

Saints Peter & Paul                      St. Mary's (Dormition of the Mother of God)  
 Byzantine Catholic Church      Byzantine Catholic Church  
 107 South Fourth Street      131 South Morris Street  
 Minersville, PA 17954      Saint Clair, PA 17970

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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:** SS. Peter & Paul: Saturday 1:00 - 2:00 p.m. and Sunday 8:00 - 8:30 a.m. prior to Divine Liturgy and Daily prior to Divine Liturgy

St. Mary's: Saturday 3:00 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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### *The Cure of Baptism Foreshadowed*

What manner of cure is this? What mystery does it signify to us? For these things are not written carelessly, or without a purpose, but as a figure and type they show in outline things to come, in order that what was exceedingly strange might not, by coming unexpectedly, do harm among the many the power of faith. What then is it that they show in outline? A Baptism was about to be given, possessing much power, and the greatest of gifts, a Baptism purging all sins and making men alive instead of dead. These things then are foreshown as in a picture by the pool, and by many other circumstances. And first is given a water which purges the stains of our bodies, and those defilements which are not, but seem to be, as those from touching the dead, those from leprosy, and other similar causes; under the old covenant one may see many things

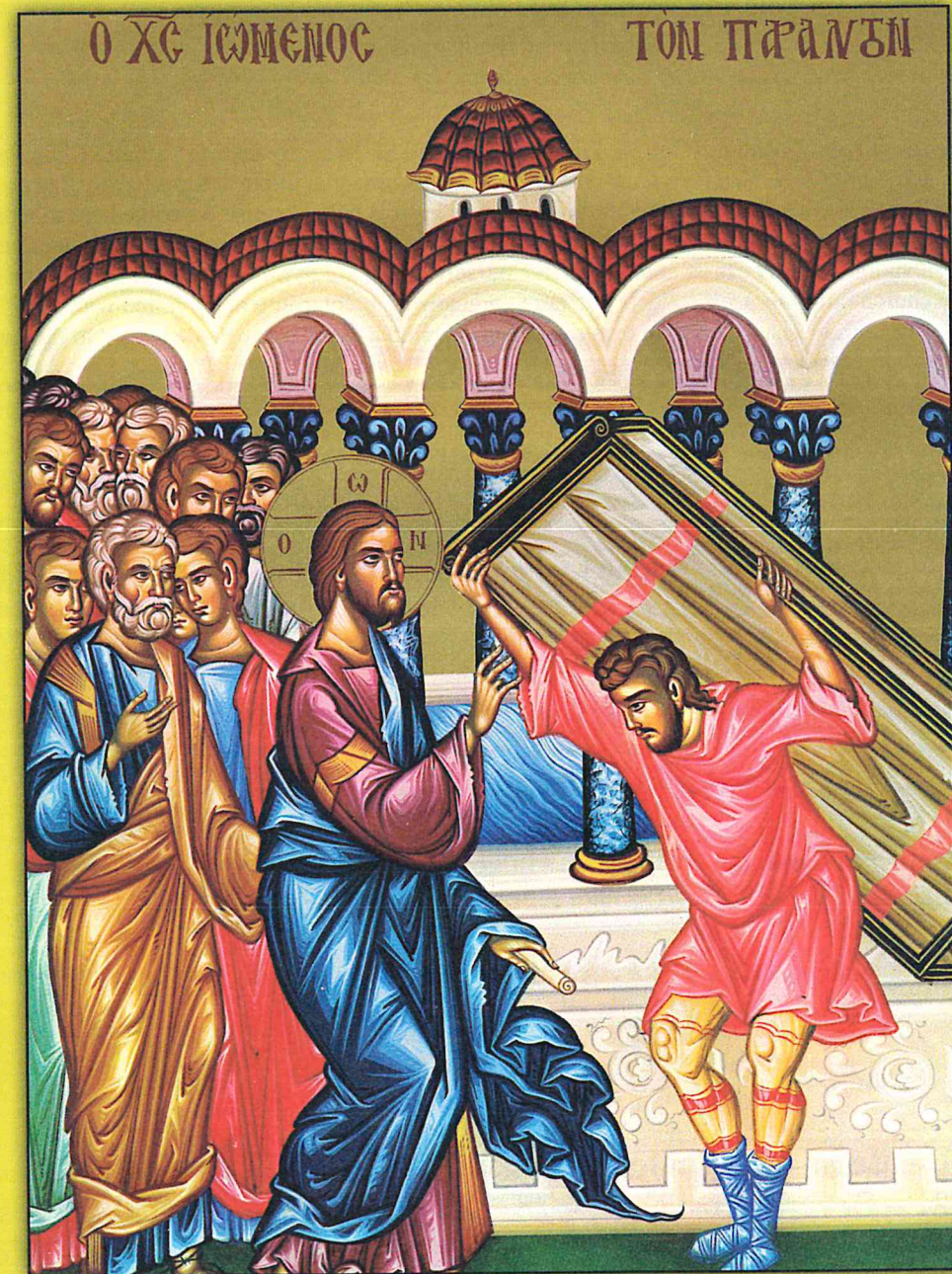
done by water on this account. However, let us now proceed to the matter in hand.

