

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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**Mahal-Ritzel Funeral Home**

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Mark J. Mahal – Funeral Director

### *Prayer to the Theotokos*

To me you are my dear love, my beauty, the great hope of salvation. Help your servant, O most glorious Virgin. My voice tells of you tearfully; my heart burns for love. Give heed as well to the prayers of all my sisters and brothers who cry unto you: O Virgin, you are full of grace; through you may the grace of Christ ever preserve us ...

May devotion and honor recall your memory in this place, O Queen of heaven, greatest hope of our life. With your kindness, look upon God's handmaids and servants here who call unto you, O Virgin most mild. In your mercy, give heed in every moment to our prayers, and by your prayers direct our days, always and everywhere ...

Virgin and Mother whose merit is unequalled! Mary, you alone are the one whom the Lord preserved in such a condition of soul and body as to make you worthy of the mystery in which the Son of God assumed a body from you as the price of our redemption. O most merciful, through whom the whole world has been saved, I pray you, intercede for me, the most unclean of all and stained with every kind of wickedness; intercede for me, for because of my sins, I deserve to receive nothing except eternal punishment. O most glorious Virgin, grant that I, saved by your merits, may reach the eternal Kingdom.

*Alcuin*

## TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST ENTRANCE OF THE THEOTOKOS INTO THE TEMPLE



*Icon of the Entrance of the Theotokos into the Temple -- November 21st*

**26<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost**  
**Entrance of the Theotokos in the Temple**  
**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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**November 21– November 27, 2021**  
**All Divine Services are livestreamed where noted**

- Saturday Vigil Divine Liturgy (at SS Peter & Paul)  
4:00 p.m. + **Michael Kovich** req. by Marie Wanchick
- Sunday  
8:00 a.m. + **John Malusky** req. by Helen, Julia & John Krueel (at St. Mary)  
10:00 am **Health and Blessing of the Parishioners** (at SS. Peter & Paul)  
Livestreamed
- Monday  
8:00 a.m. + **Mary Frantz** req. by Ron & Dolores Kramer
- Tuesday  
8:00 a.m. + **Paul Andrew Platko** req. by mother, Helen
- Wednesday  
8:00 a.m. **No Divine Liturgy Today**
- Thursday  
8:00 a.m. **No Divine Liturgy Today**
- Friday  
8:00 a.m. **No Divine Liturgy Today**
- Saturday **Vigil Divine Liturgy** (at SS. Peter & Paul)  
4:00 p.m. + **Joseph Lohin** req. by Elaine Lohin Kunze

**Epistle Readers:** 10/30 – Dolores Kramer; 10/31 – Angela Frank;  
11/6 – Marie Wanchick; 11/7 – Anna Keer; 11/8 – Ellen Sinkovich; 11/13 – Dolores Kramer; 11/14 – Jennifer Keer; 11/20 – Madeline Dinich; 11/21 – Beverly Kostishak; 11/27 – Angela Frank; 11/28 – Marie Wanchick.

**Candles** in front of the Icons and on the Sacramental Table are offered for the Sinkovich Family.

On **Saturday/Sunday, November 27-28** Father Jerome, OFM and I will exchange pulpits. Father asked me to speak to his parishioners on taking ownership of the parish as I have done here. Father will celebrate the Mystery of Forgiveness on Saturday in the normal timeframe here. He will celebrate the Divine Liturgies at the normal times.

The **Ladies of St. Mary** are having a **Cookie Sale** on Saturday, December 11 from 10 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. You may pre-order by Saturday, **December 4** by calling Dolores at 570-544-5398. Refer to the flier on the bulletin board for details.

**A Question** was asked, “Why did St. Paul refer to himself as a prisoner of the Lord?”

Four of St. Paul’s Letters, viz., Ephesians, Colossians, Philippians and Philemon, were written when St. Paul was in prison, thereby called “The Captivity Letters. Paul was imprisoned for preaching about Jesus Christ, hence calling himself a “prisoner of the Lord.”

On **December 12<sup>th</sup>** we will have our annual **Saint Nicholas Breakfast/Brunch** following the Sunday Divine Liturgy. In order to help us prepare, we kindly ask that you provide us with your intention to attend by filling out the reservation below. We thank you kindly. Deadline for reservations is **December 5**.

