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Pilgrimage 2025

BISHOPS, FAITHFUL TRAVEL TO ITALY TO CELEBRATE THE JUBILEE YEAR OF HOPE



Archbishop William C. Skurla, Bishop Kurt R. Burnette, Bishop Robert M. Pipta, and faithful of the Byzantine Ruthenian Metropolitan Church of Pittsburgh traveled to Italy for a Pilgrimage from May 5 to 15 to celebrate the Jubilee Year of Hope. Among the cities visited were Venice, Padua, Ravenna, Florence, Assisi, and Rome. Above, pilgrims are pictured in St. Peter's Square in Vatican City.

Eastern, Western traditions come together

COUNCIL OF HIERARCHS ATTEND USCCB GENERAL SPRING ASSEMBLY IN SAN DIEGO, CALIF.

By The Byzantine Catholic Archeparchy of Pittsburgh

Archbishop Metropolitan William C. Skurla and members of the Byzantine Catholic Council of Hierarchs — Most Rev. Bishop Kurt Burnette, Byzantine Catholic Eparchy of Passaic; Most Rev. Bishop Robert M. Pipta, Byzantine Catholic Eparchy of Parma and Most Rev. Bishop Artur Bubnevych, The Holy Protection of Mary Byzantine Catholic Eparchy of Phoenix — attended the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) General Spring Assembly in San Diego,

Calif. the week of June 16.

This important gathering brings together bishops from across the Catholic Church in the United States — including both Latin and Eastern Catholic Churches — for days of prayer, fraternity, and pastoral discussion.

During the assembly, bishops address important issues affecting the Church and society, including evangelization, liturgy, catechesis, pro-life efforts, religious liberty, and outreach to those in need.

The presence of our Byzantine Catholic bishops reflects the unity and diversity of the Catholic Church, as Eastern and Western traditions come together to

collaborate in guiding the faithful and witnessing to the Gospel.

Please remember all our bishops in your prayers as they seek the wisdom of the Holy Spirit. ■

PICTURED AT RIGHT: Most Rev. Bishop Artur Bubnevych, The Holy Protection of Mary Byzantine Catholic Eparchy of Phoenix; Most Rev. Bishop Robert M. Pipta, Byzantine Catholic Eparchy of Parma; Archbishop Metropolitan William C. Skurla; and Most Rev. Bishop Kurt Burnette, Byzantine Catholic Eparchy of Passaic.





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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.

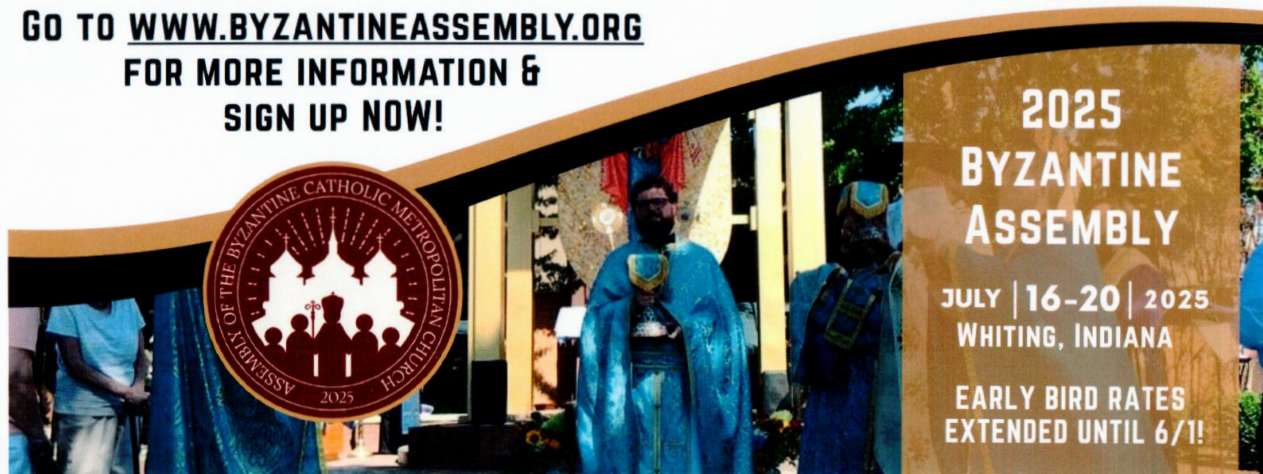
We have a new Pope!

AND THE VATICAN WANTS TO HEAR FROM YOU!

Caring for the Eastern Catholic Churches was actually one of the TOP QUESTIONS raised by bishops worldwide during the Vatican Synod on Synodality.

Seize this historic and unprecedented opportunity to bear witness and make your voice heard before the representatives of our new Holy Father, Pope Leo XIV himself

GO TO WWW.BYZANTINEASSEMBLY.ORG
FOR MORE INFORMATION &
SIGN UP NOW!



Mental Health Awareness Workshop for Pastors, Deacons, Catechists & Interested Adults

The Byzantine Catholic Archeparchy of Pittsburgh's Office of Religious Education will sponsor a Mental Health Awareness Workshop for pastors, deacons, catechists and interested adults 9:30 a.m.-2 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 2 at The Byzantine Catholic Seminary of SS. Cyril and Methodius, 3605 Perrysville Ave., Pittsburgh, Pa.

Purpose

Recent data has shown a substantial spike in mental health challenges among young people. This workshop will acquaint you with issues, resources and the role of the Church in the treatment of our mentally ill brothers and sisters.

PRESENTERS

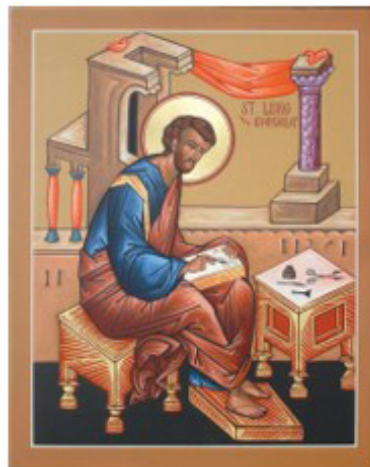
Stephanie Winkeljohn-Black, Ph.D

Stephanie is an Associate Professor of Psychology at Penn State Harrisburg, PA.

