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“Faith and Fun Day”

ALTAR SERVERS OF THE ARCHDIOCESE OF PITTSBURGH
ENJOY 16TH ANNUAL “FAITH AND FUN DAY”



Altar servers of the Archdiocese of Pittsburgh admire African elephants Aug. 4 at Pittsburgh Zoo & Aquarium. The 16th annual “Faith and Fun Day” also included seeing the Pittsburgh Pirates defeat the San Francisco Giants at PNC Park. Photo by David Mayernik Jr. For more photos, see page 4.

By David Mayernik Jr.
Editor

The mission statement for the 16th annual “Faith and Fun Day” for altar servers of the Archdiocese of Pittsburgh on Aug. 4 was clear.

Two words emblazoned in gold on black t-shirts handed out by Metropolitan Archbishop William C. Skurla following the Divine Liturgy at Holy Ghost in McKees Rocks, Pa.

Bold faith.

Below, it directed t-shirt readers to Matthew 21:21:

And Jesus answered and said to them, “Truly I say to you, if you have faith and do not doubt, you will not only do what was done to the fig tree, but even if you say to this mountain, ‘Be taken up and cast into the sea,’ it will happen.



This year’s “Faith and Fun Day” included seeing the Pittsburgh Pirates engineer a come-from-behind 5-4, bottom-of-the ninth inning victory over the San Francisco Giants at PNC Park.

Altar servers also visited the Pittsburgh Zoo & Aquarium and expended some energy at the “indoor Nerf battlefield” at

Turf Attack at the Galleria at Pittsburgh Mills in Tarentum, Pa.

More than 50 youth attended the day’s festivities along with nine priests and 20 chaperones.

During his homily, Father Kevin Marks, Vocations Director and pastor at St. Michael in Hermitage, Pa. and St. Michael in Campbell, Ohio, told altar servers to commit to the three “P’s”: Presence, Preparation, and Participation.

He said Jesus’ disciples fought over who would be the “greatest” before the Cross.

“If you want to be great in life... we have to be the one to serve,” Father Kevin said.

“You serve Jesus Christ. Think how close you are when you serve at the altar of the Lord.” ■

ANNOUNCEMENT FROM ARCHBISHOP WILLIAM

Daniel J. Johnson appointed Archeparchial Finance Officer

August 6, 2025

For the last six years, Robert J. Shalhoub & Co. LLC has provided various services for the functioning of the finance office of the Archeparchy. You may be familiar with Deacon Bob and Wojtek Potorski in your dealings with the finance office. It has required quite an effort on the part of Deacon Bob and Wojtek to work from a distance and travel to Pittsburgh from New Jersey for these many years. That trip had become old, tiring, and burdensome.

Thus, the Archeparchy is embarking on a period of transition in the finance office.

Please join me in welcoming Daniel J. Johnson as the new Archeparchial Finance Officer. Daniel is a graduate of the University of Pittsburgh. In addition to his business degree with a concentration in accounting, his minors included computer science and mathematics. He is a Certified Management Accountant. Daniel has more than 18 years of accounting experience. He is joining the Archeparchy after more than 10

Story continued on page 2



Daniel J. Johnson



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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.

An ecumenical icon for Pope Leo XIV

By Jack Figel
*Orthodox Church liaison
US Catholic Conference of Bishops'
Ecumenical Office*

A group of Orthodox and Catholic pilgrims from the United States met Pope Leo XIV on July 17 at his residence in Castel Gandolfo, led by Greek Orthodox Archbishop Elpidophoros of America and Cardinal Joseph Tobin of Newark. The group included about 50 faithful on a nine-day pilgrimage marking the Holy Year of Hope and the 1700th anniversary of the Council of Nicaea.

In his remarks, the Pope said unity would not be achieved by revisiting old arguments about primacy in the church, but by walking together in faith, hope and love. Rome, Constantinople and all the other sees are not called to vie for primacy, lest we risk finding ourselves like the disciples all along the way. Even as Jesus was announcing his coming passion, the Apostles argued about which of them was the greatest.

Jack Figel was among the group and is a Lector of Epiphany of Our Lord Byzantine Catholic Church in Annandale, Va. He was the only Eastern Catholic in the pilgrimage and is known for organizing ecumenical pilgrimages to meet both the Pope and the Ecumenical Patriarch. He presented Pope Leo with an icon of Saint Leo the Great and the Apostle Bartholomew that he had commissioned. A second copy was intended for Orthodox Patriarch Bartholomew in Constantinople, whom the group planned to visit in the following days.

Figel, who also works in the U.S. Catholic Conference of Bishops' Ecumenical Office as the



Orthodox Church liaison, is the founder and publisher of Eastern Christian Publications and the founder and chairman of the Orientale Lumen Foundation. He said the gift symbolized the idea of primacy in a special way.

"When I came up with the idea of having the two saints represented by these, two icons of the patrons of the Pope and of the patriarch, the question then became which one goes on which side?" he said.

"Which one takes precedence over whom? Back to the age-old question who's first and who's second? Usually when you think of the icon of Mary and Christ in this form, Christ is always on the right and Mary's always on the left as you look at the icon. So, you would think right takes the precedence. But we couldn't quite

decide if that still applied to two saints.

"And if it did, who took precedence? A pope who was a just successor of Peter, namely Saint Leo, the first or Bartholomew, who was an apostle. Which is more important, an apostle or a pope? Hard to tell. So, I came up with a non-religious answer. That is, if you look at a compass, East is to the right and West is to the left. And so, we put Bartholomew on the right and Leo on the left. That's a true story!"

After greeting each pilgrim personally, Pope Leo concluded the audience: "May the blessing of Almighty God, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit come upon you all and remain with you forever. Amen" in American English! ■

Daniel J. Johnson appointed Archeparchial Finance Officer

Story continued on page 1

years with the Anglican Church.

Daniel will be working daily in the Chancery offices. He may be reached by calling the Chancery at 412-231-4000 extension 14, or by emailing him at finance@archpitt.org. His cell phone number is 814-421-7663.

Teresa Sekel and Helenanne Hochendoner will continue their work in the finance office.

During the month of August 2025, Robert J. Shalhoub & Co. LLC will continue to be on-board for transitioning. Where, in the past, you may have been dealing with Deacon Bob or Wojtek, you should now be contacting Daniel directly. Your patience as Daniel works to familiarize himself with all such matters is greatly

appreciated.

Please join me in thanking Deacon Bob for his service to the Archeparchy, as well as Wojtek and others at Robert J. Shalhoub & Co. LLC for their efforts over these past years.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

+ William C. Skurla

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



**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.

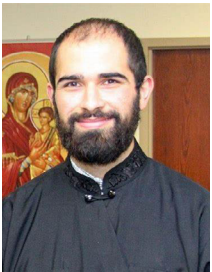
If your office or parish is having an event you would like to promote, please let us know so we can post it on FB! :) Reach out to Viktoria Zolnova (Youth and Young Adult Ministry Coordinator) via email: events@archpitt.org to share the details. ■



GUEST REFLECTION

Choosing the “Rite” word

By Father Luke Iyengar



St. Paul says, “There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of us all” (Ephesians 4:4-6 RSV-CE). Last semester, I taught my sophomores a course on the theology of the Church. As part of that, I’ve had the chance to reflect on the unity of the Catholic Church spread throughout the world, manifested in six or seven major rites and twenty-odd particular Churches — a unity with a remarkable diversity!