First then, as I before said, He causes defilements of our bodies, and afterwards infirmities of different kinds, to be done away by water. Because God, desiring to bring us nearer to faith in Baptism, no longer heals defilements only, but diseases also. For those figures which came nearer [in time] to the reality, both as regarded Baptism, and the Passion, and the rest, were plainer than the more ancient. ... And this miracle was done in order that men, learning that it is possible by water to heal the diseases of the body, and being exercised in this for a long time, might more easily believe that it can also heal the diseases of the soul.

*St. John Chrysostom*

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## SUNDAY OF THE PARALYTIC MAN



*Icon of Jesus Healing the Paralytic Man*



**Sunday of the Paralytic Man**  
**Festal Tone**

Welcome to the parish communities of SS. Peter and Paul and St. Mary Byzantine Catholic Churches of Minersville and Saint Clare, 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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**April 21 – April 27, AD2024**

Vigil of Sunday		
Saturday	4:00 p.m.	+John Malusky req. by MM Eugene McClure & Kitty *
Sunday	9:00 a.m.	Health and Blessing of the Parishioners* (livestreamed)
Monday	9:00 a.m.	No Divine Liturgy Today
Tuesday	9:00 a.m.	+Irene Pavelko req. by Salak & Hollis Families*
Wednesday	9:00 a.m.	+Andrew & +Margaret Gerchak req. by The Estate*
Thursday	9:00 a.m.	+William Halcovage Jr req. by Steve Warischalk*
Friday	9:00 a.m.	+George Konkus req. by MM Dante Cola*
Saturday	4:00 p.m.	+Florence M. Walaitis req. by daughter, Wendy Eaby*

\*St. Mary  
\*SS Peter & Paul

**Epistle Readers:** 4/1 – Paulette Murphy; 4/7 – Ellen Sinkovich; 4/14 – Jennifer Keer; 4/21 – Beverly Kostishak; 4/28 – Judy Kostura; 5/5 – Gail Burgess; 5/9 – Dolores Kramer; 5/12 – Anna Keer; 5/18 – Marie Wanchick; 5/19 – Ellen Sinkovich; 5/26 – Jennifer Keer.

**Candle Offering:** The candles on the Sacramental Table are for the **Intention of Earl Kostura** offered by John & Cecilia Mennig

**Breakfast with Father:**  
We will pick up in September.

**Dates to Remember:**

April 21 Spaghetti Dinner  
May 19 Mothers/Fathers' Day Breakfast  
June 9 Roast Beef Dinner

Details in current and future posters and other communication instruments.

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**Paralytic Man**  
**MID-PENTECOST**  
*By Sr. Vassa*

“In the middle of the Feast, O Savior, / Fill my thirsting soul with the waters of godliness, as You did cry to all: / If anyone thirst let him come to me and drink! / O Christ God, Fountain of our life, glory to You!” (Troparion of Mid-Pentecost)

Today we celebrate “Mid-Pentecost” (Μεσοπεντηκοστή, Преполовение Пятидесятницы), which is the “midpoint” of the fifty days between Pascha and “Pentecost” (i.e., the Descent of the Holy Spirit on the Apostles on the 50th Day after Pascha). I’m reminded that we’re in the middle of a 50-day journey right now, in case I lost focus on the Church Calendar soon after the 40-day journey of Lent ended. In the Troparion-hymn of this day, quoted above, the Church taps me on the shoulder and says: Hey!! Your soul is thirsting!! Time to come back to the Fountain of Life!! And in the upcoming weeks of this season, the themes of spiritual “thirst” and “(living) water” will be prevalent in our church-services, (e.g., on the upcoming Sunday of the Samaritan Woman), as the Church leads us to re-discover our “thirst” for the grace of the Holy Spirit, which will be pouring out abundantly on all of us, as Church, on Pentecost.

Let me take note of the “thirst” I may have been neglecting lately, and take some time to “drink” at the Fountain of our Life. This morning I take pause, and open my heart to God’s grace, in repentance, forgiveness, and gratitude. “If anyone thirst let him come to Me and drink!” the Lord invites me today. “O Christ God, Fountain of our life, glory to You!”