She holds memberships in psychological associations and contributed to several publications related to religious behaviors and beliefs regarding mental health. Stephanie is passionate about helping therapists in training to develop religious and spiritual competencies with their clients.

Jen Housel, MA

Jen is Executive Director of the International Association of Catholic Mental Health Ministers. Jen holds a BA in Psychology and an MA in Theology. Throughout her personal and professional life, she has pursued roles in which she could blend her education and experience to



"At sunset, all who had people sick with various diseases brought them to Him" (Luke 4:40)

benefit others.

Jen is also a certified Gallup Clifton Strengths Coach, Mental Health First Aid Trainer, and a certified Psychological First Aid Trainer. ■

Overnight Accomodations

Fairfield Inn & Suites by Marriott
Pittsburgh/North
McCandless Crossing
901 Providence Blvd.
Pittsburgh, PA 15237
412-227-9600

Agenda

- 9:30 a.m, Registration/Coffee
- 10 a.m. Welcome & Opening Prayer
- 10:10 a.m. Help for the Helpers
Stephanie Winkeljohn-Black
- 11 a.m. Break
- 11:15 AM Mental Health Ministry
Jen Housel
- Noon Lunch
- 1 p.m. Resources for Mental Health Ministry
Jen Housel
- 2 p.m. Group Process & Evaluation
- 2:30 p.m. Departure

Kearns Spirituality Center
Providence Heights
9000 Babcock Blvd.
Allison Park, PA 15101
412-931-5241
(Campus of La Roche University)

Martina Spiritual Renewal Center
5244 Clarwin Ave.
Pittsburgh, PA 15229
412-931-9766

REGISTRATION FORM

Mental Health Awareness Workshop

Saturday, August 2, 2025

SS. Cyril and Methodius Seminary, Pittsburgh, PA.

Name _____
Phone _____ Email _____

DEADLINE FOR REGISTRATION: July 28, 2025

Fee: \$45.00 per person (includes lunch, no refunds)

List any dietary restrictions.

For information, call 412-322-8773 or email mdobos1@gmail.com

Please make check payable to: Office of Religious Education,
3605 Perrysville Ave., Pittsburgh, PA 15214

“Do Whatever He Tells You” (Jn. 2:11)

20TH ANNUAL WOMEN’S DAY OF REFLECTION HELD
AT LAROCHE UNIVERSITY

By The Office of Religious Education

Most Christians are familiar with the first miracle of Jesus at the Wedding Feast of Cana. The dialogue between mother and son continues to baffle spiritual writers as we try to break open the conversation, specific directions and definitely, non-verbal communication.

Women came together to reflect on this Gospel passage on Saturday, May 17 during the the 20th annual Women’s Day of Reflection at Kearns Spirituality Center on the campus of LaRoche University in Allison Park, Pa.

Rev. Liddy Barlow, Executive Minister of Christian Associates of Southwest PA, guided the group by addressing three themes, “Noticing,” “The Exchange,” and “Following Directions.” The miracle of the wine was great, but greater still is the miracle of Mary’s persistence. Rev. Liddy’s reflection helped the attendees gain greater insight into the depth of a mother’s heart and who Mary must be in God’s eyes if she has such persuasiveness.

The afternoon included two presentations. Father Thomas Bailey, OSB, a member of the Benedictine Marmion Abbey in Aurora, Ill. and Director of Human Formation at the Byzantine Catholic Seminary of SS. Cyril and Methodius, and Amanda Singel. Amanda is the Business Manager for God With Us Publications and Assistant to the Office of Religious Education.

The title of Father Bailey’s talk was, “From Empty Jars to Overflowing Grace.” He



Father Thomas Bailey, OSB, Director of Human Formation, Byzantine Catholic Seminary of SS. Cyril and Methodius, Pittsburgh., Pa.

reminded the participants that we are “empty jars” overflowing with grace in our loving interactions with others. Using examples from the lives of holy women we can see them as models and enjoy the benefits of their experiences during their time here on earth.

Among the many examples shared, Father Bailey acquainted the group with the story of St. Benedict and his twin sister, St. Scholastica which is one more example of “persuasiveness” and how God works in our lives. If you are not familiar with this story, check it out.

We know wine is mentioned several times in the Bible. So is cheese. (Job 10:10, 1 Sam. 17:18, and 2 Sam. 17:29.) The day ended with an experience to “Taste and See That the Lord is Good.” Thank you to Amanda Singel for preparing a delightful activity on pairing wine and cheese.

This program could not have been accomplished without the help of a loving and supportive committee, the intercession of Mary and all the holy women who remind us, the spiritual does not go against having a good time! ■



Rev. Liddy Barlow. Executive Minister of Christian Associates of Southwest PA.

REFLECTION FROM MOUNT ST. MACRINA

Do you know who your patron saint is?



This is a transcript of her June 14, 2025 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!

My friends, do you know who your patron saint is? Do you know what your patron saint is famous for? Most of us have baptismal names that are attached to a saint who has lived in the past and has become, in a sense, “famous” in the Catholic Church, meaning they are honored for their virtues, honored for the message that his or her life gives to us, gives to the spirituality of Christianity.

Our saints are meant to be our helpers. Yes, we can turn to them for two things that come to mind. One of them, of course, is for them to pray for us. “Saint Bernadette, pray for us.” “Holy St. Martyr George, pray for us.” These are frequent prayers in the Catholic tradition.

Secondly, they also offer us example. They “model” for us ways to be faithful in walking the path of life in Christ.

That’s what we’re to be about; that’s what we’re baptized into - the life of Christ - and the journey of making that more and more visible, useful, modeling it in this world. Yes, we too are meant to become models, “saints,” if you will. And that’s what grace

is about in our lives.

That’s what the intercession and example of the saints also help us with.

So, when was the last time you called upon your patron saint? When was the last time you read his or her story and tried to get good example from this person’s virtuous life?

Many of them, like my patron saints Barbara and Thecla, were both early Christian martyrs. The message to me is: Be faithful to the end as all the martyrs were!

Saint Peter, ever the “questioner” of Jesus, even came out and said, “So, what do we get for it?” In today’s terms, that’s what it would sound like. “What do we get if we give our lives to You and for You?”

