

WORLD

THE BYZANTINE CATHOLIC



Special
Christmas
issue!

THE OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER OF THE ARCHDIOCESE OF PITTSBURGH VOL. 70 NO. 14 CHRISTMAS 2025

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WORLD

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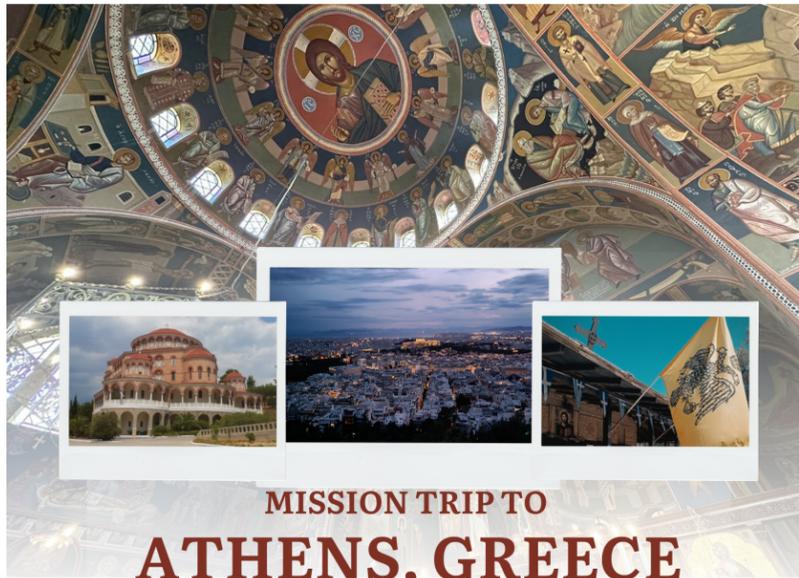
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MISSION

The mission of *The Byzantine Catholic World* is to spread the Gospel message in the rich tradition of the Byzantine Catholic Church; to encourage faithful to reflect the image of Christ in everyday activities of life; to offer spiritual formation through changing times; and to celebrate community among Byzantine Catholics in the Archeparchy of Pittsburgh, throughout the Metropolitan Church in America, and around the world.



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CHRISTMAS GREETINGS 2025



God the Lord Eternal (Hospod Boh Previcnij)

God the Lord eternal shows Himself to us
Born in humble manger from a virgin spotless.
Choirs of angels joyfully sing welcome to the newborn King
Glory! Glory! Glory!
Glory to God in the Highest.
(*Hymn God the Lord Eternal*)

Christ is Born! Glorify Him!

Dear People,

We celebrate the birth of a child in Bethlehem. The birth of any child is a great gift from God, but Jesus's birth changes the world. Like the Gospel of Saint Luke, the Christmas carol *God the Lord Eternal*, tells the timeless story of a mother and father in search of a place to find a shelter and a place to give birth far away from their home.

Jesus's birth in the simple shelter of a cave used as a stable for farm animals is truly the humblest way to enter the world. The nativity hymn reveals the hidden spiritual meaning of his birth by including the angels who proclaim His birth to the whole world and the heavens above. Through Mary giving birth to Jesus, the eternal God has revealed him to the world. The significance of His birth, however, is only revealed during the course of His life. The full unfolding of his true divinity is revealed in his Resurrection.

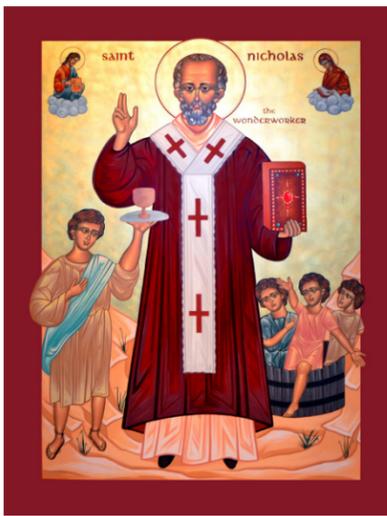
Today, we are the tellers of the Christmas story to our families and friends. Some believe, but not all people understand the importance of Jesus's birth. We try to move them from knowing the basic Christmas story to believe that Mary is the Mother of God, who gave birth to Jesus Christ our Lord God and Savior. We have to be like the angels and proclaim that Jesus is truly both a man and the Son of God in a way that they understand.

