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METROPOLITAN ARCHBISHOP WILLIAM C. SKURLA ATTENDS
ORDINATION OF BISHOP OF PRESOV, SLOVAKIA



Metropolitan Archbishop William C. Skurla (left) with Metropolitan Jonas Joseph Maxim, the new Archbishop of Prešov, Slovakia, who was ordained Jan. 27 at the Cathedral of Saint John the Baptist in Prešov. Photo by Jozef Kmec.

ETERNAL MEMORY MONSIGNOR RUSSELL A. DUKER, SEOD

Reverend Monsignor Russell Andrew Duker, SEOD, a retired priest of the Byzantine Catholic Archeparchy of Pittsburgh, fell asleep in the Lord on Jan. 22 at Mt. Macrina Manor, Uniontown, Pa.

He was born on August 24, 1943, in West Aliquippa, Pa., the youngest of the children of Stephen D. Duker and Mary A. Varhola. He received his elementary education at Washington School there, and in 1961 he was graduated from Aliquippa High School. He attended Geneva College in Beaver Falls, Pa. where he earned the Bachelor of Science degree and was graduated “Summa Cum Laude” in 1964. He also did graduate work at the University of Pittsburgh. He then entered Sts. Cyril and Methodius Seminary and attended Duquesne University.

In the fall of 1967, Monsignor Russell was assigned to complete his seminary studies in Rome, at the Pontifical North American College. While there he attended at the Gregorian University and the Pontifical Institute for Eastern Studies and was awarded the Baccalaureate Degree in Sacred Theology.

Returning to the United States in 1970, he was ordained to the Priesthood in his home parish

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Monsignor Russell A. Duker

This story originally appeared on the web site of the Eparchy of Prešov, Slovakia.

The Greek Catholic Church in Slovakia experienced a historic event on January 27, 2024. The new Archbishop Metropolitan of Prešov Jonas Joseph Maxim, who had previously been the igumen (superior) of the monks of the Studite monastery in Univa, Ukraine, was ordained to the Episcopacy in the Cathedral of St. John the Baptist in Prešov. At the same time, he canonically assumed the leadership of the Prešov Archeparchy. He thus became the ninth resident bishop and the second metropolitan of the Greek Catholic Church in Slovakia.

On the feast of the Transfer of the Venerable Relics of Our Father St. John Chrysostom, the ordination ceremony was presided over by Archbishop

Cyril Vasil SJ, Eparchial Bishop of Košice. The co-consecrators were Bishop Peter Rusnák, the Bishop of the Slovak Eparchy of Bratislava and the current Apostolic Administrator of the Prešov Archeparchy, and Bishop Benedikt Aleksyichuk, Bishop of the St. Nicholas Ukrainian Eparchy in Chicago, USA.

The Episcopal ordination was attended by more than 50 bishops of the Eastern and Latin rites from Slovakia and abroad. There were also representatives of diplomatic missions. The ceremony was attended by Marek Lisánsky, Ambassador of the Slovak Republic to the Holy See and the Sovereign Order of the Knights of Malta; and Myroslav Kastran, Ambassador of Ukraine to Slovakia; representatives of public and social life; the Apostolic Nuncio to Slovakia, Archbishop Nicola Girasoli; and Archbishop Bernard Bober,

Archbishop of the Diocese of Košice and the President of the Slovak Bishops' Conference. Among the Greek Catholic bishops were His Beatitude Sviatoslav Shevchuk, the Major Archbishop of Kiev-Galicia and the head of the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church; Archbishop Metropolitan William C. Skurla, Archbishop Metropolitan of Pittsburgh; Archbishop Metropolitan Filip Kočiš of Debrecen, Hungary and many others. Together with the bishops, nearly 250 priests concelebrated the Holy Liturgy. At the beginning of the celebration, guests and believers were welcomed by Monsignor Michael Sopko, Chancellor of the Archieparchial Curia in Prešov.

In his homily Archbishop Vasil said, “God’s people, priests, the

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WORLD

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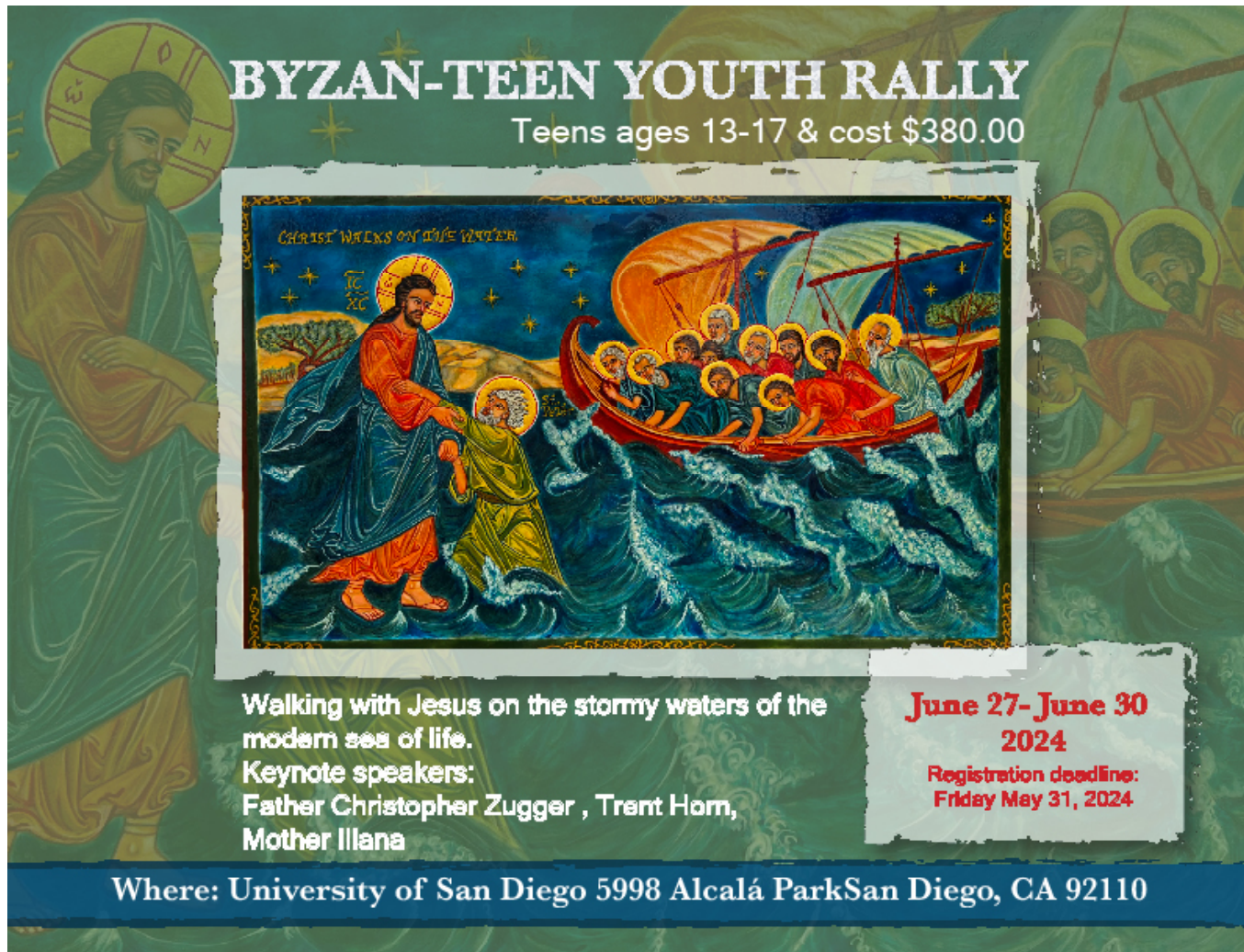
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MISSION

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.



