

# WORLD

THE BYZANTINE CATHOLIC



Special  
PASCHA  
issue!

THE OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER OF THE ARCHDIOCESE OF PITTSBURGH

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CHRISTOS VOSKRESE! VOISTINNU VOSKRESE!

# WORLD

THE BYZANTINE CATHOLIC

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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.

## HOLY WEEK AND PASCHA SCHEDULE

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST  
BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CATHEDRAL  
210 GREENTREE ROAD  
MUNHALL, PA. 15120  
[WWW.STJOHNSBYZANTINECATHEDRAL.COM](http://WWW.STJOHNSBYZANTINECATHEDRAL.COM)  
412-461-0944



Holy Week and Pascha services may be viewed  
online at [www.stjohnsbyzantinecathedral.com](http://www.stjohnsbyzantinecathedral.com).

### HOLY MONDAY

**6:30 P.M. MARCH 30**

- Presanctified Liturgy

### HOLY TUESDAY

**6:30 P.M. MARCH 31**

- Presanctified Liturgy

### HOLY WEDNESDAY

**6:30 P.M. APRIL 1**

- Presanctified Liturgy  
with Anointing of the Sick

### HOLY THURSDAY

**6:30 P.M. APRIL 2**

- Divine Liturgy of St. Basil the Great  
with Consecration of Sacred Chrism

### GREAT AND HOLY FRIDAY

**9 A.M. APRIL 3**

- Royal Hours

**7 P.M. APRIL 3**

- Entombment Vespers for Good Friday  
and Procession with the Holy Shroud

### HOLY SATURDAY

**7 P.M. APRIL 4**

- Resurrection Matins and Divine Liturgy

### THE RADIANT RESURRECTION

**9 A.M. APRIL 5**

- Divine Liturgy

### BRIGHT MONDAY

**9 A.M. APRIL 6**

- Divine Liturgy

## IN BLESSED MEMORY



HAPPY ARE THE ONES WHOM YOU HAVE  
CHOSEN AND RECEIVED, O LORD;  
THEY ARE REMEMBERED FOREVER. ALLELUIA!

Commemorating the 33rd Anniversary  
of the repose in the Lord of His Eminence

**Archbishop Thomas Victor Dolinay**  
Metropolitan Archbishop of Pittsburgh

Born: July 24, 1923

Ordained: May 16, 1948

Episcopal Ordination: November 23, 1976

Enthroned as Metropolitan Archbishop: June 12, 1991

Fell asleep in the Lord: Bright Tuesday, April 13, 1993

## IN BLESSED MEMORY



HAPPY ARE THE ONES WHOM YOU  
HAVE CHOSEN AND RECEIVED, O LORD;  
THEY ARE REMEMBERED FOREVER. ALLELUIA!

Commemorating the 25th Anniversary  
of the repose in the Lord of His Eminence

**Archbishop Judson M. Procyk**  
Metropolitan Archbishop of Pittsburgh

Born: April 9, 1931

Ordained: May 19, 1957

Episcopal Ordination: February 7, 1995

Fell asleep in the Lord: April 24, 2001



# PASCHA 2026



Christ is Risen!  
Truly He is Risen.

Christos Voskrese!  
Voistinnu Voskrese!

May the blessing of the Risen Lord bless you and your families during this Easter Season!

After the coldest and longest winter in the North Eastern United States, it was the first time in my 14 years in Pittsburgh to see the grass turn brown. We rejoice to see the return of green grass, pussy willows, and the blooms of trees and flowers. The winter snow and rain have fed the plants and brought our yards, forests, and fields back to life.

Likewise, the season of fasting and listening to readings of the Lenten season have allowed us the time to turn our attention inward to our souls, and to have space in our hearts for the breaking of the Good News that Jesus Christ is Risen. The Paschal Easter Sunday and Bright Week stories of our Lord and God Jesus Christ continue to change our hearts and the world.

After many years of war in over twenty countries, we hope that the Lord gives us peace. "May the Lord give you Peace" was a saying of Saint Francis of Assisi whose memory we celebrate this year. I took it as my Episcopal motto when I received my Episcopal ordination. Wars and the rumors of war have always been a part of our world. It is especially difficult to live in Ukraine and the Middle East where our families struggle to survive.

