

# WORLD

THE BYZANTINE CATHOLIC



THE OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER OF THE ARCHEPARCHY OF PITTSBURGH

VOL. 69 NO. 4 APRIL 2024

## INSIDE



### CHRIST IS RISEN!

*A Paschal message by Metropolitan Archbishop William C. Skurla*  
Page 3



### EASTER SUNDAY BEST

*Readers share their memories of homemade clothing from days gone by*  
Page 4



### "WHEN YOU LOOK FOR ME, YOU WILL FIND ME"

*19th annual Women's Day of Reflection set for April 27*  
Page 5

CHRIST IS RISEN! INDEED HE IS RISEN!



CHRISTOS VOSKRESE! VOISTINNU VOSKRESE!



# WORLD

THE BYZANTINE CATHOLIC

UPS 081500  
ISSN 07442289

Official publication of the  
Byzantine Catholic  
Archeparchy of Pittsburgh

Serving parish communities in  
central and western Pennsylvania,  
Louisiana, eastern Ohio, Oklahoma,  
Tennessee, Texas and West Virginia

Published monthly (12 issues)  
plus two seasonal special issues

**Byzantine Catholic Press Associates**  
66 Riverview Avenue  
Pittsburgh, PA 15214  
Tel: 412.231.4000  
Fax: 412.231.1697  
E-mail: [bcw@archpitt.org](mailto:bcw@archpitt.org)  
Web site: [www.archpitt.org](http://www.archpitt.org)

Archbishop William C. Skurla  
*President*

David Mayernik Jr.  
*Editor*

Sister Elaine Kisinko, OSBM  
*Copy Editor*

Deacon Robert J. Shalhoub  
*Business Manager*

**Annual Subscription Rates**  
US \$14  
Canadian \$17  
International \$20

Periodicals Postage PAID at Pittsburgh, PA

*Postmaster: send address changes to:*  
**The Byzantine Catholic World**  
66 Riverview Avenue  
Pittsburgh, PA 15214

*Please allow 2 to 3 weeks for address  
changes to take effect.*

**Submissions deadline:**  
21st of the month prior to  
the month of publication.



*The Byzantine  
Catholic World*  
is a member of the  
Catholic Press  
Association.

## 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.

# HOLY WEEK AND PASCHA SCHEDULE

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST  
BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CATHEDRAL  
210 GREENTREE ROAD  
MUNHALL, PA. 15120  
[WWW.STJOHNSBYZANTINECATHEDRAL.COM](http://WWW.STJOHNSBYZANTINECATHEDRAL.COM)  
412-461-0944



Holy Week and Pascha services may be viewed  
online at [www.stjohnsbyzantinecathedral.com](http://www.stjohnsbyzantinecathedral.com).

## FEAST OF ANUNCIATION

7 P.M. MARCH 25  
■ Vespers Divine Liturgy

## HOLY TUESDAY

7 P.M. MARCH 26  
■ Presanctified Liturgy

## HOLY WEDNESDAY

7 P.M. MARCH 27  
■ Presanctified Liturgy  
with Anointing of the Sick

## HOLY THURSDAY

7 P.M. MARCH 28  
■ Great Vespers with Divine Liturgy of  
St. Basil the Great

## GOOD FRIDAY

11:30 A.M. MARCH 29  
■ Royal Hours

7 P.M. MARCH 29

■ Entombment Vespers for Good Friday  
and Procession with the Holy Shroud

## HOLY SATURDAY

7 P.M. MARCH 30  
■ Resurrection Matins and Divine Liturgy

## THE RADIANT RESURRECTION

9 A.M. MARCH 31  
■ Divine Liturgy

## BRIGHT MONDAY

9 A.M. APRIL 1  
■ Divine Liturgy

## IN BLESSED MEMORY



HAPPY ARE THE ONES WHOM YOU HAVE  
CHOSEN AND RECEIVED, O LORD;  
THEY ARE REMEMBERED FOREVER. ALLELUIA!

Commemorating the 30th Anniversary  
of the repose in the Lord of His Eminence

**Archbishop Thomas Victor Dolinay**  
Metropolitan Archbishop of Pittsburgh

Born: July 24, 1923  
Ordained: May 16, 1948  
Episcopal Ordination: November 23, 1976  
Enthroned as Metropolitan Archbishop: June 12, 1991  
Fell asleep in the Lord: Bright Tuesday, April 13, 1993

## IN BLESSED MEMORY



HAPPY ARE THE ONES WHOM YOU  
HAVE CHOSEN AND RECEIVED, O LORD;  
THEY ARE REMEMBERED FOREVER. ALLELUIA!

Commemorating the 22nd Anniversary  
of the repose in the Lord of His Eminence

**Archbishop Judson M. Procyk**  
Metropolitan Archbishop of Pittsburgh

Born: April 9, 1931  
Ordained: May 19, 1957  
Episcopal Ordination: February 7, 1995  
Fell asleep in the Lord: April 24, 2001





# PASCHA 2024



**Christ is Risen!  
Truly He is Risen.**

**Christos Voskrese!  
Voistinu Voskrese:**

“Come you all: enter into the joy of your Lord. You the first and you the last, receive alike your reward; you rich and you poor, dance together; you sober and you weaklings, celebrate the day” *Easter Homily of Saint John Chrysostom*

At dawn when Mary Magdalene and the women went to the empty tomb where Jesus had been laid by Joseph of Arimathea, marks the fulfillment of prophecy and the teaching of Jesus. They expected to find a body which they would care for. They arrived to find the stone had been rolled away. They found only the linens of burial and the Risen Lord.

Jesus died and was resurrected to new life in the spirit. By His death, He conquered death. Not only for himself, but for all who believe in him. At the empty tomb, the women and the Apostles realized and finally understood the meaning of all his teaching and examples, and believed that Jesus was truly Christ, the Messiah, and the Son of God.

When Jesus appeared to the disciples on the road to Emmaus, they were sad because like the Apostles, they did not comprehend that Jesus was the Son of God even after he explained his central role in the salvation of the world. Only after the breaking of the bread did they see that He had passed from death to life. Only then, their eyes and minds were opened to see that the Risen Lord was with them.

Like the apostles and disciples, we have heard the message of the death and resurrection of Jesus thousands of times. Most of us have had to explain the events and meaning of Easter to our children and others. When we explain that Jesus Christ came into this world, taught, suffered, and died for our sins, they sometimes hear the words, but like the apostles, it does not sink into their minds and change their lives.

In their lives and ours, Jesus gives us a wakeup call each time we or someone close to us has a close call with death. Whether it is a car accident or a hospital visit, we are in a situation where we are confronted with the real possibility that we or someone close to us could pass from this life. During those life-or-death moments, our worries for all the less important things of life pale in significance measured against our passing into eternity.

This Easter Sunday, the prayers of Resurrection Matins call us to wake up and see the light of the new day in which Jesus shows by his example that we can overcome death and enter into new life. The smoke is cleared away and the less important things melt away when we realize the power of God’s presence with us each time we celebrate Easter.

All of our actions and thoughts have meaning because they are connected to breaking into the divine light which is all around us if we can see with the eyes of faith. If we open our selves through prayer, fasting, and doing good, we can follow Jesus to spread the Easter message and bring salvation to the world.