This Christmas we again pray that Jesus, the Prince of Peace, helps the nations at war to find a way to stop the violence, and to build a future of true justice and peace. We pray especially for peace in Ukraine. After years of war, may the people have a chance to live without fear of violence. May next Christmas be peaceful for our people in Ukraine.

As we celebrate the Christmas season and begin the New Year, we thank you for your support and prayers during the past year. We pray that the coming year will bring good health for you, your families and friends.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

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



by David Mayernik Jr.
Editor

When Deacon Mark LeRoy was considering converting to the Catholic faith, he received quite a shock when he attended an Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) class at a North Carolina church.

“When I arrived, I was shaken to my core. Sitting in class was my Mormon Sunday school teacher from when my family lived in Idaho many years ago,” he said.

“She had her own conversion, moved from Idaho to North Carolina for work, and just so happened to attend that particular parish and just so happened to be helping out with the RCIA program.

“I then understood what St. Mark meant when the disciples were walking along the beach with Jesus and He wrote: ‘And he walked before them and they were amazed and afraid.’”

Deacon Mark and Deacon Nicholas Krivacs discussed their formation journeys at the 68th annual St. Nicholas Charity Dinner, held Dec. 7 at St. John the Baptist Cathedral in Munhall, Pa.

The event benefits the Seminary.

Jeremy Stephenson, Greek Catholic Union (GCU) president and CEO, presented Metropolitan Archbishop William C. Skurla with the fraternal organization’s annual contribution to the Seminary, which this year totaled \$100,000.

The organization has donated \$4 million to the Seminary since 1960.

The GCU is celebrating the 133rd anniversary of its founding in 1892.

Checks funded by the GCU Foundation were also presented to this year’s 13 seminarians: Sdn. Abraham Barahmeh, Alex Broussard, William Coupe, Chad Durante, James Hartung, Den. Joseph Hnat, Christopher Karroum, Patrick Kilroy, Deacon Nicholas Krivacs, Deacon Mark LeRoy, Adam Marquart, Harrison Otto, and David Varga.

St. Nicholas is patron saint of the GCU.

The Seminary will celebrate its

Story continued on page 5

“The Seminary is a breathing and living community”

ST. NICHOLAS CHARITY DINNER AT ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST CATHEDRAL IN MUNHALL, PA. CELEBRATES 68TH YEAR IN SUPPORT OF SS. CYRIL AND METHODIUS SEMINARY



Metropolitan Archbishop William C. Skurla



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



Jeremy Stephenson, GCU President and CEO



Master of ceremonies Chris Singel





68TH ANNUAL ST. NICHOLAS CHARITY DINNER

St. Nicholas Charity Dinner

continued from page 4

75th anniversary in 2026.

“What a glorious milestone it is,” Father Ron Barusefski, Seminary rector, said.

“The Seminary is a breathing and living community. Its faculty and staff, comprised of priests, religious and lay men and women who dedicated themselves so much to the education and sharing in the experience of those who study there.”

This year, the Seminary has 11 candidates in its deacon study program and 13 seminarians.

“Most of all, the Seminary community is also you. All of you have given so much by your donations and your presence, especially this evening,” Father Ron said.

“The Seminary is your home, as well.”

Archbishop William asked those gathered to continue to pray for vocations

“The Seminary keeps our Church alive and makes it possible for us to serve not only the churches in the United States but we now have an eparchy in Canada. We hope we will be able to supply the needs of parishes for many, many years to come.”

Deacon Nicholas is in his final year of Seminary studies, which includes Human, Spiritual, Academic and Pastoral formation

“Each of these dimensions of formation has guided me toward growing as a person and specifically, growing as a follower of Christ,” he said.

He was assigned to a program visiting sick and suffering and offering spiritual guidance with Deacon Mark.

“It was this experience that truly cemented my vocation to the priesthood.”

Deacon Mark said others were aware of his calling to the priesthood before himself.

“Before I ever perceived my calling, it was seen by those around me; first my wife, then friends, family, and parishioners. This came as a surprise to me as a convert; I felt I knew very little about the faith in comparison to those who were born into it,” he said.

