

WORLD

THE BYZANTINE CATHOLIC

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THE GREAT FAST 2023



It is the Season of the Great Lenten Fast. Once again, we are reminded of Our Lord's forty day fast in which He went to the desert to pray and fast to prepare for His three years of public ministry. It was a time of deep spiritual reflection and even of temptation. The time of prayer empowered Him to present the Gospel message to the apostles, the disciples, and the world.

Each year, we return to the Fast. In many ways, we go through the same personal and public prayers. We try to follow the fasting as best we can. And we offer our service and support to those who look to us for help. In some ways, observing the Great Fast, Christmas, Easter, and Pentecost liturgical seasons is like riding on a merry-go-round each year. We do the same things each year, and if we are not careful, we end up in the same place. With the grace of God, we spiritually rise up a little when we reach Easter at the end of the Fast.

When we enter the Season of the Great Fast, it is not just doing the same thing over and over again. Without a plan or goal, you will not get anywhere. So, make a plan and follow it. The church's requirements for fasting and abstinence are important components throughout Lent. This may look like giving up things like gossip, your favorite coffee order, or forgoing music in the car and replacing it with prayer.

First, we are a year older and hopefully a little wiser than last year. A healthy person continues to learn and understand the world, people, and self more completely. Our spiritual lives are no different. We have grown more holy from the last cycle of the Great Fast and other seasons. Or, if we have slacked off or been actively drawn into selfish and sinful activities, the Fast is a time to let go of what holds us down and to return to the path which leads to God.

Second, the world and the church have changed. The war in Ukraine and coming economic recession has affected us all. The Covid pandemic shutdown has changed how we gather. Many things were stopped during the past three years. Some people are slow to restart activities which they never before questioned. As difficult as it is, we need to restart exercise and medical appointments which are necessary for our physical health.

Likewise, attending in person church Divine Liturgies and services is necessary to support our personal spiritual life. No only do we receive blessings with our presence, but we strengthen and build up the faith of our friends by praying with them. Especially during the Great Fast, we reach out and help our friends and those in need.

Finally, we need to do a little bit more in our efforts to move closer to Jesus. Beyond prayer and fasting, we give to others less fortunate than ourselves and we support our churches. "Give something, however small, to the one in need. For it is not small to one who has nothing. Neither is it small to God, if we have given what we could," said St. Gregory Nazianzen.

Returning to prayer, fasting, and giving to others can lift us up from where we were last year to a new level of holiness within the forty days. If we try and open ourselves to God's mercy, we will be renewed and lifted up. For as the late Pope Benedict XVI reminds us: "We must trust in the mighty power of God's mercy. We are all sinners, but His grace transforms us and makes us new."

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Reverend William C. Skurla, D.D.
Metropolitan Archbishop of Pittsburgh



We are reminded of the Our Lord's forty day fast in which He went to the desert to pray and fast to prepare for His three years of public ministry.

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MISSION

The mission of *The Byzantine Catholic World* is to spread the Gospel message in the rich tradition of the Byzantine Catholic Church; to encourage faithful to reflect the image of Christ in everyday activities of life; to offer spiritual formation through changing times; and to celebrate community among Byzantine Catholics in the Archeparchy of Pittsburgh, throughout the Metropolitan Church in America, and around the world.



BULLETIN BOARD

*Assembly 2023
scheduled for
November*

Metropolitan Archbishop William C. Skurla has called for representatives from the eparchies of Passaic, Parma, Phoenix and the exarchate of Toronto, Canada to assemble this fall.

Mark your calendar for the Metropolitan Assembly of 2023, scheduled for Nov. 2 to 5 at St. Mary Byzantine Catholic Church in Hillsboro, N.J.

Thursday through Friday evening, Nov. 2 to 3 is especially for clergy and Friday evening, Saturday and Sunday (Nov. 3 to 5) is especially for laity.

Watch www.archpitt.org for more information in upcoming months. ■

*Upcoming events at
the House of Prayer*

The following events will take place at Mount St. Macrina House of Prayer, 510 W. Main St., Uniontown, Pa. To register for programs or more information, call 724-438-7149 or email hpmsm@verizon.net.

■ 9:30 a.m.-noon Friday, March 31 and April 28, **Personal Morning of Prayer**. Are you ready to let go of some of the business and pressures of your life to come apart and rest awhile? Spend time in silence, meditation and prayer. Free Will Offering.

■ 6:30-8 p.m. Tuesday, March 7, **Evening for Men**. Presenter: Father James Tringhese. Offering: \$35. Registration due: March 1.

■ 10-11:30 a.m. March 9, 16, 23, 30, **Thursday Bible Study**. "Meeting the Prophets Jeremiah and Isaiah During Lent" with presenter Sister Melita Marie, OSBM. Offering: \$15 per session. Registration due: Feb. 23.

■ 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Saturday, March 11, **Lenten Day of Prayer**. Presenter Sister Ruth, OSBM. The Sacrament of Reconciliation will be offered along with a conference and prayer service. Offering: \$40 includes lunch. Registration due: March 6.

■ 7 p.m. Friday, April 21 to after Brunch Sunday, April 23, **Women's Weekend Retreat**. Presenter: TBA. Offering: \$95. Registration due: April 14.

■ 7 p.m. Sunday, May 21 to after lunch Friday, May 26, **Directed Retreat**. Presenters: TBA. Offering: \$350. Registration due: May 15. ■

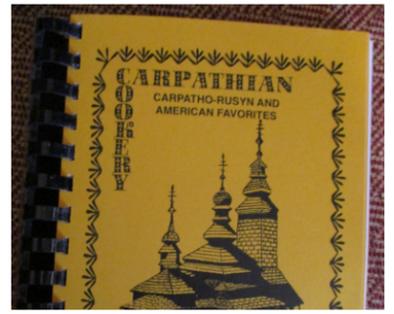
*Carpathian Cookery
cook book available*

The Carpathian Cookery cookbook, now in its 21st printing and having sold nearly 20,000 copies, is available for sale.

The 330-page cookbook has a new look and features a protective plastic cover. The book includes sections on Christmas and Easter customs and recipes, traditional Rusyn and Slavic foods, other ethnic dishes, and many other tried-and-true recipes of St. John's parishioners.

The cost of the cookbook is \$14 plus \$5 postage and handling (\$19).

If ordering from Canada, please send a \$36 U.S. Postal money order payable in U.S. dollars (\$14



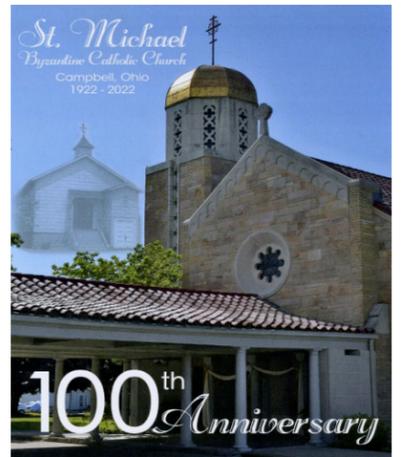
plus \$22 postage) to reflect the difference in the exchange rate and postage cost.

To order please send a check or money order to: Ethnic Craft Club, St. John Byzantine Catholic Church, 201 E. Main Street, Uniontown, PA. 15401, or call 724-438-1382 (M-F 9 a.m.-3 p.m. - leave message), for more information.

You may contact us at: carpathiancookery@gmail.com. ■

*St. Michael
100th Anniversary
Commemorative Book*

If anyone has ties to St. Michael Byzantine Catholic Church in Campbell, Ohio and would like to receive the 100th Anniversary Commemorative Book, you may email: stmichaelcampbell100@gmail.com or call 330-755-4831. Cost of the book, including postage, is \$20. ■



16th annual Egg Eggstravaganza

The 16th Egg Eggstravaganza will be held Noon-4 p.m. Sunday, March 26 at the St. John the Baptist Byzantine Catholic Church Social Hall 201 E. Main Street Uniontown, Pa.

