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Built on faith

SS. PETER AND PAUL IN BRADDOCK, PA. CELEBRATES ITS 125TH ANNIVERSARY



SS. Peter and Paul in Braddock, Pa. celebrated its 125th anniversary Sept. 26 with a Hierarchical Divine Liturgy celebrated by Archbishop William Skurla. For more photos, see pages 8 to 9.

By Mary Anne Mistick
SS. Peter and Paul, Braddock, Pa.

God smiled and provided a picture-perfect autumn afternoon as more than 250 faithful gathered at SS. Peter and Paul in Braddock, Pa. to celebrate the church's 125th anniversary.

SS. Peter and Paul, located on George Street in Braddock, was originally dedicated on Sept. 26, 1896, and the anniversary celebration occurred 125 years to that very day at 3 p.m. Sept. 26, 2021.

After the Most Rev. Metropolitan Archbishop William C. Skurla received the traditional welcome of bread and salt, he led the Hierarchical Divine Liturgy, accompanied by the heavenly

voices of the Archeparchial Choir and assisted by priests, deacons, and seminarians.

Before and after liturgy, visitors were encouraged to visit the parish hall to see an impressive display of historical photos from throughout the church's 125-year history.

The celebration continued with a banquet held at St. John the Baptist Cathedral Center in Munhall, Pa.

Guests were encouraged to mingle and reminisce before dinner while a special video of church photos, documents, and drone footage played on the large screens in the hall.

Father Vitalii Stashkevych, pastor at SS. Peter and Paul, offered a warm welcome and introductory remarks, followed by the blessing

of the food by Metropolitan Archbishop William.

During dinner, guests listened to two speeches: an overview of the church's rich history provided by Mary Anne Ference Mistick, followed by a touching tribute to SS. Peter and Paul's longest-serving pastor, Father Julius D. Grigassy, given by his grandson, Father Daniel Grigassy of Paterson, NJ.

During dessert the eagerly-anticipated church anniversary books were distributed and Father Vitalii spoke movingly of the great faith of the parish founders, immigrants in a foreign land, how he also immigrated to the United States, and how God can do more than we can possibly imagine.

He noted that he grew up in

Continued on page 8

Lending a helping hand

ST. ELIAS PARISHIONERS HELP BUILD, REFURBISH HOMES IN KENTUCKY

By Lori Jordan
St. Elias, Munhall, Pa.

Luke Jordan, 17, and Ryan Monahan, 22, parishioners of St. Elias in Munhall, Pa., spent 10 days from July 1 to 11 in Beattyville, Ky. with the Appalachian Work Camp.

They joined a group of 150 volunteers from St. Thomas the Apostle Parish in Munhall and St. Joan of Arc Parish in South Park, Pa. to build and refurbish homes of low-income, elderly or needy people in the Appalachia Region.

Owsley County is one of the poorest counties in the United States. The living conditions for the unfortunate in this region are deplorable.

Father Dan Sweeny, from St. Thomas the Apostle, has involved himself and the parishes he has ministered to a relief effort for the people of Owsley County.

Over the last 39 years he has organized a week-long "building blitz." He and his volunteers travel to Kentucky and spend a week building homes, decks, additions and repairing current structures.

"We developed a new sense of humility upon arriving in Kentucky," said Ryan.

"We witnessed firsthand the stark differences between us and the townsfolk there, not only physical possessions, but their perspective on priorities in life. Seeing those families with so little, but in such high spirits is a testament to how strong they are, and that all they need is each other to be happy. That is something not often seen these days."

Continued on page 14



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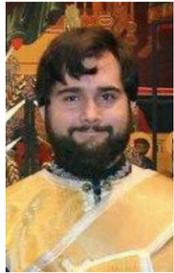


Taking another step

SUB-DEACON MICHAEL KUNITZ ORDAINED TO THE DIACONATE BY METROPOLITAN ARCHBISHOP WILLIAM SKURLA

By the Byzantine Catholic Archeparchy of Pittsburgh

Archbishop William C. Skurla ordained Sub-deacon Michael David Kunitz to the Diaconate during the parochial



Divine Liturgy at the Cathedral of Saint John the Baptist in Munhall, Pa. on Sunday morning, Oct. 3.

His wife Janine was present, as was his father David Kunitz, and other family members who traveled distances to participate in this joyous occasion.

Concelebrating the Divine Liturgy with Archbishop William were Very Reverends Andrew J. Deskevich and Robert M. Pipta. The deacon was Deacon Brian Norrell, the seminarians served, and Martin Bovee assisted. Sub-deacon Kyprian Wojciechowski was the master of ceremonies.

Cathedral Cantor George Janocko with Seminarians Nathaniel Tapsak and Luke Iyengar led the congregational singing.

In his homily, Archbishop William mentioned the steps leading to the diaconate and ultimately to the priesthood. He emphasized that once Seminary preparation is over and a priest is ordained, his growth, education and formation continue in his relationships with those to whom he ministers, and they likewise reciprocally grow, learn, and are formed.

The new Deacon Michael was born in Dearborn, Mich., the middle of three sons of David and the late Margaret Merem Kunitz. He holds Bachelor's degrees in both Theology and History and has experience in teaching.