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

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BULLETIN BOARD

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. ■



**BYZANTINE
DIVINE
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Sundays at 9:00 a.m.
WEDO Radio 810 AM
McKeesport, Pa.

*Broadcast live from
Holy Ghost Church McKees
Rocks, Pa.*

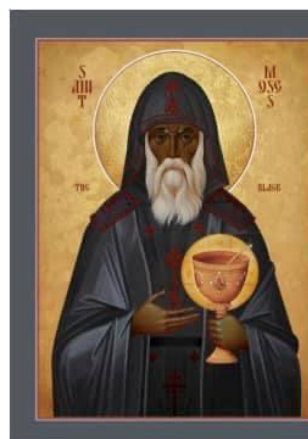
St. Moses' Soup Kitchen to open

On Saturday, March 2, we will open the doors of St. Moses' Kitchen — located in SS. Peter and Paul Parish Hall, 701 Foster Ave., Duquesne, Pa. — for the first time.

In service of our disadvantaged neighbors in the Duquesne area, we will begin by offering a free,

monthly hot lunch, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

If you are interested in helping to prepare meals, serve, or welcome those who attend, please contact Father David Abernethy at dabernethy@gmail.com or 412-303-8720. ■



**Come to
St. Moses' Kitchen
for a
Free Hot Lunch!**

**Saturday, March 2nd
11:00am - 1:00pm**

**Sts. Peter and Paul Church
701 Foster Ave., Duquesne**

**Homemade Pizza
Homemade Vegetable Soup
Fresh Cookies
Lemonade**

Carpathian Cookery cook book available

The Carpathian Cookery cookbook, now in its 22nd printing and having sold more than 20,500 copies, is available for purchase.

This cookbook was requested by the Library of Congress to be in their ethnic cooking collection.

The 330-page cookbook 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.

There is a variety of paska bread and kolachi (filled roll) recipes as well as meatless dishes and Lenten recipes, suitable for the Great Fast, as well as the Pre-Christmas

Fast.

The cost of the cookbook is \$14 plus \$6 postage and handling (\$20).

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. ■



ETERNAL MEMORY
MONSIGNOR RUSSELL A. DUKER, SEOD

Story continued from page 1

of St. George in Aliquippa on Sept. 20 of that year by Archbishop Stephen J. Kocisko. Monsignor Russell's first priestly assignment was Assistant at St. John Cathedral in Munhall, Pa., and he was also appointed Assistant Chancellor and secretary to Archbishop Stephen. His next parochial assignments were: St. Stephen in North Huntingdon, Pa. where he was the founding pastor of the new parish; and St. Nicholas, Youngstown, Ohio.

In the Autumn of 1979, Monsignor Russell again returned to Rome for further study at the Gregorian University's Pontifical Institute for Eastern Studies. Here he first earned the Baccalaureate and Licentiate Degrees in the area of Eastern Church Studies, and then on June 9, 1982, he publicly defended his doctoral dissertation entitled *The Byzantine Catholic Synod of Vienna of 1773*, and he was awarded with "High Honors," the Degree of Doctor of the Theological Sciences of the Eastern Churches.

Returning from Rome, Monsignor Russell was appointed Pastor of Holy Ghost Byzantine Catholic Church in McKees Rocks, Pa. and the Director of the Archeparchial Office of Religious Education.

The Holy Father St. John Paul II named him Prelate of Honor with the title of Monsignor on Sept. 21, 1984.

In 1990, Monsignor Russell was appointed Rector of Saints Cyril and Methodius Seminary where he also served as Professor of Dogmatic Theology and Homiletics. On June 15, 1995, he assumed the pastorates of Holy Spirit Church in the Oakland section of Pittsburgh and at St. Pius X Church in Carrick, Pa, where he remained until retirement after 26 years as the pastor and administrator.

From Sept. 14, 1994 until Feb. 7, 1995, he served as Administrator of the Archeparchy, having been elected by the College of Consulters to fill the vacancy created by the death of Bishop John M. Bilock. Under Archbishops Judson M. Procyk and Basil M. Schott, Monsignor Russell served as Protosyncellus and Chancellor,

His other Archeparchial responsibilities included: Liturgical Commission, Associate Editor of the *Byzantine Catholic World*, secretary of the Priests' Pension



Monsignor Russell A. Duker

Board, member of the Matrimonial Tribunal, and Consultor. He also represented the Archeparchy at the Pennsylvania Catholic Conference, serving in executive positions; and he was on the Board of Delegates of the Christian Associates of Southwestern Pennsylvania. He likewise participated in many ecclesiastical societies, ecumenical forums, and civic organizations.

Monsignor Russell was the author of numerous articles and publications that deal with the history, liturgy, and theological tradition of the Ruthenian Byzantine Catholic Church. He was well-known as a speaker who lectured extensively on these same topics at many academic and ecclesiastical institutions throughout the country and abroad.

He was preceded in death by his parents; brothers: Igor, Dr. Daniel and Raymond (Mary Jane), and Michael; and sisters, Juliann (Paul) Smerigan and Olga (Joseph) Mackin and brother-in-law John Chabala. Surviving him are his sister, Peggy Duker Chabala; sister-in-law, Janet Shema Duker; and numerous nieces, nephews, cousins, parishioners, and friends.

Friends were received at St. John Cathedral on Jan. 30 and 31, with the Parastas celebrated both evenings by Very Reverend Andrew J. Deskevich.

Metropolitan Archbishop William C. Skurla presided at the Funeral Divine Liturgy on Thursday morning Feb. 1. Most Reverend Robert M. Pipta, Bishop of Parma, was the celebrant and concelebrating were: Very Reverends Thomas J. Loya, Ronald C. Barusefski, Frank A. Firko, and David A. Bosnich; Reverend Father Kevin E. Marks, and Monsignor Lawrence Dominik. Very Reverend Loya was the homilist and Deacon Kyprian A. Wojciechowski assisted as Deacon. Reverend Fathers Valerian Michlik and Will Rupp led the congregational singing.

Interment followed at Mount Macrina Cemetery, Uniontown, Pa.

In blessed repose, grant O Lord eternal rest to your departed servant Monsignor Russell and remember him forever! ■

Axios, Deacon Kyprian!

SUBDEACON KYPRIAN WOJCIECHOWSKI ORDAINED TO
HOLY DIACONATE IN BRADENVILLE, PA.

By The Byzantine Catholic
Archeparchy of Pittsburgh

Subdeacon Kyprian Wojciechowski was ordained to the Holy Diaconate by Metropolitan Archbishop William C. Skurla at his home parish of St. Mary in Bradenville, Pennsylvania on Sunday, Jan. 21.

Concelebrants were: Very Reverends James A. Spontak, Bryan R. Eyman, and Ronald C. Barusefski; and Reverend Fathers Athanasius Cherry OSB (administrator of St. Mary Parish), and Kevin Marks. The Master of Ceremonies was Very Reverend Andrew J. Deskevich, and Deacons Daniel Perich and Thomas Donlin served as deacons. Assisting at the altar were Readers Christopher Davel and Barry Smith, Seminarian Nicholas Krivacs; and Joseph and Nikolai Wojciechowski, Samuel Tima and Adam Marinchek. Cori Poklembo led the congregational singing.

Also in attendance were Archpriest Michael Hayduk, and Reverend Fathers Thomas Dansak, Ivan Chirovsky, James Fraser IV and Deacons John

Welch and Myron Spak.