On behalf of the Byzantine Catholic Metropolitan Church, we thank you for all your fasting and prayer during the Lenten Season of the Great Fast. Also, we thank you for your support and many labors this year to support your church community and carry on the mission given to us by Christ. Continue to carry the good news that Christ is Risen from the dead and has conquered death by death.

In closing,  
O Death, where is thy sting?  
O Hell, where is thy victory?

Christ is risen, and thou art overthrown!  
Christ is risen, and the demons are fallen!  
Christ is risen, and the angels rejoice!  
Christ is risen, and life reigns!  
Christ is risen, and not one dead remains in the grave.  
For Christ, being risen from the dead,  
Is become the first-fruits of those who have fallen asleep.  
*Easter Homily of Saint John Chrysostom*  
To Him be glory and dominion  
Unto ages of ages.

*+ William C. Skurla*

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



# EASTER SUNDAY BEST

READERS OF THE BYZANTINE CATHOLIC WORLD SHARE MEMORIES OF DRESSING UP ON RESURRECTION SUNDAY

*Remember shopping with Mom for the outfit you weren't allowed to wear until Easter Sunday? History tells us that dressing up for Easter is a tradition that goes back to Christians in medieval times. They began to wear new, clean clothes on Easter Sunday to symbolize the resurrection of Jesus Christ and the new life for believers. Here are some Easter traditions and memories of dressing up from readers of The Byzantine Catholic World.*

Sometimes I think I must be the luckiest person in the world. Raised by two very loving parents in a very small row house that overlooked the B&O railroad tracks, my sister and I rarely wanted for anything. Truth be told in the 1960s and 70s we simply weren't aware of what was available, and so we were content with what we had. Oh! to return to such simple lovely times. But that's not today's story. Today it's about our Easter finery.

Our mom made all our clothes – all except undergarments, socks, and coats. She always said that if you could read, you could sew. Mom learned from her mother who made her own patterns and her own clothes. Perhaps it wasn't so unique or unusual for the times, but I don't know anyone else my age that can claim an entire wardrobe handmade by their mom.

My sister and I are 2 years apart, so mom used one pattern, making mine – the older sister – a little bigger and my sister's a little smaller. Most often the fabric was the same, purchased at GC Murphy's or for special occasions Kaufmann's in downtown Pittsburgh. A family friend who worked in the Garment District in NYC often sent fabric remnants to mom – big enough for summer dresses or playsuits. Easter outfits were different – special. We might have the same dress, but in different colors. My sister has the bluest eyes and so she always got blue dresses – or at least that's how I remember it.

Then Mom decided to learn to knit. She made scarves and sweaters, challenging herself always. One year Mom decided to knit our Easter outfits – solid-colored skirts and horizontal striped jackets with buttons down the front. My sister's was made in blue and white; mine in green and yellow (I really wanted the blue!) It was traditional in our neighborhood for all the kids to meet for a walk around the block on Easter Sunday morning – showing off our new outfits – before church. That particular year Easter was very cold with snow flurries, but all of us kids still took our walk. Sadly, there are no pictures of those Easter outfits. There are few pictures of us at all.

Mom made our everyday clothes until I went to high school. (I so wanted jeans like everyone else!) She continued to make special dresses for us and then made dresses for her four granddaughters. Those are packed away in the attic waiting for our granddaughters to wear. I treasure those dresses and the memories, but mostly I treasure the lessons I learned from my mom. You can do anything if you can read. Gifts made by hand are among the most precious. And perhaps most importantly, love manifests in many ways – hugs, challenges, and skills handed down from one generation to the next. Thank you, Mom.

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



"My mom was Mildred They. The little girl is my 36 year old daughter Mary Brayer," says Elizabeth Harbist.



I always made matching clothes for my daughters, not just for Easter. Where they are wearing the green capes was taken in 1972. Then in 1980 I made me a pink outfit to match their dresses. I also made a matching dress for one of there dolls. And yes there were more matching outfits in the years between and even after.

**Marylyn Barone**  
**Holy Trinity, Wall, Pa.**



Easter Sunday was always a special time at my home. Special clothing, bunnies, and baskets were always part of the fun. I'm sure it all started at an early age since my Mom could hardly wait to dress up her long-awaited baby girl.

Later, Mom and I would shop "down street", which, for us, was the booming mill town of Homestead, Pa. I would be taken to Freidlander's store that specialized in children's clothing. I got to pick out a special outfit, complete with dress, shoes, gloves, and purse.

As exciting as that was, I was always so impressed with Mrs. Deutsch, a fellow parishioner at St. Elias, who would take my choices, put them in a box, and wrap the box with ribbon. Then, she "magically" curled the ribbon with scissors to make it seem like the most beautiful purchase in the world.

Mom would always choose her dress at Hyman's, a women's clothing store where she worked before I was born. It was owned by a very kind Jewish man, Mr. Cohen, and his wife, who would run dresses back and forth to the dressing room for Mom to try on until she found the perfect one. Dad would go to Harry's men's store and get a new shirt and tie so he could look his best in church while he ushered parishioners and visitors to their seats .... which usually included folding chairs in the aisles to accommodate the overflow crowd.

As I got older, I had more say in my clothing choices....like my "hippie" outfit in the sixties which consisted of a plaid suit with neon green patent leather shoes. Even in college, I dressed for Easter Sunday. I went to Penn State and didn't have a car. So, I regularly



went to a Roman Catholic Mass on campus. One year, I could not get home for Easter, but I dressed up and went to Mass. I think it was because of my dress that I was asked to present the gifts during Mass.

Even with today's casual dress, many families at St. Elias get dressed up and take family photos at the basket blessing. We should all remember that our church is God's house, and we should dress the way we would like to meet Him.

**Mary Caryl Planiczki**  
**St. Elias, Munhall, Pa.**





# “When you look for me, you will find me.”

19TH ANNUAL WOMEN'S DAY OF REFLECTION SET FOR APRIL 27

The 19th annual Women's Day of Reflection will be held 9 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Saturday, April 27 at the Cathedral of St. John the Baptist, 210 Greentree Road, Munhall, Pa.

Our lives are like stained glass windows. Many parts make a whole. Created in the image and likeness of God, our mind, body and spirit are intimately connected.

*You formed me in my inmost being; you knit me in my mother's womb. I praise you, so wonderfully you made me; wonderful are your works.* —Psalm 139:13-14

Three gifted presenters will share experiences and wisdom in how trauma and challenges can be a source of new meaning in life. Their example of acceptance and perseverance will help us see that life is always a series of new beginnings. Each day is an opportunity for growth and awareness in renewing mind, body and spirit.

Presenters include:

■ **Pam Surano** currently works for the Catholic Diocese of Pittsburgh as an assignment editor and producer of Communications and Community Relations.

She has extensive experience as a TV anchor for WYT-VYoungstown, Ohio, WTOV-TV in Steubenville, Ohio and WJET-TV in Erie, PA.

Her professional experience also includes working with Catholic Charities and Mercy's Operation Safety Net in helping refugees, homeless, the abused and addicts. In 2020, at age thirteen, her daughter Mary, suffered a rare spinal stroke as the result of a freak accident.