After graduation from SS. Cyril and Methodius Seminary with the Master of Divinity Degree, he was ordained to minor orders and the sub-diaconate by Most Reverend Milan Lach SJ in his parish church, St. Stephen in Allen Park, Mich., on Dec. 29, 2019. In the same church, then Sub-deacon Michael married the former Janine Golob on June 28, 2020.

A reception followed the liturgy in the lower level of the Cathedral.

May God grant to His servant Deacon Michael peace, health and happiness for many blessed years! ■



A Celebration of Marriage

THIRTY-NINE COUPLES RECOGNIZED FOR YEARS OF FAITHFULNESS BY METROPOLITAN ARCHBISHOP WILLIAM SKURLA

Thirty-nine couples were recognized for many years of faithfulness to their marriage vows Sept. 12 during “A Celebration of Marriage” at St. Elias in Munhall, Pa.

The occasion honored couples from parishes in the Archeparchy with milestone anniversaries from 10 to 65 years in 2021.

The afternoon Divine Liturgy was celebrated by Archbishop William Skurla.

The annual event returned to an in-person celebration following an online version last year. ■





Photos by Nick Havrilla Sr.

Clergy retreat

Amid the pastoral splendor of the grounds at Antiochian Village near Latrobe, Pa., clergy of the Byzantine Catholic Archeparchy of Pittsburgh gathered for a commemorative photo during their 2021 retreat the week of Oct. 3. The retreat director was Father Richard Mucowski, OFM. Photo by Nick Havrilla Sr. ■



ETERNAL MEMORY SISTER SALOME YANOCHKO

In recent years, when Sister Salome was asked what she was doing in her retirement, she would reply, “Waiting for the Lord.” This time of waiting ended in the evening of Wednesday, September 29th when the Lord came to take Sister to her heavenly home.

Sister Salome (Helen) Yanochko was born in Freeland, PA, the daughter of Andrew and Mary (Sakosky) Yanochko. She entered the Sisters of St. Basil in Uniontown on September 15, 1950 from St. Mary’s Church in Freeland, PA and made her Final Profession of Vows on January 1, 1956 in the presence of the late Very Rev. George Bonchonsky. From 1953, when she was first assigned to teach, Sister Salome had been busy shaping the lives of first and second graders. She loved teaching, and she spent 59 years in this ministry, 24 of these at St. Mary’s School in Cleveland, OH. Sister brought to her classroom the gift of her gentle ways and her enthusiasm for any advances in methodology. She took great delight in learning and using whatever technology was available to help those entrusted to her care.

During the summers, Sister’s artistic talent came to the fore when she spent hours faithfully decorating the large “medovniki” hearts which were so much a part of the annual pilgrimage. Each year she varied the decorations, always adding her significant touch of beauty to them. Probably her favorite pilgrimage ministry was at the ice cream stand; there she enjoyed greeting the pilgrims from the side window with a smile.

After retiring from the teaching ministry, Sister Salome returned to the Monastery. Almost immediately, looking



Sister Salome Yanochko

to be helpful, she assisted the sacristan in several ways. There are also many small “duties” in a monastery, and Sister Salome took care of some of these in her quiet and unassuming manner. Among these was her careful tending to the peace plants that can be found in the foyer or corridor. We know they will miss her touch. No less will her absence be felt in her lively conversation at table, in her subtle sense of humor and in her smiles. In all, the hallmark of her work and presence was her cheerful disposition.

Sister Salome wanted to be remembered for her deep faith and prayer, and her Sisters in community can attest to this. It was a rare occasion for Sister Salome’s place to be empty in the chapel. As for being remembered for her love of teaching, her many students over the course of her career can surely attest to this.

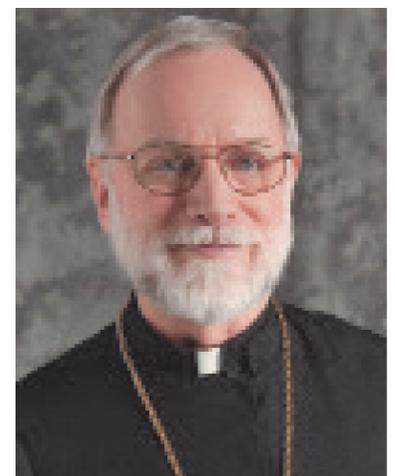
Metropolitan William noted that Sister’s teaching career covered three generations. We cannot measure the effect of her teaching on the lives of those who passed through her hands. So many changes occurred during these years in her life and in the lives of her students. These changes resulted in the transformation of her own life as a Sister of St. Basil. By her lessons,

ETERNAL MEMORY REVEREND FATHER JOHN KOVACH

Reverend Father John Kovach, a retired priest of the Eparchy of Parma, fell asleep in the Lord in El Monte, California on September 15, 2021. A priest for 56 years, Father John was ordained for the Archeparchy of Pittsburgh by Most Reverend Nicholas T. Elko at St. Nicholas Church in McKeesport, Pa. March 25, 1965. He transferred to the Eparchy of Parma in 1978.

He was born in Cleveland, Ohio to Julia (Baba) and Joseph Kovach on December 20, 1939. His elementary education was in the public schools of Cleveland, and he was graduated from Benedictine High School there. He completed his priestly studies at Duquesne University and SS. Cyril and Methodius Seminary, both in Pittsburgh, Pa.