It seems like most practicing Catholics nowadays have at least a general idea that not all Catholics follow the Roman/Latin rite. This is a welcome change for me, as that was not my experience growing up Byzantine in a Latin world. That said, the fact that we’re aware of something doesn’t always mean we know how to talk about it. So, with more and more Catholics and other Christians discovering the riches of the East, I’d like to offer some guidance for everyone to help us choose the right words when we talk about the varied parts of the Christian East and West.

First, the Christian East is a very wide umbrella and includes the Armenians, Alexandrians, Byzantines, Maronites, etc. We cannot use “Eastern” interchangeably with any of those rites because not all Eastern Catholics follow the same rite. So, to be clear, I’m writing mainly to address things I’ve encountered in the Byzantine world, meaning the world of Christians whose heritage stems from the imperial city of Constantinople.

Regarding the Byzantine East, my first piece of guidance is that we never use the expression “Byzantine faith.” I’ve occasionally heard people new to the Byzantine world use it, but it does not appear anywhere in official Church documents (liturgy, catechisms, canon law, etc). In fact, this expression is theologically problematic because it implies that all Catholics do not share a common faith, but rather that, contrary to St. Paul’s teaching in Ephesians 4:5, there is more than “one Lord, one faith, one baptism.” This leads to a rejection of the unity of the Church that our martyrs of the past four centuries

fought so hard to protect. It seems that usually, when people use the expression “Byzantine faith,” what they actually mean is either “Byzantine rite/tradition” or, occasionally, “Byzantine [Catholic] Church[es],” terms that are much more in keeping with the Church’s theological self-understanding. We can, though, say “Byzantine Catholic faith” without compromising the unity of the Faith because here we mean the Catholic Faith as expressed and lived in the Byzantine rite.

Now, on to some definitions! For our purposes here, we can define “Church” (capital C) as “the people doing things.” We can define “rite” as “the way things are done.” Easy, rite right? From here, we can do a deeper dive.

The Code of Canons of the Eastern Churches (CCEO) — the book of canon law that governs the Eastern Catholic Churches — defines a “Church” in canon 27 as a “group of Christian faithful united by a hierarchy according to the norm of law which the supreme authority of the Church expressly or tacitly recognizes as sui iuris.” The phrase “sui iuris” literally means “of its own law;” we could call such a Church self-governing or autonomous. Examples of Catholic Churches sui iuris are the Byzantine-Ruthenian Catholic Metropolitan Church of Pittsburgh, the Ukrainian Greek-Catholic Church, the Melkite Greek-Catholic Church, etc. Each of these Churches has a defined group of members and is headed by its own bishops.

Catholics also recognize the Orthodox Churches as true Churches (as distinct from Protestant churches, which are properly referred to in Catholic theology as “ecclesial communities”). Thus, we speak of the Greek Orthodox Church, Russian Orthodox Church, Orthodox Church in America, etc. Because of this, it’s important to specify whether we’re speaking of a Catholic Church (in

communion with Rome and all other Catholics) or an Orthodox Church (not in communion with Rome).

On the other hand, the CCEO defines a “rite” in canon 28: “A rite is the liturgical, theological, spiritual and disciplinary patrimony, culture and circumstances of history of a distinct people, by which its own manner of living the faith is manifested in each Church sui iuris.” Examples of rites are Byzantine/Greek and Latin/Roman.

When speaking of Churches and rites, we can get into trouble if we’re not careful. Often, multiple Churches will use the same rite. For example, most Eastern Catholic parishes we’re likely to encounter where I live belong to Byzantine jurisdictions (generally Ruthenian or Ukrainian). Most Orthodox churches around here also belong to Byzantine jurisdictions (typically Greek, OCA, or Ukrainian). Based on this, we can hopefully see that questions such as, “Is this [parish] church Byzantine or Orthodox?” involve a confusion in categories. It’s like asking, “Are you from Pittsburgh or a ‘Lord of the Rings’ fan?” Neither of those excludes the other. I may be one, or both, or neither. The real question in this situation is either “Is this parish Byzantine or Roman?” or “Is this parish Catholic or Orthodox?” We’ll generally want to ask both questions to get a complete picture of the parish.

So, to recap: Church = people doing things. Rite = the way things are done. Hopefully, by learning the distinctions between “Church” and “rite” (and avoiding saying “Byzantine faith” altogether), we can better communicate about our experiences of the unity-in-diversity of the Catholic Church throughout the world, “until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ” (Ephesians 4:13). ■

THE OFFICE OF SAFE ENVIRONMENT



Important reminder

A new school year! As we prepare for a new year of ECF, it is time to check your background clearances. Anyone with clearances completed in 2020 or earlier, need to renew them to be a catechist, volunteer or employee.

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. First you must complete the Authorization form and send it to the Chancery. Then a code with instructions, will be sent to you. Do not ask for a code until you have sent the Authorization form to the Chancery.

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. ■



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DIVINE
LITURGY

Sundays at 9:00 a.m.
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Broadcast live from
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“Bold faith”

ALTAR SERVERS OF THE ARCHDIOCESE OF PITTSBURGH PROUDLY
DISPLAY THEIR FAITH ON 16TH ANNUAL “FAITH AND FUN DAY”

The 16th annual “Faith and Fun Day” for altar servers of the Archdiocese of Pittsburgh took place Aug. 4 and included seeing the Pittsburgh Pirates engineer a come-from-behind 5-4, bottom-of-the ninth inning victory over the San Francisco Giants at PNC Park.

The day also included a visit to the Pittsburgh Zoo & Aquarium, and altar servers expended some energy at the “indoor Nerf battlefield” at Turf Attack at the Galleria at Pittsburgh Mills in Tarentum, Pa.

See page 1 for a story. ■



Photos by David Mayernik Jr. and Father Tyler Wisniewski

Taking the plunge

THE OFFICE OF YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULTS SPONSORS “SUMMER SPLASH BASH” IN BEAVER, PA.

By Tara Bartz
St. Gregory, Upper St. Clair, Pa.

The Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministry hosted the “2025 ByzanTeen Summer Splash Bash & More!” on Saturday, July 26 at the Greek Catholic Union’s St. Nicholas Chapel and Seven Oaks Country Club, both in Beaver, Pa.

The teens’ day began with the Prayer of the Third Hour in the chapel, followed by a warm welcome and icebreaker from Viktoria Zolnova, Director of the Archeparchy’s Office of Youth and Young Adults,

Father Valerian Michlik, pastor of St. Gregory of Nazianzus Byzantine Catholic Church in Upper Saint Clair, Pa., then gave a brief talk on the event’s “Take the Plunge!” theme, incorporating thoughts about faith, water, and the life of St. Nicholas of Myra.

Afterward, teens headed downstairs and split up into teams for a scavenger hunt in the chapel’s museum, which contains artifacts from GCU, Greek Catholic, and Carpatho-Rusyn histories.

Lunch followed at Seven Oaks and then it was “splash time” at the club’s water park, where the teens enjoyed the pool, waterslides, diving board, climbing wall, and waterfall. Tennis, pickleball, basketball, and board games were also available.

The day ended with a short gathering dedicated to gratitude and prayer.