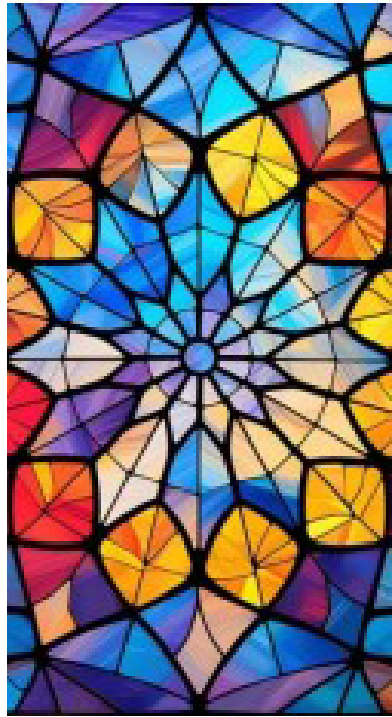
Pam will talk about her journey in helping her daughter recover and how her faith encourages her to persevere in this life changing experience.

■ **Susan Koeppen** has more than 25 years of experience in the television industry and presently is a news anchor for WPXI-TV. A journalist with a passion for telling stories and talking with people, Susan will tell her own story of being a cardiac arrest survivor.

Her tenacity in remaining positive and confidence in the medical field contributed greatly to her recovery.

In addition, she will share her own personal encounters with others in life-death situations.

As an advocate for women's health she's a self proclaimed, "Let's not waste any moment of any day" type of person. Her pas-



sion is to help women actively and intentionally remain healthy in mind, body and spirit.

■ **Lee Goldman Kikel** earned a BS in Psychology, a Masters Degree in Education at the University of Pittsburgh and worked in the mental health field as a rehabilitation counselor.

She grew up in the Squirrel Hill neighborhood of Pittsburgh and her early years revolved around school and the family jewelry business. Her father, Melvin Goldman, a jewelry designer was a Holocaust survivor.

Lee wrote a book about his experience entitled, "Perseverance: One Holocaust Survivor's Journey from Poland to America." She will share the fascinating story of how she learned about her father's secret life and the way in which his faith sustained him during his terrible ordeal.

The event is sponsored by the Byzantine Catholic Archeparchial Office of Religious Education.

A dedicated committee meets throughout the year to plan and coordinate the day, working with a theme of interest to women to help them grow in their spirituality. The springtime event also features a luncheon, vendors and a bountiful basket auction with proceeds donated to women and children in Ukraine.

Contact Sister Marion Dobos at 412-322-8773 or mdobos1@gmail.com for more information. Cost of \$40 includes lunch. No refunds. Pre-registration is required. Deadline is April 20.

If you wish to donate a basket for the Benefit Auction, please contact Marjorie Glead at 412-835-3873.

A registration form is available at [archpitt.org](http://archpitt.org). ■

## Jack Figel receives Ecumenical Award

Press release

In Oct. 2023, the National Council of Churches gave the J. Irwin Miller Award for Excellence in Ecumenical Leadership to Lector Jack Figel, a member of Epiphany of Our Lord Byzantine Catholic Church in Annandale, Va. He is founder and chairman of the Orientale Lumen Foundation and Conferences, an annual ecumenical event of Catholics and Orthodox in Washington, D.C. He was nominated by Father Nicolas Kazarian, Ecumenical Officer of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America, for his leadership in Catholic-Orthodox dialogue for over 25 years.

The Orientale Lumen Foundation is a "grass roots" movement of lay persons and diocesan clergy initiated by Jack, and which has been meeting annually since 1997. Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew wrote in his 10th anniversary greetings: "Your sacred intent, therefore, is blessed from within and from above by the very nature of your initiative. For, while your effort may be — as you describe it — 'grass roots,' we are convinced that it is at the same time rooted in heaven." Cardinal Kurt Koch, Prefect of the Dicastery for Promoting Christian Unity at the Vatican, recently wrote to Jack, "I am convinced that the Orientale Lumen Conferences are a unique opportunity for fraternal encounters, ecumenical reflection and reception of bilateral Catholic-Orthodox dialogues."

In his acceptance remarks for the award, Jack said, "We have no particular agenda. We seek nothing more than to discuss and learn about the Eastern Christian heritage that we share among Eastern Catholics and Eastern Orthodox. We pray that the Holy Spirit influences Church leaders to find common ground on which we can achieve full unity between East and West."

The 28th annual Orientale Lumen conference will be held in Washington, DC, in person,



Jack Figel

on June 17 to 20, 2024, on the theme of "Primacy in the 21st Century" with reflections on the agreed statements in Ravenna and Chieti, Italy, and Alexandria, Egypt ([www.olfoundation.net](http://www.olfoundation.net)). Plenary speakers will include Metropolitan Job of Pisidia (Ecumenical Patriarchate, Orthodox co-chair of the Catholic-Orthodox dialogue), Msgr. Paul McPartlan (Roman Catholic, retired from The Catholic University of America), Fr. Radu Bordeianu (Romanian Orthodox, Duquesne University), Fr. Hyacinthe Destivelle (Roman Catholic from the Vatican) and others. Fr. Nicolas Kazarian will be the moderator.

Lector Jack was born and raised in Duquesne, Pa. at SS. Peter and Paul Byzantine Catholic Church near Pittsburgh and ordained a Lector as part of the first deacon class of the Eparchy of Passaic in 2001. He is also the founder and publisher of Eastern Christian Publications releasing over 300 books in 30 years ([www.ecpubs.com](http://www.ecpubs.com)) including 25 years of the Eastern Churches Journal. He is the designer of the smartphone app called ECPUBS, executive producer of Orientale Lumen TeleVision ([www.oltv.tv](http://www.oltv.tv)), and distributes the weekly Eastern Christian Bulletin Service used by almost 200 parishes across the country. ■

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

Degree options are offered both online and on campus.

Catholic • Ecumenical • Flexible  
Affordable • Prestigious • Spiritually Enriching  
Rooted in ancient Christianity

To begin M.A.T. program in upcoming fall semester, application deadline is July 20.

Students have a choice of four different M.A.T. focus areas:

- Chaplaincy
- Dogmatics
- Liturgy
- Sacred Scripture



[www.bcs.edu](http://www.bcs.edu)



**ETERNAL MEMORY**  
**REVEREND JOHN ZEYACK**

Father John Zeyack, 84, a retired priest of the Eparchy of Passaic, fell asleep in the Lord on Monday, March 11, 2024, at Hackensack Meridian Medical Center in Brick, NJ.

Father John, son of Michael Zeyack and Mary Soltis, was born on May 16, 1939, in Trenton, NJ. He entered SS. Cyril and Methodius Seminary in Pittsburgh, Pa. and later attended Catholic University in Washington, D.C. where he earned a Licentiate Degree in Sacred Theology and a Masters Degree in Eastern Catholic Theology.

On March 19, 1965 he was ordained to the Priesthood at the Cathedral of St. Michael the Archangel, in Passaic, NJ by Bishop Stephen J. Kocisko.

As a priest, Father John served the faithful at the following churches: St. Michael Cathedral, Passaic, St. Thomas the Apostle, Rahway, and St. George, Linden, all in New Jersey; Holy Spirit, Binghamton, NY; St. Basil, Miami, Fla.; St. Nicholas, Danbury, Ct.; and St. Ann, Harrisburg, Pa.

He also served as Professor at the Blessed Theodore Romzha Seminary in Uzhorod, Ukraine; Eparchial Representative of the Byzantine Catholic Church at the National Catechetical Directory; Eparchial Consultor; Director of



Reverend John Zeyack

Continued Education for Clergy; Eparchial Director of Religious Education; Executive Director of the Office of Religious Education; and director of the Eparchial Presbyteral Council.