Father John was assigned to the Pennsylvania parishes of St. Nicholas, Brownsville; Holy Trinity, Sykesville, and St. Mary, Du. Bois. He also served the then Hungarian parishes of St. John, Detroit, Mi. and St. Michael, Cleveland, Ohio. He likewise offered ministry to St. Michael, Pleasant City, Ohio; St. Macrina, San Mateo, California, Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Albuquerque, New Mexico; and SS. Cyril



Reverend Father John Kovach

and Methodius, Spokane, Washington.

Most Reverend Milan Lach, S.J. with Very Reverend Archpriests Marek Visnovsky, Dennis Hrubciak and John Kachuba; Very Reverends Bryan Eyman, and Bruce Riebe; and Reverend Fathers Joseph Repko and Michael O’Loughlin with Deacon Gregory Loya celebrated the Funeral Divine Liturgy at St. John the Baptist Cathedral in Parma September 28, 2021.

Interment followed at Calvary Cemetery in Cleveland.

In blessed repose, grant O Lord, eternal rest to your departed servant the priest John and remember him forever! ■

as well as by her own deep faith, she laid the foundation for her students to be formed in a rich spiritual tradition. We can only rejoice with Sister in the years she gave wholeheartedly to the Lord. Her memory lives forever in our hearts.

Sister Salome was preceded in death by her parents, her brothers John, Michael and Nicholas Yanochko and her sister Mary Kusmider. In addition to her Sisters in community, she is survived by her brother Andrew and her sisters Anna Yanochko

and Irene Larkin. Rev. Will Rupp celebrated the Parastas Service on Friday, October 1 at the Monastery Chapel. Archbishop William C. Skurla celebrated the Funeral Divine Liturgy on Saturday, October 2 at 10:30 with Rev. Jerome Botsko, Monastery Chaplain, as concelebrant. Interment followed in the Dormition Section of Mount Macrina Cemetery.

May God grant to his handmaiden, Sister Salome, eternal memory and peaceful repose! ■



TEXT MESSAGES

Thanksgiving homecoming

by David Mayernik Jr.
Editor



Besides the classic “A Charlie Brown Thanksgiving” and the Macy’s Thanksgiving Day Parade, there isn’t much appointment television viewing on Thanksgiving weekend.

I recall “The Wizard of Oz” and “Home Alone” formerly aired each year before the NFL commandeered the holiday evening.

But that may change this year with a new television movie, “The Waltons: Homecoming,” airing Nov. 28 on The CW.

Yes, *those* Waltons, who lived in the foothills of Virginia’s Blue Ridge Mountains.

But not *exactly* the same Waltons. This is a new cast separate from the original 1970s CBS series.

Although, thankfully one Walton is reprising his original role. Richard Thomas will return as John Boy, the narrator.

It’s a neat turn of events, as *Waltons* creator Earl Hamner Jr. supplied the voice of “old” John Boy in the original series.

The movie is a remake of “The Homecoming: A Christmas Story,” which introduced the Waltons to the country in 1971 and was a springboard to their weekly series. This year is its 50th anniversary.

The show is set on Christmas Eve as the Waltons clan anxiously await the “homecoming” of their father, John, who is walking home through harsh terrain from his job, located 50 miles away.

I’ve watched the original film on YouTube. At first I was taken aback by different actors in the roles of the Walton parents, who did not return for the original series.

Ellen Corby is still Grandma but Edgar Bergen (without Charlie McCarthy, his ventriloquist dummy) plays Grandpa.

The story is about the love that keeps a family close-knit.

I’m not quite sure if my parents or grandparents ever walked 50 miles home from a job.

But I do know they never missed spending a Thanksgiving or Christmas with their family.

“Christmas is the season where we give tokens of love. In that house we received not tokens but love itself,” says “old” John Boy at the end of the original movie.

What could be more important on Thanksgiving? ■



BULLETIN BOARD

Mount St. Macrina online programs

Mount Saint Macrina House of Prayer, 510 W. Main St., Uniontown Pa. has announced upcoming virtual online programs on Zoom.

For more information or to register, call 724-438-7149 or email hpmsm@verizon.net. Email address required to receive link.

■ **Saturday Morning Spiritual Reflection:** “*Optimism’s Chain Reaction*” with Becky Johnen, Ed.D. 10-11:30 a.m. Oct. 23. Offering: \$20. Registration due: Oct. 18. Available on Zoom.

■ **Advent Bible Study:** “*An Introductory Study of the Prophets Isaiah and Jeremiah*” with Sister Melita Marie Penchalk, OSBM. 10 a.m.-noon Nov. 11, 18 and Dec. 2, 9. Offering: \$25. Registration due: Nov. 8. Available on Zoom.

■ **Christmas Afternoon of Reflection** with Father Stephen Wahal. 1-2:30 pm. Dec. 12. Offering: \$20. Registration due: Dec. 7. Available on Zoom. ■

REFLECTION FROM MOUNT ST. MACRINA

Blessed are the merciful

by Sister Barbara Jean Mihalchick, OSBM
Sisters of St. Basil the Great
Mount St. Macrina, Uniontown, Pa.