Many thanks to the Greek Catholic Union, St. Nicholas Chapel, Seven Oaks Country Club, Father Valerian, our teen participants, our chaperones, and everyone who made this fun event possible! ■



ETERNAL MEMORY

MILUSE ANN
(KOENIG) MINA



Miluse Ann (Koenig) Mina, dame of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Cross of Jerusalem,

passed away peacefully at her home in San Diego, Calif. on Aug. 6.

She was born on Feb. 13, 1928, in the city of Bmo, Czechia into a family of Czech-Austrian gentry. Miluse's father was an officer in the Austrian Imperial Army and after the Great War a high-ranking government official and decorated hero of the Czech anti-Nazi resistance. Upon graduating from high school in 1946, Miluse enrolled at Charles University in Prague. The country was in turmoil as the communists were undermining the coalition government. Miluse attracted the attention of the secret police by stumping communist speakers at political meetings with her incisive arguments. Miluse was forced to flee her country after the Feb. 1948 communist takeover. She arrived in Paris, where she soon met her future husband Albert Mina (Minya), a Ruthenian graduate student in botany and a fellow exile. The couple were married the following year, and in 1950 Miluse gave birth to a son John (Ivan). After moving from France to the United States, Miluse gave birth to three more children: Peter (1955), Michael (1957) and Maria Paula (1960).

Settling in California in 1959, the family joined St. Mary Byzantine Catholic Church in Van Nuys, Calif. Learning of her artistic talent, the pastor asked Miluse to paint the icons for his church. Miluse went on to adorn over 50 churches with icons in the United States, Canada and Europe. Since 1988, Miluse and her husband lived in San Diego. Albert passed away in 2009. Besides her husband, she was preceded in death by her parents the late Vaclav and Emilia (Hendrych) Koenig. Miluse is survived by her children John (Father Ivan), Peter, Michael (his wife Diana), Maria Paula, and a grandson Nicholas. Friends were received at the A.J. Bekavac Funeral Home, Clairton on Aug. 15.

Funeral Liturgy was celebrated in Ascension of Our Lord Byzantine Catholic Church, Clairton. Interment followed at Mount St. Macrina Cemetery in Uniontown, Pa.

In Blessed Repose grant eternal rest O Lord to your departed handmaid Mila and remember her forever! ■

Axios, Deacon Nicholas!

SUBDEACON NICHOLAS KRIVACS ORDAINED TO DIACONATE
AT ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST CATHEDRAL IN MUNHALL, PA.



By The Byzantine Catholic
Archeparchy of Pittsburgh

Subdeacon Nicholas Krivacs was ordained to the Diaconate in the Byzantine Catholic Metropolitan Archeparchy of Pittsburgh by Metropolitan Archbishop William C. Skurla July 27 at St. John the Baptist Cathedral in Munhall, Pa.

Deacon Nicholas is in his final year of priestly formation at the Byzantine Catholic Seminary of SS. Cyril and Methodius in Pittsburgh, Pa.

He is originally from Holy Spirit in Parma, Ohio. His family then moved to Saint Joesph in Brecksville, Ohio and St. Andrew in Gibsonia.

He considers Our Lady of Perpetual Help in Toms River N.J., which he attended from high school through college, his home parish.

In his homily, Archbishop William asked, "in a special way," that the Holy Spirit come upon Deacon Nicholas and guide him and make him strong during his next year of being a deacon in the Archeparchy of Pittsburgh.

"We pray and hope it will be a time of fruitful opening of the Holy Spirit because it is that gift of not only doing work within the Church and providing services, it is someone that is in touch with — and through the time at the Seminary — is aware of the presence of God in their lives and, in the end, they understand and are able to explain that to the people of God," he said.

"We pray and ask in a very special way when you say 'Axios!' that you mean it and...pray he will be a good and faithful servant of the Lord throughout the coming year and throughout the years of his long and fruitful ministry as a priest." ■



Photos by Nick Havrilla Sr.

Feast of the Transfiguration

ST. STEPHEN THE PROTOMARTYR IN LEISENRING, PA.

By Bob Gillingham
St. Stephen, Leisenring, Pa.

On the Feast of the Transfiguration of Our Lord, Aug. 6, the parishioners of St. Stephen the Protomartyr in Leisenring, Pa. expressed their gratitude to God for His generosity by bringing First Fruits, particularly apples and grapes, to church for the traditional blessing.

The practice of Christians blessing fruit goes as far back as apostolic times and is deeply rooted in our understanding of God's goodness to us.

It refers to offering God the first portion of a harvest and acknowledging God as the source of the harvest.

Giving God our First Fruits expresses thankfulness for what He has provided.

In the photo, Father Jerry Botsko blesses baskets of fruit brought by parishioners.



In his homily on the Transfiguration, Father Jerry explained the exceptional light and aura surrounding Jesus at the Transfiguration and the effect it had on Peter, James, and John, whom Jesus brought with Him to the Mount.

After the Liturgy, parishioners were invited to sample the various fruit brought — apples, grapes, cherries, peaches, oranges, bananas, even mangoes — in recognition of God's goodness. ■

SS. PETER AND PAUL IN DUQUESNE, PA.

Father Christiaan Kappes blessed fruits and vegetables on the Feast of the Transfiguration at SS. Peter and Paul in Duquesne, Pa. ■



ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST IN UNIONTOWN, PA.

An evening Divine Liturgy at St. John the Baptist in Uniontown, Pa. was celebrated for the Feast of Transfiguration.

Following the Liturgy, Father Kyprian Wojciechowski blessed fruits and vegetables that were brought in by those attending.

Afterwards the parishioners shared their offerings with each other. ■



ST. MICHAEL IN HERMITAGE, PA.

By Father Kevin Marks
St. Michael, Hermitage, Pa.

The Solemn Blessing of Fruit took place on Aug. 6 as we celebrated the Feast of our Lord's

Transfiguration!
The fruit reminds us of God's plentiful blessings and is meant as an aid for health to those who eat of the blessed fruit. ■



ST. ELIAS IN MUNHALL, PA.

The Feast of the Transfiguration was celebrated at St. Elias in Munhall, Pa. with the traditional blessing of fruits and vegetables.

Father Vitalii Stashkevych is pastor. ■



ASCENSION OF OUR LORD IN CLAIRTON, PA.

Father Christopher Burke blessed baskets and bowls of fresh fruit in the tradition of the Transfiguration. at Ascension of Our Lord in Clairton, Pa. ■





Feast of the Transfiguration

HOLY GHOST IN PITTSBURGH (NORTH SIDE), PA.

By Leah Trapl
Holy Ghost, Pittsburgh (North Side), Pa.

Father Luke Iyengar concelebrated the Solemn Holy Day of the Transfiguration of our Lord, God, and Savior Jesus Christ at Holy Ghost in

Pittsburgh (North Side), Pa. with Father Frank Firko.

Father Luke blessed the fruits brought by parishioners and bestowed a blessing on the parish.

Thank you, Father Luke, for celebrating with us. ■



ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST IN LYNDDORA, PA.

Flag Day celebration

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

St. John Byzantine Catholic church in Lyndora, Pa. had their annual Flag Day celebration on the Feast of Pentecost this year.

Because of the rain, the celebration was held in the church hall for the first time in years.

ECF children sang songs and recited poems. Boy Scout Troop, 58 Rainmakers demonstrated how to properly fold the flag. Pennsylvania State Rep. Marcy Mustello gave a speech and brought a large sized Pennsylvania State flag and a United States flag, which were raffled off.