“Then I remembered that God has done much crazier things. After all, he brought the Gospel to to the ends of the Earth through young, illiterate fishermen.” ■

The Greek Catholic Union, the Archeparchy of Pittsburgh, the Seminary and the St. Nicholas Celebration Committee thank everyone involved with the 2025 event who helped in any way to ensure its success.



Deacon Mark LeRoy



Deacon Nicholas Krivacs



68TH ANNUAL ST. NICHOLAS CHARITY DINNER



Photos by Nick Havrilla Sr.

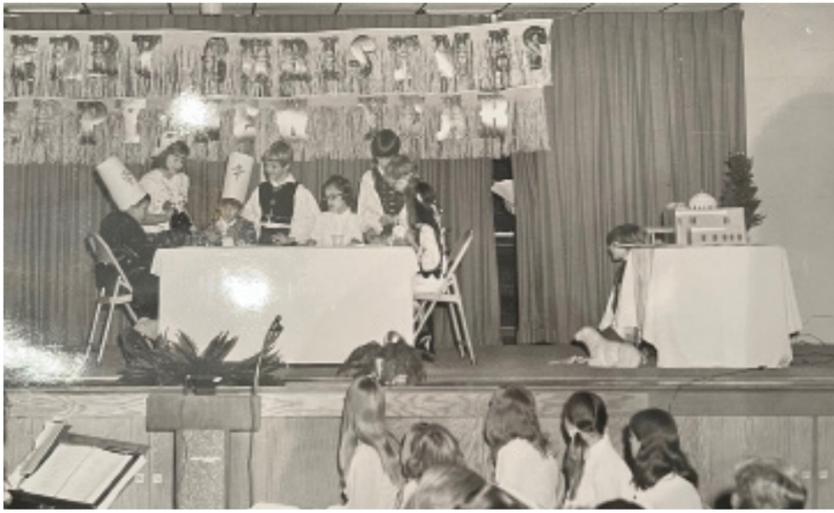


Long before ECF was a formal program in our churches, our church cantors were the religious education teachers and also passed along the traditions of the church.

John Katrincsak was one of the first cantors at St. Elias in Munhall, Pa. He brought the tradition of the Bethlehem carolers with him in 1917. The group would travel from house to house singing the carols in Hungarian, the immigrants' native language.

In 1972, our ECF students brought this tradition back to life through a play they presented to the parish. A girls' choir led by cantor Andrew Rotz helped with singing the traditional songs.

The older students went caroling to the shut-ins' homes. I was part of this group. We were taught the songs and driven to the houses by Peggy Katrincsak, cantor John's daughter. She was a tiny red-headed fireball of fun and we always enjoyed our visits with the older parishioners.



When I was young — 75-plus years ago — our family attended Holy Trinity Church in Wall, Pa.

On Christmas Day we would gather a group of 10 to 15 parishioners, young and some older, to bring joy to our parishioners.

On Christmas Day we would visit local parishioners. They, of course, would invite us into their homes. We would sing a few Christmas carols in Slavonic and they would give us a donation for the church.

They also treated us with Cargo's chocolate candy and homemade kolache and nutroll. And of course the men got a little of homemade slivovic and, by the time we finished, they could really sing.

The following Sunday we visited



I have so many fond memories of the former B.C.C. (Byzantine Catholic School) in Youngstown, Ohio.

Particularly at Christmas, I recall the beautiful Nativity hymns we sang including Heaven and Earth as well as the beloved Hymn to Saint Nicholas.

The Nuns would all work very hard to help us learn these hymns in both English and Church Slavonic.

I remember Sister Leocadia always singing or even just humming the

Later ECF classes began the tradition of the Jesse Tree. They made ornaments and read the story of the lineage of Christ. The parish always looked forward to this event.

But, time marches on and children grow up and move away. Teachers get older and this tradition has stopped. But, it was so beloved that a tree is still decorated with the ornaments made so many years ago.

The grown children come back and always know that St. Elias is their home. They search for the ornament they made and often show it to their children. And soon, this tradition may revive.

As Msgr. Vida always said, "God will provide." The St. Elias parish is now growing and many families with children are filling the pews. The sound of children in the church is a joyous noise for they are our future.