This year, the Eggstravaganza is being sponsored by St. John Parish GCU Lodge, local egg artists, and the St. John's Ethnic Craft Club.

Various egg artists will be demonstrating, displaying, and selling their particular art and there will be an Egg Bazaar featuring vendors selling egg dyes, beeswax, tools, books, videos, and pysanky kits for sale.

Traditional items used in ethnic Easter baskets will also be available, such as embroidered covers, candles, lamb butter molds, egg wraps, parish cookbooks, and much more.

There will also be Easter crafts for sale made by the St. John's Ethnic Craft Club.

An extensive parish bake sale will include long rolls (nut, apricot, poppyseed, cottage cheese), paska bread, decorated medovniki, small nut rolls, cookies, homemade candy, and many more delicious goodies.



Visitors can try a hands-on workshop to learn how to decorate eggs. There will be a Children's Corner featuring egg-related crafts, storytelling, cookie decorating, and a jigsaw puzzle area. There will be many Raffles and a Basket Raffle. Church tours will take place.

A Lenten Luncheon Menu, including St. John's "famous" pirohi, halushki, pagach pockets, pirohi pizza, and soups and more will be available for purchase. There is no admission fee. Handicapped accessible.

For further information, please contact the church office 724-438-1382 (Leave message).

Check the parish website for at <http://www.stjohnbaptist-byzcath-uniontown.org/> for updates. ■



“Synodal Synthesis”

EPARCHIAL ASSEMBLY SET FOR APRIL 29 IN MUNHALL, PA.

By The Archeparchial Office of Religious Education

An Eparchial Assembly, “Synodal Synthesis: A Mandate, Not an Option,” will be held Saturday, April 29 at St. John the Baptist Cathedral in Munhall, Pa.

The purpose of the Assembly is to hear responses from all four eparchies of the Archeparchy of Pittsburgh so those gathered can discern the common joys, hopes and wounds. The Archeparchial Office of Religious Education is sponsoring the event.

All four eparchies in the Metropolia participated in the National Synthesis of the People of God in the USA for a Synodal Church: Communion, Participation & Mission.

Eparchies utilized a variety of opportunities for engaging people in the process, including local gatherings, listening sessions and surveys.

For more information on the Synod, see “Joy, gratitude, honest words continue in Synod’s North American phase” at right.

Presenters include:

Father Ron Barusefski

A priest of the Eparchy of Passaic and Director of Human Formation at SS. Cyril and Methodius Seminary. He has a licentiate in canon law from Catholic University in Washington and a doctorate in canon law from the Pontifical University of St. Thomas Aquinas in Rome.

Amanda Singel

Amanda received a BA in Studio Arts from the University of Pittsburgh. Currently, she is the Assistant to the Director of the Office of Religious Education and the Business Manager for the Eastern Catholic Eparchial Directors of Religious Education (ECED).

Father Robert Jager

Pastor of two parishes and Vocation Director for the Eparchy of Parma. Father Robert has studied at several theological institutions including the Pontifical Gregorian University in Rome. He contributed to his eparchial faith formation series “I Believe” and directed the Women’s Retreat for his eparchy.

Father Robert Pipta

Rector and Instructor of Liturgical Practicum at SS. Cyril and Methodius Seminary. A priest of the Eparchy of Phoenix and served parishes there for 20 years. He was also Eparchial Director of Vocations for his eparchy and is a member of the Intereparchial Commission for Sacred Liturgy.

Dr. Joan Grossman

Dr. Joan Grossman, professor in the Science department at the University of Scranton and Eparchy of Passaic Project Coordinator for the synod. She is a member of St. Nicholas of Myra in Swyersville, Pa. ■



The Assembly of the Byzantine Catholic (Ruthenian) Metropolitan Church, was held in November 2021 at St. John the Baptist Cathedral in Munhall, Pa. The Assembly, whose theme was “One Body in Christ: Re-emerging from the Pandemic,” is part of a process which will culminate in the XVI Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod

Joy, gratitude, honest words continue in Synod’s North American phase

by Gina Christian
OSV News

Joy, gratitude and a longing to be formed in the faith are among the takeaways from the latest stage in the North American phase of the world Synod of Bishops on synodality, according to two U.S.-based synod process leaders tasked with distilling the faithful’s feedback for presentation to the Vatican.

“The love for people’s Catholic faith and their Catholic identity abounds in the meetings. It’s so present, and it underlies everything,” Julia McStravog, a theologian and co-coordinator of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops’ team for the continental phase of the synod, told OSV News.

McStravog and her fellow co-coordinator Richard Coll, who also serves as executive director of the USCCB’s Department of Justice, Peace and Human Development, spoke with OSV News Jan. 26 after finishing a series of U.S. and Canadian synod consultations.

Launched by Pope Francis in October 2021, the multiyear synod — the theme of which is “communion, participation and mission” — seeks to cultivate an ongoing dynamic of discernment, listening, humility and engagement within the Catholic Church.

The word “synod” itself derives from the Greek for “with” and “path,” signifying a way in which “the people of God walk together,” according to a 2018 document by the International Theological Commission.

Initially scheduled to culminate at the 15th Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops at the Vatican in October 2023, the synod was extended by Pope Francis to include a second session in October 2024, allowing for what he called “a more relaxed period of discernment.”

Throughout its three stages — diocesan, continental and universal — the synod has solicited the insights of all the

baptized, as well as those who have left the faith and those of other faith traditions. Marginalized communities have been especially encouraged to participate in the listening sessions, which have taken place in Catholic churches, schools and pastoral spaces throughout the world.

The current continental phase has gathered the USCCB and the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops (CCCB) and more than 900 bishop-selected delegates in 12 virtual sessions — variously conducted in English, Spanish and French — at which listening session reports from 236 U.S. and Canadian dioceses were presented and discussed. According to the USCCB, the Catholic Church in Mexico will participate with the Latin American bishops’ council (CELAM), given its long partnership with that conference.

Now, McStravog, Coll and some 18 fellow team members will undertake a “writing retreat,” during which they will prayerfully distill the responses from the church in the U.S. and Canada into one of the seven continental reports due March 31 at the Vatican.

Both said they will be working with impressive raw material.

“What’s really powerful is how many common themes seem to be expressed across these different groups, languages, backgrounds and the like,” said Coll. “You really do feel the inspiration of the Spirit here.”

McStravog said she was struck by synod participants’ “really deep desire for faith formation at every stage of life” in order to “live more into discipleship and missionary identity.”

Coll noted that respondents stressed “the importance of being an inclusive, welcoming church and community” that heeds Pope Francis’ emphasis on “the importance of reaching out to the peripheries and the marginalized.”

At the same time, said Coll, synod participants pointed to “the tension between truth and mercy ... between wanting to be inclusive

Continued on page 4

Schedule of events

9 a.m. Registration & Coffee

9:45 a.m. Opening Prayer

10 a.m.
A Review of the Synodal Process

10:10 a.m.
Discipleship in Our Church: Past, Present & Future
Father Ron Barusefski

10:50 a.m. Break

11 a.m.
Archeparchy of Pittsburgh
Amanda Singel

11:30 a.m.
Eparchy of Parma
Father Robert Jager

Noon Lunch

12:45 p.m.
Eparchy of Phoenix
Father Robert Pipta

1:15 p.m.
Eparchy of Passaic
Dr. Joan Grossman

1:45 p.m. Break

2 p.m.
Group Process with
Guided Questions

2:30 p.m. Feedback

3 p.m. Final Remarks/Departure

REGISTRATION FORM

Eparchial Assembly - Saturday, April 20, 2023
St. John the Baptist Cathedral, Munhall, PA

PLEASE PRINT

Name(s) _____

Email _____

Parish _____ Pastor _____

Early Registration Fee before April 1, 2023: \$50 per person

Registration Fee after April 1, 2023: \$65 per person

DEADLINE: April 22, 2023 — NO REFUNDS

Please make checks payable to: Office of Religious Education

3605 Perrysville Ave., Pittsburgh, PA 15214

Questions: 412-322-8773 mdobos1@gmail.com

ETERNAL MEMORY
VERY REV. MITRED ARCHPRIEST
JOHN STEPHEN KACHUBA JR.

