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PASTA & PRAISE

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PILGRIMAGE 2025 COMMEMORATIVE SECTION

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"Theotokos: Icon of Hope"

91ST ANNUAL PILGRIMAGE IN HONOR OF OUR LADY OF PERPETUAL HELP
AT MOUNT ST. MACRINA IN UNIONTOWN, PA.



Children walked in procession to receive blessings from Metropolitan Archbishop William C. Skurla, Bishop Kurt Burnette and Bishop Robert Pipta on Sunday, Aug. 31 during the 91st annual Pilgrimage in Honor of Our Lady of Perpetual Help at Mount St. Macrina in Uniontown, Pa. A commemorative pull-out section for Pilgrimage 2025 is on pages 7 to 10.

By David Mayernik Jr.
Editor

Sister Barbara Jean Mihalchick, OSBM, reminded those gathered for the annual Children's Procession during this year's Pilgrimage in Honor of Our Lady of Perpetual Help at Mount St. Macrina in Uniontown, Pa. that "even children are holy unto the Lord."

She told the story of Carlo Acutis, who died of leukemia in 2006 at age 15 and was canonized as a saint on Sept. 6.

He is the creator of a web site documenting Eucharistic miracles and the Catholic Church recognized his intercession in the curing of a child with pancreatic disease in 2020 as a miracle.

"This is a very special and unusual moment," Sister Barbara Jean told those gathered.

"This life of prayer, which was very serious to him and joyous to him, made him a saint. So, why at age 15? Well, the Lord wanted to welcome him early into the Kingdom of God and Heaven. When he was just 15 years old, he was struck with a very serious illness and died in just a few days. After he died, in a dream he came to his mother and said, 'Soon, I will be beatified and after that, I will be a saint'."

This year's Pilgrimage, with the theme, "Theotokos: Icon of Hope," took place Aug. 29 to Sept. 1 and was the 91st annual in the history of Mount St. Macrina.

Metropolitan Archbishop William C. Skurla, Bishop Kurt Burnette and Bishop Robert Pipta blessed those participating in the Children's Procession at the Shrine Altar.

"Let us ask our Holy Mother

Mary to keep us close to her son, Jesus, all through this coming year with its many blessings and challenges that we would be strong in our faith, our hope, our love. That we will be strong blessings in our own families and that our families will be a blessing in the world," Sister Barbara Jean said.

Archbishop William led a prayer and thanked children and parents for attending this year's Pilgrimage.

"When you come back in a few years and bring your children with you, you can remember coming to your first or second Pilgrimage and we look forward to seeing you again and again here at Mount St. Macrina," he said.

"We ask that the Lord bless

Story continued on page 10

"Come and See!" Weekend

MEN 18 TO 35 INVITED TO
NOV. 9 TO 11 RETREAT AT
BYZANTINE SEMINARY

By The Byzantine Catholic Archeparchy
of Pittsburgh

Every young man eventually has to make some hard decisions — college, career, marriage, family, religious life. How do I know what's right? Does God care what I decide?

Maybe people have suggested that you check out the Seminary. Perhaps they see in you a person who loves God, loves people, and has the potential to be a priest.

Maybe you've caught yourself thinking about the priesthood at church, in your personal prayers, or wherever.

Maybe you've thought to yourself: Will I have to give up everything — my family, my friends, the things I enjoy? Must I be super holy, super smart, or somehow "different"? Anyway, how would I know if God is calling me?

"Come and See" will help you answer these questions as you witness a seminarian's life of work, study, prayer, and joy!

The Byzantine Catholic Seminary of SS. Cyril and Methodius will host a "Come and See" weekend for men ages 18 to 35 who may be considering a vocation to the priesthood in the Byzantine Catholic Church. The event runs from 5 p.m. EST on Friday evening, Nov. 7 through 4 p.m. EST on Sunday afternoon, Nov. 9 at the Seminary, 3605 Perrysville Ave. in Pittsburgh, Pa. The earliest time for arrival is noon.

"Come and See" is a retreat weekend hosted by the Byzantine Catholic Seminary in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. The retreat is free of charge and includes sharing liturgical services and meals with the Seminary community, opportunities for confession,

Story continued on page 3



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The mission of *The Byzantine
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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
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OFFICIAL APPOINTMENTS BY METROPOLITAN ARCHBISHOP WILLIAM

**Archbishop William has announced
the following appointments:**

Effective September 30, 2025

Father John J. Kapitan Jr. OFM
retired from active ministry and
relieved as Pastor of St. Joseph
Church, Toronto and St. John Church.
Mingo Junction, both in Ohio, and to
reside in the rectory of St. Stephen
Church, Leisenring, Pa.

Father David Bosnich relieved as
Assistant Chancellor and as Assistant
to Very Reverend Frank A. Firko at
Holy Ghost Church, Pittsburgh, Pa.
and appointed Administrator of both
St. Joseph, Toronto, Ohio and St.
John, Mingo Junction, Ohio.

Father Stephen Wahal relieved
as Administrator of the churches
of St. Michael, Donora; St. Mary,
Monessen; and Holy Ghost,
Charleroi, all in Pennsylvania, and
presently unassigned.

Father Brian Norrell relieved as
Administrator of both St. Mary Church,
Weirton, West Virginia and St. John
Church, Avella, Pennsylvania and
appointed Administrator of the
churches of St. Michael, Donora; St.
Mary, Monessen; and Holy Ghost,
Charleroi, all in Pennsylvania.

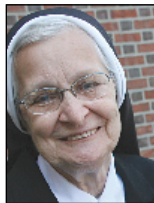
Father Luke Iyengar appointed
Administrator of both St. Mary Church,
Weirton, West Virginia and St. John
Church, Avella, Pennsylvania.



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Upcoming events at Mount St. Macrina

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

■ 10:30 a.m.-noon Thursdays Oct. 9, 16, 23, 30, **A Study of the Lesser Old Testament Prophets** presented by Sister Melita Marie, OSBM. This program is available in person and online. Registration due Oct. 6. Offering: \$20 per session Online: \$15 per session.

■ 10:30 a.m.-noon Tuesdays: Oct. 28, Nov. 4, 11, 18, **Reading Series: The Way of the Heart—Connecting To God through Prayer, Wisdom and Silence** presented by Sister Barbara Jean, OSBM Book by Henri Nouwen. Registration due Oct. 20. Offering: \$20 per session. Online: \$15 per session.

■ 10:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 1, **Grief and Hope: Exploring the Dynamics** presented by Lillian Cale of Stepping Stones Bereavement Support Group, Sister Barbara Jean, OSBM, and others. Discussions and reflection time. Light lunch included. Registration due: Oct. 27. Offering: \$35.

■ 7-8:30 p.m. Tuesday Nov. 11, **Evening of Reflection for Men** presented by Father Jim Tringhese. Presentation and snack. Registration due: Nov. 8. Offering: \$30.