Sister Barbara Jean Mihalchick posts videos of her reflections each week on the Facebook page of the Sisters of St. Basil the Great at <https://www.facebook.com/sistersofstbasil.uniontown>.

This is a transcript of her Aug. 7, 2020 reflection.

Glory to Jesus Christ!

Today we look at the Beatitude that says “Blessed are the merciful for mercy shall be theirs.”

We like this one. We think of mercy as something in our lives all the time. For some people it is even a career: nursing, child care or other kinds of social outreach.

The fact is, we could talk about mercy forever because it really includes all the good things God has to offer us.

However, in the course of my years of retreat work, what I’ve discovered is most people don’t really believe in the mercy of God. Or at least, in times of their lives, they don’t believe.

I have found that people need to be convinced that God really loves them and is always merciful.

Think of this circumstance: I come to the doctor this time but I remember that last time I didn’t like one of his responses, so this time I’m not going to tell him everything. I’m not going to tell him something that is troubling me.

Would that make any sense? Surely not.

So in retreats now I’ve started asking people to write out what is it you’re holding against God. What is it that stops you from receiving that mercy, that love, from picturing God in this way, The Physician of Souls. The One Who says, “Come to me.”

I ask them to lay that before the Cross, take it back, and to rewrite that vision. You may want to do that, as well.

To grow in mercy, we need to pray, frequently and trustingly. We need to repent with trust that our loving God, the Physician of Souls, wants our healing and grants every good gift to us.

If we don’t receive that gift then, it’s because of His love.

We need to be merciful. The very act of frequent loving care expressed to others helps us to grow and grow and grow.

Blessed are the merciful, for mercy shall be theirs.

God bless you. ■

Vocation Fair



Father Kevin Marks, pastor at St. Michael in Hermitage, Pa. and St. Michael in Campbell, Ohio, as well as Vocations Director for the Byzantine Catholic Archeparchy of Pittsburgh, attended the Oct. 8 Vocation Fair at Franciscan

University of Steubenville, Ohio to promote vocations to the Byzantine Catholic Church.

Assisting Father Kevin is Nik Dowell, St. Michael parishioner and sophomore at Franciscan University. ■



IN PERSON EVENT

ASSEMBLY OF THE BYZANTINE CATHOLIC (RUTHENIAN) METROPOLITAN CHURCH

November 5 & 6, 2021

St. John the Baptist Cathedral
Munhall, PA

“One Body in Christ: Re-emerging from the Pandemic”



Topics

Looking Back: Looking Ahead with a Hopeful Heart
Deacon Tom Shubeck

Our Worship Post Pandemic
Fr. Valerian Michlik & Fr. Andrew Summerson

The Eucharist: Holy Gifts to Holy People
Most Rev. Bishop Kurt Burnette

Growing Parishes Post Pandemic
Deacon Basil Balke

Plus Breakout Sessions & Vendors

Registration: archpitt.org or
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SS, PETER AND PAUL IN BRADDOCK, PA.

125th anniversary celebration



Story continued from page 1

Uzhhorod and would pass the Holy Cross Cathedral, never dreaming that one day he would pastor a church in America based on that very same cathedral!

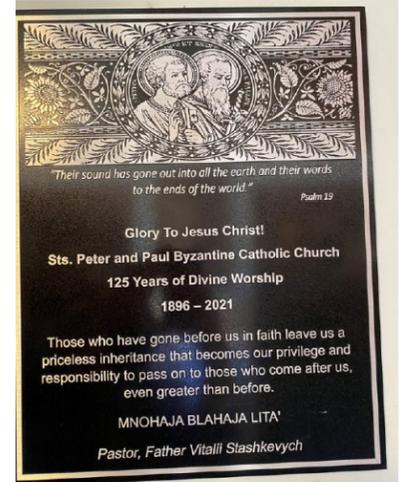
Following his words, the crowd joined as one to sing the traditional Mnohaja I Blahaya L'ita ("Many Happy Years") and there were more than a few teary eyes as people left for home following an afternoon and evening they would always remember.

Numerous photos of the day's

events (some of which are reproduced here) are posted to the church's website and Facebook page.

Livestream viewing of the Hierarchical Divine Liturgy reached 1,800 views from across the United States within two days.

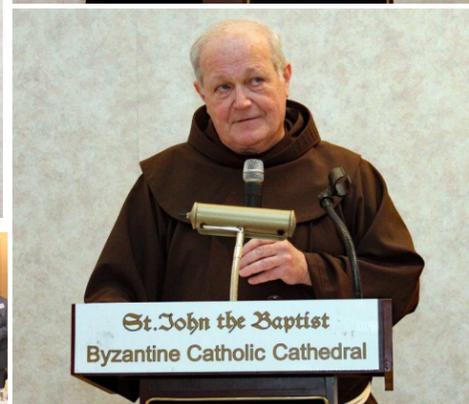
The SS. Peter and Paul Facebook page may be viewed at <https://www.facebook.com/SSPeterPaulBraddock/> and the website address is <https://stspeterpaulbcc.com>. ■





SS, PETER AND PAUL IN BRADDOCK, PA.

125th anniversary celebration *continued from page 8*



ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST CATHEDRAL IN MUNHALL, PA.