Very Reverend Mitred Archpriest John Stephen Kachuba Jr., a retired priest of the Eparchy of Parma, fell asleep in the Lord on Feb. 12. He was born, the only son of the late Eleanor (Kingure) and John S. Kachuba Sr., on Jan. 24, 1948 in Windber, Pa.

After he attended first and second grades in the public school of Windber, the family moved to San Diego, Calif. where he continued his education at Pacific Beach Elementary School and then at Mission Bay High School. As a seminarian at SS. Cyril and Methodius Seminary in Pittsburgh, he earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Philosophy at Duquesne University also in Pittsburgh. Most Reverend Emil Mihalik ordained him to the priesthood on May 12, 1974.

While Archpriest John served his first priestly assignment as associate pastor at St. Mary Church in Whiting, Ind., he attended Mundelein College in Chicago, Ill. and was graduated with a Master of Arts degree in Religious Studies on July 29, 1976. His succeeding pastoral appointments included the Ohio parishes of: St. Nicholas Croatian, Cleveland, St. Gregory, Lakewood; St. Stephen, Euclid; St. Andrew, Mentor-on-the-Lake; St. Michael, Fairport Harbor, and St. Mary Magdalene, Fairview Park from where he retired. He also served St. Athanasius, Indianapolis, Indiana; and St. Stephen, Allen Park and St. Nicholas, Clinton Township, both in Michigan.

He was very involved in forming the Department of Religious Education for the Eparchy of Parma and he served as its director for 40 years. Other Eparchial responsibilities were: Protosyncellus; member of the Presbyteral Council and College of Consultors; Assistant Director of the Confraternity of Christian Doctrine; Defender of the Bond for the Tribunal; Protopresbyter of the former Ohio-West and of the former Cleveland Protopresbyterates.

On the Archeparchial and national levels, Archpriest John was a member of the St. Cyril and Methodius Seminary Advisory Board, the Sub-Committee on Catechesis for the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, the Chair of the Supreme Tribunal of the Greek Catholic Union, and most recently its National Spiritual Advisor and member of the Board of Directors.

Special mention is made of his many years of dedication to the



Very Reverend Mitred Archpriest John Stephen Kachuba Jr.

work, development and promotion of Religious Education. As a member of the Eastern Catholic Diocesan Board of Directors, he served as its Associate Chairperson from 1984 to 1990, and then as Chairperson from 1990 to 2005. He was a member and on the Board of Directors of Diocesan Directors from 1984 to 1991, and he belonged to the National Conference of Catechetical Leadership and its Representative Council from 1991 to 2002. He also served on various committees and task forces for both Conferences from 1984 to 2002.

Archpriest John was preceded in death by his parents and his infant sister Karen Marie Kachuba. Many cousins and a host of lifelong friends survive him.

Visitation was at his former parish, St. Mary Magdalene Church in Fairview Park, Ohio on Thursday and Friday, Feb. 16 and 17. The Parastas service was celebrated on both evenings by Bishop Kurt Burnette. The Funeral Divine Liturgy was also celebrated on Saturday by Bishop Kurt with Metropolitan Archbishop William C. Skurla presiding.

Concelebrants were Archpriest David Petras (homilist), Very Reverends Richard Lambert and Bryan Eyman, and Reverend Fathers Robert Kelly and Robert Jager. Archpriest Michael Hayduk was the Master of Ceremonies and the Deacons were Daniel Surniak and Gregory Loya.

Interment was at St. Mary Byzantine parish cemetery in Windber, Pa. on Monday, Feb. 20, with the prayers led by Metropolitan Archbishop William, Very Reverend Bryan Eyman, and Reverend Father Ivan Rusyn.

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

“Making the City a Church”

SEMINARY’S 23RD ANNUAL LECTURE SET FOR MAY 10

By The Byzantine Catholic Seminary of SS. Cyril and Methodius

The Byzantine Catholic Seminary in Pittsburgh, Pa. is pleased to announce its 23rd annual academic lecture to be delivered by Father John Baldovin, S.J. at 7 p.m. May 10.

This livestreamed lecture, entitled “Making the City a Church: Liturgical Processions in Constantinople from the Sixth to the Tenth Centuries,” is to study the mobile character of ancient Constantinopolitan Christian worship and the processions of Byzantine stational liturgy. This will shed light on the liturgy itself, popular piety, and the relation of liturgy to the surrounding culture.

All are welcome to attend this lecture virtually on Wednesday, May 10 at 7 p.m. via the Seminary website (www.bcs.edu).

The lecture can also be accessed live or at a later time from archives on the B.C.S. YouTube channel.

Father John F. Baldovin is Professor of Historical and Liturgical Theology at the Boston College School of Theology and Ministry. He is a priest of the USA-East Province of the Society of Jesus. He received his BA from the College of the Holy Cross, an MDiv from Weston School of Theology, and MA, MPhil, and PhD from Yale University.

Father Baldovin served on the advisory committee for the Bishops’ Committee on the Liturgy of the U.S.C.C.B. (1989-1993). He is past president of



Father John Baldovin, S.J.

the North American Academy of Liturgy as well as the international ecumenical Societas Liturgica. He is a member of the Board of Directors of the journal, Theological Studies, with his fields of expertise being history and theology of the liturgy, sacramental theology, and the theology of ministry. Among his numerous publications is *The Urban Character of Christian Worship: The Origins, Development and Meaning of Stational Liturgy* (Pontifical Institute of Oriental Studies, 1987).

Founded in 1950, the Byzantine Catholic Seminary is a free-standing, English speaking theological seminary. The Seminary is authorized to grant the Master of Arts in Theology and Master of Divinity degrees by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and is accredited by the Association of Theological Schools. ■

Synod’s North American phase

Story continued from page 3

... (while) being authentic and respectful of the teachings of the church.”

“I don’t think that tension has by any means been resolved,” Coll added.

Another challenge the U.S. and Canadian synod team members are working to understand is the reluctance of some clergy to participate in the synod, said McStravog, noting that a “special listening session” for clergy

has been scheduled before the continental document is finalized.

Even when discussing difficult topics, “so many of the participants ... started out with words of thanks,” said Coll. “They appreciated being together, and having the opportunity to reflect on these issues.”

“We’ve created a sacred space,” McStravog said, “where people feel that ... they weren’t going to be dismissed or shamed for their questions or thoughts.” ■

Earn your Master’s Degree in Theology at the Byzantine Catholic Seminary’s School of Theology

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Rooted in ancient Christianity

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- Chaplaincy
- Dogmatics
- Liturgy
- Sacred Scripture

www.bcs.edu





REPORT FROM **THE OFFICE OF SAFE ENVIRONMENT**

Promise to protect

The Archeparchy of Pittsburgh is committed to implementing fully the Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People adopted by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops.

Each year the Archeparchy submits its data collection for an audit conducted by an independent company, Stonebridge Business Partners, to determine that the Charter is being implemented.

Archbishop William Skurla was notified that the Archeparchy of Pittsburgh is again in compliance



with the Charter for 2022. The Archeparchy has been in compliance every year since 2004 when the first audit was conducted. ■

IMPORTANT REMINDER

The policy of the Archeparchy of Pittsburgh is that background checks need to be renewed every five years.

Clergy, employees, catechists, and volunteers who had their clearances in 2018 are now due for renewal.

Get your forms for renewal on the Archeparchy website www.archpitt.org or call Sister Joanne Lickvar, OSBM, Safe Environment Coordinator, at 724-438-8644.