## Wisdom, Be Attentive!

*Let the heavens rejoice, let the earth be glad; with His arm, the Lord has won victory; by His death, He has conquered death; He has become the first born of the dead; He has delivered us from the depth of the Abyss and has granted great mercy to the world* Troparion, Sunday of the Paralytic.

*With your divine protection, O Lord, as you once raised the paralytic, now lift up my soul paralyzed with all kinds of sins and evil deeds of wickedness, so that saved I may cry out to You: "Glory to your might, O merciful Christ!"* Kontakion, Sunday of the Paralytic.

*Although You descended to the grave, O Immortal One, You destroyed the power of death; You rose again as a Victor, O Christ God! You announced to the women bearing ointment: "Rejoice!" You gave peace to your apostles and resurrection to the fallen* Kontakion, Sunday of the Paralytic.

*May your kindness O Lord, be upon us who put our hope in You* Prokimenon, Sunday of the Paralytic.

*Receive the Body of Christ! Drink the Source of Immortality! Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!* Communion Hymn, Sunday of the Paralytic.

*When the Paschal Feast is half-completed, quench my thirsty soul with the waters of devotion, for You, O Saviour, have announced to all: "Let him who is thirsty come to me and drink," O Christ God, Source of our life, glory to You!* Troparion, Feast of Mid-Pentecost.

*O Christ God, Creator and Lord of all, when the Paschal feast was half-completed, You told those present: "Come and draw the water of immortality." Let us therefore adore You and cry out with faith: "Grant us your goodness, for You are the Source of our life!"* Kontakion, Feast of Mid-Pentecost.

How many marriages go upon the rocks  
because of little angry words!



It was early in the morning when someone was pounding on the door. Thinking it was a sick call frantic request, the priest answered. "Father, please," the man on the office stoop said, "will you come? My wife says she's through with me and this time she means it!"

On the walk through deserted streets he blamed himself: "I have a nasty temper. I say things that cut and hurt. Then we fight like cats and dogs. Although," he added wistfully, "we love each other."

For something like a few hours the priest pleaded with the angry wife to give her husband another chance. Stubbornly she continued to shake her head, until the priest recalled the joy of the wedding day. When she was reminded she entered the marriage to be Christ for each other, her thinking began to change. She was reminded of the Master's counsel to forgive as we expect to be forgiven. If that was not possible, our Lord taught us that we must love each other, even love our enemies and do them good. If she could not love him as her spouse, she was still bound to love him as an enemy, but love him she must.

Around 4:30 that morning, the priest had the couple kneel before a cross in the living room and lift their right hands and vow "I solemnly promise that, under no circumstances, shall I ever speak a harsh, angry, ill-tempered word to my wife...to my husband. So help me God, the Mother of God and all the saints." Literally that moment of prayer and promise marked the turning point; having recaptured the feeling of consecration of their wedding day, they held it until the end. As if it were yesterday, that scene is still vivid in the heart and mind of the priest, as it must be in



the lives of that couple. The insight it offers into one of the deadliest and most unnecessary causes of marriage failure has been deepened and confirmed by time.

Since then priests should remind those they counsel and prepare for marriage that they pronounced their vows of fidelity in marriage, but there is another vow which is scarcely less important in safeguarding their happiness and fulfillment. They must promise each other that they will never speak an angry word to each other. It is true a newly married couple can hardly conceive of differences arising between them. But they will inevitably occur because of their common humanity. Yet, there is no difficulty, no matter how serious, which cannot be healed and settled if you will only talk about it with a real desire to express your genuine love for each other.

That particular priest always asks each couple he marries to repeat the second vow he first administered in the middle of the night and is happy to report people take it seriously because a defect in human character is pointed out to them in advance and they make a serious effort to avoid it in their married relationship.

Of course a mere resolution is not a panacea for unhappy couples: there is no magic elixir for any sickness of the heart and soul. But all newly-weds need desperately a technique by which to preserve the beauty and splendor of married love amidst the realities of the world. Few realize that harsh words, more than harsh deeds, are the termites that can undermine the foundation of their loving relationship. When an angry word provokes a quarrel, each party soon has a position to defend. A "principle" is at stake, they think, when in reality it is simply vanity and pride. The peace that a simple, kindly word of apology could have quickly restored is now rendered exceedingly difficult.

A skeptic may object that while some people can learn to control themselves, others are too hot-headed; they blow up before they have time to think, and then the harm is done. Of course, impetuous persons do find it hard to keep the vow, but even the fiercest heart, once convinced of the permanent harm that can be done by the malicious word, will be careful.