A busy weekend at the Cathedral

St. John the Baptist Cathedral held two fund raising events the weekend of Oct. 16: its monthly take-out dinner, featuring stuffed cabbage and breaded pork chops, and a Fall craft show.

Very Rev. Andrew Deskevich and a dedicated kitchen crew of parishioners made the meal event an immense success!

An associated bake sale also satisfied the sweet tooth of those who like a little extra with their meals.

The inclement weather did not hold the crowd of crafters back! Father Andrew and his enthusiastic committee planned and coordinated the successful event well. ■



Photos by Nick Havrilla Sr.



ST. ELIAS IN MUNHALL, PA.

Holiday prep

Pirohi makers at St. Elias in Munhall, Pa. were hard at work last month making their famous and delicious pirohi. ■



CHURCH OF THE RESURRECTION IN MONROEVILLE, PA.

Baker's (two) dozen

Twenty-four members and friends helped roll and bake nut rolls for three Sundays following Divine Liturgy at Church of the Resurrection in Monroeville, Pa. ■



ST. MARY IN AMBRIDGE, PA.
ST. GEORGE IN ALIQUIPPA, PA.

Celebrating 10 years

*by Father Geoffrey Mackey
St. Mary, Ambridge, Pa.
St. George, Aliquippa, Pa.*

The combined parishes of St. Mary in Ambridge, Pa. and St. George in Aliquippa, Pa. gathered for a Divine Liturgy on Sunday, Oct. 10 in Ambridge to celebrate the 10th anniversary of Deacon Tom Klacik's ordination.

Father Geoffrey Mackey celebrated the Liturgy and Deacon Gregory Loya of Dormition Parish

in Cleveland, Ohio preached. At the end of the Liturgy, Deacon Tom was presented with a hand-written icon of the Great-Martyr and Healer St. Panteleimon. A brunch reception was held in the parish hall after the Liturgy. We continue to give thanks to God for the ministry of Deacon Tom to St. Mary's parish and to the Archeparchy of Pittsburgh. God grant him many years! ■



Deacon Tom Klacik, Father Geoffrey Mackey Father Geoffrey Mackey, Deacon Tom Klacik, Deacon Gregory Loya

SS. PETER AND PAUL IN WARREN, OHIO

Rummage Sale

*by Lisa Mosko
SS. Peter and Paul, Warren, Ohio*

A huge Rummage Sale was held Sept. 24 to 25 in the Social Hall at SS. Peter and Paul in Warren, Ohio.

Along with the sale, baked goods and lottery grab bags were also available to purchase.

We thank all who spent countless hours preparing for this event and for all the homemade baked goods. We appreciate all those who donated their slightly used wares and for all the shoppers.

We had a very successful turnout, and all proceeds will benefit the church's 100th anniversary celebration in 2025. ■



ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST IN UNIONTOWN, PA.

Classic Car Show

By Stephen Petruska Jr.
St. John the Baptist, Uniontown, Pa.

St John the Baptist in Uniontown, Pa. held its 15th annual classic car show Sept. 26. More than 100 cars and trucks took part in the event.

The weather was perfect, the food and music were great and, of course, the classic cars and trucks were awesome.

A great time was had by all who attended. ■



SS. PETER AND PAUL IN DUQUESNE, PA.

Celebrating 10 years

By Judy Kacik
SS. Peter and Paul, Duquesne, Pa.

Deacon Sean Petrisko was honored on Sunday, Oct. 10 by his parish priest, Father Will Rupp, and his parish family of SS Peter and Paul in Duquesne, Pa., as he celebrated his 10th anniversary of Ordination to the Diaconate.

Since serving on the altar as a young boy, he remains committed

to his parish and to help serve wherever he is needed in the Archeparchy.

The parish of SS. Peter and Paul has greatly benefited over the years by his loving spirit and always words of support, encouragement, and concern.

Thank you, Deacon Sean for bringing God's Word and Love to all of us. ■



Deacon Sean and wife Ruth Petrisko



ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST IN SCOTTTDALE, PA.

Preparing pirohi

Parishioners at St. John the Baptist in Scottsdale, Pa. peeled potatoes, rolled sauerkraut balls and sheeted dough last month to make pirohi. ■



Mary Beth Weaver, Dolly Litman, Terry Frederick, Andy Lipko, John Kadylak and Sandy Kadylak



Kathy Onusko, Marge Ondus, Maryna Seremchuk and Cindy Hribal



Cindy Hribal and Betty Sapola Marge Ondus and Kathy Onusko

Golden anniversary

Father Oleh Seremchuk celebrated a mass of Thanksgiving Oct. 11 at St. John the Baptist in Scottsdale, Pa. for John and Kathy Onusko's 50 years of marriage. ■





Feast of St. Francis of Assisi

ST. NICHOLAS IN NANTY-GLO, PA.

by Eugene Ostinowsky
St. Nicholas, Nanty-Glo, Pa.

In honor of the feast of St. Francis of Assisi, Father Robert Oravetz, blessed pets following the 11 a.m. Oct. 3 Sunday Liturgy at St. Nicholas Byzantine Catholic Church in Nanty-Glo, Pa.

Each of the pet owners received

a copy of the prayer Father recited during the blessing.