Our Holy Father Pope Leo offered his hope for peace in the world based on Words of the Risen Lord. The first gift of peace was given at Jesus first appearance to the apostles. They were filled with fear, sadness, helplessness and a sense of betrayal after experiencing the darkness of Good Friday. Jesus first words were "peace be with you!".

The second greeting of peace was given by Risen Jesus to the apostles just before they were to receive the gift of the Holy Spirit to empower them to overcome the darkness and fear of the people. When there is true and just peace, we can overcome hatred and violence of war. All types of persecution can be overcome if we can truly follow the way proclaimed in the Easter message.

The third greeting of Peace is to the Apostle Thomas. The Risen Lord makes a return visit to extend His peace to Saint Thomas who was always late and struggling to understand and believe the teachings of Jesus. Saint Thomas is an example for us and to anyone who is having difficulty understanding and believing in the power Jesus's Resurrection. The peace of the Lord makes it possible to believe that the Lord is Risen. Belief in the Resurrection of Christ is the foundation of all Christian teaching on how to live and to believe in the true power of the Resurrection. It also gives us hope that when our time comes, we too will be raised from the dead.

Our personal problems frighten us and test our faith in the same way that the apostles were tested after Jesus's crucifixion and death. Each time that we sing "Christ is Risen!", the Lord give us a shot of the grace of the Holy Spirit to strengthen us to become more like Christ. The news and images of growing chaos in world can overwhelm us. Besides war, the crushing effects of the cost of living and health problems can be overwhelming. But with the aid of this healing of the Fast and power of the Risen Lord, we can go beyond our fears and receive at least a little peace to a world in need of healing.

We give thanks for all who entered into our Byzantine Catholic Church. Holy Week has been a time of new Baptisms and professions of Faith for many new Byzantine Catholics. We have also been blessed with many ordinations to deaconate and priesthood this year. Please pray for our seminarians and those called to priestly, diaconal, and religious orders as well as lay leadership for our Byzantine Catholic Church.

On behalf of the Metropolitan Church, the Cathedral of Saint John in Munhall, we thank you for your journey through the Lenten Fast and participation in celebrations for the Great Week. All Easter food is exempt from calories during Bright Week. Carry the joy of the Resurrection that fills your heart and mind to your family, friends, and to the whole world.

*+ William C Skurla*

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

Christ is Risen!  
Truly He is Risen.

Christos Voskresese!  
Voistinnu Voskrese!



## BULLETIN BOARD

### Upcoming events at the House of Prayer at Trinity Center at Mount St. Macrina



The following events will take place at Mount St. Macrina, 510 W. Main St., Uniontown, Pa.

Events now take place in the Trinity Center, the former Servants' Quarters and Stables of the J.V. Thompson Estate.

To register for programs or more information, call 724-438-7149 or email [hpmsm@verizon.net](mailto:hpmsm@verizon.net).

■ **Centering Art Workshop:** 9:45 a.m.- 1 p.m. Saturday, April 25. Presenter is artist Nancy McChesney, MA. using simple components of movement, meditative imaging, and watercolor. Materials provided. Includes lunch. Offering: \$45. Registration due: April 17.

■ **Icon Writing Retreat:** 4 p.m. Friday, May 15 to 3 p.m. Sunday, May 17. Led by Marylyn Barone. Icon of St. Photina, the Samaritan Woman. Materials, meals, and overnight accommodations provided. Space limited. Commuters welcome. Offering: \$425. Commuters: \$375. Registration due: May 8. ■

## “Resilience Through Hope, Prayer”

21ST ANNUAL WOMEN’S DAY OF REFLECTION SET FOR APRIL 18 ON THE CAMPUS OF LAROCHE UNIVERSITY

The 21st annual Women’s Day of Reflection will be held 9:30 a.m.- 2:30 p.m. Saturday, April 18 at Kearns Spirituality Center (Campus of LaRoche University), 9000 Babcock Blvd., Allison Park, Pa.

This year’s theme is: “Resilience Through Hope & Prayer.”

Presenters include:

**Mike Clark** has anchored and reported news for WTAE since 1995. He was awarded an Honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters from La Roche University and won multiple Emmy Awards both individually and as part of a news team.