Thank you for your cooperation! ■

FYI

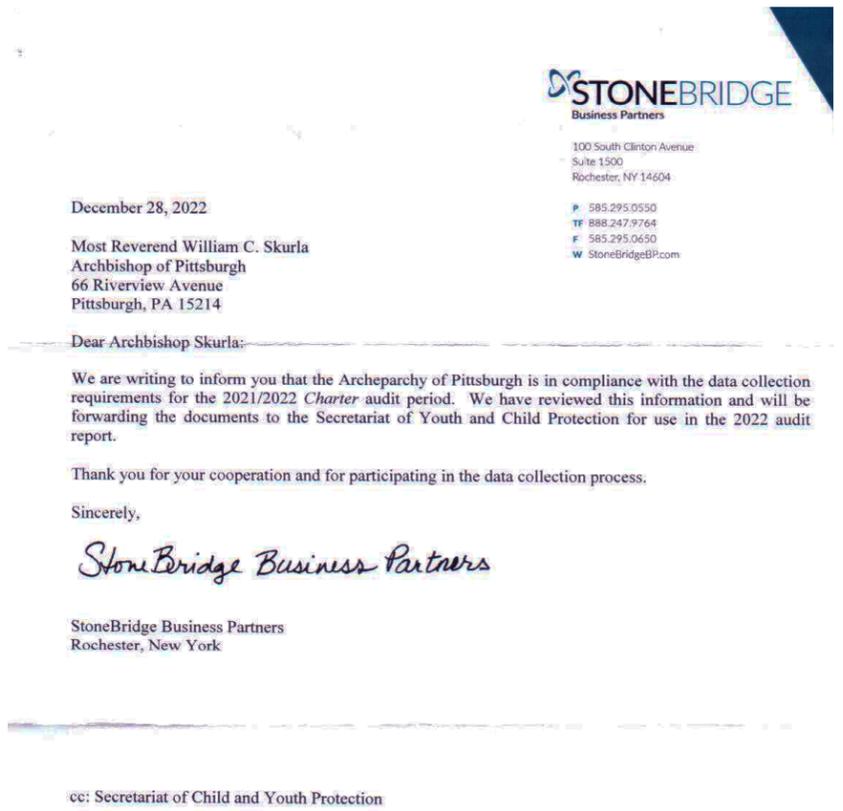
■ For more information about the Byzantine Catholic Archeparchy of Pittsburgh's Office of Safe Environment, go to www.archpitt.org and click on the icon of Jesus and the children. The Safe Environment Coordinator is Sr. Joanne Lickvar, OSBM. She can be reached at 724-438-8644.

■ The Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People is a comprehensive set of procedures for addressing allegations of abuse of minors. This Charter includes guidelines for reconciliation, healing, accountability, and prevention of future acts of abuse.

■ All dioceses and eparchies have Victim Assistance Coordinators, assuring that victims of abuse will be heard. The Victim Assistance Coordinator for the Archeparchy is Courtney Miner. She can be reached at 724-504-9588.



Sister Joanne Lickvar, OSBM, Safe Environment Coordinator for the Archeparchy of Pittsburgh, visited St. Gregory in Upper St. Clair, Pa. Feb. 5 for a Protecting God's Children training session.



Safe Environment "Hotline" Phone Numbers

- Archeparchy of Pittsburgh Confidential Hotline: 412-231-4000, ext. 22
- National Child Abuse Hotline: 1-800-422-4453
- Louisiana Child Abuse/Neglect Hotline: 1-855-452-5437
- Ohio Child Abuse/Neglect Hotline: 1-855-642-4453
- Oklahoma Child Abuse/Neglect Hotline: 1-800-522-3511
- Pennsylvania Child Abuse/Neglect Hotline: 1-800-932-0313
- Tennessee Child Abuse/Neglect Hotline: 1-877-237-0004
- Texas Child Abuse/Neglect Hotline: 1-800-252-5400
- West Virginia Child Abuse/Neglect Hotline: 1-800-352-6513

What's happening in your diocese to protect the most vulnerable?

- We report all allegations of abuse directly to law enforcement and cooperate with civil authorities on all investigations.
- Our diocese has a designated Victims Assistance Coordinator whose primary role is to accompany survivors and provide resources for their healing journey.
- We also have an independent review board, consisting primarily of lay members. The role of the review board is to review allegations and make a recommendation to the bishop regarding the suitability for ministry.
- We train adults on how to maintain a safe environment and how to report concerns.
- We train minors in parish religious education programs to identify warning signs of abuse and inappropriate behavior as well as how to report abuse.
- By following all of our diocesan policies and procedures to create safe environments, we can maintain a culture of protection and healing.



What's happening nationally to protect the most vulnerable?

- The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops has two bodies committed to the influence of policies regarding child and youth protection: the Committee on the Protection of Children and Young People, where all members are bishops; and the National Review Board, in which all members are lay people who have elements of expertise in the field of child and youth protection.
- There is a Victim Assistance Coordinator and Safe Environment Coordinator in every diocese.
- The Annual Audit, currently conducted by Stone Bridge Business Partners, evaluates the success of child and youth protection procedures and trainings throughout the audit year.
- Diocesan Review Boards are in place in every diocese to review allegations of abuse and advise the bishop.
- All adult volunteers, clergy and staff must receive safe environment training.
- All children must receive safe environment training.



REFLECTION FROM
MOUNT ST, MACRINA

Encountering grace in others

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



This is a transcript
of her March 11,
2022 reflection.
It can viewed
on the Facebook
page of the Sisters
of St. Basil the
Great at [https://
www.facebook.com/sistersofstbasil.
uniontown](https://www.facebook.com/sistersofstbasil.uniontown).

Glory to Jesus Christ!

When I was young, I kept myself a list of special people I was wishing I could meet. There were 10 of them; I don't remember all the names now. Later in my life, I was blessed to meet a number of special people, though nobody on that list.

Today's Gospel is the Healing of the Paralytic; this is the one who had to be carried to Jesus by four friends.

When I look at that Gospel, I see the crowd is encountering a special person. This is early in Jesus' ministry and His reputation has begun to spread that He is a healer.

In the crowd this day are some of the Scribes — those are the Jewish officials whose life was about interpreting the law.

When the four men bring this paralyzed man through the roof and down to Jesus, the immediate reaction of Jesus is a loving one. Jesus is the Holy One and as this man encounters Him, Jesus'

spirit can understand that this man is paralyzed, most likely and including, due to his sinfulness.

The first words of Jesus are mercy: "Your sins are forgiven."

The first words of the Scribes are: "Who do you think you are? How do you have the right to say sins are forgiven? You blaspheme!" There aren't questions such as "Who is this?"

When they see what followed — Jesus heals a paralyzed man

who, in front of the group, stands up and walks, carries his mat away — do attitudes change?

The Gospel passage ends with: "The people were astounded and they glorified God, saying "We have never seen anything like this'."

So they're full of praise and wonder and the desire to know more. However, the Scribes have their hearts closed.

In this Lenten season we are

challenged to reflect on our own relationship with God and where do we see it in action? In our relationships with each other we can encounter the grace and blessing of God or we can judge.

May your Lenten journey bring graces of insight, wisdom, repentance and a greater love of one another.

God bless you. ■

Pittsburgh Protopresbytery Penitential Vespers

The Sundays of the Great Fast 2023

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES AT 4 P.M.

MARCH AND APRIL

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 26

St. Pius X Church

2336 Brownsville Road, Pittsburgh (Carrick), Pa.

Deacon: Sean Petrisko

Homilist: Very Rev. Andrew Deskevich

Confessor: Father Franl Firko

SUNDAY, MARCH 5

St. John the Baptist Cathedral

210 Greentree Road, Munhall, Pa.

Deacon: Michael George

Homilist: Father Valerian Michlik

Confessor: Father Vitalii Stashkevych

SUNDAY, MARCH 12

St. Andrew Church

235 Logan Road, Gibsonia, Pa.

Deacon: Lawrence Hruska

Homilist: Father Miron Kerul'-Kmec

Confessor: Monsignor Lawrence Dominik

SUNDAY, MARCH 19

SS. Peter and Paul Church

701 Foster Ave., Duquesne, Pa.

Deacon: Sean Petrisko

Homilist: Father Michael Kunitz

Confessor: Very Rev. Andrew Deskevich

SUNDAY, MARCH 26

SS. Peter & Paul Church

339 E. Tenth Ave., Tarentum, Pa.

Deacon: Lawrence Hruska

Homilist: Father Frank Firko

Confessor: Father Radko Blichar

Following the liturgical celebration a light penitential meal consisting of three meatless soups, bread and optional dessert will be provided by the hosting parish.