All the pets were surprisingly calm as they were being blessed.

Not all pets were Byzantine Catholic; some were of other faiths, as their owners learned of the blessing being offered and wanted to share in the celebration.



ST. MARY IN AMBRIDGE, PA.

by Father Geoffrey Mackey
St. Mary, Ambridge, Pa.
St. George, Aliquippa, Pa.

On the afternoon of Sunday, Oct. 3, Father Geoffrey Mackey, pastor of St. Mary in Ambridge, Pa. blessed pets on the parish lawn in honor of St. Francis of Assisi.

Parishioners, friends, and neighbors of the parish brought their dogs and cats; one tortoise was even blessed!

The parish was open for pet owners to enter, pray, and see the beauty of God's house and learn about our Byzantine traditions.



ASCENSION OF OUR LORD IN CLAIRTON, PA.

Picnic fundraiser

by Trish Roberts
Ascension of Our Lord, Clairton, Pa.

A parish picnic fundraiser was held on Sunday, Oct. 3 at Ascension of Our Lord in Clairton, Pa.

Father Ivan Mina welcomed the guests and thanked everyone for attending and supporting the event before giving the blessing.

Dean and Tammy Maksin generously donated hamburgers, hot dogs, kolbassi and homemade halubki for the buffet. Guests provided homemade side dishes, salads, desserts and munchies to complete a delicious meal.

Everyone enjoyed the basket raffles, share-the-wealth chances, door prizes and bingo games.



John Roberts



Father Ivan Mina, Dean Maksin and Don Buchina



Mike Sowko



Carla and Bob Matyasovsky start the buffet



Jack Lesko and Yvonne Opalenik



Joan Berchok, Helen Sowko and Carla Maksin



Julie Cochran and Caroline Nista



Mary and Karl Zaken

ST. ELIAS IN MUNHALL, PA.

Helping hands

Story continued from page 1

Luke said, "The people there live in such awful conditions. It's amazing what we can do for them when we all work together. Even though they don't have much, they always had a smile on their face. It is a great experience! Every day I learned a new skill and met some terrific people. I encourage more people to become involved with the Appalachia Work Camp," said Luke.

Due to the pandemic, the cost of building materials, wood, food and gasoline drastically increased. Many of the fundraisers had to be canceled because of the pandemic.

In June, a special collection was taken at St. Elias to help defray some of these costs. Parishioners and friends of St. Elias gave so generously to the cause.

Luke and Ryan look forward to heading back to Kentucky in 2022. Please keep them and all the volunteers in your prayers as they do God's work. ■

Whoever is kind to the poor lends to the Lord, and he will reward them for what they have done.

Proverbs 19:17



Luke Jordan (roof), Brian Monahan (ladder)



Luke Jordan (front ladder)



Dwelling of a family before receiving a new home from Appalachian Work Camp



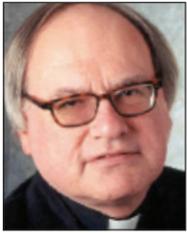
Completed home



THOUGHTS FOR OUR DAY

by Archpriest David M. Petras

THE RITUAL GESTURES OF THE ANAPHORA



The Anaphora, from Greek *m e a n i n g* “offering,” is a prayer of blessing. It comes from the description of the Last Supper of our Lord, “While they were eating, Jesus took bread, said the blessing, broke it, and giving it to his disciples said, ‘Take and eat; this is my body’” (Matthew 26:26). Blessing is an act by which you designate something as holy and good, a gift to us from God. The words used were usually those of thanksgiving, as we see in the verse following the blessing of the bread, “Then [Jesus] took a cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, ‘Drink from it, all of you, for this is my blood of the covenant, which will be shed on behalf of many for the forgiveness of sins’” (Matthew 26:27-28). The prayer that we call the Anaphora corresponds to the prayer of blessing or thanksgiving that Jesus said according to Jewish tradition. Jesus added to this prayer the revelation that by this blessing the bread and wine became his body and blood, which were just about to be sacrificed on the cross, and which would be raised in glory. That is why the word for “offering” was applied to this prayer. It is also called a prayer of consecration, because the gifts we bring of bread and wine, the work of human hands, become the divine and life-giving body and blood of our Lord. The action of blessing was to say words over the object that was to be blessed. It originally did not have any actions connected with it. Yet because of the mystery that unfolds in this prayer, we have added gestures to the prayer.

The fundamental gesture of

Christians is the sign of the cross, made with one’s right hand. The Divine Liturgy is the eternal reality of the sacrifice of Christ, now in an unbloody but real way, and the gesture of the cross is the physical way in which this is manifested. The cross is also made at the mention of the Trinity, for the deification of the people through the sacrifice of Christ is a work of the Trinity, as the sacrifice was offered by the death of Jesus and


The fundamental gesture of Christians is the sign of the cross, made with one’s right hand.

accepted by the Father, and made life-giving by the action of the Holy Spirit. Each time we make the cross, therefore, we signify that we live by the mystery of the love accomplished on the cross. The cross may be made upon one’s body, from the forehead to the chest, and the priest does this before invoking the Holy Spirit. The priest makes the sign of the cross upon the faithful celebrating with him in the introduction to the Anaphora, facing them and blessing them with the Trinitarian words of St. Paul, “The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God and Father, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with all of you” (2 Corinthians 13:13). When he prays for the action of the Holy Spirit to make the gifts of bread and wine the Body and Blood of Christ, the priest makes the sign of the cross over the consecrated bread, then over the consecrated wine and then over both. The

deacon also makes the sign of the cross over the bread on the diskos, the plate holding the loaf called the Lamb, because it is becoming the body of the Lamb of God, our Lord. He does this by signing the diskos with the asterisk, the metal star covering the diskos, removing it together with the words, “Singing, shouting, crying aloud and saying the triumphal hymn,” the “Holy, holy, holy.” Therefore, in so many ways the sign of the cross is the way we express in gestures the reality of the sacrifice of the Divine Liturgy.

