

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

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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

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)

Bulletins are sponsored by

Mahal-Ritzel Funeral Home

Minersville, PA 544-5111

Mark J. Mahal – Funeral Director

The Power of Prayer

The youngest daughter of a very wealthy man was seriously ill. He had taken her from doctor to doctor but they could not cure her. Next, he had taken her to the most renowned specialists and to the finest clinics throughout the world, but without success. Finally, one doctor, realizing that he could do nothing more for the little girl, said to the father "I promise I'll remember your daughter in my prayers." The father replied, "Don't say that! I'm not ready to give up!"

Sadly, many people save the power of prayer only as a last resort when all else has seemingly failed. They say, "All we can do now is pray." Yet, prayer is simple but powerful conversation with God. Two thousand years ago, the daughter of an influential man named

Jairus became ill. His first response was to seek out Jesus in the synagogue and ask His help. Asking help of Jesus even in the most simple way is prayer. Saint John Chrysostom tells us that we should converse daily with God "telling Him of our needs not with endless words, but with simplicity."

If we converse daily with God, then God knows all our needs. Nothing is unimportant to Him if it is important to us. Thus, prayer should not be the last resort in desperate situations. Rather, prayer should be the first resort in every situation, serious or not. Should the conflict grow more serious, the Desert Fathers tell us to simply cry out "Lord have mercy!" because the Lord knows very well what we need and will show us His mercy.

TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST



Icon of the Healing of Jairus' Daughter (Luke 8:41-56)

Volume 2021
Christ is among us!

Number 45
He is and will be!

24th Sunday after Pentecost
Tone 7

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 7 – November 13, 2021
All Divine Services are livestreamed where noted

Saturday Vigil Divine Liturgy (at SS Peter & Paul)
4:00 p.m. + **George Shomper** req. by a parishioner

Sunday
8:00 a.m. +**Joseph Andrachick** req. by MM Maynard Palamer (at St. Mary)
10:00 am **Health and Blessing of the Parishioners** (at SS. Peter & Paul)
Livestreamed

Monday **Archangel Michael and All Angels**
9:00 a.m. +**Mary Makara** req. by Ron & Dolores Kramer (at SS. Peter & Paul)
4:00 p.m. +**Cary Bohlin** req. by Catherine Bulino (at St. Mary)

Wednesday
8:00 a.m. +**George Konkus** req. by Mrs. William Petrocy

Thursday
8:00 a.m. +**Veronica Sekellick** req. by Mary Dembinsky

Friday
8:00 a.m. +**Joseph Lohin** req. by Elaine Lohin Kunze

Saturday **Vigil Divine Liturgy** (at SS. Peter & Paul)
4:00 p.m. +**Paul Platko** req. by Cyril & Theresa Roth

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 Jesus Christ, the Mother of God are offered for +Nicholas Kostishak, Jr. by Beverly Kostishak and Family.

TEN LITTLE BYZANTINES

Ten little Byzantines standing in a line; one didn't like the priest and then there were nine.

Nine little Byzantines stayed up very late; one slept in on Sunday and then there were eight.

Eight little Byzantines on the road to Heaven; one took the low road and then there were seven.

Seven little Byzantines got into an awful fix; one didn't like the singing in church and then there were six.

Six little Byzantines seemed very much alive; but one lost interest and then there were five.

Five little Byzantines wishing there were more; but they quarreled with each other and then there were four.

Four little Byzantines cheerful as can be; but one lost his temper and then there were three.

Three little Byzantines knew what to do; but one got a job on Sundays and then there were two.

Two little Byzantines (our rhyme is almost done) differed with each other and then there was one.

One lone Byzantine spoke to his neighbor true, brought him to church and then there were two.

Two earnest Byzantines each brought one more; they doubled their number so then there were four.

Four sincere Byzantines worked very late, talking about the Lord and then there were eight.

Eight splendid Byzantines – wait a minute, nothing rhymes with sixteen – so we simply note that if we wrote seven more jingles, there would be 1,0234 souls in Church!

SEE WHAT YOU CAN DO FOR THE LORD!

The Human Touch

The harvest is great but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into the harvest
Matthew 9: 37, 38.

Those who maintain vegetable gardens know how much weeding is necessary for healthy growth. One devotee recently purchased a tool that promised to make this job easier. At first she was delighted because she did not have to bend over so much. But while working very close to some of the plants with her new-fangled tool, she accidentally cut and broke the stems of some of them. In the end, she had to actually get down on her knees and manually pull out the weeds the old-fashioned way. At times, she was even constrained to remove her gloves which were getting in her way.

How this experience reminds us of our ongoing work in the life of the Body of Christ. There always seems to be a new opportunity to deal with various situations. But that does not substitute for our being personally involved. Worship is a prime example. Unless we are there to join in the chorus of voices praising our God with our own needed unique individual contribution, we cheat ourselves of the grace that flows into responsive souls from heaven. In trying approaches that separate us from God, we break the stems of those valued things in life which only personal participation can overcome. We must remember we are ministering to and serving the needs of other believers, even non-believers at times. People need the human touch and a kind encouraging word which necessitates our actual participating presence.

