

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)

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Mark J. Mahal – Funeral Director

Life's Choices

Native Americans have a legend about the two paths one can take in life. One path is broad and easy and slopes down rolling hills. At the bottom of the hill, however, is a barren desert where nothing lives. The other path is narrow and rocky. It winds around dangerous curves and is filled with unexpected difficulties. However, at the end of this path is the lush greenness of life and happiness.

The Native Americans told this story to their children in order to teach them that the easy way is not always the best way. Strong character is built by facing obstacles, not by avoiding them. In the same way, Christians grow in virtue and grace often through facing trials and struggles.

The life of the holy martyr Charitina

is witness to this lesson. She was a young orphan girl – of great beauty – who was raised by devout Christian parents. At an early age she made the decision to dedicate her life to Christ in perpetual virginity. Through her example, many others were converted to Christ. This infuriated the pagan emperor who ordered that the hair of this beautiful servant of God be cut off and that hot coals be placed upon her head. She endured this and other inhumane and degrading tortures until the Lord took her soul to abide with Him in Paradise.

Her path in life was not an easy one, but it was the right one. Upon which path do the decisions that we make in life place us? Do we choose merely the easy path or the path that leads to Life?

NINETEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST



Icon of Saints Charitina and Methodia -- October 5th

19th 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.

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October 3 – October 9, 2021
All Divine Services are livestreamed where noted

- Saturday Vigil Divine Liturgy (at SS Peter & Paul)
4:00 p.m. + **Mary Kostura** req. by daughter, Cecilia & John Mennig
- Sunday
8:00 a.m. + **Joseph Bulino** req. by Catherine Bulino (at St. Mary)
10:00 am **Health and Blessing of the Parishioners** (at SS. Peter & Paul)
Livestreamed
- Tuesday
8:00 a.m. **H&B Deborah Ballenger** req. by mother, Marie Wanchick
- Wednesday
8:00 a.m. + **John Kostura** req. by Anna Hudock
- Thursday
8:00 a.m. + **Honyara, Bitsko & Buchkarick Families** req. by Ralph & Barbara Lutz
- Friday
8:00 a.m. + **George Kanish** req. by MM William Ward
- Saturday Vigil Divine Liturgy (at SS. Peter & Paul)
4:00 p.m. + **Andrew & +Richard Valosin** req. by wife & mother, Elizabeth Valosin

Epistle Readers: 10/2 – Dolores Kramer; 10/3 – Anna Keer; 10/9 – Marie Wanchick; 10/10 – Madeline Dinich; 10/16 – Angela Frank; 10/17 – Jennifer Keer; 10/23 – Beverly Kostishak; 10/24 – Ellen Sinkovich; 10/30 – Dolores Kramer.

The Mystery of Forgiveness (Confession) is available from 2:00 until 3:00 p.m. each Friday, again on Saturday at 1:00 p.m at St. Mary and 3:00 p.m. at SS Peter & Paul

Parish Breakfast: Next Sunday is our parish breakfast. If, you have not yet registered, do so today

Candles are burning this week in front of the Mother of God offered by the Konkus Family

19th Sunday After Pentecost
The Interpreter's 1-Vol. Commentary

6:27-45. *The Demands of Love.* This section of the sermon is also drawn from Q (cf. Matt. 5:38-48; see comment). First Jesus is presented as requiring love and rejecting retaliation. Luke's reporting here is fuller than Matt's. The love which discipleship demands, like the love of God, extends to those who do not deserve it: to your enemies, to those who hate you, to those who curse you, and to those who abuse you. Luke then gives concrete examples of this love which are found also in Matt. Luke's form of the cloak and coat illustration is different from Matt.'s. He assumes that the outer garment, the cloak, is taken first, while Matt. has it the other way around. Where Matt. seems to assume some legal loss of shirt, Luke appears to visualize an act or theft. 6:32-36. Luke's presentation of a love which reaches out to those who do not love you is more explicit than Matt.'s. Vs. 34 has no parallel; it declares that the disciple must lend without expecting to be repaid. That no bank could operate on such principles is obvious, but the demand of love conforms to no ordinary standards. Instead one must be merciful, even as your Father is merciful. This form of the command is probably more original and more demanding than Matt.'s. To be perfect in the OT is an attainment of man; to be merciful is an attribute of God.