Father John was predeceased by his parents; brothers: George, Michael and Thomas; and his sisters: Bertha and Martha Opielski. He is survived by his brother Albert; sisters: Irene Chumar and Bernice Terwillinger and many nieces and nephews.

Bishop Kurt Burnette presided at the funeral Divine Liturgy that was celebrated at 4 p.m. on Sunday, March 17 at St. Thomas the Apostle Church, Rahway.

Interment was at St. Mary Cemetery, Trenton on the following day.

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

*Lenten Poustinia Retreat*

Seminarians of the Byzantine Catholic Seminary of SS. Cyril and Methodius in Pittsburgh, Pa. visited the Sisters of St. Basil the Great at Mount St. Macrina in Uniontown, Pa. last month for their annual Lenten Poustinia

Retreat.

They sang the Akathist to the Mother of God in the Shrine of Our Lady of Perpetual Help as the retreat began and sang the Divine Liturgy with the Sisters at the monastery. ■



Alex Broussard, Deacon Nathaniel Tapsak, Deacon Thomas Donlin, Chad Durante, Joshua Johnson, Nicholas Krivacs, Deacon Tyler Wisniewski, Mark Le Roy, Deacon Timothy Kennedy and Allen Blehl

**ETERNAL MEMORY**  
**SISTER AGNES HERBENICK**

Eager to complete her life's journey, Sister Agnes Herbenick (formerly Sister Stephen) was welcomed home by the Lord on Saturday afternoon, March 2, at Mt. Macrina Manor.

The Manor was the last place of Sister's active ministry, and it was from there that she took the final steps into God's Kingdom.

Her passing is felt deeply by all staff and residents alike, to whom she ministered as the pastoral care director for several years with great love and fidelity.

Sister Agnes was born in Lyndora, Pa., the daughter of the late John and Mary (Katana) Herbenick. She entered the Sisters of St. Basil from St. John's Byzantine Catholic Church in Lyndora on Oct. 1, 1958 and made her Final Profession of Vows on Aug. 22, 1964.

As a Sister of St. Basil, Sister Agnes devoted 50 years of her life to the ministry of education. It was a ministry that she enjoyed, and this was evident in the energy and good humor she brought to her students.

Throughout these 50 years of teaching, Sister Agnes ministered in the eparchies of Pittsburgh, Parma, and Passaic with a joy and bright spirit that was evident.

As it became apparent that the Lord would soon call her home, she had the opportunity to speak with a few family members. To one in particular, whose tears were apparent, she said, "Please don't cry. This is what I've been waiting for my whole life."

Even through the journey of death, Sister Agnes continues to teach all of us and model the grace and gentle spirit that were characteristics of her life as a Sister of St. Basil.

Sister Agnes loved to laugh and found humor in the most mundane things.

She had a love of life, a love of her community, and a love for her family. As one of 14 children, she had many nieces and nephews and grandnieces and nephews. She faithfully acknowledged birthdays, holidays, and celebrations throughout the year.

She kept in touch with so many, and even as she became weaker, she desired to stay in touch via a greeting card or text. She loved her family very much, and they her.

In his homily at the Divine Liturgy, Father Andrew Summerson drew on the



Sister Agnes Herbenick

following Troparion for a woman-martyr:

"O Jesus, your lamb ... cries out to you with great love. O my Bridegroom, I long for you in great pain. I long for you, and in baptism, I am buried with you. I suffer for your sake in order to reign with you. I die for you in order to live in you. Accept me as an immaculate victim since I am immolated for your love."

How appropriate that Sister's parents chose to name their youngest child Agnes since this name became a fitting description for her life as expressed in this Troparion.

We can place Sister Agnes' name before each phrase, which rings true for everyone who shared her life. Now, it remains for us to pray the last phrase, "Through her intercession, O Merciful One, save our souls."

Sister Agnes was preceded in death by her parents and many siblings: John, Michael, Stephen, William, Joseph, George, Paul, Frank, Mary Stanko, Margaret, Ann, Helen Villani, and Andrew.

In addition to the members of her community, she is survived by many devoted nieces, nephews, and their children.

Relatives and friends were received at the Monastery on Monday, March 4, from 3:30 to 6:30 p.m.

Metropolitan Archbishop William Skurla celebrated the Funeral Divine Liturgy on Tuesday, March 5, in the Monastery Chapel. Concelebrants were Very Rev. Andrew Deskevich; Rev. Jerome Botsko, the Monastery Chaplain; and Rev. Andrew Summerson, a former student of Sister Agnes at St. Mary's School in Cleveland, Ohio. Very Rev. James A. Spontak was in attendance.

Interment followed in the Dormition Section of Mount Macrina Cemetery. ■





# Celebrating National Catholic Sisters Week

SISTERS OF THE ORDER OF ST. BASIL THE GREAT HIGHLIGHT THEIR MANY WORKS TO MARK THE OCCASION

The Facebook page of the Sisters of St. Basil the Great in Uniontown, Pa. put a spotlight on their important work starting on March 8, the first day of National Catholic Sisters' Week! Some of their stories are on this page. For others, go to: <https://www.facebook.com/sistersofstbasil.uniontown>.



*Posted March 11:* National Catholic Sisters Week continues. Today, we celebrate Sr. Margaret Ann and Sr. Sylvia In Erie. Sr. Margaret Ann accepting proclamation for Catholic Sisters Week for the Sisters of St. Basil from Robert Merski, PA House of Representatives. Sr. Sylvia checking with secretary of the Tribunal, Cindy Mangiaracina.



*Posted March 14:* As we continue to celebrate the Sisters of St. Basil ministries, today, we feature Sr. Carol and Sr. Barbara Jean, who manage the House of Prayer and provide programs that offer a sense of serenity and refreshment to all who visit. To learn more about the House of Prayer and for a list of upcoming programs, visit [www.sistersofstbasil.org](http://www.sistersofstbasil.org). #NationalCatholicSistersWeek



*Posted March 12:* As we continue National Catholic Sisters Week, today we celebrate Sr. Ruth and her work at the Religious Gift Shop. If you haven't come by and browsed her beautiful selection of jewelry, icons, books, and gifts, you are missing out.



*Posted March 12:* In honor of National Catholic Sisters Week, we highlight Sr. Seraphim Olsafsky and her ministry at Mount St. Macrina Cemetery today. Established in 1936. The cemetery carries out the sacred religious function of Christian burial and care of the resting places for the deceased. For further information, visit <https://www.mtstmacrinacemetery.org/>







# BULLETIN BOARD



## Choir Paschal Program on April 21

The Pittsburgh Byzantine Catholic Archeparchial Choir invites faithful and friends to their presentation of paschal hymns and songs in celebration of the glorious Resurrection of our Lord.

Presented at the choir's "home" — St. Elias, 4200 Homestead-Duquesne Road, Munhall, Pa. — the program will begin at 3 p.m. on Sunday, April 21 (the fourth Paschal Sunday), and will feature beloved and seldom-heard choral renditions of the Paschal greeting, "Christ is Risen! Christos Voskrese!"

A cake-and-coffee reception will follow the program in the church social hall.

The Archeparchial Choir and Father Vitalii Stashkevych, pastor of St. Elias, invite everyone to this joyous celebration.