This is in the 19th Chapter of Matthew:

“Then Peter said to Jesus in reply, ‘We have given up everything and followed you. What will there be for us?’ Jesus said to them, ‘Amen, I say to you that you who have followed me, in this new age, when the Son of Man is seated on his throne of glory, will yourselves sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. And everyone who has given up houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or children or lands for the sake of my name will receive a hundred times more, and will inherit eternal life. But many who are first will be last and the last will be first.’”

Jesus’ words. Jesus’ promise. Jesus’ invitation!

God bless you. ■

St. Gregory Byzantine Catholic Church

Summer Flea Market

Saturday, August 2, 2025

8 AM - 12 NOON

“Leftover” Sale

Sunday, August 3

11 AM - 1 PM

St. Gregory’s annual summer Flea Market welcomes all to browse the aisles filled with useful and decorative items.

- Kitchen items
- Sports equipment
- Jewelry
- Purses
- Luggage
- Small furniture
- Household items
- Home decor
- Tools
- Holiday items
- Puzzles, Games & Toys
- Baby items and other treasures.



In addition to Cash, Credit/Debit Cards; Apple, Google & Samsung Pay will be accepted.

St. Gregory Church Hall
2005 Mohawk Road
Upper St. Clair, PA 15241
stgregoryusc.org

Benefits: Women of Faith Parish Programs



“An Evening of Music with Emma Fradd”

THE OFFICE OF YOUTH & YOUNG PEOPLE PRESENTS JUNE 21 CONCERT
AT ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST CATHEDRAL IN MUNHALL, PA.

*By The Byzantine Catholic
Archeparchy of Pittsburgh*

The Office of Youth & Young People presented “An Evening of Music with Emma Fradd” on Saturday, June 21 at St. John the Baptist Cathedral in Munhall, Pa.

Also performing was David Kruse.

Emma and David spearhead Enemy Love Records, a Catholic record label whose goal, according to its web site, is to “promote good, original music written by Catholics, to foster a culture of live music in Catholic communities and to provide support and evangelization for Catholic musicians.”

“Percussive guitar and fast fingerpicking are the backbone of Emma Fradd’s music,” the web site says.

Emma’s first album, “Search Party,” was released in 2009. She has released three more albums since then — including an album of ambient music — and toured Canada, New Zealand, and England following the release of a self-titled album with her band Interior Castle.

She also worked with her band Heaps Good Friends for five years in Australia and spearheaded an album of Psalms written by songwriters in the Brisbane Archdiocese.

Her most recent single is “Firing Range” and is touring this year across the Eastern United States and Canada.

Viktoria Zolnova is coordinator of The Office of Youth & Young People ■

*Posted June 25 on the Facebook
page of the Byzantine Catholic
Archeparchy of Pittsburgh:*

What a joy it was to have Emma Fradd & David Kruse Music with us!

We were very blessed to have Emma and David sing for us at St. John the Baptist Cathedral, Munhall, last Saturday, June 21, 2025.

Their voice, presence, testimony, and heart for music truly touched everyone who came.

Thank you, Emma and David, for sharing your gifts and your time with us. We hope it’s not the last time!

And thank you all who came!



Photos by Nick Havrilla Sr.

Full text: Pope Leo XIV homily for Pentecost

written by OSV News

The following is the full text of the homily given by Pope Leo XIV for Pentecost Mass in St. Peter's Square June 8.

Dear brothers and sisters,

“The day has dawned upon us when..., glorified by his ascension into heaven following his resurrection, the Lord Jesus Christ sent the Holy Spirit” (Saint Augustine, Serm. 271, 1). Today, too, what took place in the Upper Room takes place anew in our midst. Like a mighty wind that overtakes us, like a crash that startles us, like a fire that illuminates us, the gift of the Holy Spirit descends upon us (cf. Acts 2:1-11).

As we heard in the first reading, the Spirit accomplished something extraordinary in the lives of the Apostles. Following Jesus’ death, they had retreated behind closed doors, in fear and sadness. Now they receive a new way of seeing things, an interior understanding that helps them to interpret the events that occurred and to experience intimately the presence of the Risen Lord. The Holy Spirit overcomes their fear, shatters their inner chains, heals their wounds, anoints them with strength and grants them the courage to go out to all and to proclaim God’s mighty works.

The reading from the Acts of the Apostles tells us that in Jerusalem at that time there was a multitude of people from various backgrounds, yet “each one heard them speaking in his own native tongue” (v. 6). In a word, at Pentecost, the doors of the Upper Room were opened because the Spirit opens borders. As Benedict XVI explained: “The Holy Spirit bestows understanding. The Spirit overcomes the ‘breach’ that began in Babel, the confusion of mind and heart that sets us one against the other. The Spirit opens borders... The Church must always become anew what she already is. She must open the borders between peoples and break down the barriers between class and race. In her, there cannot be those who are neglected or disdained. In the Church there are only free men and women, brothers and sisters of Jesus Christ” (Homily for Pentecost, 15 May 2005).

Here we have an eloquent image of Pentecost, one that I would like to pause for a moment and reflect upon with you.

The Spirit opens borders, first of all, in our hearts. He is the Gift that opens our lives to love. His presence breaks down our hardness of heart, our narrowness of mind, our selfishness, the fears that enchain us and the narcissism that makes us think only of ourselves. The Holy Spirit comes to challenge us, to make us confront the possibility that our lives are shrivelling up, trapped in the vortex of individualism. Sadly, oddly enough, in a world of burgeoning “social” media, we risk being ever more alone. Constantly connected, yet incapable of “networking”. Always immersed in a crowd, yet confused and solitary travellers.

The Spirit of God allows us to find a new way of approaching and experiencing life. He puts us in touch with our inmost self, beneath all the masks we wear. He leads us to an encounter with the Lord by teaching us to experience the joy that is his gift. He convinces us, as we just heard in Jesus’ words, that only by abiding in love, will we receive the strength to remain faithful to his word and to let it transform us. The Spirit opens our interior borders, so that our lives can become places of welcome and refreshment.