**I/We intend to attend the St. Nicholas Breakfast/Brunch:**

\_\_\_\_\_

Name

\_\_\_\_\_

Number attending

# A Happy Home



## A Happy Home

God's revelation to us in Scripture and in the life of his Body, the Church, gives us a blueprint for a home that is spiritually invigorating by nature, beautiful in design, solid in structure, and pleasant in atmosphere. Home can be a place of harmony and contentment, or one of tension and

strife. Is your home happy, strong, and able to survive the storms of life?

Home is an important social unit. It is divinely ordained for our spiritual development, emotional happiness and physical fulfillment. God's plan has forever been that members of the family unit in the home always bring happiness to one another and that families live in harmony, guided by his precepts.

## Why Some Homes Are Unhappy

Why, then, are many homes unhappy? Why are they being broken by discord, separation, and divorce? It is because God's pattern has been disregarded. Destructive secularism has been permitted entrance into the exclusive sanctity of our homes. Within his Word is found the needed building material for a happy and successful home. Homes built according to his Word are places of love, trust, mutual interest, and unselfish service one to another. Such homes will bring happiness into our lives and preserve and build up our communities and nations. Are you following the plan of God, the Master Architect? "Except the Lord builds the house, they labor in vain who build it" Psalms 127: 1.

In youth, the foundation is carefully laid for our future homes. A life pure

all this and was completely ruined" Matthew 7: 24 - 27.

It is He alone who gives us the direction, strength, perseverance and courage that will make our homes successful and happy in this cruel, unsympathetic world. Jesus is a home lover, an upbuilder of the merits of the home and its proper values, and He is ready to enter our homes to affirm and sustain them. He says, "Behold, I stand at the door and knock" Revelation 3: 20. First He knocks at the door of our hearts and at the door of our homes. Will we always let him in?

A happy home begins in our hearts. We cannot have genuine peace in our homes without peace in our hearts. Personal daily victory over the irritations and frustrations of the day can be ours when we place our trust in God. "You will keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on you, because he trusts in you" Isaiah 26: 3.

A godly family will pray together for their own hearts, their home and the needs of the community as they elevate themselves in prayer for their own salvation. Prayer binds a family together. A faithful truism to observe is "The family that prays together stays together."

Believe and accept fully God's plan for Christian Family Life. Leave the door of your family heart open to Christ. "Today if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts" Hebrews 3: 7, 8.

The Lord waits to bless your heart and home. He desires a vital and pivotal role in your family life. Turn to him with all your heart and remain faithful to his concerns. Some day He will open the door of our destined heavenly home where happiness and perfect peace will welcome your family to stay forever.



Luke 2: 51. When the principle of submission is practiced and is the routine of the home, parents and children will be happier and the home will be more pleasant because God's will is being fulfilled in family life. Children ought to be taught and parents should understand plainly that it is God's expectation, the plan of the Creator that children submit themselves to the authority of their parents who are but willing and ready instruments in the hands of heaven for child-rearing. To parents is assigned the dignity of witnessing to God's purpose for them and their children.

When God's order is maintained, the parents will live for the child and children for their parents, and all will live for God's glory. Such homes will bless our communities and give quality to our nation.

Many youth are involved in drugs, silly fads, nonsensical fashions which they themselves dictate to peers in their midst. The world of pseudo entertainment compels them to imitate the values of death and destruction. They are captivated by a fast society that is throwing away values and abandoning morals. At one time these gave a degree of integrity and stability to our communities. Is the absence of secure and happy homes an

underlying cause of our restless and discontented youth?

The lack of serious faith-life commitments in some families contributes to a lack of security in young lives. Superficial faith cannot undergird the obviously apparent emptiness in family life today. What can you as a right-believing Catholic do about this? Has it ever occurred to you that the true stability and making of your home depends on you and the loyalty of your heart to God?

### **Christ The Foundation**

If we wish to build a strong and enduringly happy home, Jesus Christ must be the foundation. Rains may come and storms beat against it, but in Christ, it will stand.

"Anyone who hears my words and puts them into practice is like the wise man who built his house on rock. When the rainy season set in, the torrents came and the winds blew and buffeted his house. It did not collapse; it had been solidly set on rock. Anyone who hears my words but does not put them into practice is like the foolish man who built his house on sandy ground. The rains fell, the torrents came, the winds blew and lashed against his house. It collapsed under

and unadulterated before God is an important ingredient in our preparation for marriage. An eagerness for sanctity is to be promoted. Premarital sinfulness undermines moral stability and places the future home in jeopardy. Disrespect for human life and the culture of death should be opposed by the positive values of a believing home.