Pittsburgh Byzantine Catholic Campus Ministry's Schedule of

PRAYER AND LITURGY FOR THE GREAT FAST OF LENT

DIVINE LITURGIES ON SUNDAY
8:30 am (SJB) | 10:30 (SJC) | 11:00 am and 5:00 pm (HS)

THE LITURGY OF THE PRESANCTIFIED GIFTS
Wed 10:00 am (SJB) | Wed 5:00 pm (HS) | Fri 7:00 pm (SJC)

CONFESSIONS
Mon 11 am-12 pm | Wed 3-4 pm | Fri 5-6 pm | Sat 4:30-5:30 pm | Sun 4-5 pm
All Scheduled Confessions at Holy Spirit

THE HOURS
Sat 5:30 pm: Great Vespers | Sun 10:45 am: Third Hour

LECTURES
February 26: Repentance: Life's Continual Effort
Soup Dinner: 6:00 pm Lecture: 7:00 pm
April 2: Topic TBA
Soup Dinner: 6:00 pm Lecture: 7:00 pm

FORMATION
Weekly formation opportunities available through Philokalia Ministries.
Visit: www.philokaliaministries.org

(HS) = Holy Spirit | 4815 Fifth Ave., 15213
(SJB) = Saint John the Baptist | 1720 Jane St., 15203
(SJC) = Saint John Chrysostom | 506 Saline St., 15207

byzatholicpgh@gmail.com | facebook.com/byzatholic



City A Desert

The Call to Interiorized Monasticism
for All Christians
with Father David Abernethy

SAINT GREGORY OF NAZIANZUS PARISH
6:30 PM | Reception Following

March 7: Introduction to Interiorized Monasticism and Poverty and the Primacy of Grace over Necessity

March 14: Chastity: the Sacredness of Creation and the Virginity of Heart that Should Belong to All

March 21: Obedience to God: Receptivity to the Spirit of Truth and the Creative Freedom of the Life of Grace

2005 Mohawk Rd, Upper St Clair, PA 15241



HOLY SPIRIT IN PITTSBURGH (OAKLAND), PA.

“Light is Life”

*by Pani Janine Kunitz
Holy Spirit, Pittsburgh (Oakland), Pa.*

Holy Spirit Parish in Oakland was blessed to take part in a three-fold celebration on Sunday, Feb. 12.

Altar server and cantor Emanuel Revilak received his “Light is Life” religious emblem through the Boy Scouts of America after months of studious work.

Archbishop William Skurla presided over the Hierarchical Divine Liturgy and was joined

by guests from the Byzantine Catholic Seminary and the Archeparchy’s Scout Chaplain, Father Deacon Lance Weakland.

The Metropolitan presented the award after giving the emblem a formal blessing.

After the Liturgy, all gathered in the hall for the parish’s annual Fasiangy (Meat-Fare) potluck.

We thank God for a joyous weekend and ask for perseverance through the coming season of Great and Holy Lent! ■



ST. NICHOLAS IN GREENSBURG, PA.

Pre-Lenten breakfast

*by John Gomolak
St. Nicholas, Greensburg, Pa.*

St. Nicholas in Greensburg, Pa. held its annual pre-Lenten breakfast in the church hall on Sunday, Feb. 19. Father Regis

Dusecina is pastor.

Following the blessing by Father Regis, a breakfast was served by five members of the parish.

Everyone enjoyed the breakfast and being together. ■



NATIVITY OF THE MOTHER OF GOD IN DUBOIS, PA.

Historic occasion

*by Deacon Paul Boboige
Nativity of the Mother of God, DuBois, Pa.*

The Encounter of Simeon with Our Lord Jesus is a celebration of meeting Our Savior.

A similar encounter occurred during the octave of the Feast when new catechumen Edward William Koch met Our Lord in the Mysteries of Baptism, Chrismation and Holy Communion on Sunday, Feb. 5, administered by Father Vasyl Banyk.

The parish family of Nativity of the Mother of God in DuBois, Pa. were witnesses of the reception of Edward in the Church as a new Christian.

A reception in Nativity Hall followed, with Edward's brother, sister and their spouses were present after they attended their first Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom.

It was a joyful and historic occasion; this was the first celebration in memory of the



initiation of an adult.

We pray for many more as the "fields are ripe" (Mat. 9:37) and non-Christians are beginning to outnumber practicing Christians.

Father Vasyl is administrator of Nativity and Edward was instructed by Deacon Paul Boboige.

Ladies Auxilliary President Grace Marshall prepared the entree, a delicious quiche. ■



ST. GREGORY IN UPPER ST. CLAIR, PA.

Celebrating St. Gregory's Day

by Father Valerian Michlik
St. Gregory, Upper St. Clair, Pa.

On Sunday, Jan. 29, prayerful supplications of thanksgiving were offered by our faithful as we celebrated St. Gregory's Day.

It has become a tradition to honor our holy father Gregory the Theologian (Nazianzus) on the Sunday closest to the actual feast day (Jan. 25). The responses during the festive Divine Liturgy were sung by our St. Gregory's Chant Group.

At the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy, our parishioners Christine D'Alessandro and Amy

Slight received a blessing to serve as Lectors-Readers in our parish family.

Following, Mr. David Mayernik Sr. was presented with an Icon of the Theotokos Umilenie-Tender Mercy and a Hramota-certificate of recognition and appreciation from our Metropolitan Archbishop William C. Skurla.

We offer our sincere thanks to Mr. David Mayernik Sr. for his many years of love, service, and dedication in the life of our parish family.

Afterward, we will all enjoyed great food and fellowship in our church hall. ■

Valentine's Day fun

by Father Valerian Michlik
St. Gregory, Upper St. Clair, Pa.

Sunday, Feb. 12 was a busy day at St. Gregory. At the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy we witnessed our 3rd and 4th grade ECF students receive their Bibles as part of their studies of Holy Scripture.

We also welcomed the Culture Project missionaries who will be conducting classes for our St. Gregory's ByzanTeens.

In anticipation of St. Valentine's Day our church hall was decorated and ready for this year's St. Valentine Party. In the beginning

of our celebration, Father Deacon Michael shared with us the life of this famous third century priest-martyr Valentine.

We all enjoyed and appreciated the special Valentine cookies prepared by our St. Gregory's Women of Faith.

Afterwards our ECF students were ready to make St. Valentine crafts, and Valentine jewelry. We also worked on St. Valentine cards for all our retired priests, religious, and homebound parishioners.

It was truly a beautiful Sunday for our parish family as we honored the patron saint of love. ■



Deacon Michael George, Father Valerian Michlik, David Mayernik Sr. and Deacon Tim Corbett





ST. GREGORY IN UPPER ST. CLAIR, PA.

Comedy Night 2023

by Father Valerian Michlik
St. Gregory, Upper St. Clair, Pa.

On Friday evening, Feb. 17, our Church Hall started filling up for this year's 13th annual St. Gregory's Comedy Night. This pre-Lenten event, long held in person, once again welcomed our guests from the Pittsburgh area. This evening of laughter was a great success as we enjoyed the

comedians David Kaye, Teresa Logan and Moody McCarthy.

A big "thank you" to our faithful who worked very hard preparing this event, selling the tickets, kitchen prep, set-up, and clean-up of the Church Hall.

We express our sincere thanks to all who attended this pre-Lenten event that has been enjoyed by many for the past 13 years! ■



ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST IN LYNDORA, PA.

Celebrating Theophany

by Elizabeth Pocchiari
St. John the Baptist, Lyndora, Pa.