Mike has been involved in multiple charitable organizations and is an adjunct professor of journalism at Duquesne University.

He lost a son in a tragic hiking accident in 2019. He is a proud husband, father and man of deep faith who has a story to tell about resilience.

**Michelle Wright** is a Franciscan University graduate and worked in the field of Catechetics for 20 years. She recently joined the Doctorate in Ministry program at Franciscan with a desire to focus on spiritual formation for individuals with special needs.

She will share with us her experiences with traits and behaviors of disabled people who are resilient and what she has learned



about autism. Michelle lives in Cranberry Township, PA, with her husband and teenage son.

There will also be a Floral Demonstration.

The event is sponsored by the Byzantine Catholic Archeparchial Office of Religious Education.

Cost of \$40 includes lunch. Pre-registration is required.

Contact Sister Marion Dobos at 412-322-8773 or [mdobos1@gmail.com](mailto:mdobos1@gmail.com) for more information.

A dedicated committee meets throughout the year to plan and coordinate the day, working with a theme of interest to women to help them grow in their spirituality.

Proceeds of a Plant Auction will benefit women and children in Ukraine.

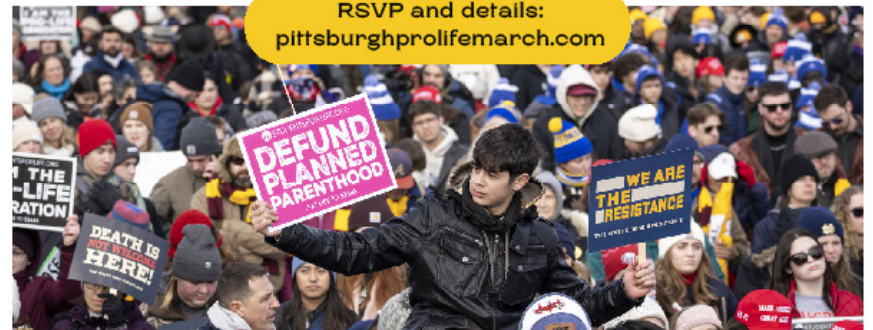
For overnight accommodations, call 412-366-1124 or email [kearns@cdpsisters.org](mailto:kearns@cdpsisters.org)

A registration form is available at [archpitt.org](http://archpitt.org). ■



## FIRST ANNUAL PITTSBURGH PRO-LIFE MARCH AND RALLY

Join Us on Saturday, April 18 | 11 AM - 1 PM  
Rally | 11 AM  
March | 12 PM  
Schenley Plaza, 4100 Forbes Ave, Pittsburgh, PA, 15260  
Let's celebrate Life in the city of Pittsburgh



RSVP and details:  
[pittsburghprolifemarch.com](http://pittsburghprolifemarch.com)

Want to help support our March efforts? Consider donating!

Checks can be made out to “People Concerned for the Unborn Child” and sent to 3050 Pioneer Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA, 15226

Or an online donation can be made on our march website, scan the QR code below.

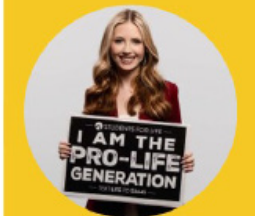
Scan the QR Code for RSVP and other details



### KEYNOTE SPEAKERS



**David Bereit**  
Founder, 40 Days for Life



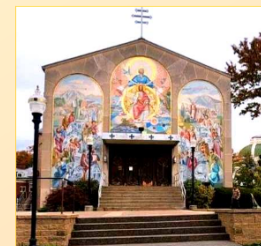
**Lydia Taylor Davis**  
Spokesperson, Students for Life of America

**Holy Spirit Byzantine Catholic Church**  
4815 Fifth Avenue, Pittsburgh

and the Archeparchy of Pittsburgh  
Pro-Life Office

Moleben (Prayer Service)  
for the Sacredness of Life  
and Supplication for the Victims of  
Abortion

Friday, April 17  
at 6:30 pm



On the eve of the



<https://www.pittsburghprolifemarch.com/>



### BYZANTINE DIVINE LITURGY

Sundays 9:00 a.m. • WEDO Radio • 810 AM  
Broadcast live from Holy Ghost Church, McKees Rocks

OR via Internet: click “Listen Live” link at  
[www.holyghost-byzantinecatholic.org](http://www.holyghost-byzantinecatholic.org)



## TEXT MESSAGES

# My family Easter basket

PASCHA BRINGS CHERISHED MEMORIES OF GRANDPARENTS TO FOREFRONT

by David Mayernik Jr.  
editor

When I was a child, I have to confess I always sort of dreaded Holy Week.