Self-centeredness and ego-gratification in youth sets a pattern of living that wreaks havoc in marriage. The high rate of divorce is sufficient proof of these plain truths. These sins must be thoroughly repented of before there can be a new life in Christ so they will not be longingly revisited in the marriage. The past can then be laid to rest and God will enter with his magnanimous healing and restorative blessings.

A home begins when a man and women are sacramentally joined together in a God-blessed and sanctified marriage. Scripture says we are to marry "...only in the Lord" 1 Corinthians 7: 39. This means that both groom and bride have surrendered their lives, even their will and made it submissive to the Lord. It has to be mutually recognized and accepted that God have first precedent place. Christ must be the third party to

every marriage. When man, women, or both are selfish, and filled with their own importance, where then is the basis of mutual happiness?

### **Marrying In The Lord**

Marrying "in the Lord" not only means that the man and women are believing Christians, but also that they realize the Lord will lead them into one another. Passions, physical attractions, and infatuations alone are a poor beginning for a marriage and most times assure its destruction. So crude and vulgar are our judgments and tastes that lust most popularly is misunderstood for love or even liking someone. When these are the basis for our attraction to each other, there may be frustration, feelings of betrayal and conflict after marriage that lead to its ready dissolution. As we trust the Lord to guide our choice, his divine wisdom, foresees the helpmate we will need not only for today, but for the years ahead. The Lord may choose different tastes and temperaments, which will complement each other, resulting in a more balanced and mutually fulfilling unit. "And the two shall become one flesh" Mark 10: 8.

Marriage is meant to be a life-long bond as a sacramental Mystery, not a mere legal contract or a simple socially accepted legal license for sexual

activity. Jesus offered us this clear-cut command: "What therefore God has joined together let no man put asunder" Matthew 19: 6.

### Godly Order

St. John Chrysostom was the first among the Fathers of the Church to explain and enunciate the home is a little faith community within itself, that it is a miniature church and, like every social unit, delegated areas of responsibility are necessary. God has given us an outline of this order. It is a framework of authority, which, if followed, will bring good order and happiness, as well as stability to the home.

The greatest responsibility is required of the husband, then the wife and then, the children in that order. "I want you to know that the head of every man is Christ; the head of woman is her husband; and the head of Christ is the Father" 1 Corinthians 11: 3; "Wives should be submissive to their husbands as if to the Lord because the husband is the head of his wife just as Christ is head of his body the church, as well as its saviour. As the church submits to Christ, so wives should submit to their husbands in everything. Husband, love your wives as Christ loved the church...husbands should love their

wives as they do their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. Observe that no man ever hates his own flesh, no he nourishes it and takes care of it ..." Ephesians 5: 22 – 24, 28, 29.

The husband then, is called upon to be the greatest and foremost servant in the family unit. To him is assigned the dignity and dominion of the Father in heaven. To him is given the imitation of the vocation of Christ, "I am come among you as one who serves..." Luke 12:27.

When our God establishes and sanctions a principle, it becomes sacred and enduring for us. Any disobedience to that revealed truth will bring its own measure of sorrow. On the other hand, He blesses those who are obedient with godliness, happiness and fulfilling grace.

At marriage the husband and wife begin a union in which each has a unique responsibility and obligation. Both are needed with their different functions and natural abilities to make the home complete. Someone must take the lead; the initiative and God delegates this position to the man. "For the husband is the head...even as Christ is the head of the church and gave himself up for it" Ephesians 5: 23 Such all consuming love is

immersed in a spirit of eager self-giving and self-offering. It is a caring love that causes the husband to treat his wife "as his own body" Ephesians 5: 28.

A loving husband will never consider his wife to be his inferior, but his equal as she is in God's sight. He will elevate her, extol her, confide in her and seek her counsel, making her a true partner through his love for her.