St. John the Baptist Byzantine Catholic Church in Lyndora, Pa. had their annual second Holy Night supper after the vigil Divine Liturgy and blessing of Holy Water on Jan. 5.

The fish was provided by the GCU Lodge 109.

This tradition was started by Helen Meaders, of blessed memory, more than 40 years ago. Helen wanted more people to come to the vespers and blessing of holy water so she had the choir and Ladies Guild and Lodge 109 sponsor the tradition of having the traditional foods that were eaten on Christmas Eve. ■



Father Radko Blichar with GCU president, Patty Kosar giving him a check from the matching funds.



ST. JOHN CHRYSOSTOM IN PITTSBURGH PA.

A visit from Father Deacon Tim

by Elizabeth Harbist
St. John Chrysostom, Pittsburgh, Pa.

Father Deacon Tim Kennedy and his wife, Angie, paid a visit Sunday, Jan. 29 to St. John Chrysostom in Pittsburgh, Pa.

Father Deacon Tim is a seminarian at SS. Cyril and Methodius Seminary in Pittsburgh. The Kennedys are originally from New York City.

Angie shared that they often saw the rising bell towers of the church from the Parkway East and wondered how to get to that church.

We are so glad that they found their way to St. John Chrysostom.

Father Deacon Tim served with Father Miron Kerul'-Kmec and delivered the homily. His ease



Father Deacon Tim Kennedy and Father Miron Kerul'-Kmec

and engagement with parishioners were remarkable!

We certainly hope he and Angie visit again! ■

ST. MARY IN HOMER CITY, PA.

Nutrolls for Christmas

by Ed Hilovsky
St. Mary, Homer City, Pa.

A Christmas roll sale was held at St. Mary's Byzantine Catholic Church in Homer City, Pa.

The event was coordinated by church member Judy Holiday. Volunteer bakers came Monday Dec. 5 and made nut, nut/

apricot, apricot and poppyseed rolls for orders that were taken in advance.

Rolls were distributed Tuesday Dec. 6.

Judy and crew received many accolades for their delicious homemade rolls. a big success for our parish! ■



"Cookies by the Mile"

by Ed Hilovsky
St. Mary, Homer City, Pa.

St. Mary's in Homer City, Pa. held a "Cookies by the Mile" fundraiser a week before Christmas.

Coordinator Renee Vargo asked parish members and friends to bake six to eight dozen of one type of Christmas cookie each. There were many different varieties.

People attending brought their own containers and were given gloves to wear to choose cookies. Limit was six dozen.

The event started at 10 a.m. until noon Saturday, Dec. 17 and sold out by 11:30 a.m.

Some customers came as far as one hour away. Quite a busy hour and very prosperous for St. Mary's since all cookies were



donated!

It's a great way to purchase a variety of delicious homemade cookies for the holidays and more time for our customers to enjoy the Christmas season without the hassle of baking!

A Christmas basket raffle was also added to the event! ■

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST CATHEDRAL IN MUNHALL, PA.

Dinner is served

The first take-out dinner event of the year at St. John the Baptist Cathedral in Munhall, Pa. was held Jan. 21 and 22.

The featured meal was chicken paprikas enhanced with a homemade bake sale.

The successful fundraiser was brought about by Very Rev. Andrew Deskevich and the hardworking parishioners of the parish. ■



Super Bowl Sunday dinner

Mom did not have to cook Super Bowl Sunday courtesy of the Cathedral Kitchen at St. John the Baptist Cathedral in Munhall, Pa.

Very Rev. Andrew Deskevich made his outstanding breaded pork chop dinner complemented by a parish bake sale to everyone's sweet tooth delight.

The take-out endeavor was well supported by the parish and patrons of the Cathedral proving it a successful fund raiser. ■



Photos by Nick Havrilla Sr.



ST. ELIAS IN MUNHALL, PA.

Many hands make light work

Csoroge workers rolled and cut dough last month at St. Elias in Munhall, Pa.

The fried Hungarian donuts are

freshly made at the fish fries and served warm with a dusting of powdered sugar. ■



Feast of the Encounter

Father Vitalii Stashkevych blessed candles at St. Elias in Munhall, Pa. for the Feast of the Encounter.

Parishioners were then encouraged to take them home. ■



Pirohi prepping

Parishioners at St. Elias in Munhall, Pa. perfected their pirohi-pinching skills after liturgies in preparation for the Lenten Fish Fries held every Friday during Lent (except for Good Friday). Join us for great fish, shrimp, haluska, pirohi, csoroge and baked goods from 11:30 a.m.-6 p.m. ■



Pre-Lenten fellowship

Parishioners at St. Elias in Munhall, Pa. met together in the church social hall following the Feb. 19 Divine Liturgy to feast

on donuts and coffee and enjoy each other's fellowship before the Great Fast. ■



ST. MICHAEL IN CAMPBELL, OHIO

Happy 95th birthday!

by Father Kevin Marks
St. Michael, Campbell, Ohio

On Sunday, Feb. 19, St. Michael Parish in Campbell, Ohio honored one their parishioners, Michael Drotar, who turned 95 years old the next day, Feb. 20.

The Sunday Divine Liturgy

intention was for Michael and he was presented with a trophy of a gold microphone. Michael loves to sing and has "belted out" songs for his fellow parishioners at parish events.

Happy 95th Birthday Michael. God grant you many years! ■



Father Kevin Marks, Michael Drotar and his daughter, Karen Drotar

ST. MICHAEL IN HERMITAGE, PA.

Social time

by Bill Dzuricko
St. Michael, Hermitage, Pa.

Every Sunday morning after the 9 a.m. Divine Liturgy at St. Michael in Hermitage, Pa., parishioners meet for coffee and doughnuts and for friendly social time.

Bob and Mary Ann Polochak organize the weekly event by picking up the doughnuts early Sunday morning and keeping the regular and decaf coffee brewing for all to enjoy.

Parishioners are asked to make donations to help sustain the activity.

It's a great time for the ECF students and staff to grab some breakfast before heading over to the Social Center for Religious Education.

It's also a good time to share fellowship and plan activities like perogi pinching with the adults of the parish.

Thank you Bob and Mary Ann!



GCU Founders Day

St. Michael in Hermitage, Pa. celebrated GCU Founder's Day Feb. 11 to 12.

GCU Parish Coordinator Bill Dzuricko supplied individually wrapped, iced, heart-shaped cookies to celebrate Valentine's Day and the 131st anniversary of the founding of the GCU!

Car window ice scrapers and GCU informational pamphlets were also available for the parishioners.

Bill met with several people during the "coffee and doughnuts social" on Sunday morning to answer questions about GCU insurance policies and annuities as well as the new "Metamorphosis" program.

Also, GCU Lodge #258 wrapped up 2022 by presenting two checks to Father Kevin Marks for the St. Michael building and grounds maintenance.



Prepping for Ethnic Food Sale

by Bill Dzuricko
St. Michael, Hermitage, Pa.

The St. Michael Social Center in Hermitage, Pa. was alive with activity on Monday, Jan. 16 as parishioners met at 9 a.m. and made 88 dozen sauerkraut pierogies which will be sold

during our upcoming Ethnic Food Sale on March 1.

Bob Polochak and Diane Hrishenko, with help from her husband Michael and their daughter Alyssa, were the organizers and leaders of this event.





ST. STEPHEN IN NORTH HUNTINGDON, PA.

Pirohi Project

by Connie Kacey Smith
St. Stephen, North Huntingdon, Pa.

October and November 2022 saw the restart of St. Stephen's Pirohi Project, which was spearheaded by Father Vasyl Yakubych and many church members.

While the pirohi team worked very hard making delicious pirohi, we also enjoyed good conversations, many laughs and delicious lunches. We look forward to our next project. ■



LEFT: Pirohi "pinchers" engrossed in their job. RIGHT: Mary Heckel rolls and cuts dough into perfect pirohi squares.

Feast Days social

by Connie Kacey Smith
St. Stephen, North Huntingdon, Pa.

