

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!

From the Fathers

When you perceive that God is chastising you, fly not to his enemies . . . but to his friends, the martyrs, the saints, and those who were pleasing to him, and who have great power . . .

St. John Chrysostom

A Christian people celebrates together in religious solemnity the memorials of the martyrs, both to encourage their being imitated and so that it can share in their merits and be aided by their prayers.

St. Augustine of Hippo

In this way is he [the true Christian] always pure for prayer. He also prays in the society of angels, as being already of angelic rank, and he is never out of their holy keeping; and though he pray alone, he has the choir of the saints standing with him.

St. Clement of Alexandria

In addition to the study and true knowledge of the Scriptures are needed a good life and pure soul and virtue in Christ, so that the mind, journeying in this path, may be able to obtain and apprehend what it desires, in so far as human nature is able to learn about God the Word. For without a pure mind and a life modeled on the saints, no one can apprehend the words of the saints.

St. Athanasius the Great

The divine Scripture likewise says that the souls of the just are in God's hand and death cannot lay hold of them. For death is rather the sleep of the saints than their death. "For they travailed in this life and shall to the end," and "Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of His saints." What then, is more precious than to be in the hand of God. For God is Life and Light, and those who are in God's hand are in life and light.

St. John of Damascus

SUNDAY OF ALL SAINTS



Icon of All Saints

**Sunday of All Saints
Tone 8**

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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May 30 June 5, 2021

All Divine Services are livestreamed where noted

Saturday 4:00 p.m. Vigil Divine Liturgy (at SS Peter & Paul)
+ **Mary Marencin** req. by Janice & Duke Plurgis

Sunday
8:00 a.m. +**Andrew J & +Margaret Gerchak** from their Estate (at St. Mary)
1:30 p.m. Panachida at the Cemetery
10:00 am **Health and Blessing of the Parishioners** (at SS. Peter & Paul)
Livestreamed

Monday 9:00 a.m. Memorial Day
+**Deceased Veterans**
Panachida at the Cemetery following the Divine Liturgy

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

Wednesday 8:00 a.m. **H&B Frances Tita** req. by Beverly Kostishak

Thursday 8:00 a.m. +**James P. Hertz** req. by MM Richard Dembinsky

Friday 8:00 a.m. +**Helen Hashin** req. by MM LeRoy Kessler

Saturday 4:00 p.m. **Vigil Divine Liturgy** (at SS. Peter & Paul)
+**Margaret Kostishak** req. by Lauren Minder

Epistle Readers: 5/29 – Gail Burgess; 5/30 – Beverly Kostishak; 5:31 – Marie Wanchick; 6:5 – Madeline Dinich; 6/6 – Ellen Sincovich; 6/12 – Angela Frank; 6/13 – Jennifer Keer; 6/19 – Dolores Kramer; 6/20 – Anna Keer; 6/26 – Marie Wanchick; 6/27 – Beverly Kostishak.

Pastoral Note: The **Event Committee** has prepared a calendar of events. The following dinner dates are offered to add to your calendar:

June 27th Roast Beef Dinner
August 21st Steak/Shrimp cocktail Dinner
September 19th Ham & Halubki Dinner
November 7th Turkey Dinner

All Dinners are take-out or for limited number dine in (fully vaccinated individuals). Covid 19 recommended protocols will remain in place until otherwise advised. Further details will be published as arrangements are completed.

Please Note: Sunday afternoon I will celebrate a Panachida at St. Mary Cemetery at 1:30 p.m. for all the deceased. On Monday, following the Divine Liturgy a Panachida will be celebrated at SS. Peter & Paul Cemetery for all deceased.

FROM THE FATHERS

“IN ADDITION to the study and true knowledge of the Scriptures are needed a good life and pure soul and virtue in Christ, so that the mind, journeying in this path, may be able to obtain and apprehend what it desires, in so far as human nature is able to learn about God the Word. For without a pure mind and a life modeled on the saints, no one can apprehend the words of the saints.”

St. Athanasius the Great, + 373 A.D.

“THE FRIENDS of Christ love all truly, but are not themselves loved by all; the friends of the world neither love all nor are loved by all. The friends of Christ persevere in love to the end; the friends of the world persevere only until they fall out with each other over some worldly thing.”

Saint Maximus the Confessor, 580-662 A.D.