The American Legion Honor Guard gave a 21-gun salute.

Also in attendance was Butler Township Commissioner Sam



Boy Scouts Henry Koch, Joey Stavish and Ben Stavish. Ben and Joey are also altar servers.

Zurzollo.

St. John Ladies Guild sponsored the picnic luncheon and the GCU provided the dessert. ■



ST. GREGORY IN UPPER ST. CLAIR, PA.

Flea Market 2025

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

We were truly blessed on Saturday, Aug. 2 with great weather and a large crowd as we opened our doors for this year's St. Gregory's Flea Market.

Prior to this fundraiser event our hard working parishioners were in the Church hall setting up, pricing, and donating their time and effort to make this a successful event.

And what a great and successful St. Gregory's Women of Faith fundraiser it was!

It was a fabulous time of Church community fellowship interlaced with hard work and many laughs. This would not have been possible without the collaborative efforts of all. Huge "thank you" to everyone and may Our Lord bless you for your love and dedication to St. Gregory's! ■



St. Gregory's at PNC Park

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

On a beautiful Thursday evening, Aug. 7, St. Gregory's parishioners enjoyed a wonderful evening at

PNC Park.

It was a great evening as we witnessed Pittsburgh Pirates' 7-0 win over the Cincinnati Reds. ■



Learning about Seminary life

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

Following the Sunday Divine Liturgy on Aug. 10, our parish family was looking forward to a presentation on our Byzantine Catholic Seminary.

This presentation was given by our summer intern Father Deacon Nicholas Krivacs together with Father Deacon Mark Le Roy. With this presentation we learned a lot about the history, different programs, and daily life of this institution that has been in existence since 1950.



Sincere thanks to Deacon Nicholas and Deacon Mark for this wonderful presentation, and we ask Our Lord to bless the Seminary community as they prepare to begin the new academic year! ■



SS. PETER AND PAUL IN WARREN, OHIO CELEBRATES 100 YEARS

Honoring our past; celebrating our promising future

By Elizabeth Harbist

Change is part of life. Since 1925 the parish family of SS. Peter and Paul Byzantine Catholic Church in Warren, Ohio, has seen much change. On Sunday, June 28 the parish family, clergy and guests joined current administrator Rev. Father Miron Kerul'-Kmec to celebrate the 100th anniversary of SS. Peter and Paul and to reflect on the many changes that have resulted in their vibrant growing parish in northeast Ohio.

It all began in late 1924 when then Bishop Takach sent a seminarian to determine the need for a Byzantine Church in the Warren, Ohio area. Suffice it to say, there was and continues to be a need! The parish was officially founded in 1925. Over the years, SS. Peter and Paul included a church building which was blessed in Dec. 1951; a school, which closed in June 2005; an apartment building for the elderly named Prague Manor; and a convent for the Byzantine Benedictines.

But a church is much more than the physical buildings that make up the campus. In the early 2000s, with Father Bob Karl of blessed memory as pastor, a spiritual transformation among the faithful resulted in a solid faith community. It is the continuation of that faith community that fuels SS. Peter and Paul today, and who worked together for the 100th anniversary celebration.

Planning for the 100th celebration began more than five years ago. Committees were formed, fundraisers held — lots and lots of candy bars were sold! Individuals spent countless hours preparing the church — crossing all the t's and dotting all the i's — some seemingly spending nights leading up to the event in the church!

The celebration was testament to this dedication. Parishioners of all ages collaborated to ensure a memorable celebration in honor of their founders and for the hope of their future.

Metropolitan Archbishop William C. Skurla, along with Very Rev. Andrew Deskevich, Very Rev. Kevin Marks, Very Rev. Richard Lambert, Rev. John Welch, Rev. Will Rupp, Rev. Radko Blichar, and St. Peter and Paul administrator Father Miron concelebrated Divine Liturgy. Deacon Michael Opalka also attended. Responses by the Archeparchial Choir along with Tim Byers's chanting of the Epistle further enhanced the



beautiful Divine Liturgy and celebration.

Following Divine Liturgy, Archbishop William, clergy, Benedictine Sisters, parishioners, and guests commenced to St. Demetrios Church Community Center for the afternoon program and dinner. Everyone enjoyed the delicious food, and

many commented on the lovely decorations. Entertainment was provided by Living Traditions Folk Ensemble.

As the celebration continued, the elders reminisced of the old days while the "young'uns" respectfully listened knowing that they are now charged with the task of moving the parish forward

through spiritual diligence.

The SS. Peter and Paul family accepts this task fully. With the guidance of the Holy Spirit, the foundation of faith, and commitment to the Byzantine Catholic Church, the parish looks toward a bright and promising future. God grant SS. Peter and Paul many more blessed years! ■



Feast of St. Elijah

ASCENSION OF OUR LORD IN CLAIRTON, PA.

By Trish Roberts
Ascension of Our Lord, Clairton, Pa.
On Sunday, July 27, Father Christopher Burke of Ascension Parish in Clairton,

Pa, blessed everyone's car after Liturgy.
It was a beautiful day as each person stood with their vehicle, waiting patiently for their turn. ■



SS. PETER AND PAUL IN DUQUESNE, PA.

Father Christiaan Kappes blessed wheeled vehicles on the Feast of St. Elijah at SS. Peter and Paul in Duquesne, Pa. ■



ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST IN SCOTTDALE, PA.

Father Oleh Seremchuk blessed vehicles on the Feast of Elijah at St. John the Baptist in Scottdale, Pa. ■



Mark Seremchuk also brought his vehicle to be blessed.



HOLY GHOST IN PITTSBURGH (NORTH SIDE), PA.

Father David Bosnich blessed vehicles on the Feast of the Holy Prophet Elijah at Holy Ghost Church in Pittsburgh (North Side), Pa. ■



HOLY GHOST IN MCKEES ROCKS, PA.

Father Frank Firko blessed vehicles on the Feast of the Holy Prophet Elijah at Holy Ghost Church in McKees Rocks, Pa. ■



ST. JOHN CHRYSOSTOM IN PITTSBURGH, PA.

Baptized in Christ!

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

Sophia Marie Byers received the Mysteries of Initiation during Divine Liturgy at St. John Chrysostom Church in Pittsburgh, Pa. on Sunday, June 29.

Sophia is the daughter of Thomas and Gina Byers and the sister of Thomas "TJ." Her godparents are fellow parishioners Matthew and Monica Rodrigues.

Following Divine Liturgy, the Byers Family invited all parishioners and guests to celebrate with them at a luncheon held in Sophia's honor in the social hall.



Godparents Monica and Matthew Rodrigues (holding Sophia); Father. Tyler Wisniewski, and Thomas and Gina Byers.

May God grant his newly baptized servant Sophia many happy, healthy and blessed years! ■

ST. MARY IN WINDBER, PA.

Dormition icon installed

By William Kosbute
St. Mary, Windber, Pa.

St. Mary's Dormition in Windber, Pa. installed an outdoor Dormition icon above the church doors as part of

the year long 125th anniversary celebration.

The icon was produced and installed by graphic artist Pete Lucas of Images Etc. in Johnstown, Pa. ■





ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST IN LYNDORA, PA.