When people hear that the couples who have been warned and exposed to the pitfalls of anger wrongly expressed lived a more peaceful life, they ask that same priest to assist them. There is always a mixture of stubbornness and pride in each

marriage partner which is offended and hurt. There are some who feel that an explosion of anger is a relief good for the body and soul. Of course, it is destructive to swallow grudges and then nourish them silently. But we can rid ourselves of resentments without blowing up like volcanoes. Psychiatrists testify that there is healing in unbosoming oneself to a sympathetic, friendly auditor. It restores peace of mind and normal healthy outlook. Troubles shared are troubles halved; troubles hidden are troubles doubled. But with whom can an angry wife talk? With her husband! Talk it out together!

What the heart cries for is not an explosion, but a release, and the healthy way to achieve that release is for one to make clear to the other any feelings of injury or injustice. People will consider virtually any suggestion made in a friendly manner; they will bristle with resentment if it be shouted at them in ill temper. Then stubbornness gets its chance. In any tongue the words most difficult to pronounce are "I was at fault...I'm sorry...please forgive me."

The best way to solve such situations is to prevent them from developing. If not nipped in the bud, the tendency to quarrel can become chronic. Testifying in a divorce court in Los Angeles, a wife once said her husband was growing angry with her for not removing a little spot from the wall. "He told me repeatedly I was a poor housekeeper for not removing the spot," she testified. "Then one day he decided to get some soap and water and remove it himself. He rubbed the spot, but instead of disappearing, it became larger and larger and he got madder and madder. I just stood watching and that seemed to irritate him more. So finally, he shouted angrily, and punched me in the nose."

Mirrored in that hapless spot on the wall is the role of the angry word. It will cause ever-increasing misunderstanding and bitterness. Many experienced souls suggest that more than half of all divorces could be avoided if husband and wife refrained from angry bickering and talked over their differences in a spirit of good will.

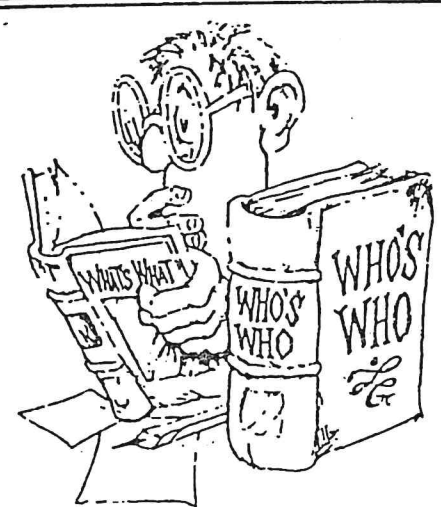
Long ago, the wise and insightful teacher wrote: "The tongue is ...a little member, and makes great pretensions. See how tiny the spark is that sets a huge forest ablaze! The tongue is such a flame..." James 3: 5, 6. "If a person is without fault in speech he is a man in the fullest sense, because he can control his entire body" James 3: 2.



## ALL FOR LOVE

+++ Can your love for Christ match the intense flame of a burning candle? +++ Will the candle lighted at your death bed testify: "He, too, was a flame of burning love." +++ Love for God does not care what others will say or do. +++ Love is untiring when it never rests to reach its goal. +++ Love is pure when it is free of selfish designs and the spirit of the world. +++ Love is boundless when it is always susceptible to further depth and growth. +++ Love is invincible when it conquers all obstacles like a burning fire. +++ Love is insatiable when it longs for God more and more. +++ Love directs our efforts toward an unwavering perseverance in love, and not only with avoiding sin and imperfections. +++ Unless the idea of love for God becomes an overwhelming passion, it will never result in anything truly great. +++ Love can triumph only if it becomes the dominating passion of your life. +++ Love recognizes that while Christ gives you everything you have, you ought to return all that you can to Him. +++ You must be convinced beyond a doubt that everything that stands in the way of love must disappear. +++ God will give more of Himself to You as you lovingly give yourself to Him. +++ Christians unwilling to surpass their own mediocrity give little and receive little, but those who genuinely love give all they possess. +++ No one can arrive at perfect love of God who is afraid of the height and depth of holiness. +++ There should not be a single being we do not love because we first love God. +++ Love is a treasure that we acquire only if we give up everything in exchange for it. +++ No trial will ever defeat you if you live a life of love. +++ If we do not bear the insignia of His love, others will not believe we are His followers. +++ If you wish to know how much you love God, examine your soul and see how much you love your neighbor. +++ As the moon could not be bright if there were no sun, so also the love of our neighbor is lifeless without the love of God. +++ A heart full of loving kindness has a high value in the eyes of God. +++ A heart of loving kindness is the place where the seeds of charitable thoughts are born. +++ Allow yourself no rest until the love of God conquers your mind completely. +++ The love of neighbor grows in the fertile ground of love of God. +++ Love is genuine if it perseveres despite a lack of love in return. +++ The more intimate and stronger your love for God, the brighter its rays will be. +++

*He* who wants to get into WHO'S WHO must first learn what's what...