Deacon Kyprian, the son of the late Reverend Father William M. Wojciechowski and Mrs. Sue Wojciechowski Snyder and her husband Michael J Snyder, was graduated from Saints Cyril and Methodius Byzantine Catholic Seminary in 2021.

Following the Divine Liturgy and Ordination a reception was held at Saint Mary's social hall, the Dome.

Deacon Kyprian is the first vocation from Saint Mary Parish in Bradenville. He is very thankful for all who have fostered his vocation throughout his life, especially his parents, clergy, friends, and especially the late +Father Joseph Borodach. He expresses his deep and sincerest gratitude for everyone who made this day possible and to all the parishioners, family and friends who came from all over the country to attend. He asks for your continued prayers for him and for his wife Emily as he continues to serve God's Holy Church. ■



Photos by Erin Riggi and members of the Wojciechowski family



THE ORDINATION OF METROPOLITAN JONAS JOZEF MAXIM

Story continued from page 1

Church in Slovakia await you. Today's presence of the Apostolic Nuncio, that is, the representative of the Holy Father, the representative of the Roman Dicastery for the Eastern Churches, the presence of the heads of several Eastern Churches sui iuris and, by our standards, an unprecedented number of bishops, is therefore not accidental. Today we are witnessing not only another episcopal ordination, as Slovakia periodically experiences when filling episcopal sees. Today, not only one bishopric receives new leadership, but also does the entire Greek Catholic Metropolitan Church sui iuris in Slovakia. He is the first head of the church sui iuris, the first Eastern metropolitan in history, to be ordained in Slovakia," he said.

With his episcopal ordination, Archbishop Jonas assumes the baton of leadership of the Prešov Archieparchy and the entire Slovak Greek Catholic Metropolitan Church sui iuris. "Being included in a continuous chain of apostolic succession is the greatest gift that can be given to anyone in the church. Father Jonah, I consider it a great honor that He chose me to transmit this apostolic succession by the laying on of my hands. From now on, we will not only be friends, as before, but indeed brothers, in a sense almost at the level of blood brothers, since from today we also have a common episcopal lineage, we are in one line reaching to the apostles and therefore to Christ," said Archbishop Vasil.

"What's next for you here today? The People of God awaits you here, who want to see in you their spiritual shepherd, leader, administrator, protector, who will guide them in these not easy times. But have there ever been "easy times" for our Church? Priests, your closest associates, are waiting for you, who will call you father, and who expect this paternal and stewardship – kind but also decisive – leadership from you. We bishops are also waiting for you, so that with your arrival we can renew the work of the Council of Hierarchs, the supreme body of our metropolitan Church. The Church in Slovakia awaits you, because by ordination you also become a member of the Slovak Bishops' Conference. We believe that your humility, seriousness,

spiritual experience, orthodoxy and zeal will be a valuable asset here," said Archbishop Vasil.

"Dear Father Jonah. A new path opens up before you, full of challenges and expectations. We, who welcome you to it today, perceive in your coming exactly what is expected of every servant of God to whom the sacred episcopal office is entrusted. This office is a sign and place of direct connection with Christ and therefore in its own way surpasses even the royal one, to which the admiring eyes of romantic nostalgics or the curious eyes of media magicians on the occasion of occasional coronations are sometimes fixed. While we expect from kings the guarantee of tradition, stability, continuity, seriousness, authority – from you we all expect not only all this, but much more, that is, to be fully the living image of Christ, the Good Shepherd, king and high priest, sacrificing himself for the people entrusted to him."

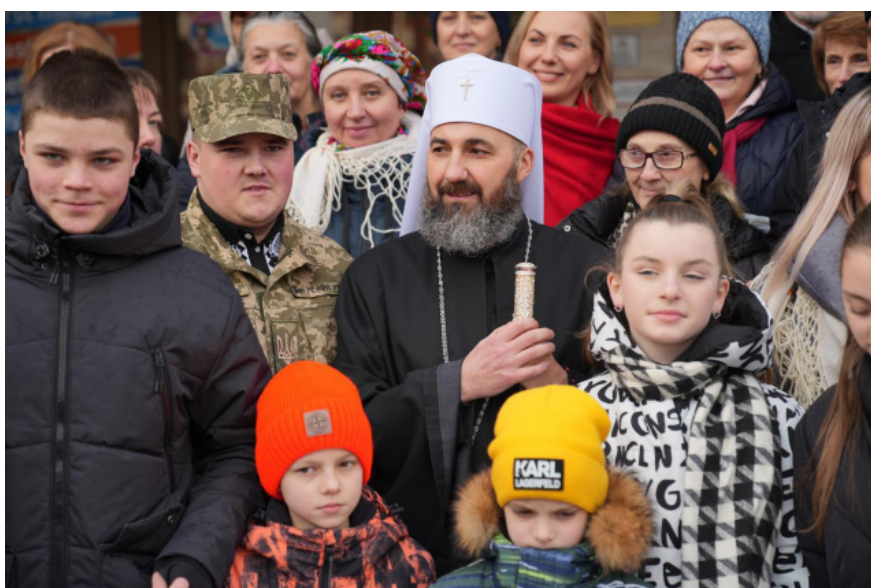
Rite of episcopal ordination of Jonah Joseph Maximus

The ceremony of episcopal ordination took place in two parts. In the first, before the beginning of the Holy Liturgy, he was introduced to the bishops and the Apostolic Nuncio to read the Latin text of the bulla by which Holy Father Francis appointed him Archbishop and Metropolitan of Prešov.

After reading the Slovak translation, the candidate's triple confession of faith followed – universal, trinitarian and Christological. The second part of the ordination continued during the celebration of the liturgy – in the Liturgy of the Catechumens (Liturgy of the Word), when after the kiss of peace he, accompanied by co-consecrators and other bishops, went three times around the altar on which as a bishop, he will celebrate a bloodless sacrifice for the living and the dead.

The candidate then took off his felon (the priest's outer vestment) and knelt at the table. Archbishop Vasil the consecrator, laid his hands on his head the other consecrators held an open holy gospel above his head. From both sides of the table, the bishops placed their right hands on the right shoulders of the bishops standing before them. In this way, the whole college of bishops invoked God's grace on the the new Archbishop.

In the prayers of ordination, the ordaining bishop saint prayed that the newly ordained bishop would



be a true follower of Christ, the Good Shepherd, the leader of the blind, a lamp for those groping in darkness, a teacher of children and youth, and a light for this world. He subsequently presented

the new bishop with the insignia of his rank.

He took put on the sakos – tunic of the Byzantine bishops, omophore – the emblem of episcopal

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THE ORDINATION OF METROPOLITAN JONAS JOZEF MAXIM



Photos by Jozef Kmec

Story continued from page 4

rank, which as metropolitan he receives directly from the Holy Father, enkolpion – medallion with the icon of the Most Holy Theotokos, Then followed the

ceremony of enthronement of the metropolitan. He was brought to the throne and enthroned by Archbishops Nicola Girasoli and Cyril Vasil SJ. Then Bishop Peter Rusnák handed him a second

enkolpion as metropolitan – a medallion with the image of Jesus Christ and Archbishop Cyril Vasil SJ handed him the archbishop's staff. After enthronement, he presided over the Holy Liturgy as the new Archbishop and Metropolitan of Prešov.