Mary Caryl Planiczki
St. Elias, Munhall, Pa.

those parishioners who lived further away and required drivers to take us there.

Again, we repeated and were treated. But, one family, the Lecorchicks, always requested that their home be our last stop. There they graciously hosted us with a food buffet and, of course, the men got something extra special to keep them warm.

Those were beautiful, happy times. I wish we would still do this.

Let's remember the real reason for the celebration is the birth of the Baby Jesus in Bethlehem.

Christ is Born! Glorify Him! Christos Razdajetsja! Slavite Jeho!

Mary Cvejkus
St. Stephen, North Huntingdon, Pa.

tune of St Nicholas throughout the day.

"On behalf of all former BCC students, I thank the Sisters who taught us. Their words of wisdom, dedication to the faith, and countless stories are not forgotten.

Christ is Born! Glorify Him!

Emily Vasilchek
St. Michael Byzantine Catholic Church, Campbell, Ohio



On this page, readers of *The Byzantine Catholic World* share their memories of Christmas when they were young and attending ECF and Catholic school classes. Thank you to everyone who took the time to participate!

Here is one of my memories:

Every Christmas the children who attended St John's Cathedral school would participate in the Christmas pageant at church.

The children in the upper grades would be chosen to play the part of Mary and Joseph and the wisemen and three kings.

Then the children in the lower grades would be chosen to play the parts of the angels. I was so excited to get picked to be an angel.

My mom also had to sew the angel costume for me.

The rest of the school children participated in the procession that took place in church at midnight liturgy. Back then liturgy was at midnight.

By the time we arrived home we were so tired and went to bed so that Santa could come and leave us gifts under the Christmas tree.

But most importantly this was all about the birth of baby Jesus born on a stable.

Diane Pochron
St. John the Baptist Cathedral
Munhall, Pa.

Despite the uncertainty in the mid-1960s for many families, (due to the closing of the USS Donora Works plant), my mother somehow scrounged together the \$4 (plus shipping and handling) to order our beloved family treasure, "Christmas and Easter in the Byzantine Tradition" by St. Mary's Byzantine Church in Van Nuys, Calif.

As a grade schooler, I distinctly recall her unwrapping the 33 1/3 rpm when it arrived and together sitting near one of our forced-air registers, listening to the carols and hymns on repeat. Holding the album cover open to read the lyrics and sing along, I became proficient in every old Slavonic pronunciation and sacred melody in addition to the English versions.

Like the Amazon commercial of today which features the "old woman" imagining herself as a child sledding, I close my eyes and can transport

myself back to the sound, smell, and feel of our home in preparation for the birth of Christ.

Though tattered and torn, I still open the original album jacket each year, to review the words. It never fails that when I hear the bells ringing and the choir break into "Rozdestvo Tvoje Christe Boze Nas", a chill still runs up my spine.

Now however, my eyes tear up with a longing for my loved ones who have entered into eternal rest, and the days when my beloved St. Michael (Donora, PA) would be "standing room only" with the pews filled with babas and grandpaps, moms and dads, and kids of all ages, gloriously singing the koljady of that Christmas album proclaiming "Christos Rozdajetsja! Slavite Jeho!"

Patty (Scrip) Brletich
St. Michael, Donora, Pa.



John Kiss with St. Nicholas (left) at St. Nicholas of Myra in McKeesport, Pa. and present-day John as St. Nicholas with Father Valerian Michlik and brother Mike (right) at St. Gregory in Upper St. Clair, Pa.

Myself and my four brothers being baptized at St. Nicholas of Myra Byzantine Catholic Church in McKeesport, Pa. in the 1950s and 1960s has left us with a deep connection with the Bishop.

How wonderful this time of year was as child attending our parochial school and learning all the traditions of our faith. My experience was so unique at our school learning our Christmas traditions through religion classes and assemblies administered by the Benedictine Monks and Priests of Holy Trinity Monastery along with our teachers from the Sisters of St. Basil the Great.

So many fond memories of the entire school grades 1 to 8 gathering in the church after lunch to learn and sing all the hymns preparing for midnight Liturgy.