Proverbs 1:8-9

Only fools refuse to be taught. Listen to your father and mother. What you learn from them will stand you in good stead; it will gain you many honors.

Don't think people judge your generosity by the amount of advice you give away.

Job 42:1-6, 10-17

Psalm 34:1-8 (19-22)

Hebrews 7:23-28

Mark 10:46-52

## PRAYER

Great High Priest:

We need

your loving

intercession

more than ever.

Give us the desire

to seek your peace

in all that

we say and do.

Amen.

### WHAT CAN I DO TO SHARE MY FAITH AND SUPPORT MY CHURCH?

HAVE GOD .....	WILL WORSHIP
HAVE BIBLE .....	WILL READ
HAVE CONVICTION.....	WILL SHARE
HAVE CONCERN.....	WILL PRAY
HAVE VOICE .....	WILL SING
HAVE MONEY .....	WILL TITHE
HAVE CAR .....	WILL BRING
HAVE INTEREST .....	WILL COME
HAVE PEN .....	WILL WRITE
HAVE PHONE.....	WILL CALL



## Did You Know That ...

...sin deceives, then defiles, finally deadens our soul?

...honesty is something you cannot wear out?

...when our heavenly Father forgives in the confessional, He removes the sin and renews the soul?

...loving those who love us is natural; loving those who hate or dislike us is supernatural?

...the highways of man's history on earth are strewn with the wreckage of nations who forgot about God?

...our vocation as disciples of Christ inspires us to invite others to our Divine Liturgy to share in the joy of the Resurrection?

...we all have a serious responsibility to make our parish warm and friendly, and inviting?

...we are pleased to welcome sinners into our parish who are serious about becoming saints?

...our joy in the Resurrection of the Saviour must find its expression in our faithful attendance at the Divine Liturgy?

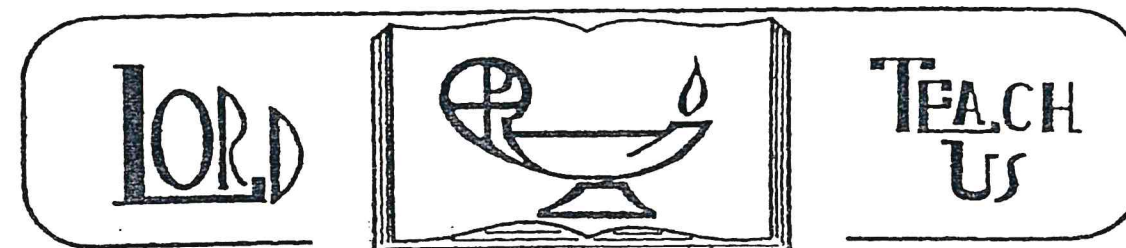
...our Lord's Resurrection provides us with the inspiration to live the Word of God in our daily lives?

...our parish would greatly grow and increase in size if we took seriously our responsibility to befriend and invite churchless souls to worship with us?

...sincere prayer changes the way we look at things?

...unlike food for the baby, food for the mind and soul is best taken with mouth closed?

...you should not assume that spending twice as much for something will make it twice as satisfying?



### God Answers Prayer

*Anyone who sees his brother sinning, if the sin is not deadly, should petition God, and thus life will be given to the sinner. This is only for those whose sin is not deadly. There is such a thing as deadly sin; I do not say that one should pray about that* 1 John 5: 14 - 16.

*I will bring the one third through fire, and I will refine them as silver is refined, and I will test them as gold is tested. They shall call upon my name, and I will hear them. I will say, "They are my people," and they shall say, "The Lord is my God"* Zechariah 13: 9.

*Know that the Lord does wonders for his faithful one; the Lord will hear me when I call upon him* Psalms 4 :4.

*The Lord has eyes for the just, and ears for their cry. When the just cry out, the Lord hears them, and from all their distress he rescues them* Psalms 34: 16, 18.

*The Lord is far from the wicked, but the prayer of the just he hears* Proverbs 15: 29.

*He shall call upon me, and I will answer him; I will be with him in distress; I will deliver him and glorify him* Psalms 91: 15.

*Before the call, I will answer; while they are yet speaking I will hearken to them* Isaiah 65: 24.

*You who hear prayers, to you all flesh must come* Psalms 65: 2, 3.