■ 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 12, **Human Trafficking—The New Alerts: It's Closer Than You Think** presented by Dr. Jo Jankoski and Patricia Mowen. Geared toward parents, guardians and teens. Includes presentations, discussions, distributed materials and snack. Registration due: Nov. 8. Offering: \$30. ■

“Come and See!” Weekend at Seminary set for Nov. 7 to 9

Story continued from page 1

an introduction to the Seminary formation program, a tour of the Seminary, gatherings with the seminarians, witness talks about seminary life, discernment, and priesthood, a seminar, and a panel discussion.

The retreat is conducted in a "no pressure, no hard-sell" environment. The atmosphere is prayerful, positive, and fraternal.

Only men who register online (see form at bcs.edu) and have their pastor/vocations director letter sent in by Oct. 15 will be eligible for attendance at “Come and See.” An e-mail confirmation from the Rector’s Office must be received in order to attend.

All guests will be accommodated in private rooms, with shared restroom facilities. The Seminary will supply bedding and towels. Please bring personal toiletry items, a change of “business casual” clothes, changes of underclothing, athletic clothing for gymnasium activity, a jacket, and clothes for Divine Liturgy including long pants, button-down shirt, and tie.

Please come with all electronic devices turned off!

Retreat participants are responsible for the arrangements of and expenses for their transportation to Pittsburgh. Eparchial Vocations Offices may have scholarships or grants



available for travel to this event, so be sure to discuss this with your Vocations Director and Pastor.



Vehicle transportation from the Pittsburgh airport or train and bus stations and back will be arranged as indicated in the registration process. Airport or station arrivals should be by 3:30 p.m. on Friday, Nov. 7. Departures are to be scheduled after 5:30 p.m. on Sunday, Nov. 9. Any additional staying at the Seminary must have the prior permission of the Rector.

Please complete this form at bcs.edu to apply no later than Oct. 15. In addition, a letter from your pastor or vocations director which attests to your maturity, active membership and participation in your Byzantine Catholic parish, and your previous discussion and discernment with him concerning your priestly vocation is required. This letter must also be received no later than Oct. 15 as well if your application is to be accepted. The letter can be mailed to the Seminary (Attn: Rector) or emailed (in a PDF) form to rector@bcs.edu. ■

FIND PRACTICAL SOLUTIONS FOR
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James

AN 11-PART BIBLE STUDY FEATURING
JEFF CAVINS



St. Mary Byzantine Catholic Church, 112 St. Mary Way, Bradenville, Pa.

Dates - Times - Location
Wednesday: 6 pm - 8 pm
Church Basement

September: 17, 24
October: 8, 15, 22, 29

January: 7, 14, 21, 28
February: 4
(snow make up day Feb. 11)

Cost - Registration
St. Mary's Parishioners - FREE

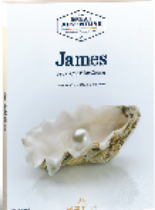
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Arlene Rosborough
412-480-1726 (text or call)
arlenema@yahoo.com (email)

Looking for an anchor to hold you steady through the storms of life? Want the secret to finding joy in the midst of trials? Interested in learning to recognize the source of discord and the way to peace? James, one of the most practical books of the Bible, is a collection of teachings on issues faced by ordinary Christians in everyday life.

In *James: Pearls for Wise Living*, presenter Jeff Cavins shows how the teachings of James speak to those of us who feel torn between the competing demands of this world and our faith.

“Once you start learning, he makes you hunger for more. Jeff pulls everything you need to know out of the Bible, and it all starts to make sense like it never did before.”
—Margaret T.





Visit ascensionpress.com to learn more!

James is one of the most practical books of the Bible. Its teachings speak loudly to those who feel torn between the competing demands of this world and their faith. This study offers “pearls for wise living” by applying the wisdom of James to our current day. For anyone who has struggled to live a truly Christian life, James offers a wealth of practical solutions for handling and even sanctifying everyday circumstances.

St. Mary in Bradenville, Pa. will begin an eleven-week Bible study “James: Pearls for Wise Living” on Wednesday, Sept. 17, at 6 p.m. Participants will meet every week to view an engaging video presentation followed by a time of lively group discussion and fellowship. For more information or to register, contact Arlene Rosborough at 412-480-1726 (call or text) or email at arlenema@yahoo.com. A flyer is available at the church entrance.

15620-1017.■

Please join the Byzantine Catholic Churches of St. Mary's in Weirton and St. John the Baptist in Avella to celebrate the

Feast of the Blessed Martyr Theodore Romzha, Bishop of Mukachevo

with an icon holding a piece of the martyr's skull for veneration



Thursday, October 30
6pm at St. Mary's: 6pm Great Vespers (solemn Evening Prayer) and Moleben (short prayer service) to Bl. Theodore

Friday, October 31
9am at St. John the Baptist: Divine Liturgy (Holy Mass)

6pm at St. Mary's: Divine Liturgy (Holy Mass)
Party following

Church Addresses:
St. Mary's: 3116 Elm St. | Weirton, WV 26062
St. John the Baptist: 176 Cross Creek Rd. | Avella, PA 15312



Clergy, Choir partner for Deanery Pasta Dinner, “Maryfest” on Sunday, Oct. 19

DUAL EVENT TO TAKE PLACE AT ST. ELIAS IN MUNHALL, PA.

By Darlene Fejka
Director, The Pittsburgh Byzantine Catholic Archeparchial Choir

What do the Archeparchial Choir’s “Maryfest” and the Greater Pittsburgh Protopresbytery’s “Deanery Pasta Dinner” have in common? Come to St. Elias Church in Munhall, Pa. on Sunday afternoon Oct. 19 to see, hear and taste for yourself!

At 2 p.m. that afternoon, the Pittsburgh Byzantine Catholic Archeparchial Choir (PBCAC) will present their “Maryfest” program at their home-base: St. Elias Church, 4200 Homestead-Duquesne Road.

The PBCAC’s choral tribute will feature beloved hymns and songs dedicated to the Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary.

During the choir’s final notes, clergy of the Greater Pittsburgh Protopresbytery will be wrapping up their last-minute pasta dinner preparations downstairs in the parish social hall in anticipation of a crowd of pasta-loving attendees following the choir’s presentation.

At 3 p.m., clergy will sport their chef’s hats and aprons as they cook and serve pasta at their popular annual Deanery Pasta Dinner.

The lower level of St. Elias Church will be transformed into a Pasta Palace as priests and deacons will bustle from table to table serving their delicious cuisine.

This exceptionally fun and filling meal will be served from 3 to 5 p.m. Dinner-only patrons who are not attending the choir program are welcome to come any time during those hours to be seated and served by our expert clergy waitstaff.

The PBCAC also will add to the festive air with impromptu singing of folk tunes and even some musical accompaniment.