In conclusion, a letter from Cardinal Claudio Gugerotti, prefect of the Dicastery for the Eastern Churches, was read in Italian by his deputy Reverend Father Olexander Sapunko. Archbishop Nicola Girasoli on behalf of the Slovak Bishops' Conference and its president, Bishop Bernard Bober also spoke as did Major Archbishop Sviatoslav Shevchuk who spoke on behalf of all Greek Catholic Ukrainians, where Archbishop Jonas worked for almost 20 years. Ivan Elko, General Bishop of ECAV and President of the Ecumenical Council of Churches, also spoke, and Protojerej Peter Borza, who is a classmate of Archbishop Jonas from the time of their theological studies, spoke as a representative of priests, religious and faithful.

The singing of the Holy Liturgy was accompanied by the Church Choir of Blessed. Paul Peter Gojdič from Vranov nad Topľou-Čemerný and the Priestly Choir of St. John of Damascus, under the leadership of the conductor Mária Šandorová. The celebration was also enriched by singing by the KLIROS Temple Choir from Lviv, Ukraine, conducted by Nelya Ilychenko.

At the end, the newly consecrated Archbishop Jonas Jozef Maxim thanked everyone. He said it was 77 years since the last time an episcopal ordination took place in this cathedral. The last bishop consecrated directly in this cathedral was Blessed Vasil Hopko. It was on May 11, 1947, when Blessed Bishop Pavol Gojdič consecrated him as an auxiliary bishop with his co-consecrators Bishop Jozef Čársky of Košice and Archbishop Josef Beran of Prague. "Today we have these two hieromartyrs, Paul and Vasil, on our altars as two great lights of our local church. They are also great torches to me on my way to salvation. I believe I am not alone," Archbishop Maxim said.

"I am grateful to God today for calling me to this ministry and, by the power of Your Holy Spirit, enabling me to continue carrying on the baton of the testimony of faith in Jesus

Christ my Lord, teacher and guide. I take over this ministry from my saint for the priesthood, blessed memory Bishop Ján Hirka, as well as from the first archbishop emeritus and metropolitan of this church, Metropolitan Archbishop Ján Babjak, present here," the newly ordained archbishop continued, thanking all his predecessors, the bishops.

After the speeches, the new Archbishop and Metropolitan of Prešov – the head of the Greek Catholic Church in Slovakia – walked through the cathedral and other places where the People of God are gathered and bestowed his Archiepiscopal blessing on them. The ceremony was brought live by RTVS, TV LUX, Radio LUMEN and TV LOGOS.

Biography of the new Archbishop Metropolitan of Prešov

Jeromonach SEO, Dr. Jonas Jozef Maxim was born on November 21, 1974 in Levoča. He comes from the Greek Catholic parish of Olšavica. After finishing grammar school, he started his studies at the Greek Catholic Theological Faculty in Prešov. In February 1994 he entered the seminary for priests. In 1998 he obtained the degree of Master of Theology and from the same year he continued his studies at the Pontifical Eastern Institute in Rome, where he received a licentiate in 2000 and a doctorate in Eastern Church studies in 2017.

On the thirteenth of June 1998 he received celibate diaconal ordination and on July 11, 1998 priestly ordination in Prešov. From 2001 to 2004 he was a spiritualist at the Priestly Seminary of Blessed Bishop Pavol Peter Gojdič in Prešov and from 2002 to 2004 also assistant professor at the Department of Systematic Theology at the Greek Catholic Theological Faculty of the University of Prešov. In 2004, he went to Ukraine and entered the Univa Lavra of Studite Monks in Ukraine. After completing his novitiate, he took his monastic vows for life there on May 22, 2008. In 2011, he was elected superior of the filial monastery of Lviv, and in 2020, at the age of 46, as igumen (superior) of the Univa Lavra.

He was appointed the new Archbishop of the Archeparchy of Prešov and Metropolitan of the Greek Catholic Church in Slovakia by the Holy Father Francis on Oct. 26, 2023. In addition to his mother tongue, he speaks Ukrainian, Italian, English, Russian and French. ■

THE SOCIETY OF SAINTS CYRIL AND METHODIUS

Pizza party

Members of the Society of Saints Cyril and Methodius hosted their annual Pizza Party at the Byzantine Catholic Seminary on Wednesday, Feb. 7. This group of lay men and women are dedicated to praying for vocations and supporting our seminarians, deacon students, those in formation for religious life and also the clergy and religious of the Archeparchy.

Formerly known as the Byzantine Catholic Serra Club and part of Serra International, the members recently reorganized as the Society of Saints Cyril and Methodius to become the Vocations Ministry of the Archeparchy of Pittsburgh.

The Society of Saints Cyril and Methodius extends an invitation to all who wish to join us in the Vocations Ministry. For more information, contact our president Diane Pochron pochrond@pitt.edu.

Posted Feb. 8 on the SSCM Facebook page:

Dear SSCM Friends and Supporters,

I extend my heartfelt gratitude to each and every one of you who joined us for the Annual Pizza Party at the Byzantine Catholic Seminary last evening. Your presence made the event truly special, and your enthusiasm added to the joy of the occasion.

The evening kicked off with a brief meeting, where we discussed important topics such as providing some Easter Pascha Food for the Seminary during Easter, scheduling an Educational Meeting in May, exploring additional possible activities, and welcoming new members into our community. Your active participation and valuable insights during this session were highly appreciated.

Following the productive meeting, we gathered for a Moleben Service for Vocations dedicated to Priesthood and Religious Life. It was a beautiful moment of reflection and prayer, reinforcing the spiritual bond that unites us in our shared mission.

The festivities continued as we came together for pizza and camaraderie, enjoying each other's company and strengthening the sense of community that defines our group. Your smiles and laughter truly lit up the room, creating memories that will be cherished.

Once again, thank you to all who attended, contributed, and participated in making this event a success. Your support fuels our commitment to the Byzantine Catholic Seminary and its important mission.



For those who couldn't make it, worry not! Updates and information about future events will be shared via email. Stay tuned for exciting developments, and please feel free to reach out if you have any questions or suggestions.

Thank you, and looking forward to our continued journey together.

Warm regards,

Diane Pochron
President, The Society of Saints Cyril and Methodius

A MESSAGE FROM THE SEMINARY RECTOR

Happy and blessed New Year



Since we have just concluded the celebration of three Major Feasts of the Incarnation of our Lord, on the cusp of the Great Fast

of Lent, I would like to take this opportunity to convey my best wishes to you and your family for a happy and healthy 2024 filled with faith, hope and God's continued blessings in your life.

Having begun my first New Year as the newly appointed Rector of our Seminary, I find myself counting the many blessings God has provided to me and to the Seminary through the years. I have been blessed with Archbishop William Skurla's trust to advance the Seminary's mission and sustain the legacies our former Rector and now Bishop of Parma, Robert Pipta, and all the rectors who served before him since our Seminary's founding in 1950. I am blessed with many staff and faculty members who I have worked with for many years and serve as the foundation of our collective success moving forward. And I am blessed by you and the many others who provide us with prayer and financial support to advance our important work in preparing individuals spiritually and intellectually to serve the Church and our Lord Jesus Christ. God's divine providence and guidance through the Holy Spirit's role in each of our lives drives our faith journey. Your gifts of prayer and financial support play a significant part in the Seminary's journey, and I am humble and grateful in continuing to greet this New Year by extending this sincere message of gratitude to you.

As my tenure advances, I will ardently strive to maintain contact with you and all our friends and supporters to share the news of our important work at the Seminary. I invite you to do the same and reach out to us and share the news in your life, especially during times when we can provide prayerful support when challenges arise.

Again, my best wishes to you and your family now and throughout this New Year.

May God bless you and I will continue to keep you in my prayers.