The Spirit also opens borders in our relationship with others. Jesus tells us that this Gift is the love between him and the Father that comes to dwell within us. We then become capable of opening our hearts to our brothers and sisters, overcoming our rigidity, moving beyond our fear of those who are different, and mastering the passions that stir within. The Spirit also transforms those deeper, hidden dangers that disturb our relationships, like suspicion, prejudice or the desire to manipulate others. I think too, with great pain, of those cases where relationships are marked by an unhealthy desire for domination, an attitude that often leads to violence, as is shown, tragically, by numerous recent cases of femicide.

The Holy Spirit, on the other hand, brings to maturity within us the fruits that enable us to cultivate good and healthy relationships: “love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control” (Gal 5:22). In this way, the Spirit broadens the borders of our relationships and opens us to the joy of fraternity. This is also a critical yardstick for the Church. For we are truly the Church of the Risen Lord and disciples of Pentecost if there are no borders or divisions among us; if we are able to dialogue and accept one another in the Church, and to reconcile our diversities; and if, as Church,



Pope Leo XIV greets people as he rides in the popemobile before celebrating Pentecost Mass in St. Peter's Square at the Vatican June 8, 2025, concluding the Jubilee of Ecclesial Movements, Associations and New Communities. (CNS photo/Lola Gomez)

we become a welcoming and hospitable place for all.

Finally, the Spirit also opens borders between peoples. At Pentecost, the Apostles spoke the languages of those they met, and the confusion of Babel was finally resolved by the harmony brought about by the Spirit. Whenever God’s “breath” unites our hearts and makes us view others as our brothers and sisters, differences no longer become an occasion for division and conflict but rather a shared patrimony from which we can all draw, and which sets us all on journey together, in fraternity.

The Spirit breaks down barriers and tears down the walls of indifference and hatred because he “teaches us all things” and “reminds us of Jesus’ words” (cf. Jn 14:26). He teaches us, reminds us, and writes in our hearts before all else the commandment of love that the Lord has made the center and summit of everything. Where there is love, there is no room for prejudice, for “security” zones separating us from our neighbors, for the exclusionary mindset that, tragically, we now see emerging also in political nationalisms.

It was on the feast of Pentecost that Pope Francis observed: “In our world today, there is so much discord, such great division. We are all ‘connected’, yet find ourselves disconnected from one another, anesthetized by indifference and overwhelmed by solitude” (Homily, 28 May 2023). The wars plaguing our world are a tragic sign of this. Let us invoke the Spirit of love and peace, that he may open

borders, break down walls, dispel hatred and help us to live as children of our one Father who is in heaven.

Brothers and sisters, Pentecost renews the Church and the world! May the strong wind of the Spirit come upon us and within us, open the borders of our hearts, grant us the grace of encounter with God, enlarge the horizons of our love and sustain our efforts to build a world in which peace reigns.

May Mary Most Holy, Woman of Pentecost, Virgin visited by the Spirit, Mother full of grace, accompany us and intercede for us.

■



The Byzantine Catholic Archeparchy of Pittsburgh is on Facebook

Glory to Jesus Christ!

We are excited to announce that our Byzantine Catholic Archeparchy of Pittsburgh now has an official Facebook page! You can find us under “Archeparchy of Pittsburgh” or click here: <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61576670981137>

This will be a platform for us to stay connected and share important news and updates; we'll be posting about upcoming events and encouraging messages, as well as fostering and sharing the beauty of our Byzantine tradition and learning more about our archeparchy.

If your office or parish is having an event you would like to promote, please let us know so we can post it on FB! :) Reach out to Viktoria Zolnova (Youth and Young Adult Ministry Coordinator) via email: events@archpitt.org to share the details.

Don't forget to follow our Facebook page and help us spread the word among our faithful followers and friends! Your support means a lot to us. Thank you!



Helping Hands Day

VOLUNTEERS HELP PREPARE MOUNT ST. MACRINA IN UNIONTOWN, PA. FOR 91ST ANNUAL PILGRIMAGE

Posted June 8 on the Facebook page of the Sisters of St. Basil the Great:

“We appreciate the tireless efforts of our volunteers who joined us on Saturday for Helping Hands Day. Special thanks to Basil Wahal and the Greek Catholic Union for sponsoring this annual event.

Our volunteers commitment to preserving Mount St. Macrina's beauty is commendable, and we are grateful for their role in making it a beloved destination in Southwestern Pennsylvania. May God bless you!” ■



ST, JOHN THE BAPTIST CATHEDRAL IN MUNHALL, PA.

Honoring the Fallen

Very. Rev. Andrew Deskevich celebrated a Panachida Service at the cemetery of St. John the Baptist Cathedral on Memorial Day, May 26, remembering all military veterans.

Unexpectedly, a U.S. Air Force C-17 Cargo aircraft (below) had a timely flyover as the prayer service concluded. ■



Photos by Nick Havrilla Sr.



Honoring the Fallen

ST. MICHAEL IN CAMPBELL, OHIO

By Father Kevin Marks
St. Michael, Campbell, Ohio

The Blessing of Graves took place at our St. Michael Cemetery on Memorial Day, May 26. In blessed repose, grant O Lord,

to the souls of Your departed servants, +ALL those who died in the service of our country and +ALL those resting at our cemetery, and remember them forever, for Christ Is Risen! ■



ST. ELIAS IN MUNHALL, PA.

St. Elias in Munhall, Pa. proudly celebrated Memorial Day by cleaning up the church cemetery in West Mifflin, Pa. The Boy Scouts placed flags on the veterans' graves. Then flags were distributed to all after liturgy. ■



ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST IN SCOTTDALE, PA.

A blessing service officiated by Father Oleh Seremchuk was held Memorial Day at St. John the Baptist in Scottdale, Pa. VFW Post 595 of Everson, Pa. honored Anthony Mancuso for his service. ■



HOLY SPIRIT IN PITTSBURGH (OAKLAND), PA.

Blessed celebrations

By Mary Dzurichko
Holy Spirit, Pittsburgh, Pa.