Very Rev. Father Frank A. Firko, Protopresbyter of the Greater Pittsburgh Protopresbytery, and PBCAC director Darlene Fejka welcome “All the Faithful” to this delightful and delicious afternoon of pasta and praise.

There is no advance ticketing nor set charge for this come-as-you-are event.

A free-will offering is suggested and kindly appreciated. Proceeds benefit the Clergy Retirement Fund.

Churches in the Greater Pittsburgh Presbytery include: St. John the Baptist Cathedral, Munhall; St. Elias, Munhall; SS. Peter & Paul, Duquesne; SS. Peter & Paul, Braddock; St. John the Baptist, Lyndora; Holy Ghost, McKees Rocks; Holy Ghost, North Side; St. Pius X, Pittsburgh; Holy Spirit, Oakland;



A scene from last year’s Deanery Pasta Dinner at St. Elias in Munhall, Pa.



bid you **WELCOME** to a delightful & delicious afternoon of pasta & praise . . .

PBCAC’s “Maryfest”

A song-filled program dedicated to the Holy Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary



DEANERY PASTA DINNER

Perfect pasta made & served by clergy of the Greater Pittsburgh Protopresbytery



Sunday October 19, 2025

“Maryfest” 2 pm ★ Dinner 3 to 5 pm

St. Elias Byzantine Catholic Church
4200 Homestead-Duquesne Road
Munhall, PA 15120

St. John the Baptist, South Side; St. John Chrysostom, Greenfield; SS. Peter and Paul, Tarentum;

St. Andrew, Gibsonia; and St. Gregory, Upper St. Clair; and SS. Peter & Paul, McKeesport. ■

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REFLECTION FROM
MOUNT ST. MACRINA

Faith encounters

By Sister Barbara Jean Mihalchick, OSBM



This is a transcript of Sister Barbara Jean’s Nov. 2, 2024 reflection, which can be viewed at www.facebook.com/sistersofstbasiluniontown.

Glory to Jesus Christ!

I know in the past I have talked about the importance of stories, Jesus — a great storyteller — and how he used them to build up the faith of the people and to clarify and inspire.

Today’s Gospel is one of those great stories that happens; not a story He’s telling but one that He lived. It’s the story in which the woman who has been sick for 12 years reaches out to touch Him and is healed. But He’s on his way to heal a 12-year-old girl.

The messenger comes to say: “Don’t bother. She has died.” And Jesus says, “No, no.” We live in faith, we go, we move. He goes to heal the daughter of Jairus.

It’s a dramatically beautiful story. We have faith encounters; we have great stories of God in our lives. I want to encourage you to take a moment and remember some encounter with God, however it might have happened: a prayer answered, a sermon that inspired, a quiet moment of prayer that touched your heart. Whatever it might be.

These kinds of experiences are meant to build up our faith and to be shared for the faith of other people, just as Jesus did.

There are three phases here, I would suggest. First of all: gratitude. Gratitude for whatever that encounter or message or blessing happened in your life. Secondly, taking time to sit still, in a prayerful way, considering again the grace, the blessing, the happening in your life. Thirdly, to share something of that inspiration — of that blessing, of that grace — with another person to build up faith in others.

We are the Body of Christ and this kind of sharing of faith should be our automatic and loving way of living.

God bless you. ■

**BYZANTINE
DIVINE
LITURGY**

Sundays at 9 a.m.
WEDO Radio 810 AM
McKeesport, Pa.

Broadcast live from
Holy Ghost Church
McKees Rocks, Pa.

“Walking the Walk”

OFFICE OF YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULTS SPONSORS BYZANTEEN HIKE AND COOKOUT AT RIVERVIEW PARK IN PITTSBURGH, PA.

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

On Saturday, Sept. 6, the Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministry sponsored “Walking the Walk: A ByzanTeen Hike and Cookout.” After a brief welcome, introductions, and some icebreakers, the hike took place at Riverview Park in Pittsburgh, Pa.

Along the way, Father Luke Iyengar celebrated the Prayer of the Ninth Hour with the teens, who were an inspiration as they chanted and sang prayerfully together. He also shared his thoughts about what it means to “walk the walk” in the Christian life, including how to properly identify and address hypocrisy and the importance of frequent confession in strengthening our spiritual lives and overcoming weaknesses.

The teens were also given fun challenges after each stop to do together as they walked.

At the conclusion of the hike, everyone gathered at the Chancery for a cookout with Metropolitan Archbishop William C. Skurla, who grilled hot dogs and hamburgers for the group.

After dinner, the teens enjoyed lawn and board games of their choice before saying goodbye and heading home.

Many thanks to Archbishop William for the great food and fellowship and to all who participated for their enthusiasm and camaraderie! ■





SS. PETER AND PAUL IN WARREN, OHIO

Annual Picnic

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

The grills were fired up and the burgers and hot dogs were cooked to perfection. The parishioners gathered after Liturgy at SS. Peter and Paul in Warren, Ohio for our annual picnic.

Food was plentiful and the desserts

provided by our parishioners were outstanding! Games were on hand for enjoyment. A 50-50 drawing, lottery tickets on a pineapple, and door prizes were among some of the activities.

The children enjoyed face painting and other fun games. The afternoon was topped off with our traditional root beer floats. ■



100th birthday celebration

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

It was only fitting that in the same year that SS. Peter and Paul in Warren, Ohio celebrated their 100th anniversary, we were also gifted with the honor of celebrating our parishioner, Henry Ross' 100th birthday.

After Divine Liturgy, Father

Miron Kerul'-Kmec gave Henry a special blessing and presented him with a Proclamation from Archbishop William C. Skurla.

An icon with SS. Peter and Paul was also given to him from our Parish. A delicious cake and refreshments were served in the Social Hall.

May God grant Henry many blessed years! Mnohaya lita! ■



SS. PETER AND PAUL IN TARENTUM, PA.

Annual Parish Picnic

By Father Vasyly Polyak
SS. Peter and Paul, Tarentum, Pa.

On Sunday, Aug. 24, immediately following the Divine Liturgy, our parish family gathered in the church hall for our much-anticipated annual picnic. This tradition has become one of the highlights of our calendar, drawing together parishioners, friends, and neighbors for an afternoon filled with food, fellowship, and faith.

The tables were brimming with delicious dishes as everyone contributed to the covered dish meal. From hearty main courses to homemade desserts, the spread reflected not only the culinary talents of our parishioners but also their generosity and joy in sharing. Good food always tastes better when enjoyed together, and this year's picnic was no exception.

Laughter and conversation filled the hall as people reconnected with old friends and made new ones. For many, the annual picnic is a cherished chance to strengthen bonds within the parish community and to welcome newcomers into the family.

Children brought their own liveliness to the celebration, playing games that filled the space with cheerful energy and

happy shouts. Their joy reminded everyone of the importance of community across all ages.