On St. Nicholas Day, the Bishop of

Myra himself visited each classroom every year offering his blessings and a brown bag treat that included a piece of fruit, candy, and ethnic cookies prepared by the school's PTA.

What I always found interesting is the bishop looked a lot like Mr. Chemsak, who was on the bingo committee. Who knows, perhaps they were related.

Today the tradition continues. St. Nicholas visits our present church, St. Gregory, and it's amazing: he looks a lot like my brother John.

Who would have known that over 50 years earlier in that Catholic school the foundation was being laid for the next generation of children to also experience the wonder workings of our Bishop Saint Nicholas.

Mike Kiss
St. Gregory, Upper St. Clair, Pa.



“The Byzantine workshop”

SANTA CLAUS HAS NOTHING ON JOHN TOMKO OF ST. GREGORY IN UPPER ST. CLAIR, PA., WHO LIFTS SPIRITS WITH HIS ARTISTIC CREATIONS

by David Mayernik Jr.
Editor

John Tomko never considered himself a “crafty” person until about 30 years ago after he came home from his job as Senior Doorman at the Hilton in downtown Pittsburgh, Pa.

“I would come home from work and fall asleep on the couch and (daughter) Jennifer and Bucky, my wife, they bought me a certificate to take a stained glass class on South Park Road,” he said.

“They said, ‘You’re on the couch too much. Do something.’ That’s how it started. It grew from there.”

The class has turned into a passion for John.

His “man cave,” as he calls it — Jennifer has dubbed it “The Byzantine Workshop” — is filled with his creations: glass hummingbirds, wooden Christmas tree ornaments depicting St. Nicholas, and lamps. A whole lot of lamps.

“I have more lamps than I have outlets,” he said.

John, 89, has been a member of St. Gregory in Upper St. Clair, Pa. for more than 40 years and remembers when Liturgy was celebrated in a basement because there wasn’t a church building over parishioners’ heads.

Since the 1970s, he makes glass Byzantine crosses for First Communion (now First Reconciliation) students among many other endeavors.

“I just gave Father Valerian (Michlik) nine of them. I got some cut out. I have to put them in the kiln and bake them.”

He grinds and cuts glass, using special pieces of glass which stick together when baked.

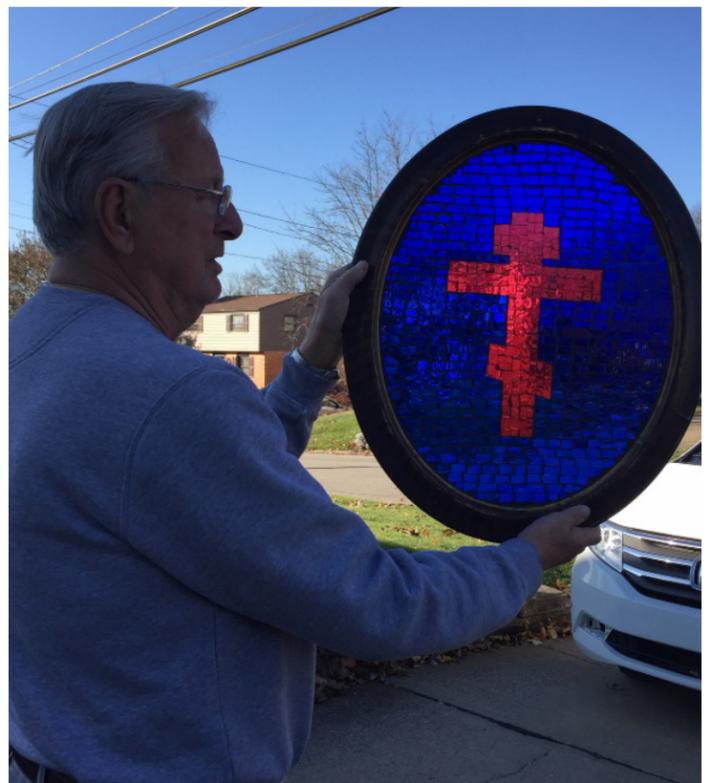
“I think anybody can do it but it’s just time-consuming. Every once in a while, you break a piece of glass. The nice thing about it is I can come in here and try to make something and if I get tired, I can leave it there for two hours or two days. It don’t make a difference.”