Fr. Ron Barusefski
Rector, The Byzantine Catholic Seminary of SS. Cyril and Methodius

REFLECTION FROM MOUNT ST. MACRINA

The Seventh Commandment: Let us reflect, love, serve

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



This is a transcript of her Aug. 12, 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!
As we continue to work through the Commandments, I noted the last seven are about love for one another. This one, the Seventh, says “You shall not steal.” Of course, respecting others would include respecting what they treasure — that is their rights, their possessions — in the same measure that we want to be respected and have our rights and possessions respected. Like “thou shall not kill,” this is for the good order of a society. Remember that this doesn’t mean

just stealing; it means cheating. The positive side includes being faithful in contracts, paying a just wage, practicing justice and charity in business relationships and everyday relationships.
The injustices that are committed here in the Seventh Commandment, though, the Church teaches and expects, that part of the forgiveness there must be reparation. There must be restitution. Pay back what you have taken away from another.
However, the Church’s idea of stealing goes even further. It calls us to respect the rights of others and it includes the social doctrines of the Church. So think broadly about our relationships with finances, with law, with political matters. It’s the section that calls us to awareness of the poor and care for the poor; helping them to improve their economic situations, helping them to be lifted up. This first of all requires justice but also charity.

The Seventh Commandment absolutely forbids the taking of persons, the enslavement of persons for commercial reasons or for totalitarian reasons. Human slavery of any sort is, of course, against this Commandment.
The Church cares about the social and economic fundamental rights of the person as much as it cares about the salvation of souls. Everyone should have that common good in mind. “Love one another” as Jesus has taught us.
The Seventh Commandment also includes a proper love for creation. A few years ago, Pope Francis wrote the document about this and calls us to be truly careful and mindful of how we affect the world around us; how we together need to respect what is necessary for life on this planet and in that document he calls us also to change our behaviors where we may become aware that they are excessive or destructive in

some way.
This Commandment also talks about work. Work can be redemptive. It’s a necessary part of human life and it allows us to participate truly in the sense of the work of creation – God’s work of creation. For this, I often suggest to people that they make a prayer of intention in the morning; we often call it the morning offering. Set your day unto the work and the glory of the Lord. Bring His good into this world.
Giving alms to the poor is a witness of fraternal charity and one woven all through the teachings of Jesus. In this Commandment, let us become aware all the more where that fits in our lives and remember the words of Jesus and the Last Judgment: “What you did not do for others, you did not do for me. What you did for others, you did for me.”
Come, let us reflect, love and serve. God bless you. ■

Pittsburgh Protopresbytery Penitential Vespers The Sundays of the Great Fast 2024 SCHEDULE OF SERVICES AT 4 P.M.

SUNDAY, MARCH 3
SS. Peter and Paul Church
431 George St., Braddock, Pa.
Deacon: Sean Petrisko
Homilist: Father Michael Kunitz
Confessor: Father Vasyl Polyak

SUNDAY, MARCH 10
St. John Chrysostom Church
506 Saline St., Pittsburgh, Pa.
Deacon: Sean Petrisko
Homilist: Father David Abernethy
Confessor: Very Rev. Andrew Deskevich

SUNDAY, MARCH 17
St. John the Baptist Church
105 Kohler Ave., Lyndora, Pa.
Deacon: Paul Simko
Homilist: Father Frank Firko
Confessor: Father Vitalii Stashkevych

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

REPORT FROM THE OFFICE OF SAFE ENVIRONMENT

Promise to protect



By Sister Joanne Lickvar, OSBM
Safe Environment Coordinator

Happy New Year!
Now that we are in 2024, anyone who had a background clearance in 2019 or earlier, will need to renew their clearance to continue to be a catechist, volunteer or employee of the Archeparchy.
The Mandate of the Archeparchy is that all of you need to renew background clearances every five (5) years.
Forms for renewal can be found on the Archeparchy website at www.archpitt.org.
If you have questions or do not have access to the internet, you can call the Safe Environment Coordinator, Sister Joanne, at 724-438-8644. Forms can be sent to you by mail.
You will need to contact Sister Joanne for a code to cover the cost of the History Certification. ■

1924 CENTENNIAL 2024

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

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

Bishop Basil Takach Episcopal Ordination,
Pentecost Sunday, June 15, 1924,
St. Athanasius Church, Rome, Italy

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

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



**Most Reverend
Basil Takach, D.D.
First Byzantine-Ruthenian
Bishop in the United States**





ST. ELIAS IN MUNHALL, PA.

Go fish!

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

First fish fry of the season was off to a roaring start! 11:30 to 6 every Friday during Lent (except Good Friday). Join us every week for fish (baked or fried), shrimp, pirohi, haluska, csoroge, and great baked goods! Try out our raffles, too! ■



HOLY SPIRIT IN OAKLAND (PITTSBURGH), PA.

Phillipian Fast donation

By Mary Dzurichko
Holy Spirit, Oakland (Pittsburgh), Pa.

Holy Spirit parishioners donated generously to our Phillipian Fast collection for the needy and the check was presented Feb. 4 at St. Catherine Church of St. Teresa of Kolkata Parish in Beechview, Pa., to be used in their Teresa's

Outreach Ministry.
Pictured below are Father James Bachner, pastor of the parish, Patty Schwerin and Debbie Brust, directors of Teresa's Outreach and Teresa's Table, and Mary Dzurichko, of Holy Spirit Parish. ■



Holy Spirit Church held a Fasiangy party Feb. 4, with a delicious potluck dinner made and enjoyed by our parishioners and friends! ■



On Feb. 19, Holy Spirit hosted the first of the Penitential Vespers followed by a meager meal with a large variety of meatless soups and breads. A basket raffle was held, too, adding to the joyful spiritual and social gathering of faithful from around the Archeparchy. ■

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST CATHEDRAL IN MUNHALL, PA.

Dinner is served

Kicking off this year's take-out dinners fund raising by the Cathedral Kitchen Crew, St. John the Baptist Cathedral in Munhall, Pa. hosted a Breaded Pork Chop Dinner Feb. 11 and 12 under the direction of Very Rev. Andrew Deskevich.

Along with a Goodies Bake Sale, the dinner was quite successful, giving Mom a well-deserved break from kitchen duties. ■



SS. PETER AND PAUL IN BRADDOCK, PA.

Fašiangy celebration

By Arleen Jama
SS. Peter and Paul, Braddock, Pa.

SS. Peter & Paul in Braddock, Pa. celebrated its annual Fašiangy on Sunday, Feb. 11 in anticipation of the upcoming Great Fast (Lent). The hallmarks of the event, the enticing aroma of haluski and kielbasa, created a joyous atmosphere, setting the stage for the Great Fast (Lenten) season.

As the parish prepared for a season of reflection and sacrifice, the Fašiangy celebration provided a communal space for fellowship and warmth. This year, SS. Peter

and Paul introduced the "Give Up and Donate" Great Fast (Lent) Project, encouraging parishioners to embrace personal sacrifice and extend generosity to those in need. Aligned with the essence of the season, the initiative emphasizes both personal reflection and acts of kindness.

The Fašiangy celebration, with its vibrant traditions and the launch of the Great Fast (Lent) Project, exemplifies SS. Peter and Paul's commitment to community, compassion, and selfless giving during this sacred time. ■



ST. MARY IN MONESSEN, PA.

Annual Christmas dinner

By Ruth Hanchin
St. Mary, Monessen, Pa.

Contending with the winter weather, the Ladies of St. Mary in Monessen, Pa. and Clergy were able to get together for their annual Christmas Dinner at Rodney's in Irwin, Pa. on Sunday, Jan. 7.

Father Stephen Wahal, Spiritual Director for the Guild, gave the Invocation before everyone enjoyed their meals.