Following the Sunday, Dec. 18 Divine Liturgy, St. Stephen in North Huntingdon, Pa. celebrated the feasts of St. Nicholas and the Maternity of St. Anna with a social in the church hall.

Parishioners brought a variety of delicious food and yummy desserts for the buffet-style luncheon.

Following lunch, Father Vasyl Yakubych led attendees in the singing of Christmas carols. The social was truly a wonderful day of holiday fellowship. ■



Mary Heckel, Father Vasyl Yakubych's son Vasyl, Father Vasyl and Andrew Doherty



LEFT: Ray Seech and Ann Andrejcek sample some of the delicious items from the buffet. RIGHT: Larry Sabol and Norm Heinack in conversation

Turkey Bingo returns

by Julie Lindberg
St. Stephen, North Huntingdon, Pa.

After a three-year hiatus due to COVID-19, Turkey Bingo returned to St. Stephen in North Huntingdon, Pa.

In collaboration with Father Vasyl Yakubych and numerous parishioners, the afternoon was filled with fun and friendship.

In addition to the many bingo games and specials, a Basket Auction, Food Basket Raffle and a 50/50 Raffle were held.

The kitchen staff was very busy serving haluski, kielbassa and sauerkraut, hot dogs, chips and snacks, and a large selection of delicious homemade baked goods and desserts. ■



Turkey Bingo coordinator Julie Lindberg and the many homemade sesters guests purchased.



Dane Dyson and Skylar Lindberg busy selling food and desserts to guests.



Sally Zeleznik busy dishing out haluski to guests.



Mariah Kacey (right) enjoying Turkey Bingo with her Aunt Jo Ann DeClair and mother Georgeann Kacey.

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST IN UNIONTOWN, PA.

Presentation of Our Lord

by Julia Pillar and Bonnie Balas
St. John the Baptist, Uniontown, Pa.

Two Divine Liturgies were held for the observance of the Presentation of Our Lord in the Temple at St. John the Baptist in Uniontown, Pa.

At each liturgy, Father Vasyl Symyon blessed candles which represent Jesus Christ as the light of the world. Those in attendance were able to purchase candles for their homes. ■



Mnohaja Lita, Father Vasyl!

by Julia Pillar and Bonnie Balas
St. John the Baptist, Uniontown, Pa.

After praying the Rosary for peace in Ukraine, which is recited each Sunday at 4 p.m. at St. John the Baptist in Uniontown, Pa., a birthday social was held for Father Vasyl Symyon, whose birthday is Feb. 13.

Byzantine Catholics and Roman Catholics alike joined in the celebration, which included pizza, drinks, cupcakes decorated with Ukrainian colors, and a tiramisu cheesecake which is well-liked by Father Vasyl.

God grant him many years!
Mnohaja i Blajaha Lita! ■



Sunday of the Prodigal Son

by Julia Pillar and Bonnie Balas
St. John the Baptist, Uniontown, Pa.

In conjunction with the third Sunday of Pre-Lent, Ed Pillar, owner and operator of "The Prodigal Son" food trailer of Morgantown, W. Va. served up breakfast for the parishioners of St. John the Baptist in Uniontown, Pa. at the weekly coffee social.

Items included breakfast sandwiches, sausage gravy and biscuits, and his signature waffle sticks. This special treat was thoroughly enjoyed by all who attended. ■



"Souper Bowl of Caring"

by Julia Pillar and Bonnie Balas
St. John the Baptist, Uniontown, Pa.

Before and after the Feb. 11 and 12 Divine Liturgies, ECF students and teachers held a collection for the "Souper Bowl of Caring."

Through the generosity of St. John's parishioners, a total of \$850 was donated to the Fayette County Food Bank to help local families in need. ■





THOUGHTS FOR OUR DAY

by Archpriest David M. Petras



THE RITES OF INITIATION: HOW CAN WE BE HOLY?



In order to be baptized, we have to make a commitment. We must promise to “renounce Satan, and all his works, and all his angels and all his service, and all his pride,” and to “commit ourselves to Christ.” We must, in sum, become holy. However, holiness is fitting only to God, the question is how can we become holy. The Letter of St. Peter says that it is in baptism we become “a holy nation, a people of [God’s] own” (1 Peter 2:9). This is what Jesus asks of us in even stronger words, “be perfect, just as your heavenly Father is perfect” (Matthew 5:48). It is evident that we cannot make ourselves as perfect as God, and that there is no human power that can make us holy, or “God-like.” This can be accomplished only by God. This is why baptism is necessary. When we are baptized, St. Paul tells us, and we sing in the baptismal rite, “all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ” (Galatians 3:37). Being clothed, however, does not mean that we simply put on Christ as an outer garment, but that we become a “new man,” in our inner being, as St. Paul says in the same epistle, “I live, no longer I, but Christ lives in me; insofar as I now live in the flesh, I live by faith in the Son of God who has loved me and given himself up for me” (Galatians 2:20). From the promises we make, therefore, we must be a new person and behave differently through God’s grace.

If we are to live in Christ, we first must pray. The Orthodox theologian Ignatius

Brianchaninov wrote, “When [prayer] seizes people, it transforms them progressively, making them spiritual, therefore, from their union with the Holy Spirit.” When we pray, we ask that God’s will be done, for Jesus taught us to pray, “Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.”



If we are to live in Christ, we first must pray.

In my life, I have been privileged to personally meet canonized holy people (saints), recognized by the Church for their heroic virtue. Both from meeting them and from reading about other saints, I have learned two things about holiness: it first means having the humility to know that we are truly sinners, who can do what is good only because God is acting in us. Second, because holiness is God acting in us, saints become conduits of God’s love, and through them we can experience the love of God. As St. Paul wrote, and I quoted above, “I live, no longer I, but Christ lives in me.” It is a reality of life that we may not become great saints, and are dragged down by the weight of our human defects, but each and every one of us who is

baptized must and can become a different person in Christ.

In baptism we are “clothed in Christ.” This is our deification, we are given the grace to become god-like, if we co-operate with our wills. Christ is the Lover of Humankind, and in him what is accounted by human wisdom as weakness is in him the divine strength of love. This love is shown by the gentleness he shows to his people. Jesus promises “Come to me, all you who labor and are burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am meek and humble of heart; and you will find rest for yourselves” (Matthew 11:28-29). St. Paul frequently tells us that the Christian, alive in Christ, must be a person of gentleness and kindness: “All bitterness, fury, anger, shouting, and reviling must be removed from you, along with all malice. And be kind to one another, compassionate, forgiving one another as God has forgiven you in Christ,” (Ephesians 4:31-32) and “put on then [again another reference to being clothed in Christ], as God’s chosen ones, holy and beloved, heartfelt compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience, bearing with one another and forgiving one another, if one has a grievance against another; as the Lord has forgiven you, so must you also do. And over all these put on love, that is, the bond of perfection” (Colossians 3:12-14).

The Great Fast (Lent) is a time for preparation for the Resurrection of our Lord. Pascha (Easter) was also the day for baptisms, and therefore a season for all of us who have been baptized to renew the promise we made to renounce

Satan and commit ourselves to Christ. A most important component of the Great Fast is the Prayer of St. Ephrem, which is said together with prostrations. In this prayer we acknowledge that we cannot do this with only our human strength, but that we need the power of God. Thus we pray, “give me a spirit,” “let me see my own sins.” To reject Satan, we pray to be spared from “indifference, despair, lust for power and idle chatter.” This means from not having the zeal to keep the law of Christ despite difficulties; to have hope in God, who has overcome all evil; to be servants to one another, as Christ commanded, “whoever wishes to be great among you will be your servant” (Mark 10:43); and finally, to abstain from vain ideologies and gossiping about one another. We then pray for positive ways to “be clothed with Christ: integrity, humility, patience and love.” To have integrity means to “be whole,” to be a person of truth and justice. Humility is the foundation of all Christian virtue. It opposes pride and is an awareness that all that we are and have is a gift of God. Patience is kindness and fidelity in dealing with one another, of not hating but showing love for others. In the end, love is the virtue of virtues, as St. Paul wrote, “faith, hope, love remain, these three; but the greatest of these is love.” (1 Corinthians 13:13). In truth, we can practice Christian love only by God’s grace. If we are open to God’s action in our lives, baptism, chrismation and Communion have the power to transform us into a new person. ■

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

St. Mary
Windber, Pa.
<https://www.facebook.com/StMaryDormition>

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. Enter through the chapel door that faces Perrysville Avenue. It's recommended visitors call 412-321-8383 in advance. Seminary, go to www.bcs.edu.