Ladies Guild installs officers

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

The Ladies Guild of St. John the Baptist Byzantine Catholic Church in Lyndora, Pa. recently held their installation of officers with a dinner and ceremony at Rachel's Road House.

Each member was given an apron with a picture of the church on it and the member's name hand-embroidered on it.

The Ladies Guild sponsors fund raising activities to help pay for needed repairs and purchases. There are more than 20 active members in the Guild.

Pictured in the photo (right) are: Stephanie Dano, president; Shari Allen, vice president; Father Radko Bichar; Tina Pounds, treasurer; and Elizabeth Pocchiari, secretary. ■



ST. STEPHEN IN LEISENRING, PA.

Annual St. Stephen picnic

By Bob Gillingham
St. Stephen, Leisenring, Pa.

Shortly before 2 p.m. on Sunday, August 10, faithful parishioners, members of their extended families, and friends began arriving at St. Stephen Byzantine Catholic Church in Leisenring, Pa. It was the day of the 2025 annual St. Stephen picnic.

Appropriately dressed in his striped Pittsburgh Pirates baseball shirt and wearing his trademark Pittsburgh Pirates baseball hat, Father Jerry Botsko, administrator of St. Stephen, started the festivities by calling all attendees into the Hall for a blessing of the food and afternoon of fellowship.

St. Stephen parishioners make and share their own favorite meal specialties at parish events. So it's typical that the food would be evident in large amounts and be considerably ethnic. The crowd lined up in smorgasbord-style and chose freely from hot sausages, hot dogs and sauerkraut,

kolbassi, halupki, pierogies, meat balls, fried chicken, various bean salads, macaroni salad, and fruit salad — just some of the many entrees. For dessert, attendees could choose from among assorted cookies, chocolate cupcakes, mandarin orange cake, and pies. Of course, there were rolls and buns, coffee, and other assorted drinks.

A magnificent time was had by all. Parishioners, their families, and friends moved freely around, interacted, and ate either in the Church Hall or outside under the tent erected solely for the day, even though it was a very warm afternoon.

It was a glorious day in itself, but even more so because of attendance by people St. Stephen's holds among its dearest friends, particularly Father Tyler Wisniewski, administrator of St. John Chrysostom Byzantine Catholic Church, Pittsburgh, Pa. and St. John the Baptist Byzantine Catholic Church, Pittsburgh, and his parents Ed and Anita Wisniewski. ■



ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST
IN PITTSBURGH (SOUTH SIDE), PA.

South Side happenings

By Father Tyler Wisniewski
St. John the Baptist, Pittsburgh (South Side), Pa.

St. John the Baptist on the South Side of Pittsburgh, Pa. has been quite busy this summer.

In late May, the parish hosted a cemetery clean-up day. The young adults from across the Archeparchy were kind enough to lend a hand. The cemetery chapel had not been cleaned in years.

After some fellowship and food, parish pastor Father Tyler Wisniewski celebrated a Panachida in the chapel for the deceased family members and friends of the volunteers. Among those remembered was +Msgr. Ernest Dunda, who served as pastor at St. John for decades and is interred underneath the cemetery chapel.

The parish thanks Viktoria Zolnova, Youth and Young Adult ministry coordinator for the

Archeparchy, in promoting the event and registering volunteers.

To celebrate its patronal feast, the parish hosted a picnic following the Saturday evening vigil liturgy on June 21. The weather cooperated and parishioners were able to enjoy each other's company on the church's front lawn.

The parish family also celebrated Father Tyler's First Year Anniversary. Multiple rousing games of cornhole ended a very enjoyable evening.

On the Feast of the Nativity of John the Baptist, parishioners and visitors participated in the patronal procession around the interior of the church at the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy.

Father Tyler led the procession. During the third time around the interior of the church, he read four Gospels, one at each side of the church. ■



Feast of the Dormition

ASCENSION OF OUR LORD IN CLAIRTON, PA.

Father Christopher Burke blessed fresh flower arrangements and herbs for the tradition of the Feast of the Dormition, with assistance from altar server William Kerr, at Ascension of Our Lord parish in Clairton, Pa. ■



ST. ELIAS IN MUNHALL, PA.

The Dormition of the Theotokos was celebrated at St. Elias in Munhall, Pa. with the blessing of flowers in her honor. ■



SS. PETER AND PAUL IN DUQUESNE, PA.

SS. Peter and Paul in Duquesne, Pa. honored the Dormition of the Theotokos with blessing of flowers. ■



ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST IN LYNDDORA, PA.

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

The shroud of Our Lady was carried in procession by Father Radko Blichar on the Feast of her Dormition at St. John Byzantine

Catholic Church in Lyndora, Pa. Altar server David Blichar assisted his father. Parishioners brought in flowers to decorate her tomb, which were blessed by Father Radko. ■



ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST IN UNIONTOWN, PA.

A morning Divine Liturgy for the Feast of Dormition was celebrated Aug. 15 at St. John the Baptist in Uniontown, Pa.

The Dormition shroud was displayed on the tomb and was

adorned with the flowers that were brought in to be blessed.

The flowers and herbs which were on the tetrapod also added to the decoration to honor our Blessed Mother. ■



ST. GEORGE IN ALIQUIPPA, PA.

Annual summer picnic

by Jackie Pinchot
St. George, Aliquippa, Pa.

Members of St. George in Aliquippa, Pa. hosted the annual summer picnic Aug. 17 on the grounds of St. George in Aliquippa, Pa. together with members of St. Mary in Ambridge, Pa.

The day began with matins followed by Divine Liturgy celebrated by pastor Father Anthony Costantino and assisted by Deacon Tom Klacik of St. Mary.

Following the liturgy, parishioners and their guests feasted on a buffet picnic meal of hot dogs, hamburgers, kielbasa and sauerkraut prepared by the St. George Ladies' Guild

and Men's Guild members. All attendees were asked to bring a side dish or dessert for the buffet.

Attendees participated in a basket raffle, a 50/50 raffle, a "cash lantern" raffle, and finally a lively game of Bingo with St. George parishioner Dan Pinchot as the "caller."

Over 30 baskets were donated by parishioners and friends for the popular basket raffle.

The highlight of the day was the "Plunge the Priest" dunk tank fundraiser run by St. George Men's Guild member Ed Maruhnich. Father Anthony graciously agreed to sit in the dunk tank as attendees paid to throw a ball at the target to dunk him!

The day was filled with faith, family, and lots of fun. ■





ST. GREGORY IN UPPER ST. CLAIR, PA.

Celebrating 25 years of priesthood

by The Byzantine Catholic Archeparchy of Pittsburgh

Father Valerian Michlik, pastor of St. Gregory in Upper St. Clair, Pa., celebrated the 25th anniversary of his ordination to the priesthood Aug. 17.

Concelebrating the Sunday morning Divine Liturgy were Very Rev. Andrew Deskevich, Protoscellus and rector of St. John the Baptist Cathedral in Munhall, Pa.; and Rev. Brian J. Welding, pastor of St. Michael the Archangel Parish in Mount Lebanon, Pa.

A luncheon in the church hall followed the liturgy.

Parishioner Debbie Clinton delivered this message to Father Valerian and the congregation near the end of the liturgy:

“Good morning everybody. To quote Psalm 119 Verse 24: ‘This is the day the Lord has made. Let us rejoice and be glad in it.’