His creations also serve as presents for graduations and weddings as well as many other occasions.

“They make great gifts. People really like some of this stuff.”

John retired 15 years ago from his job at the Hilton after a more than 48-year career.

“Every day was different people. It was a fun job. I met everybody



continued on page 9



“The Byzantine workshop”

continued from page 8

from the beggars on the street to the governor and all the VIP guys.”

A artistic interpretation of John was pictured on the front of 3,000 Christmas cards sent out by the Hilton on the occasion of his 41st year of service.

The drawing (see below) shows John opening the door of a car and Santa Claus getting out of the driver’s seat .

“That’s supposedly me there,” he said.

The greeting inside reads: “John Tomko, who some call the unofficial ambassador to Pittsburgh, is seen in this picture welcoming another special guest ... after 41 years John has certainly seen it all...even Santa!”

That year he was recognized as the Hilton Pittsburgh Employee of the Year as well as Hospitality Employee of the Year by Pennsylvania Travel Council.

He remembers helping create a festive Christmas atmosphere when he was in sixth grade at St. Regis Catholic School on Parkview Avenue in Pittsburgh.

He said among his classmates were Pittsburgh wrestling legend Bruno Sammartino and the father of former University of Pittsburgh and Miami Dolphins quarterback Dan Marino.

“Myself and Joe DiMaggio (no relation to the New York Yankees center fielder), we used to paint the windows at the holidays,” he said.

“Times flies. You wonder where all the years went.”

As much joy as other people receive from his creations, John receives as much in return.

“You make something and you look at it and say, ‘Wow, I did that,’” he said,

“And if you give it to somebody, they’re so appreciative, you just feel good about it.” ■



TEXT MESSAGES

A healthy New Year

*by David Mayernik Jr.
Editor*



Each year in this space I wish readers to have a healthy New Year.

As I grow older, I’ve come to realize there is nothing more important than my health.

I’ve taken many steps to maintain it, including daily walks through Riverview Park and limiting my sugar intake during the week.

And I think there must be a connection between how much you laugh and how you feel.

Look at the many comedians who made and almost-made 100 years old: Bob Hope, George Burns, and Sid Caesar all lived to the century mark. Betty White was one month shy of celebrating 100 candles on her birthday cake.

My comedy hero, Bob Newhart, died July 18, 2004 at age 94. That was a sad day for myself and all of his fans.

Luckily, we still have Dick Van Dyke with us. He celebrated his 100th birthday Dec. 13 and looks to be in great shape.

Don’t believe me? Go to YouTube and watch a seven-minute video that shows him singing and dancing to Coldplay’s song “All My Love.” He recreates dance moves he made famous on “The Dick Van Dyke Show” and in Disney’s “Mary Poppins.”

“I’m acutely aware I could go any day,” he says in the video.

“But I don’t know why it doesn’t concern me. I’m not afraid of it. I have that feeling – totally against anything intellectual – that I’m going to be alright.”

■ I’ll end the year in this space the same way I have every year since 2016, with the closing lines of my favorite Christmas poem.

It was published in The New Yorker on Dec. 20, 1952 and was written by E.B. White, the author of beloved children’s books “Stuart Little” and “Charlotte’s Web.”

Once again, it’s worth a Google search to read the entire poem.

And last, we greet all skaters on small natural ponds at the edge of woods toward the end of afternoon. Merry Christmas, skaters! Ring, steel! Grow red, sky! Die down, wind! Merry Christmas to all and to all a good morrow!

Have a blessed Christmas and a healthy 2026! ■

2025 Year in Review

Taking a look back...

This year will be remembered for the passing of Pope Francis on April 21 and the subsequent election of Pope Leo XIV, the first pope who is a native of the United States — Chicago, Ill., to be exact.

Thousands of Eastern Catholics, including Metropolitan Archbishop William C. Skurla, were in Rome soon after participating in a Jubilee Pilgrimage.

Also in 2025, the Third Byzantine Assembly was held at St. Mary Byzantine Catholic Church in Whiting, Ind., and bishops and clergy gathered in the village of Bilyk, Ukraine in the Mukache-

vo Greek Catholic Diocese, to witness the solemn beatification of the Martyr Peter Paul Oros, a priest who gave his life for Christ and His Church during the persecutions of the communist regime.