Holy Spirit Church, in the Oakland neighborhood of Pittsburgh, Pa. has been busy. Genevieve Revilak celebrated her First Solemn Holy Communion on April 27 at the Divine Liturgy followed by a beautiful dinner hosted by the family! May 31 brought the bargain hunters to the flea market and bake sale. In spite of the rainy weather, there was a nice crowd all day that kept the volunteers busy and resulted in a successful fund raiser. The following day at the Divine Liturgy, Father Michael Kunitz gave a special blessing to Katherine and Thomas Martz on their first wedding anniversary. The Pentecost Sunday celebration

began with the joyful Baptism, Chrismation, and First Solemn Communion of Marcellino Guiseppe Revilak, the son of Martina and Milan Revilak Jr., and is pictured (below) with Godparents Theresa Carr and Emanuel Revilak. The Pentecost celebration continued with the traditional blessing and distribution of linden leaves as a sign of the new life of the Holy Spirit. Afterwards everyone gathered in the hall to celebrate the 118th anniversary of the founding of Holy Spirit Parish with a delicious potluck dinner provided by parishioners and friends! May God grant Genevieve, Katherine, Tom, Marcellino, and all the parish many blessed years! ■



Genevieve Revilak 1st Solemn Holy Communion



Baptism of Marcellino Revilak



First anniversary of Katherine and Thomas Martz

Pentecost dinner 2025

Pentecost linden leaves blessing

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST IN SCOTTDALE, PA.

May Crowning

The May Crowning took place on Mother’s Day at St. John the Baptist in Scottdale, Pa. with Barb Zaksek being honored as Mother of the Year. She is pictured with Father Oleh Sermchuk and Maria Catalina. ■



First Solemn Communion

Hartley Newcomer and Harrison Myers received their First Solemn Communion on May 18 at St. John the Baptist in Scottdale, Pa. Also pictured with Father Olen Sermchuk is Maria Catalina, religious instructor. ■



CHURCH OF THE RESURRECTION IN MONROEVILLE, PA.

“Thank You” luncheon

Resurrection Church in Monroeville, Pa. hosted a “thank-you” luncheon for volunteers who helped with the fish fry and pirohi pinching. This included helpers from our sister church, Holy Trinity in Wall, Pa. and others from the community. There were 42 in attendance and it was a most joyful event. ■



ST. STEPHEN IN LEISENRING, PA.

Mother’s, Father’s Day

*By Bob Gillingham
St. Stephen, Leisenring, Pa.*

On Sunday, June 1 after the Divine Liturgy, St. Stephen Parish in Leisenring, Pa. held our traditional, combined Mother’s and Father’s Day celebration with an excellent luncheon and equally engaging conversation. Preparations for the event began at the May 7 Ladies Guild Meeting because the Ladies always do the meal planning, decoration, and at least half of the cooking for the event. One photo shows Father Jerry Botsko discussing the event with Ladies Guild President Theresa K. In the background are parishioners Tom E. and Betty K. Then a cadre of Guild members met at the church hall on May 31 to prepare halupki, cut strawberries for the shortcake,

and decorate tables. Some members later went home to bake the shortcake itself. Ham and scalloped potatoes were contributed by the men, but cooked at home. The meal itself is traditional: abundant halupki, ham, scalloped potatoes, apple sauce, rolls, coffee and soft drinks. Dessert is always a large piece of strawberry shortcake with whipped cream topping. A second photo shows parishioner Janet K. serving the meal to Father Jerry Botsko’s table. In the background are cantors John O. and Tim B. Numerous parishioners lingered long into the afternoon to discuss their topics of the day and enjoy one another’s company. Events like this luncheon, seemingly ordinary and small in grandeur, are actually the life blood of many parishes, especially St. Stephen. We enjoy and respect one another. ■



INFANT JESUS OF PRAGUE IN BOARDMAN, OHIO

First Solemn Communion

*By Paula Slemmons
Infant Jesus of Prague, Boardman, Ohio*

Congratulations to Evan, Selena, Adrian, Nathaniel and Bella (not pictured) who made their First Solemn Communion at Infant Jesus of Prague in Boardman, Ohio on Sunday, May 11. Bella made hers on

May 25. We thank our ECF teachers — Christine Bero, Mary Sinowski and Elena Slemmons — and their parents for preparing them for this special day. Father Mykhaylo Farynets is pastor. May God grant them many happy and blessed years! ■





ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST CATHEDRAL IN MUNHALL, PA.

Rummage & Bake Sale

The annual Rummage & Bake Sale fundraiser took place May 30 to 31 at St. John the Baptist Cathedral in Munhall, Pa.

Leading the two day event was Very Rev. Andrew Deskevich supported by a host of hardworking and dedicated parishioners assisting him.

The dual moneymaker was quite successful with many patrons going home carrying many found treasures and delightful home baked goodies! ■



Photos by Nick Havrilla Sr.



ST. GREGORY IN UPPER ST. CLAIR, PA.

Lending a helping hand

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

On the Sunday of the Fathers of the First Ecumenical Council, June 1, a number of events took place at St. Gregory's Church in Upper St. Clair, Pa. As a community of faithful we commemorated the 1,700 anniversary of this historical church council that took place in Nicaea in the year 325.

At the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy, Father Deacon Joshua Johnson and his family were presented with gifts from our parish family as he completes his

studies towards the priesthood.

As a community of faithful we ask Our Lord to bless Father Deacon Joshua, Regina, Ana, Linnea, and Xenia for many happy and blessed years!

Following the Divine Liturgy, we continued in the church hall with our Lasagna Dinner Fundraiser. This event was organized to assist our parishioners who have suffered from the devastating storm on Tuesday, April 29.

Sincere thanks to all our faithful who helped organize and participated in this event. ■



Sunday of All Saints

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

The Sunday of All Saints was very busy at St. Gregory on June 15. Prior to the beginning of the Divine Liturgy, Max Topka and Christian Popson received the blessing to serve as altar servers at St. Gregory. Congratulations to our new altar servers and we ask Our Lord to bless them with many happy and blessed years!

At the conclusion of the Divine

Liturgy, we offered prayerful supplications for our nation under God as we celebrated Flag Day. Afterwards, we gathered in our Church Hall for an Ice Cream Party sponsored by the GCU Pittsburgh South Regional Lodge.

This was a wonderful celebration as we witnessed the blessing of new altar servers, offered prayerful supplications on Father's Day, and honored the flag of the United States of America. ■



Honoring our graduates

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

On Pentecost Sunday, June 8, prayerful supplications were offered for all our St. Gregory's graduates: Emma Schimansky (University of Pittsburgh School of Dental Medicine); Libby Timko (Duquesne University); Tyler Kiss (Duquesne University); Ava Cerny (Upper St. Clair High School), Madelyne Miller (Seton LaSalle High School); and Zack Stromock (Peters Township High School). At the end of the Divine Liturgy, our graduates came forward to receive a special blessing as we celebrated this

important milestone in their lives.