Adding to the atmosphere was lively ethnic polka music, which gave the afternoon a festive and traditional character. The music encouraged both dancing and tapping toes, serving as a joyful backdrop to the fellowship around the tables. It was a reminder of the parish's cultural roots, carried forward with pride and celebration.

At the heart of the picnic, however, was more than food and fun. It was a visible reminder of what unites us: our faith in Christ. As one family in Jesus, we come together not only on Sundays to worship but also in moments like this — to share life, to encourage one another, and to celebrate the gift of belonging.

The picnic embodied what makes our parish special: a spirit of hospitality, friendship, and love. We left the hall nourished in body, but even more importantly, uplifted in spirit. Jesus truly united us once again in one family of love.

We are grateful to all who prepared, served, and participated in making this year's event such a success. The joy of this day reminds us why we gather as a community of faith — not only to pray, but to live, laugh, and walk together as one. ■



BYZANTINE DIVINE LITURGY

Sundays 9:00 a.m. • WEDO Radio • 810 AM

Broadcast live from Holy Ghost Church, McKees Rocks

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91ST ANNUAL PILGRIMAGE IN HONOR OF OUR LADY OF PERPETUAL HELP

“THEOTOKOS: ICON OF HOPE”

FRIDAY, AUGUST 29 TO MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 1, 2025
MOUNT ST. MACRINA, UNIONTOWN, PA.



*This is the trail of prayers our Pilgrims
leave behind that is felt
by people throughout the year.*

■ MESSAGE AT THE HIERARCHICAL DIVINE LITURGY BY SISTER SUSAN SISCO, OSBM, PROVINCIAL ■

Glory to Jesus Christ!
The phrase “it takes a village” is so apropos for Pilgrimage. We Sisters rely heavily on this very large “village” of kind-hearted and faithful people to assist us each year. First and foremost, we want to thank our Lord and His Mother for this unbelievable weather. As (Metropolitan Archbishop William C. Skurla) said, “We may not pass this way again.” What a blessing.

We thank our dear Metropolitan William, Bishops Kurt (Burnette), Robert (Pipta), and Artur Bubnevych, for not only gracing us with their presence here at the Pilgrimage but providing their thoughtful and generous support of our Sisters and the Pilgrimage throughout the year.
We thank our clergy and deacons, who can sometimes find it difficult to get substitutes for their

parishes. We’re grateful for your presence among us. We thank Father Ron (Barusefski) and our seminarians, who every year not only serve beautifully during the Pilgrimage but Friday morning here they are, carrying the benches out and tomorrow morning they’ll carrying the benches in, transporting and placing the icons, and the myriad ways in which behind the scenes they

assist us. We’re grateful.
We Sisters thank our Basilian Associates, who faithfully find their niche every year and are able to step in seamlessly into whatever task they’re assigned. They’re amazing.
Pilgrimage is in the hearts of our cantors, who lead us in praising God and honoring our Mother of God with hymns. Their

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Sister Susan Sisko, OSBM , Provincial

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talent and preparation for services throughout the weekend do not go unnoticed.

Pilgrimage is also in the faithful service of our ushers; those who have been with us for many years and those young apprentices who assist and direct us during all the liturgical services. We're so grateful to our employees, who have been in "Pilgrimage mode" for several months and they know exactly what needs to be done because they've been doing it for so many years.

We are extremely grateful to our volunteers; to all of you who come each and every year and to those who are volunteering for the first time. Thank you for all the ways you serve. We Sisters are humbled by your generosity of spirit and we could not do this without you. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts.

Pilgrimage to Our Lady of Perpetual Help is certainly held over Labor Day weekend but Pilgrimage is also "Helping Hands Day" in June and August, sponsored by our Greek Catholic Union. Pilgrimage is in the hearts of the several people throughout spring, summer, and fall spending tireless hours weeding, weed-whacking, planting; they know who they are.

Pilgrimage is thanks to the Provincial Superiors from Slovakia and Romania, who generously send their Sisters to help for our preparations every year.

Sister Sophia and Emanuela, you may have met from Presov, Slovakia, have been with us for several months, and Sisters Valentina and Maria, from Cluj, Romania, arrived earlier this year and will help us for the next few weeks. Earlier this summer, there were other Sisters from Cluj, Romania who also helped us

with preparations.

Our Sisters from Secovce, Slovakia were unable to come this year. So, you know what they did? They prepared these magnificent new altar linens so that the Table of the Lord could be well-adorned. We are so blessed.

Pilgrimage is also thanks to local businesses, who donate equipment and other resources to make things easier for the Pilgrimage.

Pilgrimage is thanks to all of you, our faith-filled pilgrims, who travel from coast-to-coast to imbue Mount St. Macrina with your prayers.

I said this last year but I'll say it again: A gentleman arrived to deliver something a few days prior to Pilgrimage and there was a delay in him being able to get set up. And I apologized to him for the delay. You know, delivery men have to keep moving.

He said to me, "Ma'am, please don't apologize. The moment I arrived on this property I felt something different and I'm just soaking it all in."

This is the trail of prayers our Pilgrims leave behind that is felt by people throughout the year.

And Pilgrimage is firmly rooted in the hearts of my dear Sisters of Our Lady of Perpetual Help Province, Uniontown who faithfully hold dear in prayer everyone I've mentioned here. I'm sorry, those who I may have forgotten.

Pilgrims all, our benefactors who share with us in so many ways. Sisters, you have been and will always be the bedrock of these Pilgrimages to Our Lady of Perpetual Help.

We Sisters look forward to welcoming you back to Mount St. Macrina for our 92nd annual Pilgrimage. Please everyone, keep safe and healthy until we meet again. ■



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*Excerpts from the homily of
Metropolitan Archbishop William C. Skurla*



“It is a great joy and an honor to be here for the 91st Pilgrimage to the Shrine of Our Lady of Perpetual Help here in Uniontown, Pennsylvania at Mount St. Macrina Monastery.

It is always a great joy to be here and we, of course, thank, the Basilian Sisters, Sister Susan (Sisko, OSBM), and the Community here in Uniontown along with our people from Slovakia and Romania and some visiting Sisters from our Sugarloaf Monastery and the Monastery in Burton, Ohio. We thank our clergy for coming along with the priests, deacons, and religious.

“Of course, we thank our most special people, the pilgrims that have come together on this very perfect day.

“We ask that the Lord continue to bless us with good days when we can gather together the young, the old, and all the different eparchies from the United States and Canada to come and pray at the Shrine of Our Lady of Perpetual Help.

“There was another shooting in Minneapolis at the Annunciation School. During their opening liturgy for the church, a couple of the children were killed and under 20 people were injured. Something like that just always is happening in the news. If you watch the news, there’s not only in our country but in Ukraine; we keep hearing stories of the men that have been fighting.