Schedule of Services for March

WED	1	7 a.m. Midday Office (R) 5 p.m. Presanctified Divine Liturgy (R)
THU	2	7 a.m. Akathist for Holy Communion (R)
FRI	3	5 p.m. Presanctified Divine Liturgy (M)
SAT	4	8 a.m. Divine Liturgy with Panachida (R) 5 p.m. Great Vespers (R)
SUN	5	5 p.m. Vespers (R)
MON	6	8 a.m. Matins (R)
TUE	7	7 a.m. Sixth Hour (R)
WED	8	7 a.m. Midday Office (R) 5 p.m. Presanctified Divine Liturgy (R)
THU	9	7 a.m. Festal Orthros (M) [LS]
FRI	10	5 p.m. Presanctified Divine Liturgy (M)
SAT	11	8 a.m. Divine Liturgy with Panachida (R) 5 p.m. Great Vespers (R)
SUN	12	7 a.m. Festal Matins (R) 5 p.m. Vespers (R)
MON	13	8 a.m. Matins (R)
TUE	14	7 a.m. Sixth Hour (R)
WED	15	7 a.m. Midday Office (R) 5 p.m. Presanctified Divine Liturgy (R)
THU	16	7 a.m. Moleben for Those in Illness (R)
MON	20	8 a.m. Matins (R)
TUE	21	7 a.m. Sixth Hour (R)
WED	22	5 p.m. Matins with Grant Canon (R) [LS]
FRI	24	5 p.m. Presanctified Divine Liturgy (M) [LS]
SAT	25	8 a.m. Festal Matins and Divine Liturgy (R) 5 p.m. Great Vespers (R)
SUN	26	5 p.m. Vespers (R)
MON	27	8 a.m. Matins (R)
TUE	28	7 a.m. Sixth Hour (R)
WED	29	7 a.m. Midday Office (R) 5 p.m. Presanctified Divine Liturgy (M)
THU	30	7 a.m. Paraklesis (R)
FRI	31	5 p.m. Presanctified Divine Liturgy (R)

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

AROUND THE ARCHEPARCHY



ADULT EASTERN CHRISTIAN FORMATION — Formation in our faith does not stop after we've graduated from High School. Education in the faith is a process which continues throughout our whole lifetime and does not even stop on the day we die. Spiritual, intellectual, and practical growth in our faith is formed as much in our public as is in our private prayer lives and is likewise formed as much in our public endeavors for educational enrichment as it is in our private endeavors for educational enrichment. To that end, each month Father Michael Kunitz will be hosting these Adult Eastern Christian Formation opportunities at Holy Spirit, 4815 Fifth Ave., Pittsburgh (Oakland), Pa. and St. Pius X, 2336 Brownsville Road, Pittsburgh (Carrick), Pa. for anyone interested in attending. **Tithing: How Do We Give?:** 12:30 p.m. March 12, Holy Spirit; 1 p.m. March 11, St. Pius X. **Celebrating the Resurrection:** 12:30 p.m. April 16, Holy Spirit; 1 p.m. April 15, St. Pius X. **Living the Sacrament of Crowning:** 12:30 p.m. May 14, Holy Spirit; 1 p.m. May 13, St. Pius X. **Burning Questions: Open Q&A:** 11:30 a.m. June 18, Holy Spirit; 6:45 p.m. June 17, St. Pius X. **A Citizen of Heaven Living on Earth:** 11:30 a.m. July 16, Holy Spirit; 6:45 p.m. July 15, St. Pius X. **The Dormition of the Theotokos:** 11:30 a.m. Aug. 13, Holy Spirit; 6:45 p.m. Aug. 12, St. Pius X.

ST. PIUS X LENTEN PIROHI SALE — Noon-5 p.m. Fridays during Lent (excluding Good Friday) starting Feb. 24, St. Pius X, 2336 Brownsville Road, Pittsburgh (Carrick), Pa. Pirohi available for purchase are: Potato and Cheese (potato, sharp cheddar cheese), \$11 dozen, \$5.50 ½ dozen; Sauerkraut (onion, butter, sauerkraut), \$12 dozen, \$6 ½ dozen; Cottage Cheese (dry cottage cheese, egg yolks, sugar, butter), \$15 dozen, \$7.50 ½ dozen; Lekvar (cooked prunes, sugar), \$15 dozen, \$7.50 ½ dozen; Cabbage (onion, sugar, butter, cabbage) & Mushroom (onion, butter, cabbage, mushroom), \$11 dozen, \$5.50 ½ dozen; and Haluski, \$9 quart, \$7 Pint. Pre-order by calling the church office at 412-881-8344. Please leave a phone number. Cooked pirohi available with pre-order.

HOLY GHOST PIROHI SALE — Fridays during Lent, Holy Ghost School Kitchen, 206 Helen St. McKees Rocks, Pa. No Holy Week sales. Phone orders taken 9 a.m.-noon Wednesdays prior to the sale at 412-331-5155. Limited orders on the day of sale. Eat-in available.

ST. ELIAS FISH FRY — 11:30 a.m.-6 p.m. Fridays during Lent except for Good Friday, St. Elias, 4200 Homestead-Duquesne Road, Munhall, Pa. Fish sandwiches, fish dinners, shrimp dinners, halusky, priohi, csorge and baked goods. Take-out and dine-in. For pre-orders, call 412-461-9271.

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST PIROHI SALE — St. John the Baptist, 201 E. Main Street, Uniontown, Pa. Take-out only. Potato/Cheese or Sauerkraut are available and can be cooked or frozen at \$12 per dozen. Orders may be placed Monday through Wednesday by calling 724-434-5355. Specify type(s), number of dozens, and leave name, phone number, and time of pick up which will be Friday 9 a.m. to noon.

ANNUAL CRAFT/VENDOR SHOW AND FOOD FESTIVAL — 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Saturday, April 22, St. John the Baptist Cathedral, 210 Greentree Road, Munhall, Pa. Dozens of tables of crafters and vendors, crafter showcase auction, raffles, Ethnic Platter and other food, St. John's baked goods and more. For information, call 412-461-0944.

ICONOGRAPHY WORKSHOP — Saint Andrew the Apostle, 235 Logan Road, Gibsonia, Pa. will sponsor an iconography workshop for adults of all levels of experience May 18 to 21. You will write an icon of Christ the Teacher on a gesso covered board. Using a pre-prepared prototype, you will learn techniques for faces, garments, gilding and tooling. The theology of iconography and specifically, Christ will also be presented. The class will be Thursday and Friday 6- 9:30 p.m., all day Saturday and Sunday, after liturgy until finishing. You must be able to attend all days to have a completed icon. There will be the opportunity to attend Liturgy Sunday morning. For further information, call Marylyn Barone at 412-678-9453 or email her at mwbarone@comcast.net.

DATES TO REMEMBER



MARCH 4 and 11
Pre-Cana 2022
Byzantine Catholic Seminary of
SS. Cyril and Methodius
Pittsburgh, Pa.

MARCH 12
Third Sunday of the Great Fast
Veneration of the Holy Cross

Daylight Savings Time begins
Turn clocks forward one hour at 2 a.m.

MARCH 20
First day of Spring

MARCH 21 to 24
Eastern Catholic Bishops meet in St. Louis, Mo.

See more upcoming events at www.archpitt.org



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**SUBMISSIONS
DEADLINE:**
MARCH 19