Those in need at worship have to see and experience our actual presence to feel valued and know they are not just another digit in the scheme of things. Yes, we can use the weeding tool at times, but we must recognize it will not do with the problem of weeds so close to plants and we must welcome the chance to get our hands involved, even dirty when the need arises.

Our Creator God wants to help us recognize in those around us, worthy souls so we can by our good example and concern teach them to serve as well by his grace. People need the human touch, not just the theory, but an actual implementation of it because we first remove the weeds in our lives so we can assist others in doing the same in theirs.

Are you not the God...?

O Lord, God of our fathers, are you not the God who is in heaven?
2 Chronicles 20: 6.

A pious family was facing a difficult, life-changing problem when they gathered around their dining room table to pray. They began by reading about the time King Jehoshaphat was confronted by a formidable enemy and it looked as if there was no way of escape. In his prayer, the king posed the question, "Are you not the God who is in heaven?" As the father thought about and considered that question, he felt led to begin praying by saying, "Are you not the God whose faithfulness surrounds you" Psalms 89: 8?

Next a daughter-in-law prayed, "Are you not the God who sealed the mouths of lions and spared Daniel's life" Daniel 6? One son added, "Are you not the God who fed five thousand people with five loaves of bread and two fish" Matthew 14: 13: 21? Faith was stirred and they continued around the table repeatedly as each family member recited from salvation history examples of God's intervention in the lives of people. A grandchild sang out, as does the Church, "You are the God who works miracles..."

Finally after praying and seeking mercy and a solution to their vexing problem, the family asked the Lord to intervene and manifest his will for them. Because they were inspired by the promise, "...all men have seen my glory and the miracles I worked..." Numbers 14: 22, they placed their hope in God and together sang out from the depth of their heart and soul, "It is time for you, O Lord to work" Psalms 119: 126.

Later when that family looked back on that difficult time, they were more than convinced that God is with them to provide solutions. In response to the question, "Are you not the God...?" all believers are in wholehearted agreement. Indeed, that is our God!

Daily they thank the Lord for faithfully standing with them in difficult times and praising him for God is always faithful to us.

Guidance

We live by faith, not by sight
2 Corinthians 5: 7.

A young woman, Alexandra suffered many problems with her sight. Finally she found a physician who could help her with her problems. Once while in the hospital, she learned a valuable lesson about trusting our heavenly Father. Following an operation, pads were placed over both her eyes. Absolutely blind, she was content to place her trust completely in the nurses to be her eyes and do everything for her.

However, as soon as one pad was removed and she regained some of her sight, she immediately wanted to do things for herself. Because she could not see very well, she often finished up in a muddle, finally having to give in to her pride and ask for help.

Alexandra says she quickly realized most of us muddle through life in much the same way. Our abilities are limited when we try to deal with problems, but because we can see a little bit, we strive to find our own way simply by ourselves. But our heavenly Father, all-seeing and all-powerful, knows the way. He longs to take us by the hand and lead us gently through difficult times and problems.

Our continuing prayerful devotion must be to remember that no matter what happens, we are always ready to call upon our heavenly Father and Creator to sustain and lead us. We are in his hands whether we realize or believe it.

Far more than any nurse can provide, the leading guidance in the grace of the Holy Spirit is all we need. Far more tender and genuinely concerned is the love of our Creator and Maker. Far more accurate in response to our need is the presence of Christ in our lives. Far more successful is the man who seeks not merely temporary earthly guidance, but the soul who seeks after continual and certain help in obtaining the salvation of our soul.

Our heavenly Father sees the road ahead and longs to lead us as we travel it.

Praise the Lord

Let everything that breathes praise the Lord
Psalm 150: 6.

The father of a family relates that on a recent camping trip which the family periodically makes to various sites, his family was awakened by a chorus of chirping and melodious birds. The first few mornings they all complained about what they thought was incessant racket and suppressed the urge to yell out and scream "Be Quiet." But then, after thoughtful consideration, his wife finally reminded him of the words of David.

David provides for us an insight we often overlook. We are commanded by inspiration to praise the Lord with all of our being through music, dance and voice, our entire physical and spiritual being. The concluding verse of the Book of Psalms makes this plain "Let everything that breathes praise the Lord.

Could it be that these early-rising birds, nature's musicians are simply praising God by their imbued instinct? Does it occur to us they simply respond to in their place in creation by recognizing instinctively the joy of their being for the benefit of man? Perhaps their sometimes shrill voices are saying, "Good morning, Lord. Glory to Jesus Christ! Wake up creation, behold the glory of all things made and praise the Creator whom everything on earth reflects!"

Can each of us say that we awaken each morning praising and worshipping our God? Do the first thoughts of our mind and soul resonate with joy in being a child of God? Do we start the day thanking our heavenly Father for health, both spiritual and physical and the continued devotion of family faith response to God's first shown love? Do we actually ask him to provide for the physical necessities we will enjoy in the new day? Do we ever thank him for providing heavenly nourishment in the Eucharist for our souls? Do we think about the means He utilizes in the sacramental Mystery of Reconciliation to lighten our burden of ongoing sin and separation?

We can only imagine what our world would be like if we all were to begin each day with praise, worship and thanksgiving as we reflect on the goodness and love of our Creator God and Saviour Jesus Christ. All creation praises God; how can we join it?