The PBCAC was founded in 1998 by +Archbishop Judson M. Procyk under the direction of Darlene Fejka and consists of singers from parishes of the Archeparchy of Pittsburgh. ■

## 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.

■ 10-11:30 a.m. Tuesdays, April 9, 16, 23 and 30, **Tuesday Morning Reading Series: Living in an Icon** with Sister Barbara Jean Mihalchick, OSBM. Offering: \$20 per session. Registration due: April 2.

■ 3 p.m. Friday, April 26 to 4 p.m. Sunday, April 28, **Icon Workshop: "Our Lady of Tenderness"** taught by Marylyn Barone. Offering: \$350. Commuters: \$325. Materials included. Registration limited to 15 and due April 19.

■ 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Saturday, May 18, **Mother-Daughter Retreat** with Sister Ruth Plante, OSBM. Conference, reflections, prayer service and lunch. Offering: \$40. Registration due: May 13. ■

**BYZAN-TEEN YOUTH RALLY**  
Teens ages 13-17 & cost \$380.00

Walking with Jesus on the stormy waters of the modern sea of life.  
Keynote speakers:  
Father Christopher Zugger , Trent Horn,  
Mother Iliana

**June 27- June 30 2024**  
Registration deadline:  
Friday May 31, 2024

Where: University of San Diego 5998 Alcalá Park San Diego, CA 92110

# 1924 CENTENNIAL 2024

JUBILEE WEEKEND CELEBRATION  
October 12-13, Washington, DC-Annandale, VA

## ESTABLISHMENT OF BYZANTINE RUTHENIAN CHURCH EXARCHATE IN THE UNITED STATES



Most Reverend Basil Takach, D.D.  
First Byzantine-Ruthenian Bishop in the United States  
Episcopal Ordination, Pentecost Sunday, June 15, 1924,  
St. Athanasius Church, Rome, Italy

Ruthenian Exarchate Established February 25, 1924  
Pope Pius XI appointed Father Basil Takach  
as Bishop for United States May 20, 1924

Bishop Takach arrived at New York Harbor August 13, 1924,  
on the liner RMS Mauretania  
and offered a Moleben of Thanksgiving at St. Mary of the Protection Church,  
New York City



## THE DUAL ANNIVERSARIES

1924 CENTENNIAL 2024  
ESTABLISHMENT OF  
BYZANTINE RUTHENIAN CHURCH  
EXARCHATE  
IN THE UNITED STATES

1974 GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY 2024  
DEDICATION OF THE BYZANTINE  
RUTHENIAN CHAPEL,  
WASHINGTON, DC  
DEDICATION OF THE BYZANTINE  
RUTHENIAN CHURCH  
IN THE UNITED STATES  
TO THE PROTECTION OF THE MOTHER OF  
GOD







## REFLECTION FROM MOUNT ST. MACRINA

# “I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life”

By Sister Barbara Jean Mihalchick, OSBM  
Sisters of St. Basil the Great



This is a transcript of her Aug. 19, 2022 reflection. It can be viewed on the Facebook page of the Sisters of St. Basil the Great at <https://www.facebook.com/sistersofstbasiluniontown>.

Glory to Jesus Christ!

Have you ever been caught in telling a lie? A half-truth? Well, the Eighth Commandment addresses such things: “You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.”

But it, of course, encompasses the whole matter of truth; a bigger truth. So big, Jesus Himself says, “I am the Way, the Truth and the Life.”

And in the graces that we receive through Him, through our prayer, through the sacramental life, we do get the strength to walk in truth. When we don’t walk in truth, we must repair that in some way. Make some reparation.

Christ’s disciples — “we” — have been blessed to put on the “new man,” the new life of grace and so we are given that blessing and help. Truth and truthfulness is a virtue. It’s how to show oneself faithful in deeds and in

words. We need to guard against hypocrisy, duplicity, and outright lying.

In fact, we, as Christ’s followers — Christians — are also asked, expected, to not be ashamed of testifying to the Lord. The truth! Martyrdom is the ultimate telling of the truth in the face of the opposition. Many martyrs are among the saints that inspire and pray for us.

So, the everyday reality is a call to respect the reputation and the honor of other people so that we don’t speak against them. But it also means being truthful in any obligations that we contract to. We can’t say one thing outwardly with the purpose underneath of deceiving.

Our neighbor, one another, and society has the right to hear truth. The Golden Rule helps us to discern when I should or should not reveal the truth to someone. Does this person need this information for honorable reasons? If it would be good for me then it’s good for the other person as a way of knowing when to speak, what to speak.

The sacramental seal of confession comes under the Eighth Commandment and priests must absolutely keep secret what is revealed in confession. But we must be faithful to professional secrets if we’re participating in some endeavor with others.

We have to be faithful when we receive confidences. If we pledge not to reveal something, we must not reveal. (There are exceptions such as a person is planning suicide or a crime.)

Society has a right to information based on truth and freedom and justice. We have experienced, we have seen, we have known societies in which truth has decreased or fallen apart and the country is in terrible condition thereafter.

We also are urged in the Commandment to be disciplined, to use moderation in our use of social media communication. There is such a mass of information that comes at us and is invited from us. So we must be very mindful how easy it is to be deceived or to deceive in these communication media.

One last thought is the fine arts, especially sacred art. Here, too, truth must be spoken. We know anyone who has worked with an icon or prayed with an icon knows that it is a message of truth, a message of holiness, and if we are involved in the arts, our expressions about God and about holiness must be true to who God is.

Thank you for considering these thoughts. May we be blessed to walk in Him Who says, “I am the Way, the Truth and the Life.”

God bless you. ■



## OFFICIAL APPOINTMENTS

BY METROPOLITAN  
ARCHBISHOP WILLIAM

### ■ Effective January 31, 2024

**Father Geoffrey Mackey** relieved as pastor of St. Mary, Ambridge and administrator of St. George, Aliquippa, both in Pennsylvania, and granted a leave of absence at his own request.

**Father Christiaan Kappes** appointed administrator of both St. Mary, Ambridge and St. George, Aliquippa.

### ■ Effective February 16, 2024

**Deacon Craig Anderson** of the Eparchy of Phoenix given permission for Diaconal Service at St. Basil Church, Irving, Texas.

### ■ Effective March 8, 2024

**Father James Frazer IV** relieved as administrator of St. John Church, Uniontown, Pa. while continuing to serve as administrator of St. Mary Parish, Morgantown, West Virginia.

**Father David A. Bosnich** relieved as administrator of St. Michael Church, Sheffield, and as Protopresbyter of the North Central Protopresbyterate and appointed temporary administrator of St. John Church, Uniontown, with residence at St. Stephen rectory in Leisenring, all in Pennsylvania.

**Father Edward Pyo** appointed priest for liturgical services and the spiritual care of the faithful at St. Michael Church, Sheffield, Pa. ■

## TEXT MESSAGES

# Up, up and away

By David Mayernik Jr.  
Editor



Most every day at work, I take a break to walk around nearby Riverview Park.

I think the exercise is good to help keep my circulatory

system functioning properly and give my brain a needed break by inhaling some fresh air.

I follow the same route each day: past the playground to the swimming pool, up the hill to the historic Allegheny Observatory, and back down for a lap around Riverview Avenue.

There are always joggers, bikers, people walking their dogs — one even jumped out of a passing car last week, if my eyes didn’t deceive me — and children playing on the swing set.

Lots of seemingly happy people taking advantage of the sunshine.