Following the Divine Liturgy, we enjoyed cake and fellowship in our church hall. As part of our celebration St. Gregory's Women of Faith presented all our graduates with a book to mark this special occasion. Our high school graduates Zack and Ava presented their essays after which they received a scholarship award from our St. Gregory's Men's Club.

This was a beautiful celebration as we celebrated the coming of the Holy Spirit, the full revelation of the divine Trinity, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, and the birthday of the Church. ■



Thank you, "Dr. Betty"!

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

At the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy on Ascension Thursday, May 29, our dear parishioner Mrs. Betty R. Shovlin was presented with a Hramota-Certificate of recognition and best wishes from our Metropolitan Archbishop William C. Skurla on the occasion of her 90th birthday.

We offer our best wishes and sincere thanks to "Dr. Betty" for her many years of love, service, and dedication to our Byzantine Catholic Archeparchy of Pittsburgh and to our St. Gregory's parish family. Afterwards, we all enjoyed great food and fellowship in our church hall. ■





ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST IN UNIONTOWN, PA.

Flea Market finds

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

On Saturday, May 3, Pani Emily Wojciechowski organized the inaugural St. John Flea Market. More than 30 flea market/craft vendors were part of the event.



St. John Social Ministry members were on hand to serve sandwiches and snacks to those who attended. Thank you Pani Emily for your fundraising efforts to benefit the parish. ■



New vestments

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

At the May 17 Saturday evening Divine Liturgy, Father Kyprian Wojciechowski blessed a new set of gold vestments, which were made possible through the generosity of St. John parishioners. The articles included a complete set of priest's vestments, an adult server's vestments, and six youth altar servers' vestments. ■



Father's Day, June Birthdays

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

In honor of Father's Day, a breakfast was held in the social hall after the Sunday Divine Liturgy. St. John Social Ministry and ladies of the church prepared

the meal, which included mini breakfast sandwiches, waffles, tater tots, bacon, and fruit. Each man received a small flashlight as a reminder that he was "the light of the world." June birthday celebrants were also recognized. ■



End-of-the-Year Celebration

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

After the May 31 Divine Liturgy, ECF students, parents, and teachers joined together in an end-of-the-year party. Pizza, snacks, and refreshments were offered, along with an ice

cream buffet. Children played games and enjoyed Father Kyprian Wojciechowski's pinball machine. Parents and children enjoyed the pictorial display of the year's activities, which was created by ECF teacher Gerry Dorobish. ■



Pentecost Sunday

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

To prepare for Pentecost, greens were picked from the parish grounds to adorn the church for the Feast Day. Linden branches, a traditional Slavic plant which represents the Holy Spirit, were used in the decorations. Father Kyprian Wojciechowski's green vestments were donated by parishioner Ann Kormanik

and coordinated nicely with the natural foliage. In addition to the weekend services, the Pentecost Monday Divine Liturgy was celebrated, which was then followed by the reading of the four Gospels in each corner of the church. Seminarian Adam Marquart assisted with the services and was welcomed by the parishioners. He will be assigned to St. John's parish for the summer. ■





ST. MARY OF THE DORMITION IN WINDBER, PA.

First Solemn Communion

By William Koshute
St. Mary of the Dormition, Windber, Pa.

After successfully completing her ECF preparation classes with instructor Mary Kay Picola, Audrey Wenger, daughter of Erik and Melissa Wenger, completed her First Confession with Solemn Communion on May 25 at St. Mary Church of the Dormition in Windber, Pa. with Father Ivan

Rusyn. Many family and friends from the Pittsburgh and Bedford, Pa. areas drove in to attend this special Sacramental Liturgy with Audrey and the Wenger family. Audrey was also presented with an icon of the Theotokos and a reception followed in the church hall. ■



ASCENSION CHURCH IN CLAIRTON, PA.

Green thumbs

On Sunday, June 8 an afternoon was planned to clean the raised flower boxes and plant flowers. The children from Ascension Church in Clairton, Pa. came out to help play in the dirt and did a beautiful job. ■



Happy birthday!

A birthday cake and coffee and drinks were served at Ascension Church hall in Clairton, Pa. following Liturgy on June 15 to celebrate Father Christopher Burke's 70th birthday. Parishioners joined in singing "Happy Birthday" and wishing him many blessed years. ■



ST. ELIAS IN MUNHALL, PA.

Celebrating Father's Day

Father's Day was celebrated at St. Elias in Munhall, Pa. All the deceased and living fathers were remembered and honored at Liturgy and candles were lit for them. And a special treat was given to all our "sweet" fathers! ■



Pentecost Sunday

Pentecost celebrations were held at St. Elias in Munhall, Pa. Kneeling prayers were said after liturgy and the Gospels were read on Pentecost Monday. Father Vitalii Stashkevych is pastor. ■



ST. MARY IN MONESSEN, PA.

"Journey of Hope"

By Ruth Hanchin
St. Mary, Monessen, Pa.

Members of St. Mary's Ladies Guild in Monessen, Pa. gathered at the Spears Street Grill on Saturday, May 17 for their May Luncheon honoring the Theotokos, Mother of God. President Margaret Krolik welcomed everyone to the luncheon and Father Stephen Wahal, Administrator and Spiritual Director of the Ladies Guild, offered the Invocation. Following lunch, Margaret presented everyone in attendance with a yellow gerbera daisy plant. Since the Ladies Guild has done so much to support Deacon John Hanchin's ministry at St. Mary, he gave each Guild member a short guidebook entitled "Journey of Hope." In fact, the late Pope Francis had declared 2025 a Jubilee Year. Pope Francis, in the official teaching of the Church, tells us that "Hope does not disappoint" (Romans 5:5). Pope Francis said that in

the spirit of hope, the Apostle Paul addressed these words of encouragement to the Christian community of Rome. So hope is the central message of this Jubilee year. Pope Francis said that "Hope finds its supreme witness in the Mother of God, who at the foot of the cross witnessed the Passion and death of Jesus." Basically, "Journey of Hope" tells us how the Catholic Church celebrates the Jubilee Year and helps us answer the call of the Holy Father to both know the face of God's mercy — Jesus Christ Incarnate — and to show the face of mercy — true hope — to our friends and neighbors, as well as to our enemies. Door prizes for the afternoon were won by Father Stephen, Debbie Anderson, Ruth Hanchin, and Alvera Zolock. Alvera, Treasurer of the Ladies Guild, donated a beautiful hanging basket, which was given as one of the door prizes. The rest of the afternoon was spent in fellowship. ■



ST. MARY IN WINDBER, PA.