Faithful celebrated the risen Lord on Pascha, participated in parish activities, and celebrated this year's Pilgrimage in Honor of Our Lady of Perpetual Help, held Aug. 29 to Sept. 1 at Mount St. Macrina in Uniontown, Pa.

The staff of *The Byzantine Catholic World* wishes you a Joyous Christmas and a Blessed New Year! ■

Jan. 23



A call for unity

In his first visit to the United States, Bishop Theodor Matsapula (second from left) of the Eparchy of Mukachevo, Ukraine, the Mother Church of the Byzantine Ruthenian Catholic Church in the United States, called for unity during his homily Jan. 23 at St. John the Baptist Cathedral in Munhall, Pa.

Jan. 28



Axios, Bishop Artur!

Bishop Artur Bubnevych of the Eparchy of Phoenix was ordained by Metropolitan Archbishop William C. Skurla Jan. 28 at Anunciation Byzantine Catholic Church in Anaheim, Calif. Pictured are: Bishop Theodor Matsapula of the Eparchy of Mukachevo, Ukraine; Bishop Robert Pipta of the Eparchy of Parma; Cardinal Christophe Pierre, Papal Nuncio to the United States, Archbishop William; Bishop Artur; and Bishop Kurt Burnette of the Eparchy of Passaic. Bishop Artur, formerly pastor of Our Lady of Perpetual Help parish in Albuquerque, N.M., was appointed as Bishop of Holy Protection of Mary Byzantine Catholic Eparchy of Phoenix by Pope Francis Nov. 8, 2024.

April 20



The Radiant Resurrection

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: Saturday Evening Resurrection Divine Liturgy was celebrated April 19 at St. John the Baptist Cathedral in Munhall, Pa. followed by Metropolitan Archbishop William C. Skurla blessing baskets at the social center' Father Vitalii Stashkevych at St. Elias in Munhall, Pa.; and St. Nicholas in Greensburg, Pa.

April 21



Pope Francis, 1936-2025

Pope Francis died April 21 at the age of 88. The pope died at 7:35 a.m. Rome time, U.S. Cardinal Kevin J. Farrell, chamberlain of the Holy Roman Church, announced Pope Francis gave new energy to millions of Catholics — and caused concern for some — as he transformed the image of the papacy into a pastoral ministry based on personal encounters and strong convictions about mission, poverty, immigration and dialogue.



May 8



Pope Leo XIV

Cardinal Robert F. Prevost, the Chicago-born prefect of the Dicastery for Bishops under Pope Francis, was elected the 267th pope May 8 and took the name Pope Leo XIV. He is the first North American to be elected pope.

May 14



During a May 14 audience in the Paul VI Hall with thousands of Eastern Catholics participating in their Jubilee pilgrimage to Rome, many of whom come from war-torn regions of the world, Pope Leo XIV pledged the Vatican's full commitment to promoting peace and reconciliation.

July 16 to 20



Third Byzantine Catholic Assembly

The Byzantine Assembly, held July 16 to 20 in the Eparchy of Parma at St. Mary Byzantine Catholic Church in Whiting, Ind., attended by Metropolitan Archbishop William C. Skurla, bishops, priests, and faithful, included a procession through the town's streets.

Aug. 4



Faith and Fun Day

The 16th annual "Faith and Fun Day" for altar servers of the Archeparchy of Pittsburgh included a visit to Pittsburgh Zoo & Aquarium and seeing the Pittsburgh Pirates defeat the San Francisco Giants at PNC Park.