Today, when I was walking up the hill to the Observatory, I saw a woman with her two children, holding a bunch of Mylar balloons.

These are the metallic-type of balloons I knew so intimately well after working almost 18 years at Papermart, a party supplies store.

“I wonder if they’re going to let those balloons go...,” I said to myself.

When I worked at Papermart, sometimes at night we’d launch a similar balloon — one ordered by a customer and not picked up — into the night sky with a note asking any finders to contact us, wherever they may be.

I walked around the Observatory and when I came back to where I began, I saw the four balloons already in the sky, drifting off into the wild blue yonder.

The woman turned around, saw me and I said, “Looks like I got here just in time.”

“They’re for my father,” she said. “He was a good guy.”

“I’m sorry for your loss,” I replied.

What are the chances I would see this intimate moment of grief play out in front of me on a Thursday afternoon?

I wanted to ask her what happened and learn more about her father, but, of course, it didn’t seem like the right time.

As I walked down the hill, the first thing I thought of was a line from the late Charles Grodin’s 1992 book, “How I Get Through Life: A Wise and Witty Guide” which I read while attending college.

In it, the actor and all-around raconteur writes dozens of short essays on subjects including family, parents, children, friendship and money.

He saves his best observation for the final page:

“Everyone is having a harder time than it appears.” ■



## HOLY GHOST IN MCKEES ROCKS, PA.

### Penitential Vespers

By Maria Iyengar  
Holy Ghost, McKees Rocks, Pa.

Holy Ghost in McKees Rocks, Pa. hosted the Protopresbytery Penitential Vespers on the Second Sunday of the Great Fast. Father Frank Firko is pastor.

Vespers were followed by

fellowship, three meatless soups: clam chowder, tomato basil and Asian dumpling and bread.

Volunteers Karen Stebbins, Norma Kascur, Peggy McCusker, Elaine Kurtanich and Dana Leasure assisted in the preparation and serving. ■



### Cross Veneration Sunday

The Third Sunday of Lent was observed at Holy Ghost in McKees Rocks, Pa. Father Frank Firko is pastor. ■



## ST. JOHN CHRYSOSTOM IN PITTSBURGH, PA.

### First Solemn Confession

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

John and Athanasius Stanish, the two older sons of Joe and Jessica Stanish, and Yefgraf Eggenberger, son of Viktor and Iryna Eggenberger, of St John Chrysostom Church in Pittsburgh, Pa. made their First Solemn Confession on Sunday, Feb. 11.

Father Miron Kerul'-Kmec praised the boys for their hard work to prepare for this

Mystery of the Church. Father also thanked the boys' parents for helping in their preparation. John, Athanasius, and Yefgraf are among the many altar servers for Divine Liturgy.

Our parish family celebrated this important milestone in their spiritual journeys with a special cake.

May God grant John, Athanasius, and Yefgraf many happy, healthy, and blessed years! ■



Father Miron Kerul'-Kmec with John Stanish, Yefgraf Eggenberger and Athanasius Stanish

## NATIVITY OF THE MOTHER OF GOD IN DUBOIS, PA.

### Many hands make light work

By Grace Marshall  
Nativity of the Mother of God, DuBois, Pa.

Nativity of the Mother of God parish in DuBois, Pa. held two spring clean-ups.

One was done for the church

social hall and another for the church itself to get it ready for the resurrection of our Lord!

Many hands made light work and the fellowship was enjoyed by all helping. ■







ST. NICHOLAS IN PERRYOPOLIS, PA.

# Passing on tradition

By Frances Kranik  
St. Nicholas, Perryopolis, Pa.

2024 marks the 25th year that parishioner Lois Winslow has conducted her ministry of teaching the ancient art of Pysanky at St. Nicholas Byzantine Catholic Church in Perryopolis, Pa.

Lois begins the first week of Great Lent and continues for six weeks. Initially, with parishioners and people in Perryopolis, Lois has instructed hundreds

of individuals from nearby communities over the years beginning with the basics when necessary and giving advanced instruction and challenges to repeat students to keep it fresh and interesting.

She teaches the techniques of writing with wax and dyes called wax resist, scratch carving, acid etching and straw appliqué to her students of all ages passing on this ancient art form to the next generation. ■



SS. PETER AND PAUL IN WARREN, OHIO

# Kolachi baking

By John and Lisa Mosko  
SS. Peter and Paul, Warren, Ohio

The rolling pins were out in full force as members of the Parish Guild, along with other parishioners and volunteers, joined together to make our annual Easter kolachi.

Nut, cranberry-nut, apricot, apricot-nut, and poppyseed all were available to purchase after each Liturgy.

We are so thankful to have so many dedicated parishioners and volunteers. ■



ST. ELIAS IN MUNHALL, PA.

# Fish story

The St. Elias Fish Fry was a great success again this year. Lines were out the door and food was delicious! Many thanks to our loyal patrons and hardworking parishioners! ■



SS. PETER AND PAUL IN ERIE, PA.

# Helping hands

By Richard Vasil  
SS. Peter and Paul, Erie, Pa.

ECF students at SS. Peter and Paul in Erie, Pa. prepared Easter baskets for the parish shut-ins.

They decorated eggs, colored Resurrection icons, and included cards and notes to the parish home-bound. Pauline Kowalski is the church ECF Coordinator and Father John J. Mihalco is pastor. ■





ST. MICHAEL IN CAMPBELL, OHIO

# Humbling opportunity

By Father Kevin Marks  
St. Michael, Campbell, Ohio

*"Give your hands to serve and your hearts to love." — Mother Teresa*

This morning, our parish youth had the privilege to serve some very special people a warm meal and smile at Our Community Kitchen. They also passed out

"blessing" bags filled with personal items and lots of goodies.

Words cannot describe this humbling opportunity. We left with full hearts and a real-life lesson about treating all people with love, dignity and respect. We are so proud of all the children that volunteered. ■



# "Blessing Bags"

By Father Kevin Marks  
St. Michael, Campbell, Ohio

*"As often as you do it for the least of my brothers and sisters, you do it for Me." (Gospel of St. Matthew 25:40)*

Tonight (March 5), our ECF students put together 'Blessing Bags' filled with non-perishable food and personal care items, but most

importantly, with kindness and love, for the less fortunate.

They will be distributed this coming Saturday to those in need at Our Community Kitchen in Youngstown.

Thank you to our St. Michael parishioners for your donations toward this almsgiving cause. We are very proud of our ECF students during this season of Lent! ■



ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST IN UNIONTOWN, PA.

# "Egg-cellent" fun

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

The 17th Egg Eggstravaganza was held March 17 at St. John the Baptist. Fifteen artists and vendors demonstrated and sold their beautiful works of art.

These "egg-ceptional" artists made pysanky, drop-pull, painted, kraslice, Lithuanian scratched eggs, and hand-carved wooden eggs.

A popular spot was the hands-on station where attendees

could learn how to make a pysanky egg, which they could then take home.

There was also a children's activity area for making Easter crafts. In addition, this event also featured a bake sale, a market place for egg supplies, Easter basket cover display, craft sale, raffle items, and delicious Lenten foods.

Next year's Eggstravanza is tentatively scheduled for April 6. Hope you can join us on this "egg-stra" special day! ■







ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST IN UNIONTOWN, PA.