“The Archbishop of Minneapolis...said ‘we are a people of hope and a people of hope always answer with prayer and then it is followed by action.’ It’s a process that takes place in our lives each and every day. It is echoed by the words of Pope Leo and all the different churches and denominations who have held up prayers for them during this very difficult week at the beginning of the school year.

“We pray the world will change a little bit to make it a little bit holier.

“We hear in the Gospel today Jesus explaining to them that for somebody who is ‘well-off’ or unable to let go of things, it’s like trying to get a rope through a needle to enter into Heaven. Of course, his ever-faithful apostles and disciples are (wondering) ‘How can we do this?’

“It’s that hope that you will be able to do that is what sustains us through all these different things. We think our miseries and our problems are unique to our time but if we look back to the mythology of the Greeks, we have the story of Pandora’s box. Zeus, according to the fable, says he gives to Pandora a box...He says, ‘The only thing I want you to do is not open it.’

“Within it were all kinds of things; good emotions. But all the suffering and misery was released upon the word. The end of the story says, ‘What was left in the box was hope.’

“One of the things that is always a focus for us is our icons. They give us hope in times of trouble, which never seem to stop, from the time of the Greeks to the Christian period until now. There has always been trouble and the only thing that sustains us and is always present with us is our hope in Christ.

“On the other side, it is a verb. Hope is something that is within us. We are the vehicle of hope and bringing that hope into our lives sustains through the times when things go wrong.

“In our lives, there may be many things that cause us to lose hope... but as we try to be the persons of hope...we become those who people look to as a source of hope in their lives. We are able to ‘pull them up’ when they are lost and going through trials in their life that they never thought they would ever go through but they need someone to help them and nurture them back into health and pull them to a place of faith and joy in their life again.”

■



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you and give you the prosperity of Jerusalem all the days of your life...may the Lord grant you many happy and blessed years.”

The event holds the distinction of being the oldest and the largest Byzantine Catholic Pilgrimage in the country.

On Sept. 3, 1934 — Labor Day — about 3,000 faithful came by trains, chartered buses and cars for the blessing of the newly acquired home of the Sisters at Mount St. Macrina.

Many had gathered at St. John church on the other side of town, and they came in procession through the city of Uniontown carrying banners. Forty-two priests joined Bishop Basil Takach in the Divine Liturgy preceding the blessing.

Bishop Basil, with the permission of the Holy See and the enthusiastic support of the Sisters, decided to hold annual pilgrimages at Mount St. Macrina.

This would also provide an opportunity for spreading devotion to the Mother of God under her title as Our Lady of Perpetual Help, as Holy Father Pius XI requested of the Sisters.

“It is such a joy, yet again, to see so many beautiful children; so many beautiful families. Thank you for sharing in this Procession, for bringing your flower up as an honor to Mary, for wearing her medal: Our Lady of Perpetual Help. She, especially, we honor in this holy place, Mount St. Macrina,” Sister Barbara Jean said.

“We hope that you love being here and will come again and again and make it part of your spiritual ‘growing up’.” ■

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST IN UNIONTOWN, PA.

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

The 91st annual Pilgrimage at Mount St. Macrina was blessed with the beautiful weather that God provided. As a result, more pilgrims were able to attend this year.

Many St. John parishioners provided assistance throughout the weekend by helping at the shrines, lighting candles, ushering, parking cars, working in the religious gift shop, participating in processions, beautifying the grounds, and much more.

The Sisters are forever grateful to all who participated. ■



Photos by the Sisters of St. Basil the Great and the Eparchy of Passaic



ST. JOHN CHRYSOSTOM IN PITTSBURGH (GREENFIELD), PA.

by Elizabeth Harbist
St. John Chrysostom,
Pittsburgh (Greenfield), Pa.

St. John Chrysostom Church in the Pittsburgh, Pa. neighborhood of Greenfield is a growing, active parish with many children. To serve the youngest members of our parish family, we offered a Summer ECF program titled Lessons on Liturgy. The intent was to help the children better understand the Divine Liturgy and the importance of their role in celebrating Divine Liturgy.

The curriculum was over two years in the making, and it was designed under the guidance of former pastor, Father Miron Kerul'-Kmec and current pastor, Father Tyler Wisniewski. St. John Chrysostom church is blessed to have several professional educators among our parishioners with experiences spanning ages pre-school through high school. We took advantage of their professional experience; their enthusiasm for Divine Liturgy; and their commitment to our faith.

The week-long program began July 21 with Byzantine Catholic Day at Kennywood included in the plans. Each day began with the Third Hour service; a large group lesson; small group activities, including a service project; chant practice; lunch; and lots of time for outside play.

The children learned about the parts of the church building; the iconostas; Holy Table; seasonal colors of the Church calendar; altar server, deacon, priest and bishop vestments; and the Holy Eucharist. On Friday Father Tyler celebrated Divine Liturgy with the boys serving; Sophia P. chanted the Epistle; and the girls led everyone in the singing of the Creed. We included a prosphora making workshop on Wednesday, and on Friday each child planted a marigold to tend at home and bring back for blessing on Aug. 15 – the Dormition of the Theotokos.

Of course, the time at Kennywood was a big hit. Families began by attending the service and lunch at SS. Peter and Paul Church in Duquesne, Pa. then heading down the road to ride the rides in the iconic amusement park. Friendships made during the first few days of the program were further developed on the Jack Rabbit and Merry-Go-Round to name a few. Father Tyler was a sought-after partner for the Jack Rabbit and as always, Father Tyler was a good sport.

Many thanks to all the families who brought their children and grandchildren for this important and faith-filled week of learning.

Thank you to our teachers

Lessons on Liturgy



Father Tyler; Matt and Monica Rodrigues; and Lori Schultz, who created a slide show highlighting the week which was shared with the parish family at our Sunday coffee social. Thank you to Sandy Z., Nancy K., and John H. for preparing lunch each day. Thank you to our cantor Eric Williams for working with the children on chant and singing. Thank you to John F. Harbist for developing the

curriculum. Thank you to Father Miron and Father Tyler for fine-tuning the curriculum.

An unexpected, but lovely result of Lessons on Liturgy happened a week after everything was over.

For their service project, the children drew pictures and wrote notes to homebound parishioners and those we haven't seen for a while. Some of the children colored icons of saints to include

in their notes. A week after the program ended, one of our homebound parishioners returned to Divine Liturgy. He shared that when he got the note from 9-year-old Joseph, he said it was "telling me I gotta get to Church." It's often the little things that make the biggest impact. ■



ST. GREGORY IN UPPER ST. CLAIR, PA.

Honoring our grandparents

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

Grandparents hold a unique place in our children's lives, so it seems proper to honor them on a special day. This took place at St. Gregory in Upper St. Clair, Pa. on the weekend of Sept. 6 to 7.