“Thank you to Father Andrew, Father Brian, and all of the guests. Father, congratulations on the 25th anniversary of the ordination to the priesthood. We have been blessed to have you as our spiritual leader for at least half of those 25 years.

“And in those 12 years or so years, we all know the projects that you’ve accomplished for this beautiful church and grounds. But it’s the spirituality you brought to our parish that has had an enormous impact on us.

“Adult education, guest speakers, the new ministries you started, all of the COVID activities, live streaming the liturgy and services, the drive-thru confessions and basket blessing, the beautiful outdoor liturgies, and, of course, your inspirational sermons on yellow legal pads; they’ve all helped us gain a deeper understanding and appreciation on our faith.

“But it’s the activities you spearheaded for the children that have been so exceptional: ECF classes during COVID, singing of the Antiphons, the Lenten Cross Walk, participation in the Lenten and Resurrection Services, the Nativity play, teen service projects, chaperoning numerous teenagers to the Byzantine rallies, the Candle Ministry, which I personally love being one of the “candle ladies,” the ceramic tile project which we are going to re-start, and the amazing Vacation Church School.

“We know you’re humble and you don’t like all this attention



Rev. Brian J. Welding, pastor of St. Michael the Archangel Parish in Mount Lebanon, Pa.; Father Valerian Michlik, pastor of St. Gregory in Upper St. Clair, Pa.; and Very Rev. Andrew Deskevich, Protoscellus and rector of St. John the Baptist Cathedral in Munhall, Pa.



and you’ll say that you didn’t do it by yourself but we want you to know how much we appreciate

all you’ve done for our parish family.

“We hope you enjoy the

celebration and we wish you many more years.” ■



ST. ELIAS IN MUNHALL, PA.

Feast Day celebration

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

St. Elias Church in Munhall, Pa. celebrated their patronal feast day with a parish picnic. Food, fun, and fellowship was enjoyed

by all. Many thanks to those who coordinated this event and brought delicious food to share. Father Vitalii Stashkevych is pastor.



ST. JOHN CHRYSOSTOM IN PITTSBURGH, PA.

St. Elias (Elijah) Celebration

By Elizabeth Harbist
St. John Chrysostom, Pittsburgh Pa.

St. John Chrysostom church in Pittsburgh, Pa. honored five couples celebrating milestone anniversaries in 2025. John and Patricia Niskach (50 years); Joe and Donna Reginella (35 years); Dan and Marsha O'Dille (25 years); Butch and Donna Bittner (20 years); and Matthew and Monica Rodrigues (10 years). Father Tyler Wisniewski offered a special blessing following Divine Liturgy on Sunday, Aug.

19. All parishioners and guests then proceeded to the church hall for lunch. Thank you to everyone who helped in preparing and serving lunch, decorating the hall and preparing small gifts for each couple. The couples look forward to the Archeparchy's Celebration of Marriage with Metropolitan William on Sept. 7 at St. Elias Church in Munhall, Pa. May God grant all married couples peace, health and happiness for many blessed years!

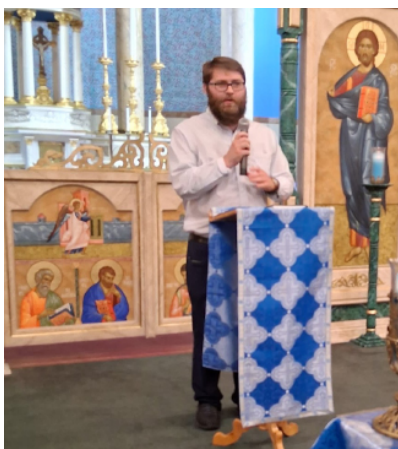


ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST IN UNIONTOWN, PA.

St. John Day of Prayer

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

On Saturday, Aug. 9, a day of prayer was held at St. John Church, Uniontown, Pa. The theme was "Refresh and Revitalize Our Spiritual Lives." The event began with a concelebrated Divine Liturgy. Father Thomas Moore Sikora, OSB of St. Vincent Monastery, the principal speaker, focused on building your weekly activities around faith. Seminarian Adam Marquart explained the importance of the Divine Liturgy. Father Kyprian Wojciechowski summed up with working toward a stronger faith life. The day concluded with confessions being offered. St. John Social Ministry provided a light



lunch and refreshments. In addition, at the evening Divine Liturgy, Seminarian Adam expressed farewell and appreciation after having spent his summer at St. John parish assisting and learning from Father Kyprian. Best of luck in your future studies, Adam!



Clergy Day of Prayer

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

The Mon Valley Deanery held their monthly Clergy Day of Prayer at St. John in Uniontown, Pa. To kick-off the day, Father James Ragan gave a reflection focusing on the upcoming Feast of Dormition. Their day concluded with Vespers. A meatless meal



was prepared by the St. John Social Ministry group.

Annual Parish Picnic

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

On the afternoon of Aug. 17, the St. John annual parish picnic was held. A variety of covered dish items along with grilled meats provided by St. John Social Ministry group made a very

extensive spread. The well-attended event included music, door and raffle prizes, August birthday wishes, and of course rain. However, the rain did not dampen the spirit of fellowship that was shared.





THOUGHTS FOR OUR DAY

By Archpriest David M. Petras


THE IMPORTANCE OF THE DEACON



The order of the deacon is found in the New Testament. This office, therefore, is an essential component of the life of the Church. The first letter of the Holy Apostle Paul to Timothy has the most complete description of the life of the deacon in the community of faith, “Deacons must be dignified, not deceitful, not addicted to drink, not greedy for sordid gain, holding fast to the mystery of the faith with a clear conscience....Moreover, they should be tested first; then, if there is nothing against them, let them serve as deacons. Deacons may be married only once and must manage their children and their households well. Thus those who serve well as deacons gain good standing and much confidence in their faith in Christ Jesus” (3:8-13). The word deacon means, in Greek, “one who serves.” It is necessary, certainly, for all Christians to serve, but it was inevitable that an office would be created for those who so dedicated themselves to service that they would receive the gift of the Holy Spirit in the sacramental mystery of the laying on of hands.

Jesus revealed what it means to be his follower in a very important incident with his disciples James and John. Moved by ambition, these two apostles asked Jesus to give them important roles in the Kingdom of God. “Grant that in your glory we may sit one at your right and the other at your left” (Mark 10:37). Jesus rebuked them and taught them about how a Christian should relate

to others, “You know that those who are recognized as rulers over the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones make their authority over them felt. But it shall not be so among you. Rather, whoever wishes to be great among you will be your servant whoever wishes to be first among you will be the slave of all” (Mark 10:42-44). He then revealed that this is


Because they were an office of service and administrative aides, they were the “glue” between the priesthood, the bishops and presbyters as “men of prayer,” and the worshiping community.

the way to be deified, to become Godlike, “For the Son of Man did not come to be served but to serve” (Mark 10:45). This is why deacons so often described as fulfilling the role of Christ in the Church. We pray for them in the Liturgy as an image of Christ, “for the diaconate in Christ.”