# Farewell, Father Jim

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

The parishioners of St. John the Baptist in Uniontown, Pa. would like to thank Father James Fraser for his leadership over the past six months.

In gratitude of his service, a

reception prepared by the social ministry group was held March 2 after the Saturday evening Divine Liturgy.

May God grant Father James and his family many happy, healthy, and blessed years! ■



# Welcome, Father David

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

During the weekend of March 9, parishioners welcomed Father David Bosnich as the interim administrator at St. John the Baptist. The social ministry group hosted a welcome reception after each Liturgy. This is Father David's second assignment in Uniontown, where he first served as a deacon in 1994. May God grant Father David many happy, healthy and blessed years! ■



# "P" is for "pirohi"

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

Parishioners and friends of St. John the Baptist have been hard at work making their "famous" pirohi. These delicious dumplings are sold during the Great Fast

and throughout the year from September through May. Potato/cheese and sauerkraut pirohi can be ordered by calling 724-434-5355 Monday through Wednesday. ■



# We bow to Your Cross

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

In preparation for the Third Sunday of the Great Fast, ECF students decorated crosses. They were really excited to display

their creations.

Father James Fraser blessed these crosses after the morning Liturgy on the Sunday of the Veneration of the Holy Cross. ■



# "P" is also for "pysanky"

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

St. John the Baptist held pysanky classes Feb. 19 through March 18. Bonnie Balas shared her "eggs-pertise" with the nearly 20 people who attended this course. People of various cultural backgrounds, faiths, and age groups were exposed to the art of pysanky and were proud of their "egg-cellent" creations.

The students caught on quickly and were very pleased with their progress. Many of them plan to continue with the classes in the future. ■







ST. GREGORY IN UPPER ST. CLAIR, PA.

# Carrying the Cross

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

Jesus, Son of God, remember us when You come into Your Kingdom!

Parishioners of St. Gregory Byzantine Catholic Church in Upper St. Clair, Pa. welcomed a warm and sunny morning as they gathered together to celebrate the Third Sunday of the Great Fast on March 3.

At the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy, the faithful one by one approached the Cross decorated

with flowers in the center of our Church for veneration.

Following a quick snack, our ECF students were ready to lead us in this year's Cross procession through our neighborhood.

Our students did a wonderful job carrying the Cross and offering a portion – called Ikos from the Akathist Hymn to the Passion of Christ.

This was a wonderful event as we proclaimed to the world the victory and joy of the Cross in the middle of our Lenten pilgrimage. ■



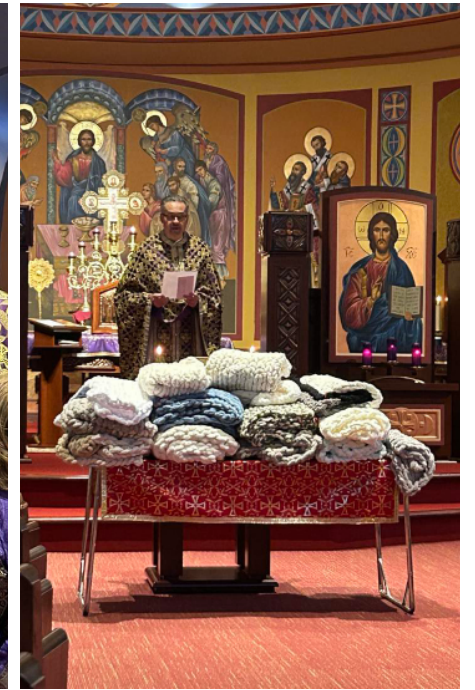
# Blessing of prayer blankets

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

The Fourth Sunday of the Great Fast, March 10th, was a cold but busy day at St. Gregory's. Our St. Gregory's ByzanTeens were quite busy preparing the ECF Haluski Sale to support the following Summer ECF Programs: Byzanteen Youth Rally 2024 in San Diego, St. Gregory's Vacation Church School, and All Saints

Summer Church School Camp.

At the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy, the blessing of the prayer blankets took place. These prayer blankets have been created by our faithful and will now be delivered to people facing difficult situations and needs of all kinds. In our parish library the meeting of our Bethany Ministry took place during which visitations were planned to our parish homebound. ■







## THOUGHTS FOR OUR DAY

By Archpriest David M. Petras


### THE SACRAMENTAL MYSTERY OF MARRIAGE



There are then two sacraments of vocation: Holy Orders and marriage, in which two people, a man and a woman, are joined and “the two of them become one body” (Genesis 1:24). From this union comes new life, and the man and woman become co-creators with God. The matrimonial union is sealed by Holy Communion. There is one criterion for a sacrament that marriage meets, and which was finally crucial to its acceptance as a sacramental mystery. This is its participation in the Paschal mystery. Marriage is a mystery precisely because the love of a husband and a wife for each other are a dying to self for love for another. John Chrysostom asks, “Did you not hear St. Paul who said that marriage is a mystery and the image (icon) of the love which Christ shows for the Church.” Marriage, then, shares in the mystery of the death and resurrection, the love of Christ for his people. Precisely because the love of a husband and wife for each other are a dying to self for the love of another, it is an icon of the love of Christ for the Church. Therefore, since marriage is an icon of the death and resurrection of Christ, it participates in the Paschal Mystery, and it was inevitable it would be accepted as a sacramental mystery. This is the reality that remains constant throughout tradition. Marriage was always considered a manifestation of the mystery of love, and this eventually became

the crucial consideration.

As a sacramental mystery, marriage is an instrument of grace. It is a synergy, a union between God and human beings, a partnership with God in the way we live. God works within the person, and becomes incarnate in our actions. Grace is a mutual love. It is God's help and assistance in particular

  
**The distinctive feature of the Byzantine marriage ceremony is the crowning.**

aspects of this sacramental mystery: in the harmony between the marriage partners in their personal relationships, in wisdom in rearing children, in family love. In faith, Christian marriage becomes a whole new reality. It is no longer identified with the two extremes: a) the pagan sacral marriage, or b) the secular, humanistic marriage. Marriage can no longer be understood on a purely natural level, but only in relationship to Christ.

Marriage is not a private union of two people, a solitary mystery of their mutual consent, but an act of the Church, in which the couple not only accept each other, but are blessed by God. The community, then, takes part in the

marriage, and the blessing of God becomes manifest in the blessing of the Church. As early as the second century, Ignatius says that the consent of the bishop as the head of the community is necessary for Christian marriage (Letter to Polycarp 5,2).

The distinctive feature of the Byzantine marriage ceremony is the crowning. Today the groom is crowned first, then the bride, with the same formula. Before crowning the priest makes the sign of the Cross three times with the crowns over the head of the groom, then of the bride and offers the crown to the couple to kiss. The crowns are either metal or flowers. Early Christian writers first opposed the use of crowns, because of their pagan connotations - flowers could be an offering to the gods. However, after the decline of paganism, Christians had no hesitation about the use of crowns. St. John Chrysostom gave a Christian interpretation to the use of crowns: “Garlands are wont to be worn on the heads of bridegrooms, as a symbol of victory, that they approach the marriage bed unconquered by pleasure.” When the priest places the crown on the heads of the groom and the bride, he says for each, “The servant of God (name) is crowned for the servant of God (name) in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.” This was originally modeled on the baptismal formula, “The servant of God (name) is crowned in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,” but now it has been elaborated to the present formula. The Byzantine theologian Constantine

Andronikof explains its meaning, “The servant N. receives as a crown the servant N. ...’ and vice versa. In this way, there is no doubt of theological meaning: the ‘crown’ of witness is mutual and assumed jointly by the partners.” Marriage is a covenant, a solemn agreement, between the two partners. In this way it shares in the covenant between God and the human race.