Christ is Risen!

By Bill Koshute
St. Mary, Windber, Pa.

At the conclusion of the Great Fast, Father Ivan Rusyn led St. Mary's parishioners in commemorating Holy and Great Friday with vespers, scripture reading of Our Lord's passion, crucifixion and burial with solemn

procession of the Holy Shroud. As Holy Saturday comes to an end, the faithful process to the front doors as Father Ivan proclaims what the myrrh bearing women saw, the empty tomb! and Christ's Resurrection! followed by the Paschal Liturgy and Blessing of Baskets! ■



SS. PETER AND PAUL IN PORTAGE, PA.

“Gob Crew”

Parishioners at SS. Peter and Paul in Portage, Pa. made gobs, a homemade dessert treat with a pillow of a cream center between two layers of chocolate cake. ■



HOLY GHOST IN CHARLEROI, PA.

Celebrating 100 years

By Dorothy Mayernik
St. Gregory, Upper St. Clair, Pa.

Family and friends gathered on the weekend of May 24 -25 to celebrate with Mildred Psak on her 100th Birthday.

Mildred had been a life-long member of Holy Ghost Byzantine Catholic Church in Charleroi, Pa. until recent years when she moved to be closer to her daughters and sons-in-law Joan and Larry DiBarry and Meribeth and Al Peters in the Harrisburg area.

Her son David is from Pittsburgh and visits often. Mid's seven grandchildren and three great-grandchildren traveled from Delaware, Connecticut, Indiana, Pennsylvania, New York, and Tennessee to celebrate with their “Grammy” along with family members, and her friends from the Mon Valley and Harrisburg area.

The festivities continued on Sunday, attending the Divine Liturgy celebrated by Fr. Taras Lovska at St. Ann Byzantine Catholic Church in Harrisburg, where Meribeth and Al are members.

Mid was one of the original members of the Mon Valley Choir composed of parishioners of our Byzantine Catholic Churches in Charleroi,



Monessen, and Donora.

At one of the choir concerts, Mid met her husband John “Rusty” Psak. Mid and Rusty were married for 61 years and were active for many years in church functions, members of the Donora Rusyn Club, and served as GCU Leaders and GCU Delegates.

In later years, Mid worked in the Circulation Department of The Tribune Review and especially enjoyed her time volunteering at the St. Vincent de Paul Store in Monessen with other members of Mon Valley churches.

As a close cousin of Mid sharing many good times together over the years, I'm so happy to share the news of this milestone event in our family! Congratulations, Mid! May God grant you many happy and blessed years, Na Mnohaja i Blahaja Lita! ■



THOUGHTS FOR OUR DAY

By Archpriest David M. Petras


THE ORDER OF SUBDEACON



The second minor order is called the subdiaconate. As the lectorate, the ordination to the subdiaconate takes place before the Liturgy. The ordination to the subdiaconate is very simple: the candidate is first vested in the sticharion and orarion (the orarion is worn in the form of a cross on the chest). After the vesting the bishop makes the sign of the cross on the head of the candidate three times, imposes hands and says the prayer for the subdiaconate: "Lord our God, through the one and the same Holy Spirit you distribute your graces to everyone you have chosen. You have bestowed various orders upon your Church, and have established different degrees of ministry for the service of your holy and pure mysteries. In your ineffable foreknowledge, you have appointed your servant (name) worthy to minister to your holy Church. Master, keep him blameless in everything, and grant that he may love the beauty of your house, stand at the doors of your holy church, and light the candles of the dwelling of your glory. Plant him in your Church as a fruitful olive tree bearing the fruits of righteousness. Show your servant to be perfect, that at the time of your coming, he may receive the reward of those pleasing to you."

The subdeacon then fulfills one of the roles of his office by washing the bishop's hands, saying, "Whoever is faithful." This refers to the dismissal of the catechumens, another of the subdeacon's functions. He was to assist the deacon in making sure

the catechumens left the church before the Great Entrance, therefore the words, "Whoever is faithful [may remain]." St. Simeon of Thessalonica notes that "the white sticharion," the vestment of the subdeacon, "shows the more pure rays of God's glory." It is a sign of purity and chastity, since after receiving the subdiaconate a man was no longer


From the title of the office, we see that the subdeacon was a cleric who was immediately an assistant to the deacon.

allowed to marry. The reason for this was probably the subdeacon's job involved touching the sacred vessels. The Roman Church at one time considered the subdiaconate a major order, but no longer bestows this order. The Byzantine Church also forbade those who had been ordained subdeacons to marry (Council of Trullo 6). However, this obligation is no longer in effect.

From the title of the office, we see that the subdeacon was a cleric who was immediately an assistant to the deacon. He took care of all the practicalities necessary for the deacon to serve at the altar. St. Simeon of Thessalonica explained the duties of the subdeacon: "He watches the sacred doors, lest any of the profane enter the sanctuary; he touches the sacred vessels, and

keeps them in beautiful order. He hands the gifts to the priests, who come and find them prepared, and receive them in the Great Entrance. I say, watch over the abundance of sacred vessels, and give them to the ministers (the Greek word hyp-et-s, the original title for a subdeacons), for it is not the custom for inferiors to touch them. They also expel catechumens at the appointed time, when the deacons say, 'Catechumens, depart.' At processions, they carry the cross and precede the others. The subdeacons also prepare and trim the candles on the holy table and the trikerion (three-branched candle) of the sanctuary and the other candles. Therefore, they serve the bishop in all his works, and go after the deacons to the holy doors, and communicate there of the mysteries."