Happy Birthday! Next Sunday **Anna Leshko** will celebrate her 100th birthday. She has led a remarkable life and God has blessed her with longevity. We extend our heart-felt best wishes. Many happy years to come.

Nineteenth Sunday

The profoundly Christian message in all its authenticity is enunciated today. We have all been taught to love God, our parents, our children, our friends and those who do us good. These seem natural to us, and yet we have such enduring difficulty with them. We recognize that only with God's freely endowed grace is this possible because of the inclination of man's fallen nature towards doing the easy thing and that of course, is to sin.

Our Lord prepares us for these expectations of today's reading by insisting "Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you; bless those who curse you and pray for those who maltreat you. When someone slaps you on the cheek, turn and give him the other; when someone takes your coat, let him have your shirt as well. Give to all who ask of you. When a man takes what is yours, do not demand it back" Finally then, He enters into the message of today's gospel narrative, while enunciating what mankind has labeled the golden rule, "Do to others what you would have them do to you." Luke 6: 27 – 30.

Even before this, He sets the stage of reaction in the world against what He states is descriptive language of his followers and us as believers. "Woe to you when all speak well of you. Their fathers treated the false prophets in just this way" Luke 6: 26. We are all so afraid of our own perceived value and worth in the world. Who ever heard of allowing ourselves to be made a fool of? What self-respecting person permits himself to be taken advantage of? What kind of person will submit in service to another, even if it is never going to be appreciated, rewarded or recognized? Who has met the person who allows himself to be walked on, even abused because he assumes the stature of Christ himself? Have we ever desired to become abject servants of others when our intentions and services are not liked or appreciated, but nevertheless vitally necessary? Wouldn't such an abused person be justified in seeking retaliation and revenge?

The answers swarm in our hearts and our mind and our soul. No one was meant to suffer such humiliation and deprivation and they are right. What our Lord is telling us is not to invite such heinous inhuman response from others, but when it is afflicted on us, we are not to respond as do people in the world. Ours after all, is not to be guilty of one-upmanship, the last devastating word, with pithy vitriolic words and destructive action in response. Because, after all, we do not belong to the values of the fallen world. We belong to Christ. Did He curse and punish as He was ridiculed? Did He swallow his persecutors in the bowels of the earth when they took away his life? When they reduced him to a mass of torn and ripped flesh while tied to a column and given forty lashes? Did he smite the pagan Pilate and witness him destroyed for his insolence? Did the scorners on the hill of Golgotha wagging their fingers toward him in derision turn to salt or stone?

Many are pleasers and flatterers and hypocrites – these are praised and marveled at by all men whose likes and weaknesses they flatter and satisfy. Who has not said, "I'll teach him a thing or two..." after being rejected, even humiliated? Such are these pseudo prophets of the world of whom so many are honored and glorified, whereas real believers, genuine teachers, faithful disciples are so often stoned and killed, literally if not figuratively. Instead of doing what is pleasing to God, not seeking the approval of other sinful men, we must do what is pleasing to our God and allowing ourselves to be debased because it isn't the opinion of man that counts, but the opinion of our God. We desire the honor and glory of God who will then heap upon us greater glory and more numerous honors than we can ever imagine.

Even the depraved world teaches us to be good to those who are good to us, to be benevolent, kind, even generous to them who like us, even love us. It is in this departure from the conduct of the world that separates the true believer and faithful follower and makes him a monumental, even riveting and memorable contender for a place in heaven. Who has not heard of the saint described as "a fool for Christ"?