As part of this celebration, prayerful supplications were offered, followed by a special blessing bestowed upon all the grandparents at the end of the Divine Liturgy. On Sunday, the celebration continued in the church hall. ■



Annual Parish Picnic

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

Blessed with beautiful weather, we gathered on Sunday, Sept. 14, to celebrate the Exaltation of the Holy Cross.

Prayerful supplications were offered for the anniversary of the Consecration of St. Gregory and the beginning of the new school year 2025-26. At the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy, our dedicated ECF teachers together with our students received a special blessing.

As part of the celebration our ECF Director Lorri George and ECF teachers Debbie Clinton and Renee McEwen received

a "hramota" — certificate of recognition and appreciation from our Metropolitan Archbishop William C. Skurla for their love and dedication to our Byzantine Catholic Church and for years of spiritual enrichment and faith-based education for the children of St. Gregory's.

Following the Divine Liturgy, we continued with our Parish Picnic. A great hit again this year was the petting zoo.

Sincere thanks to all who participated in our celebration and helped prepare this fun event that brought us together to offer prayers of thanksgiving on this special day. ■



ST. GEORGE IN ALIQUIPPA, PA.

The Cross of Gratitude

by Jackie Pinchot
St. George, Aliquippa, Pa.

St. George in Aliquippa, Pa. was blessed to receive the Cross of Gratitude on Sunday, Sept. 14 for a two-week stay in the church.

Father Anthony Costantino, pastor, welcomed the cross and its sculptor Vitaliy Sobolivsky to the church. More than 20 men, both parishioners and friends of the parish, carried the 20-foot-long, 800-pound intricately carved crucifix into the church.

Over the two-week period, Father Anthony offered Divine Liturgies, First and Third Hours, Moleben, the Mystery of Holy Anointing, and Great Vespers while the Cross remained in the church. Parishioners from many area churches also attended the services.

In addition, Father Anthony offered a special blessing with a relic of the True Cross after each service.

The worldwide mission of the pilgrimage of the Cross of

Gratitude began in 2003 in Lviv, Ukraine, when Sobolivsky heard: "Take my Cross and carry it to all the capitals of the world as a sign of gratitude to Almighty God for our salvation, which we receive from Jesus Christ."

Since the pilgrimage began, the Cross of Gratitude has visited 46 European capitals and more than eight states including stops at St. Patrick Cathedral in New York, N.Y. and St. Mathew Cathedral in Washington, D.C.

The Cross of Gratitude has been blessed by Pope St. John Paul II, Pope Benedict XVI, and Pope Francis.

The Cross of Gratitude remained at St. George until Sunday, Sept. 28, when Sobolivsky was honored with a reception following the Divine Liturgy and was given a generous monetary donation collected by the St. George parishioners and visitors.

The cross is headed to Southern California with stops planned in Chicago, Ill. and Las Vegas, Nev. ■





ST. ELIAS IN MUNHALL, PA.

Welcoming Deacon Nicholas

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

On the Sunday after the Feast of the Exaltation, St. Elias parish in Munhall, Pa. welcomed Deacon Nicholas Krivacs and his wife and

seminarians to Liturgy. May God grant them many years and success in their endeavors. Father Vitalii Stashkevych is pastor. ■



Feast of the Holy Dormition

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

St. Elias pirohi makers worked hard to make enough of our delicious pirohi to sell at the West Homestead

Community Day. Commercial food trucks can't compete with this homemade goodness. Haluski and pirohi both sold out! Thank you to all the volunteers and patrons who supported us! ■



HOLY SPIRIT IN PITTSBURGH (OAKLAND), PA.

Summer Flea Market

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

Holy Spirit in Oakland, Pa. held their Summer Flea Market Aug. 23 in time for the students returning to local universities. The sunny day brought in a steady flow of shoppers, and Father

Michael Kunitz even helped at checkout with the afternoon surge of students! The kitchen sales were also good, including the freshly made pirohi. Many thanks to all of the volunteers who worked on set up, sales, and clean up! ■



Exaltation of the Holy Cross

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

The congregation at Holy Spirit in Oakland, Pa. participated in the Exaltation of the Holy Cross on Aug. 14 with an outdoor

procession led by administrator Father Michael Kunitz and Father Luke Iyengar, who concelebrated the 8 a.m. Divine Liturgy. The morning sunshine added to the beautiful spirituality of this Feast Day. ■





ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST IN UNIONTOWN, PA.

Safe Environment class

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

Sister Joanne Lickvar, OSBM, presented a “Safe Environment” workshop on Tuesday evening Aug. 19 at St. John the Baptist in Uniontown, Pa.

A group of nearly 30 participants from local parishes attended. Sister Joanne thoroughly explained the



Archeparchial requirements to those who wish to participate and volunteer in parish life. ■

ECF kick-off for Catechetical Sunday

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

As part of the ECF Program, the weekend Divine Liturgies included a blessing of ECF students and their parents.

A commissioning service for catechists also took place. After the Saturday evening Divine Liturgy, a pizza party was held for the families. In conjunction, a food drive was held before

and after the weekend Divine Liturgies, which encouraged parishioners to be more aware of serving the needy. As always, St. John parishioners showed great generosity by the large amount of nonperishable items donated, as well as monetary donations.

The food items and monetary donations will benefit the local St. Vincent de Paul local food pantry. ■



36th annual Rosary Walk

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

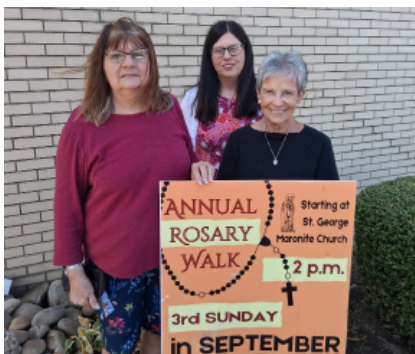
On Sunday, Sept. 21, St. John the Baptist and other local Catholic churches participated in the 46th annual Rosary Walk.

The afternoon had beautiful weather for the nearly 100 participants processing through Uniontown to revere Mary.

Beginning at St. George Maronite Catholic Church,

Father Aaron Sandbothe blessed the participants and led the first decade of the Glorious Mysteries.

The second decade was recited at St. John Byzantine Catholic Church. Father Kyprian Wojciechowski, with his powerful voice, led the singing of Byzantine Marian hymns at the beginning and end before proceeding to the other local Catholic churches. It was truly a prayerful experience. ■



September birthdays

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

A birthday social was held on Sept. 14 after the morning Divine Liturgy for the Exaltation of the Most Precious Cross.

St. John Social Ministry

Committee served ham barbeque sandwiches and nachos with cheese.

Those celebrating their birthdays enjoyed a delicious homemade cake. ■



INFANT JESUS OF PRAGUE IN BOARDMAN, OHIO ST. NICHOLAS IN YOUNGSTOWN, OHIO

Parish picnic

By Paula Slemmons
Infant Jesus of Prague, Boardman, Ohio
St. Nicholas, Youngstown, Ohio

Infant Jesus of Prague in Boardman, Ohio and St. Nicholas Church in Youngstown, Ohio held a

combined church picnic on July 30 at Infant Jesus of Prague pavilion.