Today subdeacons vest in the sticharion and the orarion in the form of a cross. However, this is not to be confused with the deacon's orarion, and the subdeacons vestment is never called an "orarion" in the documents. The Council of Laodicea (Canon 22) forbade the subdeacon to wear the orarion. The Slavonic calls the subdeacons vestment the sticharny pojask ("tunic belt"), but they have become virtually the same thing as the deacon's orarion.

In the ordination rite, after the subdeacon washes the bishop's hands, the towel he used is placed on his head. At the end of the Anaphora, he is led into the sanctuary. The subdeacon had access to the sanctuary, he was to take care of all the holy vessels and assist the deacon in service during the liturgy. Today the role of subdeacon is usually fulfilled by

lay altar servers. This was a very responsible office. Today it is most frequently done by school-boys, as a way of getting the youth involved in the Liturgy. However, many parishes now have adult servers, who either serve by themselves or supervise the children who serve. Servers today are expected to light the censer, give the censer to the deacon or priest when needed, precede processions with processional crosses, lighted candles, censers or ripidia, to accompany the gospel with candles or ripidia, to open and close the service (deacon's) doors for entrances, to assist at Communion by holding the lention, to prepare and present the hot water for the rite of zeon (teplota), to hold the antidoron (in a basket) when there is an anointing following the Liturgy.

Servers may not pass through the Holy Doors, nor may they cross in front of the Holy Table. The system varies from parish to parish and there are many different styles of serving. Today the rules about touching the holy vessels (chalice and discos) are generally relaxed. However, in any case, the servers do not hold the chalice or discos after the consecration of the gifts. All in all, however, it is a good discipline for young men, though at times they do get fidgety and nervous, especially if they are younger. Servers wear a cassock and a sticharion for their service. An ordained subdeacon wears the orarion, not on the shoulder but in the cross form that a deacon uses for the time of Communion. There are, however, some, but very few men, who are ordained permanent subdeacons. ■

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>



Thursday, July 24
11 a.m. to 9 p.m.
Kennywood Amusement Park
4800 Kennywood Blvd.,
West Mifflin, Pa. 15122

CONTACT US: Fraternal Communications Department
1-800-722-4428 x 3810 or cchamberlain@GCUusa.com
<https://gcuusa.com>

RIDE ALL DAY on July 24
Ages 4-up: \$28 Ages 3 and under; No charge
Tickets will be sent regular U.S. Mail between 3-5 days after payment is received. Large ticket orders will be sent UPS.

ALL tickets bought at this discounted rate must be used on July, 24, 2025. Deadline to order tickets is **Thursday, July 10.**

GCU & Kennywood...
a partnership of family fun over a century in the making!

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DINNER 6 pm

COST: \$50
Registration Fee,
Accommodation,
Meals

**LED BY
FR. JASON
CHARRON**
Pastor, Holy Trinity Ukrainian
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**DETAILS AND
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Or click here:
<https://forms.gle/yCPEkmfyCcvG936M9>

What to expect?

- Talks, small group discussions, and reflection time
- Prayers, time for confession, and spiritual direction
- Work - we will help the Sisters of St. Basil the Great to get ready for The Annual Pilgrimage in honor of Our Lady of Perpetual Help on August 29-September 1, 2025
- Social activities and much fun

Join us and meet other college students, as well as our byzantine catholic campus ministry priests!

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THE OFFICE OF YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY

AROUND THE ARCHEPARCHY



SS. PETER AND PAUL FESTIVAL — Noon-7 p.m. Sunday, July 13, SS. Peter and Paul, 143 Church Drive [just off of Munster Road - Route 164], Portage, Pa. Relax and enjoy the free, live entertainment. Bring a lawn chair to enjoy the live bands throughout the day. “That Oldies Band” playing hit songs from past decades noon to 3 p.m. Popular group “Full Kilt” performs Celtic Rock 4-7 p.m. The menu offers homemade ethnic dishes and other popular items as well, including BBQ chicken, halushki, halupki, pirohi, kielbasa, hot dogs, and hot sausage, along with wing dings, and French fries. A bake sale with our own homemade Gobs and a variety of baked goods, candy apples and other items; also funnel cakes and ice cream. Soda, bottled water, beer and wine coolers will be available. There will be plenty of things to do for folks of all ages. A Basket Raffle offers some premium selections of baskets as prizes. There is Bingo, cash raffle, and other games of chance. Children’s games with prizes and a Stuffed Animal Booth to entertain the kids throughout the day. The church building is open throughout the afternoon. A brief guided tour is offered at 2 p.m. and 4 p.m. to explain the icons and features of the beliefs and practices of our Byzantine Catholic Church. We thank all who support us over the many years of hosting our festival. It’s our privilege to welcome friends, neighbors and visitors, from near and far. Visit us at www.ByzantineCatholic.net, or like us on Facebook to learn about us and our festival and plan to come.

ST. GREGORY FLEA MARKET — 8 a.m.-noon Saturday, Aug. 2 St. Gregory, 2005 Mohawk Road, Upper St. Clair (Brookside Farms), Pa. Kitchen items, sports equipment., jewelry, purses, luggage, household, home décor, tools, holiday items, puzzles and games, and baby items. Leftover sale 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 3. For information, call 412-835-7800. See ad on page 3.

SAVE THE DATE: NIGHT AT THE RACES — Saturday, Sept.13, St. John the Baptist Church at St. John Chrysostom Hall, (Greenfield, Pa.). Buy a horse; bet on a horse; enjoy delicious food! 50/50 Raffle and Auction Baskets, too. \$20 ticket includes admission and food BYOB. For tickets, call Beverly Rebovich 412-315-1514. Proceeds benefit St. John the Baptist Church South Side, Pittsburgh.

DATES TO REMEMBER



JULY 4

Independence Day — National Observance
Chancery closed

JULY 6

Ordination to the priesthood of Deacon Luke Iyengar
St. John the Baptist Cathedral, Munhall, Pa.

JULY 13

125th anniversary of St. Mary in Youngstown, Ohio

JULY 16 to 20

2025 Byzantine Assembly
Whiting, Ind.

JULY 20

Feast of St. Elijah Great Prophet

JULY 24

GCU Byzantine Family Day at Kennywood Park
11 a.m.-9 p.m.
4800 Kennywood Blvd., West Mifflin, Pa.

See more upcoming events at www.archpitt.org



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