Following dinner, President Margaret Krolik presented Father Stephen, Deacon John Hanchin, Secretary Ruth Hanchin and Treasurer Alvera Zolock with Christmas cards and gifts. Alvera in turn presented Margaret with a Christmas card and gift. Margaret also presented everyone in attendance with a small Nativity.

On the back of the Nativity, the following poem read: "God kept his promise to us all. Our Savior was born in a manger stall. He came as a baby so sweet and small. Thank you Jesus for saving me..."

You're the best gift of all!"

Deacon John gave everyone a medal of a variety of saints. In the spirit of the joy of the Christmas-Epiphany season, he shared some joyful messages. One such message depicted a manger scene with the child Jesus and the Holy Family on that first Christmas. The caption for this first Christmas scene read: "Each of us is an inn-keeper who decides if there is room for Jesus." So each one of us has to decide whether we will live our lives according to the humble teaching of our Lord.

Plans are in the making for a Lenten Day of Prayer to be held at the House of Prayer at Mount St. Macrina in Uniontown, Pa. The details will be given at a later date. Door prizes for the afternoon were won by Deb Holman, Ruth Hanchin, Mary Ann Sivak, Joyce Seman, Margaret Krolik, Deacon John Hanchin and Alvera Zolock.

The Ladies Guild will be on Winter break until March. ■

SS. PETER AND PAUL IN DUQUESNE, PA.

Spiritual Life Series

By Father David Abernethy
SS. Peter and Paul, Duquesne, Pa.

Feb. 4 was the first of the monthly SS. Peter and Paul Spiritual Life Series. What a joy! We had a beautiful Divine Liturgy and the pleasure of having three seminarians join us. People came from near and far to participate in this mini-retreat.

A savory brunch prepared by Ren Witter was delicious and a good boost of energy for a lively discussion of The Prayer of St. Ephrem as seen through the

reflections of the great writer Olivier Clement. Thank you to all who came today and I look forward to many more gatherings in the future.

A podcast of the talk will be posted for those who couldn't make it.

Also, coming soon! The opening of St. Moses Kitchen serving soup and sandwiches to the local community on the first Saturday of each month (see Page 2). Let us know if you would like to volunteer in any way or support the effort. ■



ASCENSION OF OUR LORD IN CLAIRTON, PA.

Sunday of Theophany

On the Sunday of Theophany, Monsignor Lawrence Dominik and Father Ivan Mina concelebrated Liturgy at Ascension of Our Lord Church in Clairton, Pa. William Kerr assisted as altar server. ■



Happy birthday, Father Ivan!

A birthday celebration for Father Ivan Mina was held Sunday, Feb. 4 following Liturgy at Ascension of Our Lord Church in Clairton, Pa. ■



SS. CYRIL AND METHODIUS IN GIRARD, PA.

Pro-Life Breakfast

By Victor and Sandra Wheeler
SS. Cyril and Methodius, Girard, Pa.

The 46th annual Pro-Life Breakfast took place Jan. 13. at the Erie Bayfront Convention Center, in Erie, Pa.,

While breakfast was being served, opening remarks were made by Joseph Preston, seminarian at St. Marks in Erie and President of Students for Life at Gannon University.

Next to speak was Clare Caulfield, Freshman, at Gannon University and 2024 National Right to Life Oratory Contest Winner. She gave her winning speech which was on how abortion clinics need to close.

U.S. Representative Mike Kelly, a solid pro-life congressman, spoke briefly on his continual support for pro-life issues from his congressional seat.

This year the guest speaker, Sherif Girgis, associate law professor at Notre Dame, spoke about how the law supports the pro-life argument.

According to Tim Broderick, President of Erie's People For Life, said 565 people reserved seats to attend the cold and blustering day.

Father John Mihalko and SS. Cyril and Methodius Byzantine Catholic Church, of Girard Pa., sponsored a table in support of Pro-Life! ■



ST. ELIAS IN MUNHALL, PA.

Feast of the Encounter

Father Vitalii Stashkevych blessed candles on the Feast of the Encounter at St. Elias Church in Munhall. Parishioners were then

encouraged to take them home to illuminate their paths with the light of Christ. ■





ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST IN UNIONTOWN, PA.

“Souper Bowl of Caring”

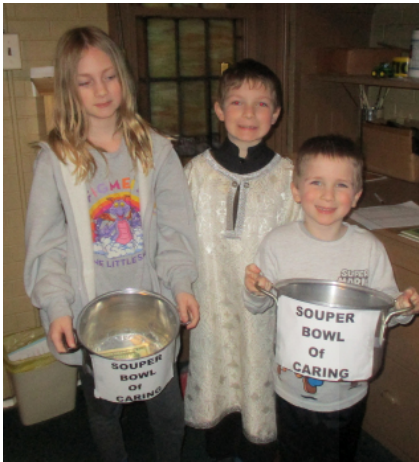
By Bonnie Balas and Julia Pillar
St. John the Baptist, Uniontown, Pa.

In preparation for the Great Fast, the students of St. John’s ECF classes made small versions of a diptych (two-sided) icon. These icons will then be blessed by Father Jim Fraser on the First Sunday of the Great Fast, which commemorates the restoration of icons into the churches.

On the weekend of the Super Bowl, ECF students collected monetary donations for the “Souper Bowl of Caring.” Through



the generosity of the St. John parishioners, \$700 was collected and will be given to the local Community Action Association, which houses the Fayette County Food Bank. ■



Fašiangy dinner

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

It has become a popular tradition at St. John the Baptist to begin the Great Fast with a Fasiangy dinner on Cheesefare Sunday. Parishioners eagerly await this covered-dish meal and the fellowship with one another.

In addition, February birthdays were recognized. After the Fasiangy, Forgiveness Vespers were celebrated by Father Jim Fraser. ■



Blessing of Candles

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

For the Feast of the Presentation of Our Lord in the Temple, Father Jim Fraser gave an inspiring homily and blessed candles, which

parishioners were able to take for their homes. The beautiful sunset that evening was also a reminder that Jesus Christ is the light of the world. ■



Cheesefare Saturday

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

On Cheesefare Saturday, Deacon Kyprian Wojciechowski concelebrated the Divine Liturgy with Father Jim Fraser. His motivational homily on prayer, fasting, and almsgiving helped put the parishioners in the proper mindset for the upcoming Great Fast. ■





ST. GREGORY IN UPPER ST. CLAIR, PA.

Honoring our Patron Saint

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

The weekend of Jan. 20 to 21 was special for our parish family as we honored our patron saint, Gregory of Nazianzus. Every year at the conclusion of the month of January prayers of thanksgiving are offered as we celebrate our patronal feast day. This year the bitter cold did not stop us as we witnessed the placing of a new copper time capsule inside the entrance wall of our holy church.

Memorable items from the 50th anniversary of St. Gregory and our 2023 parish directory were placed inside the time capsule.

Following a special prayer and hymn of thanksgiving, the time capsule was sealed behind the outdoor plaque commemorating the church anniversary.



Afterward, we continued in our church hall with a potluck luncheon during which we honored the sponsors of our iconography project. We thank everyone for participating in this happy event as we honored our patron saint Gregory of Nazianzus. ■



Evening of laughter

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

On Friday, Feb. 9, our Church Hall started filling up for this year's 14th annual St. Gregory's Comedy Night. As a parish community we always look forward to this pre-Lenten event that welcomes many guests from the South Hills of Pittsburgh.

Once again, this was a great success as we enjoyed the evening

with comedians David Kaye, Brittany Alexis, and Phil Hughes.