We celebrated Father Mykhaylo Farynets and his wife Marina's birthdays. It was a warm but wonderful evening with delicious food and fun. ■



ST. NICHOLAS IN GREENSBURG, PA.

Special ECF blessing

Students and teachers at St. Nicholas in Greensburg, Pa. received a special blessing by Father Vasyl Banyk on Sunday, Sept. 21. ■





THOUGHTS FOR OUR DAY

By Archpriest David M. Petras

THE DEACON AND CHRISTIAN SERVICE

The order of deacon is the first of the sacramental orders of the Church. In the New Testament seven men are called deacons:

Stephen, Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolaus. When these men were chosen for service, Scripture says that the apostles “prayed and laid hands on them” (Acts 6:6). Later, in the letter of St. Paul to Timothy, the qualifications that deacon were to possess were described (1 Timothy 3:8-13). It is not certain that these early deacons functioned in the Church and in its Liturgy as later developed, but we see here that service is an essential mark of the sacramental mystery of the laying on of hands. Our Lord revealed to us, “The Son of Man did not come to be served but to serve. (Mark 10:45)” At the Last Supper, Jesus washed the feet of his disciples and taught them, “I am among you as the one who serves” (Luke 22:27). We are called to imitate Christ, so we also must serve one another. St. Paul writes, “serve one another through love” (Galatians 5:13). It is clear that these are commandments to all Christians. Therefore, it is even more important that it be a law for those who receive the Holy Spirit for ministry through the laying on of hands. It is so important that anyone who is called to a higher order, as priest or bishop, must still serve a period of internship as a servant, for the mark of service is what identifies a Christian.

There is also another reality about Church offices and life in faith. The greatest temptation to someone who wants to be a good person of religion, or who wants to receive an office of authority or a function within the people of God, is to believe that this status makes them a little better than the others. This inclination among those who are ordained is called clericalism. The religious author Russell Shaw defined clericalism: “[It] assumes that clerics not only are but also are meant to be active, dominant elite in the church and lay people the passive, subservient mass.” In 2016, Pope Francis said “[contemporary priests]

feel superior, clerics distance themselves from the people The evil of clericalism is a really awful thing.” In 2023, he added, clericalism is “a disease that causes us to lose the memory of the baptism we have received,” that is, that in baptism we have



The desire for service to the Church, to the people of God, is a “noble task” (1 Timothy 3:1). To want to be a deacon or a priest is a worthy goal.

been conformed to Christ, who “he emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, coming in human likeness” (Philippians 2:7). Cardinal Robert Prevost, now Pope Leo XIV, said “His {Pope Francis’} message is precisely to inspire, to lead, to push all of us who are members of the clergy to not get so caught up in a lot of the external trappings but look for ways to truly be examples of the mercy, the compassion, the healing of Jesus Christ.”

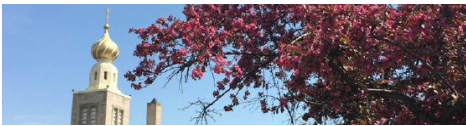
The model for clericalism in the Gospel is the Pharisee who prayed, “O God, I thank you that I am not like the rest of humanity” (Luke 18:11). Jesus condemned those who thought that religion gave them an exalted status, “They widen their phylacteries and lengthen their tassels. They love places of honor at banquets, seats of honor in synagogues, greetings in marketplaces, and the salutation ‘Rabbi’.” (Matthew 23:5-7). This is not a condemnation of clerical dress in principle. After all, in human society, people often wear uniforms to signify their role and function in service to people. Deacons, priests, and bishops wear special and ornate vestments in their liturgical service to indicate it is not them as individuals, that they serve, but only that they serve by the grace of God, and not by their own merits. However, clerical clothing can become not simply humble identification but a sign of their

own glory, when they strive to manifest themselves as really special people. This comes from a corrupt heart that has fallen to the sin of pride and inward entitlement. Sadly, lay people sometimes enable and support clericalism. It relieves them of the burden of service themselves and lays it entirely upon the cleric, who then becomes a kind of sacrificial lamb who is holy in place of the holiness that we are all called to by baptism.

The desire for service to the Church, to the people of God, is a “noble task” (1 Timothy 3:1). To want to be a deacon or a priest is a worthy goal. It must be sought with the first principle, the role of service. While the office of deacon or priest may be at times very difficult, it should not become a life of misery. The true joy of orders, however, is not in the glory of the office, but in service and humility. It is human weakness when we say to ourselves that I am going to squeeze all the glory of this office for myself as much as possible. True joy and glory do not come from seizing it for oneself. The image of Jesus is the theme of the diaconate, and also of the priesthood. True joy and glory come only from offering oneself completely to God. To return to St. Paul’s letter to the Philippians, the glory of Jesus comes from his service to his people, “he humbled himself, becoming obedient to death, even death on a cross. Because of this, God greatly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name” (Philippians 2:8-9). The lay people also have a role in this. They should be open to the grace of God which comes through the humble and sincere service of their deacons, priests and bishops. The ordained clerics do not take upon themselves the burden of faithfulness and holiness that God has called us all to. This can happen only when we serve God and one another in love. Only in this way can we support our clerics in the role that God has summoned them. As St. Paul wrote, “Put on then, as God’s chosen ones, holy and beloved, heartfelt compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience, bearing with one another and forgiving one another.” (Colossians 3:12-13). ■

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. Check the Seminary web site for any last-minute changes to this schedule. For more information, go to www.bcs.edu.

Schedule of Services for October

- THU 2**
7 a.m. Divine Liturgy (R)
- FRI 3**
5 p.m. Vespers with 6th Kathisma (R)
- SAT 4**
5 p.m. Great Vespers without Litija (R)
- FRI 10**
5 p.m. Vespers with 7th Kathisma (R)
- SAT 11**
5 p.m. Great Vespers without Litija (R) **[LS]**
- SUN 12**
7 a.m. Reader’s Festal Matins (R)
- MON 13**
8 a.m. Divine Liturgy (R)
- TUE 14**
7 a.m. Moleben for Those in Illness (R)
- THU 16**
7 a.m. Divine Liturgy (M)
- FRI 17**
5 p.m. Great Vespers with 1st Kathisma; No Litija (R)
- SAT 18**
5 p.m. Great Vespers (R)
- SUN 19**
8 a.m. Festal Matins with Divine Liturgy (R)
- MON 20**
8 a.m. Divine Liturgy (R) **[LS]**
- TUE 21**
7 a.m. Akathist to Pope St. John Paul II (R)
- THU 23**
7 a.m. Divine Liturgy (M)
- FRI 24**
5 p.m. Vespers with 8th Kathisma (R)
- SAT 25**
5 p.m. All-Night Vigil (R):
Great Vespers with Festal Matins (R)
- MON 27**
8 a.m. Divine Liturgy (R)
- TUE 28**
7 a.m. Parastas for the Departed (R)
- THU 30**
7 a.m. Divine Liturgy (M)
- FRI 31**
7 a.m. Festal Matins
(Bl. Theodore Romzha, R)
- [LS] Livestream**

AROUND THE ARCHEPARCHY



ANNUAL CRAFT/VENDOR SHOW AND FOOD FESTIVAL — 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 18, St. John the Baptist Cathedral Center, 210 Greentree Road, Munhall, Pa. There will be 60 crafters and vendors, crafter showcase auction, raffles, ethnic favorites including stuffed cabbage, haluski, pirohi, and other foods. Eat in or take-out. St. John’s baked goods, famous kolache and more. For information, call 412-461-0944.