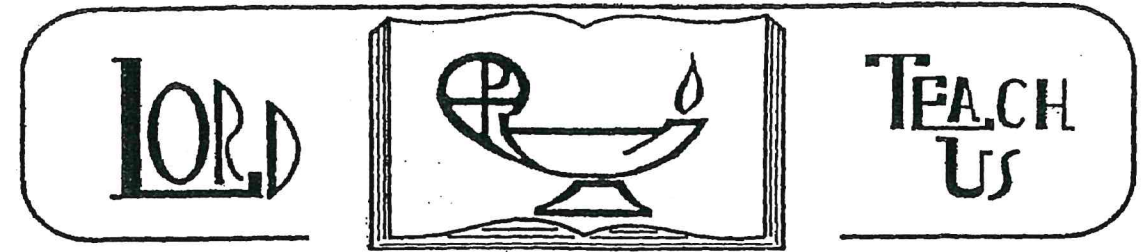
So how does this apply in our daily living? On the practical level with so much upheaval in the world that it ripples down into our family living we are given a practical solution. Instead of ignoring each other, instead of hating our wives, our husbands our children or family members and friends when disagreements arise, when difficulties occur, recognize the wisdom of our God who insists we be positively loving in all circumstances. If we cannot love someone properly as our wife, as our husband, as our child, as a friend, we can still love them as an enemy. Love is paramount! Love is necessary and will slowly but inevitably fix itself properly in our hearts to love as we ought with the proper disposition of soul.

Who does not recall some time ago when the madman entered the Amish school and snuffed out numerous children's lives? Wasn't the world astounded when the Amish community without hesitation, turned with open arms of embrace and good will to the perpetrator? In doing God's will they overcame their own anguish, loss and pain. They were almost devastated by what occurred, but doing the will of God restored their spiritual equilibrium. How many victims of terrible crime turn to those who made them suffer and regaining their own sanity, offer forgiveness from heart and soul?

This is what our God expects of us. This is what our God is telling us. This is what separates us from the destruction of the world. We pursue God's will, his desires for our daily living. And it is only possible by his freely endowed grace. We are not abusers; we do not dispense evil nor are we witnesses to our own brand of justice. We permit the will of God to reign in our midst. We are content with his will reigning in our midst. We do not permit evil behavior to provoke similar behavior towards others in return.

Did You Know That ...

- ...a moment's insight is sometimes worth a life's experience?
- ...the voice of intelligence is drowned out by fear, most of it silenced by ignorance?
- ...we should always forget injuries, but never forget kindness?
- ...all creatures kill but of all, man is the only one who kills for fun, for malice and revenge?
- ...no one needs to be cruel in order to maintain their integrity?
- ...the sound of a kiss is not so loud as that of a cannon, but its echo lasts a great deal longer?
- ..kindness is loving people more than they deserve?
- ...whenever a separation is made between liberty and justice, neither is safe?
- ...wise saying often fall on barren ground, but a kind word is never thrown away?
- ...justice violates the offending party because every man is innocent in his own eyes?
- ...to the small part of ignorance which we arrange and classify, we give the august name of knowledge?
- ...what we can best know is that we know very little?
- ...kindness is a language the dumb can speak and the deaf can hear and understand?
- ...our God pardons like a mother who kisses the offense into everlasting forgetfulness?
- ...on genuine lover's lips, soul can encounter soul?
- ...knowledge is power?
- ...while most people are always eager to learn, they are not always eager to be taught?
- ...if a little a knowledge is dangerous, where is the man who has so much as to be out of danger?



Dealing With Greed

- The plans of the diligent lead to profit as surely as haste leads to poverty* Proverbs 21: 5.
- Whoever trusts in his riches will fall, but the righteous will thrive like a green leaf* Proverbs 11: 28.
- Better a little with the fear of the Lord than great wealth with turmoil. Better a meal of vegetables where there is love than a fattened calf with hatred* Proverbs 15: 16, 17.
- A greedy man brings trouble to his family, but he who hates bribes will live* Proverbs 15: 27.
- A fortune made by a lying tongue is a fleeting vapor and a deadly snare* Proverbs 21: 6.
- The sluggard's raving will be the death of him, because his hands refuse to work. All day long he craves for more, but the righteous give without sparing* Proverbs 21: 25, 26.
- He who presses the poor to increase his wealth and he who gives gifts to the rich – both come to poverty* Proverbs 22: 16.
- Give me wisdom, and knowledge that I may lead these people, for who is able to govern these great people of yours? God said to Solomon, "Since this is your heart's desire and you have not asked for wealth, riches or honor, nor for the death of your enemies, and since you have not asked for a long life but for wisdom and knowledge to govern my people over whom I have made you king. Therefore wisdom and knowledge will be given you. And I will also give you wealth, riches and honor, such as no king who was before you ever had and none after you will have"* 2 Chronicles 1: 10 – 12.