyss, Almighty  
Lord.  
Being God, You broke the bonds of death.  
Therefore, we bow in worship to your resur-  
rection;  
In joy we cry out to You  
“ Almighty Lord : glory be to You! ”
3. O Lord, You shattered the gate of the Abyss;  
By your death you destroyed the power of  
death.  
You freed the human race from corruption;  
You gave life and great mercy to the world.
4. Come, all you nations and people,  
Let us praise the Savior's resurrection!  
It has freed us from the bonds of the Abyss.  
We have received life and incorruption :  
Let us cry out :

“ O Lord crucified, buried, and now risen :  
Save us by your resurrection,  
For you alone love mankind. ”

5. Angels and men glorify your resurrection,  
O Savior :  
By it you have enlightened all the earth.  
You redeemed us from slavery to our enemy.  
Let us cry out in song :  
O Savior, you are the mighty Giver of Life.  
Save us by your resurrection,  
For you alone love mankind.

6. You shattered the gates of the Abyss,  
You broke it's bonds, O Christ our God!  
You raised our fallen human race.  
We cry to you in song :  
O Lord risen from the dead : glory be to You!

7. O Lord, your birth from the Father is eternal  
and before all ages;  
Your incarnation from the Virgin is beyond  
explanation :

No language can tell it properly.  
Your descent into the Abyss is fearful  
Both to Satan and to his angels.  
You conquered death; You arose on the third  
day;  
You gave great mercy and life to the world.

8. Glory be to the Father ✝, and to the Son,  
and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and  
forever. Amen.

Because of you, O Mother of God,  
David the prophet became an ancestor of God.  
Praising Him who worked wonders in you,  
He foretold you in joyous song :  
The Queen stood at your right hand.  
You are revealed as the mother of Life.

Without a father, God chose to become  
incarnate of you.

He renewed in man his image corrupted by sin.  
Finding the lost sheep on the mountain, He  
put it on his shoulder;

He carried it to the Father and to his will;  
He numbered it among the heavenly powers.

He has saved the whole world :  
He is the Christ of great and rich mercy.

*At the Apostichon*

1. O Lord lifted upon the Cross,  
You wiped away our ancestral curse.  
In the Abyss, You freed those bound for ages;  
You granted incorruption to the human race.  
Because of this we sing our praise to You  
Glorifying your saving and life-giving resur-  
rection.

2. Raised upon the cross, O Mighty Lord,  
You shook the whole earth.  
Buried in your tomb, You raised the dead;  
You granted life and incorruption to the world.  
Because of this, we sing our praise to You,  
Glorifying your saving and life-giving resur-  
rection.

3. Evil people delivered You to Pilate, O Christ  
our God.  
He condemned You to crucifixion.  
They proved themselves ungrateful to their  
Benefactor.

Your freely accepted suffering and death.  
Being God you rose by your own power on  
the third day.  
You gave us eternal life and great mercy.

4. In tears, the faithful women came to your tomb:  
They were seeking You.