“BY STRIKING our bodily frame with sickness, the Lord crushes the old, sinful, carnal man, in order to give strength to the new man, whom we have weakened by works of the flesh: gluttony, slothfulness, amusements, and manifold sinful attachments and passions. *For when I am weak, then am I strong* (2 Cor. 12:10). Therefore we must accept every malady with gratitude.”

Saint John of Kronstadt, 1829-1908 A.D.

SOLDIER-SAINTS



A soldier is a person who is **STRONG, COURAGEOUS, LOYAL** and **DEDICATED** to a particular purpose or undertaking. Many young people want to be like the soldier - to have a strong body, mind and personality. Even the soldier in your children's story, The Steadfast Tin Soldier, was an example of a brave personality.

Going into our church history, we find many examples of **SOLDIER-SAINTS**.

SAINT MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL, depicted in icons with his armor and sword, is known as the military commander of the angels. At one point in time, Lucifer, who was originally a good angel, decided he was as important as **GOD**. A fierce battle occurred. St Michael the Archangel led this battle between the angels who were loyal to God and those who followed Lucifer. His name - Michael that means "who is like God" - was the war cry during this famous event. Lucifer and his followers, now called the bad angels or devils, were thrown out of heaven forever.

Today, many military soldiers, sailors and pilots pray to St. Michael the Archangel for protection. We celebrate his Feast Day on November 8.

The first human soldier-saint was **SAINT LONGINUS**. He was the centurion at the foot of Jesus' cross who recognized Christ's divinity, saying: "Truly this was the Son of God." (Matt. 27:54) Later, because he became a Christian, Longinus was martyred.

Another soldier-saint was **SAINT GEORGE**. Coming from a military background, St. George joined the army at a young age and quickly worked his way up to an important position as a personal guard in the emperor's army.

Earlier I said a soldier is strong in body and mind. St. George displayed great spiritual strength as well. The emperor had given an order to persecute all Christian people. As a soldier, St. George was to participate in this order. Instead, he criticized the emperor and had the strength to shout out that he was a Christian! St. George was tortured, labeled a traitor and then killed.

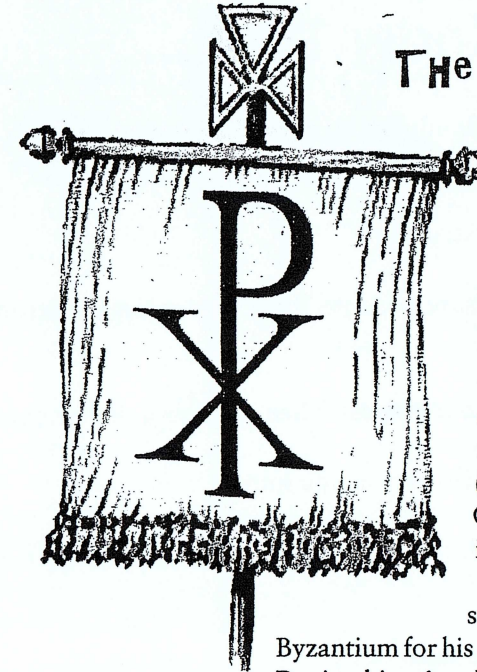
One icon shows St. George

sitting on a white horse with a lance in his hand, successfully piercing the mouth of a dragon. The dragon symbolizes the Evil One, or sin. "You fought the good fight with faith, O Martyr of Christ, George," we sing in the Troparion for his Feast Day, April 23.

BORIS and **GLEB** were brothers and the sons of Prince Vladimir. Their father recognized his sons' devoutness to their Christian faith and love for each other. Their Christian faith conflicted with their military orders. Sviatopolk, their stepbrother, greedy for power and land, plotted and had his stepbrothers murdered. "...You did not oppose the attacks of the enemy, your brother when he killed your bodies but could not touch your souls," we sing in Troparion 2 on their Feast Day, July 24.

ST. CONSTANTINE's religious experience began before a battle at the Milvian Bridge outside the city of Rome. Up to that point in his life, he was a pagan and worshiped the Sun as his god. The night before the battle, General Constantine became worried that he and his soldiers, might lose. Constantine prayed to the Christian God for protection. In a dream, Jesus told him to use the sign of the cross on his soldiers' shields. They won this important battle.