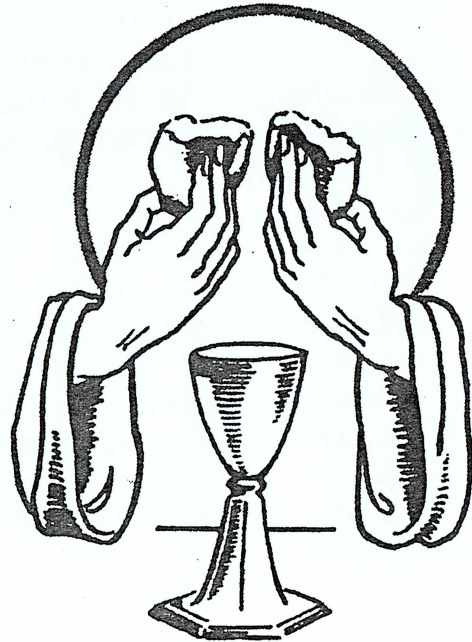
St. Peter the blessed apostle also shares some heavenly insights when he advises in the same spirit, "You married women must obey your husbands so that any of them who do not believe in the word of the gospel may be won over apart from preaching, through their wives' conduct" They have only to observe the reverent purity of your way of life" 1 Peter 3: 1 -3.

When a wife follows the leadership of her husband in the home as he obediently follows the Lord, that home becomes a haven of peace and contentment as well as fulfillment. Rebellion against this principle has brought much unhappiness into homes today. Sidestepping this principle only introduces conflict into family life, but also arouses spiritual contentions between husband and wife as well as among the children.

### The Children's Place

We like to think of children as pure and innocent. However, all are born with sinful natures. As a child grows, his selfish nature will become increasingly evident and he will bring much unhappiness upon himself and others unless the parents discipline these tendencies. The first discipline to be introduced is submitting the child to the grace of baptism and subsequent chrismation so that a regular eucharistic life enriches and guides the child and nourishes his spiritual as well as physical needs and helps curb sinful tendencies. Consequently, it is the vital parental role to provide by example the spiritual atmosphere in which the baptismal vocation of the child can flourish. The vapid existence some lead is testimony that parents do not have much to share with their children; that their values are poorly directed for successful living. How many people merely exist from day to day?

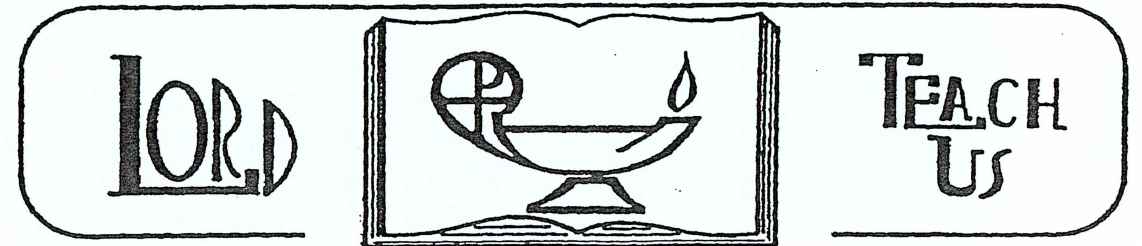
A part of a child's vocation is to obey the parents or caregivers "Children, obey your parents in the Lord for this is right" Ephesians 6: 1. A perfect example of this obedience is noted in the young life of Jesus as a child. "And he went down with them and came to Nazareth and was subject to them"



**WITH DESIRE**

**I HAVE  
DESIRED  
TO EAT THIS  
PASCH  
WITH YOU**

**LUKE · 22 · 15**



**Home**

*Come home with me for some refreshment, the king invited the man of God, and I will give you a present 1 Kings 13: 7.*

*Haman restrained himself, however, and went home, where he summoned his friends and his wife Zeresh. He recounted the greatness of his riches, the large number of his sons, and just how the king had promoted him and placed him above the officials and royal servants Esther 5: 10 – 12.*

*By their good example they must teach the younger women to love their husbands and children, to be sensible, chaste, busy at home. Thus the word of God will not fall into disrepute Titus 2: 5.*

*...let these learn the piety that begins at home;...this is the way God wants it to be I Timothy 5: 4.*

*They went to the temple area every day, while in their homes they broke bread. With exultant and sincere hearts they took their meals in common, praising God and winning the approval of all the people Acts of the Apostles 2: 46, 47.*

*Behold your mother. From that hour onward, the disciple took her into his home John 19: 27.*

*Go home to your family and make it clear to them how much the Lord in his mercy has done for you Mark 5: 19.*