A big "thank you" to our faithful who worked very hard preparing this fundraiser event, selling the tickets, preparing and serving food, 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 all for many years! ■



THOUGHTS FOR OUR DAY

By Archpriest David M. Petras



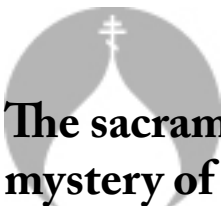
THE ANOINTING OF THE SICK IN COMMUNITY



A final point about the sacramental mystery of holy oil is the general anointing of the faithful on Holy Thursday, as a preparation for Pascha. This causes some difficulties for the Western understanding of anointing, which sometimes insists that an actual illness must be present for anointing to be given. In the Middle Ages, centuries ago, since the anointing was a penitential rite, and since people often delayed it until the moment of death, the anointing of the sick became known as "extreme unction," the "last rites," given at the point of death. The Councils of Florence and Trent restricted it to sick people for whom the fear of death was present. Today, the Roman Catholic Church encourages the reception of anointing in all serious sicknesses, and not to wait until the point of death, but still may feel uneasy with the Byzantine practice of anointing everyone on Holy Thursday. It is, in fact, not a natural development of the sacramental mystery, but may be an extension of the historical practice of anointing the whole household present for an anointing. Even the caregivers to those who were sick were anointed. We all struggle against sickness, if not physically, then at least spiritually. This development was logical from the texts of the prayers themselves.

In 1118, in a Typicon of the monastery of nuns of St. Mary Full of Grace (founded by the Empress Irene), an anointing

for the whole community was prescribed for Lazarus Saturday. In different monasteries, this anointing was given on various days of Holy Week, but finally settled on Holy Thursday (the day the Oil of the Sick is blessed in the Roman Rite). It was most widespread in Greece, but spread also to other Byzantine countries.


The sacramental mystery of anointing, then, is for the forgiveness of sins.

In Russia, the anointing was given with the full rite, but with the formula given above, "The blessing of our Lord and God and Savior..." Demetrius of Rostov, commenting on James 5:14, said that the sacred text could be extended to all the sicknesses of the soul.

The Western restriction of Anointing to the seriously sick led to some conflicts between East and West. In the 18th century, Pope Benedict XIV published an edition of Byzantine liturgical books which were quite faithful to their tradition. It was recommended to him "the error of the Greeks" (anointing those not seriously ill) be amended in the text itself, but he did not

do this, instead only putting a warning against anointing those who were not ill in the preface to the Euchologion. The Ruthenian Church dropped the practice of the Holy Thursday anointing since the time of the Synod of Zamość (1720), though it has been restored recently in most places. The Melkites though, kept the practice of Holy Thursday anointing, but with the formula, "The servant of God (name) is anointed for the forgiveness of sins and for life everlasting," and in 1930 the Holy See permitted the use of this rite for Russian Catholics.

There were offices of anointing, very rare, that were exclusively for the forgiveness of sins. There are parallels in other rites: for example, the Church of the East (East Syrian) reconciles heretics with an anointing on the forehead, the Copts anoint apostates and adulterers with water mixed with oil. In the Byzantine Church, baptized apostates, as well as certain classes of heretics and schismatics, are received back with chrismation. The Roman Church numbers anointing among the sacraments of repentance, but does not mention the forgiveness of sins, which is so prominent in the Byzantine Church.

The sacramental mystery of anointing then, is for the forgiveness of sins. The provision for the sacrament of Penance was to protect the law of the Church that all mortal sins need to be confessed. Unfortunately, sometimes people do see anointing as a way to avoid this confession, but it does not dispense us from this obligation. We might come

then to a simple conclusion. The Rite of Holy Oil for the Anointing of the Sick is sometimes given to the whole community, usually in Holy Week, but also on other occasions as a preparation for a feast or a pilgrimage. It is a sacramental mystery given to us by Christ for our battle against the weakness of the human body. Every sacramental mystery gives God's grace, in the presence of which sin cannot remain, it is cast out. There is a connection with our souls, as St. Paul points out in the Holy Thursday Epistle, "For anyone who eats and drinks without discerning the body, eats and drinks judgment on himself. That is why many among you are ill and infirm, and a considerable number are dying. If we discerned ourselves, we would not be under judgment; but since we are judged by the Lord, we are being disciplined so that we may not be condemned along with the world" (1 Corinthians 11:29-32). We are anointed on Holy Thursday (anticipated usually on Holy Wednesday) in order to struggle against this lack of discernment, of failing to see the image of God in our neighbor. We all are struggling for discernment. We all, like the Publican, must admit our sinfulness. The reality is that this is in the mortality of our bodies also. All of us, young and old, strong and weak, healthy or infirm, have in our bodies at least the beginnings of our eventual mortality. That is why we can all accept anointing, not as a matter of course, but at least at those times when the Church opens to us an invitation to accept it. ■

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

Building a congregation for generations

BYZANTINE CATHOLIC MISSION IN FORT MILL, S.C. GROWING WITH HELP OF HOLY SPIRIT

By *Andréa Kakuk*
Fort Mill Byzantine Catholic Mission
Charlotte, N.C. Metro area

What does a Roman Catholic school, a Byzantine Rite Ukrainian priest, a few ex-Mormons and a group of devout Byzantines have in common? Not much unless you are talking about the Byzantine Catholic Mission of Fort Mill, S.C. (Charlotte Metro area).

The Holy Spirit is alive and well in this growing urban center.

Fort Mill, 25 minutes from downtown Charlotte, is one of only three Byzantine communities in the Carolinas. It was formed in 2016 by Ron Somich, alumnus of St. Steven's Byzantine school in Cleveland, Ohio with encouragement from Father John Giuliani of All Saints Catholic Church of Lake Wylie, S.C.

A portable iconostasis, wooden altar and an industrial-sized HP laser printer adorn the worship held in a classroom at the St. Philip Neri Ministry Center. The unorthodox background disappears among the beauty of the liturgy and warmth of this close-knit community.

It takes devotion and dedication to start a mission but an eager populace to keep it going. Among the faithful are Mark and Rebecca LeRoy. Former Mormons in their 20s, Mark and Rebecca decided that lifestyle wasn't for them. Mark was always interested in Eastern theology but hadn't access to it until stumbling across CarolinaByzantine.com. These newlyweds decided to take a chance and found a home at the mission. Mark wanted to add something to the beautiful worship and soon the mission had its second cantor. Fast forward to 2023 and Mark is a second-year seminarian candidate at St. Cyril and Methodious Seminary in Pittsburgh, Pa. He calls cantoring "the gateway to the seminary."

Cantoring is certainly a gateway to understanding. Leading the congregation in Prostopinije chant is an honor. Singing develops a deeper connection to liturgy. That is one reason Nick Peleponuk, a fellow cantor and Roman Catholic convert, attends every Saturday.

Fort Mill is a welcoming mission for all ages and walks of life. Retirees of Byzantine communities in Ohio, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and New York have not only found warmer weather in the south

but a rejuvenation of Ruthenian customs they grew up with 50-plus years ago. The mission's mission is simple: to engage new visitors, parishioners, Catholics (established and new) who will carry on the [Byzantine] faith with vigor.

Holden Marks is a new member who, like the LeRoy's, found a home at Fort Mill.

"I was raised Pentecostal and went through several religious phases. After visiting the mission, I ultimately decided Byzantine Catholicism was for me. My fellow parishioners are my family. We are happy to see each other, pray during tough times and enjoy the happy moments together."