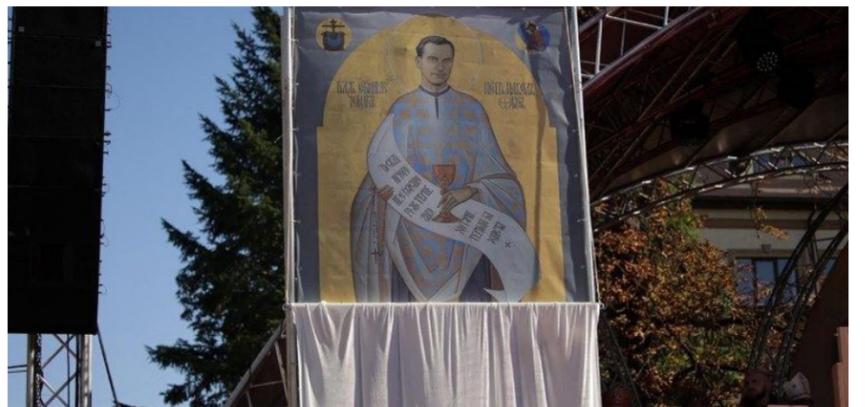
Aug. 29 to Sept. 1



Pilgrims flock to Mount St. Macrina

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.

Sept. 27



Martyr Peter Paul Oros is beatified

Bishops and clergy gathered in the village of Bilky, Ukraine in the Mukachevo Greek Catholic Diocese, to witness the solemn beatification of the Martyr Peter Paul Oros, a priest who gave his life for Christ and His Church during the persecutions of the communist regime.

Oct. 4



Young Adult pilgrimage to Loretto, Pa.

The Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministry hosted a Pilgrimage for Teens and Young Adults to Loretto, Pa. The day offered a rich opportunity for prayer, fellowship, and spiritual reflection and a tour the grounds of St. Michael the Archangel Basilica, one of the designated Jubilee Year churches.



The Archeparchy of Pittsburgh Chancery will be closed Thursday, Dec. 25 and Friday, Dec. 26 in observance of Christmas.

The Chancery will also be closed Thursday, Jan. 1 and Friday, Jan. 2 in observance of New Year's Day.

66 Riverview Ave.
Pittsburgh, Pa. 15214
412-231-4000

Here comes Santa Claus!

FOLLOWING OL' SAINT NICK



PETERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Colo. — The North American Aerospace Defense Command (NORAD) is getting ready to track Santa's yuletide journey! The *NORAD Tracks Santa* website at www.noradsanta.org features a Countdown Calendar, a Kid's Countdown Village complete with games and activities that change daily, and video messages from students and troops from around the world. The web site is available in eight languages: English, French, Spanish, German, Italian, Japanese, Brazilian Portuguese and Chinese. ■

Cathedral of St. John the Baptist

Schedule of Services - Christmas 2025

Very Reverend Andrew Deskevich, Rector



Wednesday, Dec. 24

Vigil, Feast of the Nativity of Our Lord

Christmas Eve

9 a.m. Royal Hours

8 p.m. Vigil Liturgy

Thursday, Dec. 25

Feast of the Nativity of Our Lord

Christmas Day

9 a.m. Divine Liturgy

Cathedral of St. John the Baptist

210 Greentree Road | Munhall, Pa. 15120 | 412-461-0944

View services LIVE on the web at

www.stjohnsbyzantinecathedral.com

AROUND THE ARCHEPARCHY

COMMUNITY CHURCHES CONCERT — 3 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 11, 2026, St. Gregory Byzantine Catholic Church, 2005 Mohawk Road, Upper St. Clair, Pa. Mark your 2026 calendar for the first uplifting event of the new year! Join your Catholic neighbors as they present the 4th annual Theophany-Epiphany Community Churches Concert at St. Gregory. St. Gregory's Chant Group will be joined by the Schola Cantorum of St. Michael the Archangel Roman Catholic Parish and the Our Lady of Victory Maronite Catholic Church Choir (Beechview) in a program of seasonal choral and chant music in celebration of the Nativity and Baptism of Jesus Christ. Each group will sing selections and stage festal scenes from their respective traditions in Arabic, English, Ruthenian, Syriac, and Latin. All are welcome to attend this gathering of joyous voices, which will be followed by a hospitality reception in the church hall. For more information, visit www.stgregoryusc.org.

DATES TO REMEMBER



DEC. 25

Feast of the Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ

Chancery closed

DEC. 26

Feast of the Synaxis of the Holy Theotokos

Chancery closed

DEC. 27

Feast of the Holy Protomartyr Stephen

DEC. 31

Vigil of the Feast of the Circumcision of our Lord

Vigil of the Feast of St. Basil the Great

New Year's Eve

JAN. 1

New Year's Day

Chancery closed

See more upcoming events at www.archpitt.org



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