There are also other gestures. Just before the Anaphora begins, the priest invites us to pray by lifting up his hands towards the East (in churches that do not physically face the East, at least the liturgical East), the Holy Table on which the gifts about to be consecrated lie. We look towards the East because it is the tradition that our Lord that this is the direction from which he will come in glory during the celebration of the Liturgy, as prophesied in the Gospel of St. Matthew, “For just as lightning comes from the east and is seen as far as the west, so will the coming of the Son of Man be” (Matthew 24:27). Sometimes the gesture of pointing is used to indicate the gifts that become the presence of our Lord. The deacon, holding his vestment, the orarion, points to the gifts when the priest says the words of our Lord, “This is my Body,” and “This is my Blood,” and again when the priest blesses the gifts with the sign of the cross invoking the action of the Holy Spirit. The priest also points to the gifts of the Holy Table when he says the words of our Lord.

Bowing is a sign of reverence. We bow to Christ as to the King of kings, the Lord and Ruler of all. The priest bows just before

beginning the Anaphora at the words, “Let us give thanks to the Lord,” then at each of the words of our Lord and finally after he completes the prayer of the invocation of the Holy Spirit. This is our humility in the presence of God, indicating that we submit to his will, as we pray in the “Our Father,” “Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.” In some places this respect has led to kneeling and bowing at the invocation of the Spirit, but this is not proper, for we are to stand in the presence of God in the Liturgy who is raising us to life in Resurrection.

Finally, we must mention the incensing of the gifts after the invocation. This is done as we pray for the departed, for those who have “fallen asleep” in the Lord. The first is the Theotokos, the Mother of God, then John the Baptist, the saint being remembered and all the categories of saints. Then we remember our other departed brothers and sisters. Incense originally covered the decomposition of the body after death, but it acquired a symbolic meaning - the smoke ascending represented our prayers rising to God in behalf of those we love. In this way, we re-create the scene of the Book of Revelation: “When he (the Lamb of God) took it (the scroll), the four living creatures and the twenty four elders fell down before the Lamb. Each of the elders held a harp and gold bowls filled with incense, which are the prayers of the holy ones” (Revelation 5:8). When a deacon is present, after the incensation done by the priest before the Holy Table, the deacon censens the other three sides of the altar, remembering by name those of the departed as desired by the people. ■

PARISH LITURGIES BROADCAST VIA INTERNET

Here is the most current list of parishes broadcasting Sunday Divine Liturgies and other services to the Faithful via their websites and social media sites such as Facebook.

For changes or to be listed, send information to bcw@archpitt.org.

**St. John the Baptist Cathedral
Munhall, Pa.**
www.stjohnsbyzantinecathedral.com

**Holy Ghost
McKees Rocks, Pa.**
www.holyghost-byzantinecatholic.org
www.youtube.com, then type Holy Ghost Church Live Stream

**St. John Chrysostom
Pittsburgh, Pa.**
www.sjcbcc.com

**St. Gregory
Upper St. Clair, Pa.**
www.facebook.com/stgregoryusc

**St. Michael
Campbell, Ohio**
www.facebook.com/st.michaelbyz.campbell

**St. Elias
Munhall, Pa.**
www.facebook.com/StEliasByzantineCatholicChurch/

**SS. Peter and Paul
Braddock, Pa.**
<https://www.facebook.com/SSPeterPaulBraddock/>



**St. Michael
Hermitage, Pa.**
<https://www.facebook.com/stmichaelbyz.hermitage>

**St. Stephen
North Huntingdon, Pa.**
www.facebook.com/ststephenbyzantinecatholicchurch



LITURGICAL SCHEDULE AT THE SEMINARY

“COME, LET US SING
JOYFULLY TO THE LORD”

Join the Seminarians of Byzantine Catholic Seminary at 3605 Perrysville Ave., Pittsburgh, Pa., for Liturgical Prayer. Visitors are welcome at the Seminary chapel. *Masking required of those who are not fully COVID vaccinated.* Enter through the chapel door that faces Perrysville Avenue. It's recommended visitors call 412-321-8383 in advance. For more information about the Seminary: go to www.bcs.edu.