Deacons were important and essential workers in the life of the early Church. They administered the charitable works of the Church, a mark of faith that enabled Christianity to be recognized as truth. They administered the catechumenate,

those preparing for baptism, and the penitents, those repenting for sin. They visited the sick and ministered to the poor, caring especially for widows and orphans, those most in need in the ancient world. They were the chief administrative aides to the bishop, which accounts for them often being elected to the episcopate themselves. “Of the thirty seven men elected pope between 432 and 684 A.D., for example, only three are known to have been ordained presbyter before their election as bishop of Rome. The rest were deacons, or occasionally lay people/or in ‘minor orders’” (Andrew Boyd, quora.com). As the Church became more parochially and hierarchically oriented, however, the diaconate was eclipsed and came close to disappearing as a permanent order, becoming only a step to the priesthood.

As a function of their importance in the daily life of the Church, the deacons also performed an important liturgical function. Because they were an office of service and administrative aides, they were the “glue” between the priesthood, the bishops and presbyters as “men of prayer,” and the worshiping community. The deacons did the practical, manual acts of the Church, and directed the bishops and priests in their roles, and represented the faithful in their prayer. The deacons censed, read the Gospel, said the litanies, which were the prayer petitions offered by the community. The deacons have performed this service continually in the Orthodox Church, and in the Catholic Church were still required for solemn Liturgies, where their roles were often filled by priests. The Byzantine

Catholic Churches generally followed the Roman practice of using priests as deacons until after the Second Vatican Council.

In Vatican II, the Roman Catholic Church restored the order of deacon in its Constitution of the Church (Lumen Gentium) 29 (Sept. 29, 1964). The bishops of the Church declared, “At a lower level of the hierarchy are to be found deacons, who receive the imposition of hands ‘not unto the priesthood, but unto the ministry.’ For, strengthened by sacramental grace they are dedicated to the People of God, in conjunction with the bishop and his body of priests, in the service of the liturgy, of the Gospel and of works of charity.” This was a part of the goal of the Council to bring more of the Catholic laity into the ministry and work of the Church. The restoration of the office of deacon enabled married men to have a place in the sacramental mystery of service to the people of God. Eventually, the Byzantine Catholic Church followed the call of the Council and restored the diaconate in accord with its own tradition. At first, for Eastern Christians living in the Western countries, only the office of deacon was open to married men, but Pope Francis in 2014 restored the Eastern tradition of a married priesthood. Now, however, this restoration did not affect the deacons, who were finding their own vocation and a call to service within the ministry of the Church. It may be a long process, but the Church is rediscovering how important the mission of service of deacons is for the life of its community. ■



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>

**St. Mary
Bradenville, Pa.**
Go to [Youtube.com](https://www.youtube.com) and type in “St. Mary’s Byzantine Media”.



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 September

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

TUE	2	7a.m. Akathist for Holy Communion (R)
THU	4	7 a.m. Divine Liturgy (R)
FRI	5	5 p.m. Vespers with 3rd Kathisma (R)
SAT	6	5 p.m. Great Vespers without Litija (R)
MON	8	8 a.m. Divine Liturgy (R)
TUE	9	7 a.m. Moleben for Those in Illness (R)
THU	11	7 a.m. Divine Liturgy (R) [LS]
FRI	12	5 p.m. Vespers without Kathisma but 3 readings (R)
SAT	13	5 p.m. Great Vespers with Litija (R)
SUN	14	7 a.m. Festal Matins with Exaltation of Cross with Divine Liturgy (R)
FRI	19	5 p.m. Vespers with 4th Kathisma (R)
SAT	20	5 p.m. All-Night Vigil: Great Vespers with Festal Matins (R)
MON	22	8 a.m. Divine Liturgy (M)
TUE	23	7 a.m. Festal Matins (R) [LS]
THU	25	7 a.m. Divine Liturgy (R)
FRI	26	5 p.m. Vespers with 5th Kathisma (R)
SAT	27	5 p.m. Great Vespers (R)
MON	29	8 a.m. Divine Liturgy (M)
TUE	30	7 a.m. Parastas for the Departed (R)

This academic year, there will be - at times - a distinction between (R) = Ruthenian and (M) = Melkite.
[LS] Livestream

AROUND THE ARCHEPARCHY



ANNUAL RUMMAGE & BAKE SALE — 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 6, St. Pius X Byzantine Catholic Church, 2336 Brownsville Road. For more information, call 412-881-8344.

St John the Baptist, 105 Kohler Ave., Lyndora, Pa. will sponsor the following annual events:

- **POLKA PARTY** — Saturday, Sept. 6, Highfield Community Center, 229 Highfield Road, Butler, Pa. Featuring The Garret Tatano Band. Tickets: \$10 each at the door. BYOB. Music 6-10 p.m. Doors open at 5 p.m. Kielbasa, kraut, halushki, homemade pierogi, and soft drinks for sale.
- **RUMMAGE SALE** — 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Friday Oct. 10 and 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 11. Friday there will be homemade pierogi for sale and Saturday there will be halupki. Food starts at 10 a.m.

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.

PARISH PICNIC — Liturgy at 10 a.m. Sunday, Sept.28 immediately followed by picnic, Ascension of Our Lord Church, Clairton, Pa. Guests can bring a covered dish (vegetable, salad, dessert, side dishes, etc.). Grilled burgers, hot dogs and drinks are provided. There will be a raffle and 50/50 drawing. The picnic cost is \$10 for adults and \$5 for children 12 and under. Maximum is \$25 per family.

19th ANNUAL CLASSIC CAR SHOW — Noon-4 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 28, St. John the Baptist, 185 E. Main Street, Uniontown, Pa. Registration will start at noon and end at 2 p.m., after which the car show will continue until 4 p.m. Rain or shine. Registration fee: \$12 and the first 150 cars will receive dash plaques and goody bags. There will be over 25 trophies including one large trophy - Father Kyprian's Favorite - will be awarded. Classes will include 1900-1930, 1931-1950, 1951-1960, 1961-1965, 1966-1970, 1971-1976, 1977-1987, 1988-2009, Street Rod/Modified, Trucks 1959 and older and 1960-2009. No judging for 2010 and newer. Arnie Amber, Oldies DJ, 50/50 drawing contest, Byzantine Auction, and delicious food including a variety of sandwiches, soups, halushki, baked goods, and more will be featured. A golf cart shuttle will be available for on-site transportation. Contact information:724-438-1382 (leave message). Proceeds will benefit the St. John the Baptist Byzantine Church Maintenance Fund.

WOMEN'S MORNING OF RECOLLECTION — Saturday, Oct. 4, St. George, 1001 Clinton Ave., Aliquippa, Pa. Cost to attend: \$10 (includes continental breakfast). Agenda includes Divine Liturgy, guest speaker Melissa Sartori on “Finding Peace in Prayer,” and Akathist. More Information will be found on the parish website: www.stgeorgebyzantinecatholicchurch.org.

ANNUAL SPAGHETTI DINNER — Noon-3 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 19, St. John the Baptist, 525 Porter Ave., Scottdale, Pa. Sponsored by the Altar Society of St. John. Donation is \$12 for adults and \$6 children 12 and under. Dinner includes spaghetti, meatballs, salad, dessert, and beverage. Take-out available. Basket raffle tickets available for purchase.