The Scripture read at the wedding is the epistle from Ephesians 5:20-33 and the gospel from John 2:1-11. The gospel tells of the presence of Jesus at the wedding in Cana. Just as his presence in the Jordan sanctified the waters of baptism, so his presence at Cana and his miracle sanctified marriage, elevating it to a divine mystery. In Ephesians St. Paul compares marriage to the love of God for his Church. The reading from Ephesians is sometimes controversial today because of verse 22 (“Wives should be submissive to their husbands.”) It would be a pity, however, to reject this magnificent passage on the religious meaning of marriage because of one word. “Submission” here does not mean blind obedience but commitment to a husband who is Christ-like, willing to lay down his life out of love for her. In this way the man is also “submissive” to his wife, and the further the man falls away from this ideal, the less binding the “submission” becomes. Marriage, then, as a sacrament signifies mutual service to one another, a covenant like that of God and his 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](mailto:bcw@archpitt.org).

**St. John the Baptist Cathedral**  
*Munhall, Pa.*  
[www.stjohnsbyzantinecathedral.com](http://www.stjohnsbyzantinecathedral.com)

**Holy Ghost**  
*McKees Rocks, Pa.*  
[www.holyghost-byzantinecatholic.org](http://www.holyghost-byzantinecatholic.org)  
[www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com), then type Holy Ghost Church Live Stream

**St. John Chrysostom**  
*Pittsburgh, Pa.*  
[www.sjcbcc.com](http://www.sjcbcc.com)

**St. Gregory**  
*Upper St. Clair, Pa.*  
[www.facebook.com/stgregoryusc](https://www.facebook.com/stgregoryusc)

**St. Michael**  
*Campbell, Ohio*  
[www.facebook.com/st.michaelbyz.campbell](https://www.facebook.com/st.michaelbyz.campbell)

**St. Elias**  
*Munhall, Pa.*  
[www.facebook.com/StEliasByzantineCatholicChurch/](https://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. Mary**  
*Windber, Pa.*  
<https://www.facebook.com/StMaryDormition>





### LITURGICAL SCHEDULE AT THE SEMINARY

“COME, LET US SING JOYFULLY TO THE LORD”



For the Liturgical Schedule for April at the Byzantine Catholic Seminary of SS. Cyril and Methodius, 3605 Perrysville Ave., Pittsburgh, Pa., click on the online version of the The Byzantine Catholic World at archpitt.org.

### AROUND THE ARCHEPARCHY



**ST. MARY'S SUPER BINGO** — 2-6 p.m. Sunday, April 14, St. Mary's Center, State Route 981, Trauger, Pa. Doors open at noon. Games start at 2 p.m. Tickets: \$30 for 24 games and include first set of Regular cards (Specials are included), one Jackpot and a light lunch. Extra cards, specials and a WTA Quickie may be purchased at admission. Tickets must be reserved or paid for in advance. None sold at the door. Seating is limited. Call or text Marlene at 412-526-0285 or Marge at 724-787-5631 for tickets. 16 Regular games: \$100, 4 Specials: \$200. \$1,500 Jackpot Series. Regular: \$200, Letter X: \$300, Full Card: \$1,000. There will be opportunities for a 50/50, Basket Raffle, Instant Tickets, and a Lottery Tree. Proceeds Benefit the Church's Building and Maintenance Fund.


**SPRING CRAFT SHOW & VENDOR SALE** — 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Saturday, April 13, St. John the Baptist Cathedral, 210 Greentree Road, Munhall, Pa. Dozens of tables of crafters and vendors, crafter showcase auction, and Ethnic Favorites including soups, our famous dumpling haluski, stuffed cabbage and pirohi. Eat in or take out. Cathedral Kolache on sale with nut, poppyseed, apricot, apricot-nut and lekvar. For information, call 412-461-0944.

**CRAFT & VENDOR SHOW/FLEA MARKET** — St. Pius X, 2336 Brownsville Road, Carrick, Pa. Annual Craft & Vendor Show: 9 a.m.-3 p.m. May 4. Tables are \$30 each. Rummage Sale/Flea Market: 10 a.m.-3 p.m. May 18. Tables are \$20 each. Call the church at 412-881-8344 or Pat Geary at 412-759-2024 to rent a table for events.

## BIBLE TRAINING WORKSHOP

**PRESENTER: DEACON JOHN HARDEN**  
DIRECTOR OF EASTERN CATHOLIC FORMATION AND EVANGELIZATION, EPARCHY OF PARMA

A senior project manager at Ascension Press Media, Deacon John has served as an adjunct professor of Theology at Neumann University in Aston, PA. He has a Bachelor's degree in Theology from Benedictine College in Atchison, KS, and a Master's degree in Theology from Franciscan University in Steubenville, OH.



*“Happy the people who know you, Lord.”*  
*Psalm 89:16*

ARCHEPARCHY OF PITTSBURGH  
OFFICE OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION  
**JULY 12-14, 2024**  
LOCATION:  
SS. CYRIL & METHODIUS  
BYZANTINE CATHOLIC SEMINARY  
(ACCOMODATIONS OFF CAMPUS)

Brochures for registration and accomodations will be available soon

*Do you accept the invite?*

### Texas Byzantine Catholic Pilgrimage

**St. Anthony Cathedral Basilica in Beaumont, Texas**  
700 Jefferson St Beaumont, TX 77701  
Bright Saturday, April 6, 2024  
1pm Vigil Divine Liturgy (for Thomas Sunday)  
Social with refreshments after the Liturgy  
Sponsored by the Protopresbyteral District of the South  
of the Byzantine Catholic Archeparchy of Pittsburgh  
All are welcome! Christ is risen!



For more information: 713.256.8953 Or [basiliad.dfw@gmail.com](mailto:basiliad.dfw@gmail.com)

## DATES TO REMEMBER



**APRIL 1**

Bright Monday  
Chancery closed

**APRIL 7**

Deacons John Welch and Timothy Fariss  
ordination to the priesthood  
*St. Michael, Hermitage, Pa.*

**APRIL 21**

Paschal Program presented by the Pittsburgh Byzantine Catholic  
Archeparchial Choir Paschal Program  
*St. Elias in Munall, Pa. (see page 8)*

**APRIL 18**

Twelfth anniversary of Archbishop William's Enthronement  
as Metropolitan Archbishop of Pittsburgh

**APRIL 28**

Deacon Kyprian Wojciechowski ordination to the priesthood  
*St. Mary, Bradenville, Pa.*

See more upcoming events at [www.archpitt.org](http://www.archpitt.org)



Official publication of the  
Byzantine Catholic  
Archeparchy of Pittsburgh

**Byzantine Catholic Press  
Associates**

66 Riverview Avenue  
Pittsburgh, PA 15214  
Tel: 412-231-4000  
Fax: 412-231-1697  
Email: [bcw@archpitt.org](mailto:bcw@archpitt.org)  
Website: [www.archpitt.org](http://www.archpitt.org)

**NEXT ISSUE:**  
**MAY 2024**

**SUBMISSIONS  
DEADLINE:**  
**APRIL 19**