Schedule of Services for November

MON 1	8 a.m. Divine Liturgy (R)
TUE 2	7 a.m. Matins (R) [LS]
WED 3	7 a.m. Divine Liturgy (R)
THU 4	7 a.m. – Divine Liturgy (R)
FRI 5	8 a.m. First Hour and Divine Liturgy (M) [LS]
MON 8	8 a.m. Divine Liturgy (R) [LS]
TUE 9	7 a.m. Akathist to St. Michael (R)
WED 10	7 a.m. Divine Liturgy (R)
THU 11	7 a.m. Divine Liturgy (R)
MON 15	8 a.m. Penitential Moleben for Philip's Fast (R)
TUE 16	7 a.m. Emmanuel Moleben (R)
WED 17	7 a.m. Divine Liturgy for the Departed (R)
THU 18	7 a.m. Divine Liturgy (R)
FRI 19	8 a.m. Matins (R) 6 p.m. Vespers with 6th Kathisma (M) [LS]
SAT 20	9 a.m. Divine Liturgy (R) 5 p.m. All-Night Vigil (R)
MON 29	8 a.m. Third Hour (R)
TUE 30	7 a.m. Festal Matins (R)

(M) Melkite tradition (R) Ruthenian tradition [LS] Livestream

AROUND THE ARCHEPARCHY



ANNUAL SPAGHETTI DINNER — 1-5 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 7, SS. Peter and Paul, 701 Foster Ave., Duquesne, Pa. Sponsored by SS. Peter and Paul Parish Club. Cost: \$10, adults; \$5, children 10 years and under. No charge for children under 5 years. There will also be raffles and auctions.

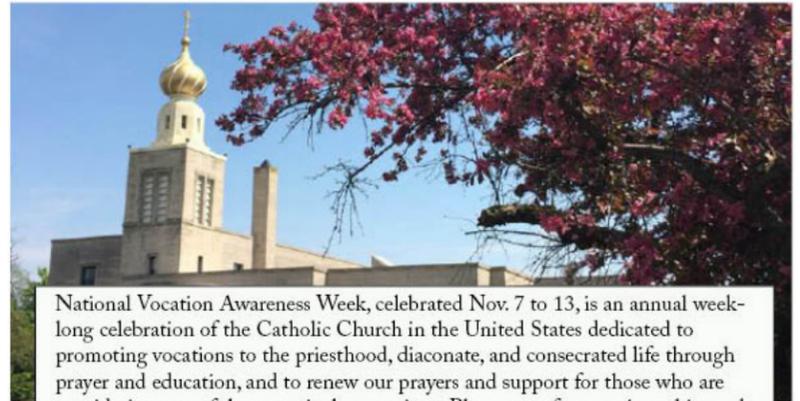
HOLIDAY BASKET EXTRAVAGANZA — Noon-? Sunday, Nov. 21, St. John the Baptist Cathedral, 210 Greentree Road, Munhall, Pa. Donation: \$20, includes take home chicken parmesan dinner. Extra dinners may be purchased for \$10 each. 20+ Basket Raffle, variety of vendors and 50/50 Drawing. St. John's Baked Goods (kolache and more) and door prizes. Tickets must be purchased in advance. For tickets and information, call Diane at 412-303-6534. Any CDC, state and local health department guidelines at the time will be followed during the event.

TASTE OF HEAVEN COOKIE SALE — Pre-orders only. Pick-up 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 4, St. Gregory Church, 2005 Mohawk Road, Upper Saint Clair, Pa. 15241. Orders will be taken through Sunday, Nov. 21. See the order form at stgregoryusc.org or call 724-916-4731.

HOLIDAY PIROHI SALE — St. Elias, 4200 Homestead-Duquesne Road, Munhall, Pa. Potato/cheese, \$12/dozen and lekvar, \$14/dozen. Orders due no later than Friday, Nov. 26 and will be available for pick-up on 10:15 a.m.-2 p.m. Dec. 12. Call 412 461-9271 and leave a message with name, order, and phone or check our Facebook page.

HOLIDAY BAKERY SALE — St. Elias, 4200 Homestead-Duquesne Road, Munhall, Pa. Available for order: nut rolls and other flavors, \$13 each; various flavors of cold dough cookies, \$10/dozen. Orders due no later than Nov. 21. Pick up on 11 a.m.-1 p.m. and 5-6 p.m. Dec. 11 and 10 a.m.- noon Dec. 12. Call the church at 412 461-9271 and leave a message or check our Facebook page for order form.

NATIONAL VOCATION AWARENESS WEEK NOVEMBER 7 TO 13



National Vocation Awareness Week, celebrated Nov. 7 to 13, is an annual week-long celebration of the Catholic Church in the United States dedicated to promoting vocations to the priesthood, diaconate, and consecrated life through prayer and education, and to renew our prayers and support for those who are considering one of these particular vocations. Please pray for vocations this week. If you are interested in exploring a priestly vocation, contact the Archeparchy's Vocation Office at vocations@archpitt.org.

DATES TO REMEMBER



NOV. 5 to 6
Assembly of the Byzantine Catholic Metropolitan Church
St. John the Baptist Cathedral, Munhall, Pa.

NOV. 7
Moleben for Martyred Bishops
3 p.m. Holy Ghost Church, McKees Rocks, Pa.

Standard Time (“fall back”) resumes at 2 a.m.

NOV. 11
Veterans Day
National observance

NOV. 21
Feast of the Entrance of the Theotokos

NOV. 25
Thanksgiving Day
Chancery closed Nov. 25 to 26

See more upcoming events at www.archpitt.org



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