The mission's monthly potluck dinners have made an impact on Holden so far as to perfect Eastern cultural staples such as Borscht, a beet soup of Ukraine. This year, he is giving paska a try for the Pascha Blessing of Baskets. The future of the mission holds the hope of more parishioners, a resident priest and a physical building. Celebrant, Father Vasyl Sokolovych makes a weekly four-hour drive from Cary, N.C. to be with this welcoming and devout community. The mission has been granted permission to purchase its own property, but a timeline has not been established. Until that time, Fort Mill continues to keep faith and attract newcomers, slowly but surely.

Byzantine Catholicism is not an intellectual exercise. It is one of mystery and faith discovered by so many in the Carolinas. We welcome you to worship with us and see a congregation for generations to come. ■

Fast Facts

- 50 percent of congregation under 30 years of age
- Celebrating weekly liturgy for 6 years
- Married priest draws on family experiences
- Mission produced 1st seminarian candidate in 2022
- Monthly potlucks with ethnic food
- Deacon celebrates Typika as needed
- 25 minutes from downtown Charlotte
- Divine Liturgy celebrated Saturdays
 - o St. Philip Neri Ministry Center
 - o 292 Munn Road, Fort Mill, SC 29715

Visit us at Carolinabyzantine.com or come see us in person!



Divine Liturgy at St. Philip Ministry Center (2018)



St. Nicholas visits the Fort Mill mission Parishioners set up for Pascha Blessing of Baskets (2023)



Father Deacon Ron Volek, former celebrant; Father Steven Galuschik; and current celebrant, Father Vasyl Sokolovych with First Communion recipients (2021)

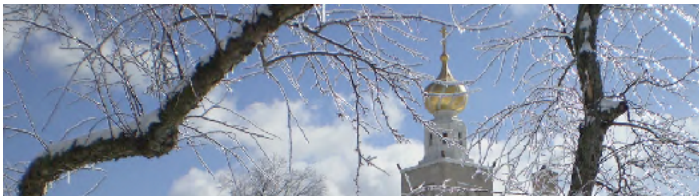


Monthly potluck (2020)



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. For more information about the Seminary, go to www.bcs.edu.

Schedule of Services for March

Check bcs.edu for any last-minute changes to this schedule.

FRI	1	5 p.m. Presanctified Divine Liturgy
SAT	2	9 a.m. Divine Liturgy with Panichida 5 p.m. Great Vespers with Litija
MON	4	8 a.m. Sixth Hour
TUE	5	7 a.m. Matins
WED	6	5 p.m. Presanctified Divine Liturgy [LS]
THU	7	8 a.m. Parastas for the Depated
FRI	8	5 p.m. Presanctified Divine Liturgy
SAT	9	5 p.m. Great Vespers with Litija
SUN	10	7 a.m. Matins
MON	11	8 a.m. Sixth Hour
TUE	12	7 a.m. Matins
WED	13	5 p.m. Matins with Great Canon
THU	14	5 p.m. Presanctified Divine Liturgy
MON	18	8 a.m. Sixth Hour
TUE	19	7 a.m. Moleben for Those in Illness
WED	20	5 p.m. Presanctified Divine Liturgy
THU	21	8 a.m. Midday Office
FRI	22	5 p.m. -- Presanctified Divine Liturgy
SAT	23	9 a.m. Festal Matins and Divine Liturgy 5 p.m. Great Vespers with Litija
SUN	24	8 a.m. Festal Matins with Procession, Divine Liturgy
MON	25	8 a.m. Festal Matins 4 p.m. Vespers and Divine Liturgy
TUE	26	8 a.m. Bridegroom Matins [LS] 5 p.m. Presanctified Divine Liturgy
WED	27	5 p.m. Presanctified Divine Liturgy with Anointing
FRI	29	8 a.m. Matins with 12 Gospels Noon Office of Readings 5 p.m. Entombment Vespers
SAT	30	9 a.m. Jerusalem Matins

[LS] Livestream

AROUND THE
ARCHEPARCHY



ST. ELIAS FISH FRIES — Great food will be available at St. Elias, 4200 Homestead-Duquesne Road, Munhall, Pa. every Friday during the Fast (except Great Friday) beginning Feb. 16 from 11:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. For pre-orders, call 412 461-9271 between 10 a.m.-noon. Credit/debit cards accepted! Full menu will be available soon! Always check our Facebook page for updates!

HOLY GHOST PIROHI — Holy Ghost School Kitchen 206 Helen Street, McKees Rocks (The Bottoms), Pa. Voted “Best in the ’Burgh” two years in a row at Kennywood. Great Fast sales: Feb. 16 and 23; March 1, 8, 15 and 22. No sales on Good Friday. Must pre-order on Wednesday prior to the Friday sale date. Call 412-331-5155 between 9 a.m.-noon.

ST. PIUS X PYOHY AND HALUSKA SALE — Noon-4 p.m. Fridays during Lent, St. Pius X, 2336 Brownsville Road, Carrick, Pa. Varieties include potato/cheese, cottage cheese, sauerkraut, lekvar, sweet cabbage, and potato sauerkraut. Pre-order at 412-881-8344. Leave message with name, phone number, amount wanted, whether or not you wants onions on your pyohy, and time of pick-up.

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

SPIRITUAL LIFE SERIES — Sunday, March 10, SS. Peter and Paul, 701 Foster Ave., Duquesne, Pa. “The Capital Sins: Nature, Manifestation & Remedy.” Divine Liturgy at 9 a.m., Brunch and Talk immediately following. RSVP via email by March 8 at philokaliaministires@gmail.com. Sponsored by Philokalia Ministries.

17th EGG EGGSTRAVAGANZA — Noon-4 p.m. Sunday, March 17, St. John the Baptist Byzantine Catholic Church Social Hall 201 E. Main Street Uniontown, Pa. Sponsored by St. John Parish GCU Lodge, local egg artists, and the St. John’s Ethnic Craft Club. Egg artists will demonstrate, display and sell eggs; Marketplace with pysanky supplies, Easter items and crafts, and basket covers; Children’s activities include storytelling and making Easter eggs; display of Easter basket covers; Lenten lunch menu available for purchase; hands-on workshop on making pysanky; extensive bake sale table. No charge for admission and handicapped accessible. For more information, call the church office 724- 438-1382 (Leave message). <http://www.stjohnbaptistbyzcath-uniontown.org/> for updates.

PHILOKALIA MINISTRIES AND FATHER DAVID ABERNETHY ON ZOOM — 7:30 p.m. Wednesdays on Zoom, “The Ladder of Divine Ascent” by Saint John Climacus. philokalia.link/climacus_signup. 7:30 p.m. Mondays on Zoom, “The Evergetinos” compiled by St. Makarios of Corinth. A window into the lives of men and women who, during the first few centuries of Christianity, attained to the highest ideals of the spiritual life. philokalia.link/evergetinos_signup.

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.

DATES TO REMEMBER



MARCH 3
Third Sunday of the Great Fast
Veneration of the Holy Cross

MARCH 9 and 16
Pre-Cana 2024
Byzantine Catholic Seminary of SS. Cyril and Methodius
Pittsburgh, Pa.

MARCH 10
Daylight Savings Time begins
Turn clocks forward one hour at 2 a.m.

MARCH 19
First day of Spring

MARCH 24
Palm Sunday — Entrance of our Lord into Jerusalem

MARCH 25 to 30
Holy Week
Chancery closed March 28 and 29

MARCH 29
Great and Holy Friday

MARCH 31
Pascha —The Glorious Feast of the Resurrection of Our Lord

APRIL 1
Bright Monday
Chancery closed

See more upcoming events at www.archpitt.org



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**SUBMISSIONS
DEADLINE:**
MARCH 19