When Constantine the Great



THE BANNER OF St. Constantine the Great

St. Constantine's victory at the Milvian Bridge counts among the most decisive moments in world history. Constantine later made a standard, or banner, using the symbol he saw in his vision - a cross emblazoned on the face of the sun and intertwined with the Greek letters **XP** ("Chi-Rho," the first two letters of the Greek word for "Christ") that he used in his later battles.

The first Christian emperor, Constantine chose the ancient Greek city of Byzantium for his capital, and renamed it Constantinople. During his reign, he called together many bishops for the Council of Nicaea during which the Church Fathers defined our Profession of Faith, sometimes called The Nicene Creed in which the exact nature of the Christian religion was defined. It is known today as the 'Nicene Creed.'

Many Christians wear a cross as their "sign." If you carried a banner into the battles of everyday life for your faith today, what might it look like?

became the Roman Emperor - the very first **CHRISTIAN EMPEROR**, the persecution of Christians dropped. The Christian people were given back basic freedoms, such as holding public office and especially the right to openly worship God.

These men, our **SOLDIER-SAINTS**, shared their **HOLINESS** and **SPIRITUAL**

STRENGTH with their fellow man at great personal risk. They did not become saints because they were good fighters but because they were good Christians. They became **SOLDIERS OF CHRIST**. ■



Did You Know That ...

...you should never decide to not do anything simply because you can only do a little; do what you can?

...it is never too later to learn how to play an instrument?

...you must very carefully choose your life's mate because from one colossal decision will come ninety percent of all your happiness or misery?

...a religious book is a good choice to bring to your hostess when you are a dinner guest?

...you can become the most positive and optimistic person you know?

...if you get up thirty minutes earlier, you will, in one year, add seven and a half days to your waking world?

...you can be better prepared than you think you need be?

...instead of being thin-skinned, take criticism as well as praise with equal grace?

...you should learn how to bake bread?

...a good follower prays for his leader?

...you ought live so that when your children think of fairness, caring, fidelity and integrity, they think of you?

...you can judge your success by the degree that you enjoy peace, health and love?

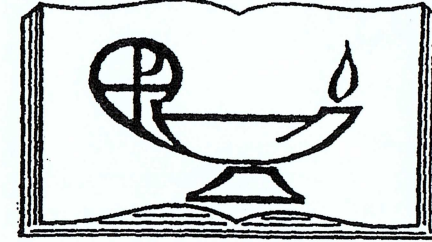
...you should support your parish church generously with your time and money?

...you should not admire anyone for their wealth, but for the creative and generous ways they put it to use?

....., your children can be witness when you say things to your wife that lets them know how much you love and treasure her?

...what is right is not always popular?

LORD



TEACH
US

PRAYER

Perish the day on which I was born, the night when they said, "The child is a boy." May that day be darkness; let not God above call for it, nor light shine upon it! May darkness and gloom claim it, clouds settle upon it; the blackness of night affright it! May obscurity seize that day, let it not occur among the days of the year, nor enter into the count of the months! May that night be barren; lit no joyful outcry greet it. Let them curse it who curse the sea, the appointed disturbers of Leviathan. May the stars of its twilight be darkened, may it look for daylight, but have one, nor gaze on the eyes of dawn, because it kept not shut the doors of the womb to shield my eyes from trouble! Why did I not perish at birth, come forth from the womb and expire? Or why was I not buried away like an untimely birth? Like babies that have never seen the light? Why did the knees receive me or why did I nurse at the breasts? For then I shall have lain down and been tranquil; had I slept I should then have been at rest with kings and counselors of the earth who built where there are now ruins or with princes who had gold and filled their houses with silver. There the wicked cease from troubling, there the weary are at rest. There the captives are at ease together, and hear not the voice of the slave driver. Small and great are there the same, and the servant is free from his master. Why is light given to those who toil and life to the bitter in spirit? They wait for death and it comes not, they search for it rather than for hidden treasures, rejoice in it exultingly and are glad when they reach the grave; men whose path is hidden from them, and when God has hemmed in! For sighing comes more readily to me than food, and my groans well forth like water. For what I fear overtakes me, and what I shrink from comes upon me. I have no peace no ease; I have no rest for trouble comes! Job 3: 3 - 26.

Why then did you bring me forth from the womb? I should have died and no eye have seen me. I should be as though I had never lived; I should have been taken from the womb to the grave. Are not the days of my life few? Let me alone, that I may recover a little before I go from where I shall not return, to the land of darkness and of gloom, the black disordered land where darkness is the only light Job 10: 18 - 22.