43rd ANNUAL CARPATHO-RUSYN CELEBRATION — Noon-5 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 26, St. John the Baptist, 185 E. Main Street, Uniontown, Pa. Ethnic foods (holubki, halushki, pirohi, pagach, kolbasi and kraut) ,baked goods, entertainment throughout the afternoon which includes the Rusyn Folk musical group “Sokyr.” Speaker and/or video presentation on Rusyn culture/customs, church tour, displays, craft sales, raffles, parish cookbooks, extensive bake sale tables, folk art demonstrations, and children’s activities. Program subject to change. Handicapped accessible. Everyone is welcome. Free admission. For information, call: 724-438-1382 (leave message) or check parish website: <http://www.stjohnbaptist-byzcatch-uniontown.org/> . Facebook: www.facebook.com/StJohnByzuniontown.

ST. MARY’S SUPER BINGO — 2-6 p.m., Sunday, Nov. 9, St. Mary’s Center, State Route 981, Trauger, Pa. Doors open at noon. Games start at 2 p.m. Tickets cost \$30 for 24 games and include first set of Regular cards (Specials are included), one Jackpot and 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. \$1500 Jackpot Series. Regular: \$200, Letter X: \$300, Full Card: \$1,000. There will be opportunities for a 50/50, Chinese Auction, Instant Tickets, and a Lottery Tree. Proceeds benefit the Church’s Building and Maintenance Fund.

DATES TO REMEMBER



AUG. 30 to SEPT. 2
91st annual Pilgrimage in honor of
Our Lady of Perpetual Help
The Sisters of St. Basil the Great
Mount St. Macrina, Uniontown, Pa.

SEPT. 7
Celebration of Marriage
St. Elias, Munhall, Pa.

SEPT. 8
Feast of the Nativity of the Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary

SEPT. 14
Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross

See more upcoming events at www.archpitt.org



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NEXT ISSUE:
OCTOBER 2025

**SUBMISSIONS
DEADLINE:**
SEPTEMBER 21



JESUS CHRIST OUR HOPE



CATECHETICAL SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 21, 2025



2025 Catechetical Sunday

Jesus Christ Our Hope

"Lord our God, sanctify those who love the beauty of your house, glorify them in return by your divine power, and do not forsake us who HOPE in you."
(Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom)

"Always be ready to give an explanation for a reason for your HOPE."
(1 Pet. 3:15)

"Christian hope is like an anchor that grounds our hearts in the promise of the Lord Jesus. The theme of HOPE encourages us to be prepared to share the basis of our faith, the Lord, and the HOPE he provides. Sharing should be done with gentleness and respect."
Pope Leo XIV

For more information, go to archpitt.org/ore

AROUND THE ARCHEPARCHY



ANNUAL RUMMAGE & BAKE SALE — 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 6, St. Pius X Byzantine Catholic Church, 2336 Brownsville Road. For more information, call 412-881-8344.

St John the Baptist, 105 Kohler Ave., Lyndora, Pa. will sponsor the following annual events:

■ **POLKA PARTY** — Saturday, Sept. 6, Highfield Community Center, 229 Highfield Road, Butler, Pa. Featuring The Garret Tatano Band. Tickets: \$10 each at the door. BYOB. Music 6-10 p.m. Doors open at 5 p.m. Kielbasa, kraut, halushki, homemade pierogi, and soft drinks for sale.

■ **RUMMAGE SALE** — 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Friday Oct. 10 and 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 11. Friday there will be homemade pierogi for sale and Saturday there will be halupki. Food starts at 10 a.m.

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.

PARISH PICNIC — Liturgy at 10 a.m. Sunday, Sept.28 immediately followed by picnic, Ascension of Our Lord Church, Clairton, Pa. Guests can bring a covered dish (vegetable, salad, dessert, side dishes, etc.). Grilled burgers, hot dogs and drinks are provided. There will be a raffle and 50/50 drawing. The picnic cost is \$10 for adults and \$5 for children 12 and under. Maximum is \$25 per family.

19th ANNUAL CLASSIC CAR SHOW — Noon-4 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 28, St. John the Baptist, 185 E. Main Street, Uniontown, Pa. Registration will start at noon and end at 2 p.m., after which the car show will continue until 4 p.m. Rain or shine. Registration fee: \$12 and the first 150 cars will receive dash plaques and goody bags. There will be over 25 trophies including one large trophy - Father Kyprian's Favorite - will be awarded. Classes will include 1900-1930, 1931-1950, 1951-1960, 1961-1965, 1966-1970, 1971-1976, 1977-1987, 1988-2009, Street Rod/Modified, Trucks 1959 and older and 1960-2009. No judging for 2010 and newer. Arnie Amber, Oldies DJ, 50/50 drawing contest, Byzantine Auction, and delicious food including a variety of sandwiches, soups, halushki, baked goods, and more will be featured. A golf cart shuttle will be available for on-site transportation. Contact information:724-438-1382 (leave message). Proceeds will benefit the St. John the Baptist Byzantine Church Maintenance Fund.

WOMEN'S MORNING OF RECOLLECTION — Saturday, Oct. 4, St. George, 1001 Clinton Ave., Aliquippa, Pa. Cost to attend: \$10 (includes continental breakfast). Agenda includes Divine Liturgy, guest speaker Melissa Sartori on "Finding Peace in Prayer," and Akathist. More Information will be found on the parish website: www.stgeorgebyzantinecatholicchurch.org.

ANNUAL SPAGHETTI DINNER — Noon-3 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 19, St. John the Baptist, 525 Porter Ave., Scottdale, Pa. Sponsored by the Altar Society of St. John. Donation is \$12 for adults and \$6 children 12 and under. Dinner includes spaghetti, meatballs, salad, dessert, and beverage. Take-out available. Basket raffle tickets available for purchase.

43rd ANNUAL CARPATHO-RUSYN CELEBRATION — Noon-5 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 26, St. John the Baptist, 185 E. Main Street, Uniontown, Pa. Ethnic foods (holubki, halushki, pirohi, pagach, kolbasi and kraut) ,baked goods, entertainment throughout the afternoon which includes the Rusyn Folk musical group "Sokya." Speaker and/or video presentation on Rusyn culture/customs, church tour, displays, craft sales, raffles, parish cookbooks, extensive bake sale tables, folk art demonstrations, and children's activities. Program subject to change. Handicapped accessible. Everyone is welcome. Free admission. For information, call: 724-438-1382 (leave message) or check parish website: <http://www.stjohnbaptist-byzcath-uniontown.org/> . Facebook: www.facebook.com/StJohnByzuniontown.

ST. MARY'S SUPER BINGO — 2-6 p.m., Sunday, Nov. 9, St. Mary's Center, State Route 981, Trauger, Pa. Doors open at noon. Games start at 2 p.m. Tickets cost \$30 for 24 games and include first set of Regular cards (Specials are included), one Jackpot and 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. \$1500 Jackpot Series. Regular: \$200, Letter X: \$300, Full Card: \$1,000. There will be opportunities for a 50/50, Chinese Auction, Instant Tickets, and a Lottery Tree. Proceeds benefit the Church's Building and Maintenance Fund.

DATES TO REMEMBER



AUG. 29 to SEPT. 1

91st annual Pilgrimage in honor of
Our Lady of Perpetual Help
The Sisters of St. Basil the Great
Mount St. Macrina, Uniontown, Pa.

SEPT. 7

Celebration of Marriage
St. Elias, Munhall, Pa.

SEPT. 8

Feast of the Nativity of the Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary

SEPT. 14

Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross

SEPT. 27

Beatification of Father Peter Paul Oros
Village of Bilkey, Ukraine

See more upcoming events at www.archpitt.org



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