HOLIDAY BASKET EXTRAVAGANZA — Noon-4 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 16, St. John the Baptist Cathedral Center, 210 Greentree Road, Munhall, Pa. Doors open at noon. Donation of \$25 includes: Sit Down Dinner served at 1 p.m.. Parmesan Crusted Chicken, Potato, Vegetable, Salad, Roll and Butter and Dessert and Door Prizes. Basket Auction drawing beginning at 3:45 p.m.50/50 and other raffles will be available. Variety of vendors to begin your Christmas shopping early. Tickets must be purchased in advance. Contact Diane Pochron at 412-303-6534.

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.

RUMMAGE SALE — 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Friday Oct. 10 and 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 11, St. John the Baptist, 105 Kohler Ave., Lyndora, Pa. Friday there will be homemade pierogi for sale and Saturday there will be halupki. Food starts at 10 a.m.

ANNUAL SPAGHETTI DINNER — 1-5 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 19, SS. Peter and Paul, 701 Foster Ave., Duquesne, Pa. Cost for adults is \$13 and children 10 years and under is \$6. Children under 5 years old is free. There will also be raffles and auctions.

FUNDRAISER SPAGHETTI DINNER, BASKET RAFFLE & BAKED GOODS SALE — Noon to 4 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 19, Ascension of Our Lord, 318 Park Ave., Clairton, Pa. Proceeds benefit church maintenance. Dinner includes spaghetti with homemade sauce, meatballs, salad, bread and beverage. Adults: \$12; Children 10 and under: \$5. Eat in or take out. Meatball hoagie dinner will also be available. The event will include a bake sale, basket raffles and strip tickets. For more information, call Trish at 412-233-7814 or email at trishala2@earthlink.

43RD ANNUAL CARPATHO-RUSYN CELEBRATION — Noon-5 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 26, St. John the Baptist, 201 E. Main St., Uniontown, Pa. Divine Liturgy at 9 a.m. Ethnic foods including holubki, pirohi, haluski, kolbasi and sauerkraut, soup, pagach, baked goods (long rolls, a variety of pastries, cakes, kolachi, breads, and much more). Performances of Rusyn Folk music by “SOKYRA” at 12:30 p.m. and continuing throughout the afternoon. Speaker and/or video presentations on Rusyn customs and traditions. Displays of artifacts, authentic costumes, models of Rusyn wooden churches, photographs, and documents. Folk art demonstrations such as pysanky, embroidery, iconography, bobbin lace making, as well as a church tour, and children’s activities. Crafts, embroidered Easter basket covers, parish cookbook “Carpathian Cookery” will be for sale, raffles, and more. Subject to change. Father Kyprian Wojciechowski is administrator. Handicapped accessible. Admission is free. For information call 724-438-1382 (M-F 9 a.m.-3 p.m., leave message). NOTE: Please check parish website <http://www.stjohnbaptist-byzcath-uniontown.org/> or facebook www.facebook.com/StJohnByzUniontown.

FEAST OF BL. THEODORE ROMZHA — All are invited to join St. Mary, 3116 Elm St., Weirton, W. Va. and St. John the Baptist, 176 Cross Creek Road, Avella, Pa. to celebrate the Feast of Bl. Theodore Romzha and venerate a piece of the martyr’s skull. Schedule: Thursday, Oct. 30: 6 p.m. Great Vespers and Moleben at St. Mary’s; Friday, Oct. 31: 9 a.m. Divine Liturgy at St. John the Baptist; 6 p.m. Divine Liturgy at St. Mary’s with party following.

STORIES AND SONGS FROM THE MOUNTAINS — 4-7 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 8, Holy Spirit, 4815 Fifth Ave., Pittsburgh (Oakland), Pa. Join us to hear Dean Poloka, and Beth and Michael Liberatore, members of the Rusyn Folk Group “Sokyra,” perform a concert of tales from the people, customs, and culture of the Carpathian Mountains region. Tickets are \$20 in advance, \$25 at the door, \$15 for students, which includes admission, entertainment, and refreshments. A multi-basket raffle will also be held. Proceeds benefit Holy Spirit Parish restoration projects. Visit www.HolySpiritByzCath.com or call the parish office at 412/687-1220 for tickets.

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.

PIROHI SALE — St. John the Baptist, 201 E. Main Street, Uniontown, Pa. is resuming pirohi sales for take-out only. Available are Potato/Cheese or Sauerkraut, cooked or frozen; and Prune (lekvar), frozen only at \$11 per dozen. Orders may be placed by calling 724-434-5355 Monday through Wednesday beginning at 9 a.m. (unless limit is reached prior to that time). On message: Specify type(s), number of dozens ordering, and leave name, phone number, and time of pick up which will be 9 a.m. to noon Friday in back of school building in upper parking lot.

DATES TO REMEMBER



OCT. 1
Feast of the Protection of the Theotokos

OCT. 4
Pilgrimage for Youth and Young Adults to Loretto, Pa.

OCT. 19
“Maryfest” and Freewill Deanery Pasta Dinner
See page 4 for story.
2 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 19
St. Elias, 4200 Homestead-Duquesne Road, Munhall, Pa.
The Pittsburgh Byzantine Catholic Archeparchial Choir presents “Maryfest” and Greater Pittsburgh Protopresbytery’s annual Deanery Pasta Dinner. A freewill offering will be taken to cover expenses. Any profit benefits Priests’ Pension Plan.

NOV. 2
Annual Marian Moleben for the Causes of Beatification and Canonization of our Four Saintly Ruthenian Byzantine Catholic Bishops
3 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 2, Holy Ghost, 225 Olivia St., McKees Rocks, Pa.
Archbishop William C. Skurla will be the celebrant.
Everyone is cordially invited. Information on the lives of these holy prelates, along with refreshments will be served following the liturgical service. Please help us by your prayers and presence to advance their Causes.

See more upcoming events at www.archpitt.org



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**SUBMISSIONS
DEADLINE:**
OCTOBER 17