My brother, sister and I would have time off from school and would spend most of the week at our grandparents' houses in Charleroi, Pa. and Monessen, Pa.

That meant four days in a row of attending church: Holy Thursday, Good Friday, Holy Saturday and Easter Sunday.

For a pre-pubescent kid, it wasn't a lot of fun sitting in the second-to-front pew of St. Mary Byzantine Catholic Church in Monessen all those times consecutively.

However, I did look forward to the conclusion of the Resurrection matins. Everyone would walk down the stairs to congregate in the church hall for the blessing of the Easter baskets.

Has an aroma of flavors ever been assembled that smelled so sweet? There were cuts of ham and kolbasi, cheeses and, my personal favorite, the numerous pascha breads.

My grandma's Easter basket even inspired its own newspaper article at this time of my life.

Tucked away in a 1980s copy of "Ukrainian Easter: Traditions, Folk Customs and Recipes," my mother has safely secured a yellowed newspaper clipping entitled "Paschal blessing," which was written by Emma Jene Lelik and appeared in *The Valley Independent*. As best as I can deduce, the story was published before Easter 1982, when I was 13 years old.

It describes my grandparents — Helen and Mike Mayernik — and their "big brown wicker basket" going to church for the 45th time in its history.

"We bought our basket the first Easter that we were married," my grandma is quoted as saying.

"And we have used it every year since then."

The story goes on to describe each item of food they placed in their basket and its religious significance.

My grandma describes the sweet pascha bread as being symbolic of "Christ Himself, who is our true bread" and butter formed in the mold of a lamb "reminds us of the goodness of Christ that we should have toward everyone."



Her basket also contained horseradish mixed with grated red beets — "symbolic of the Passion of Christ still in our minds but sweetened with some sugar because of the Resurrection" — and kolbasi, which is "indicative of God's favor and generosity."

Of course, no Paschal basket would be complete without ham "because of its richness and symbolic of the great joy and abundance of Easter" and decorated

hard-boiled eggs, or pysanky, "indicative of new life and resurrection."

I'm thrilled my grandma's wisdom continues to be a source of inspiration all these years later.

I miss spending Easter with all of my grandparents, from decorating eggs with the PAAS colored tablets that "fizzed" when placed in glasses of water to the the elaborate Easter egg hunts devised by my grandpap. (There

were always toys and an Easter basket filled with candy at the end.)

Thankfully, the tradition of blessing Paschal baskets filled with foods and deep meaning continues in all our Byzantine churches.

I'm certain you have special memories of your own family's Easter basket.

Have a blessed Easter. ■

# BROADCASTING THE GOOD NEWS

THE BYZANTINE CATHOLIC WORLD TALKS WITH PARISHES IN THE ARCHDIOCESE OF PITTSBURGH  
WHO SPREAD THE GOSPEL THROUGH PHONES AND LAPTOP COMPUTERS



Jeff Rusinko broadcasts the Divine Liturgy on March 29, Palm Sunday, on the Facebook page of St. Gregory in Upper St. Clair, Pa. Father Valerian Michlik can be seen at the altar. Photo by David Mayernik Jr.

Since Jesus Christ's command to "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature" (Mark 16:15), mankind has been involved in many ways to disseminate the Word of God.

Of course, early on those efforts involved physically traveling on foot or four-legged animal to a far-off land to bring the Gospel to the people.

With the advent of computers in the 20th Century and the fact most everyone has a television screen in their pocket now in the 21st, there are new ways to accomplish this important mission.

Many churches in the Byzantine Catholic Archdiocese of Pittsburgh are broadcasting their Divine Liturgies on their web pages as well as Facebook and other social media sites.

The ministry served an import-

ant purpose during 2020 when the COVID-19 pandemic forced churches to close to the faithful for a few months.

*The Byzantine Catholic World* reached out to some churches involved in broadcasting liturgies to see how it's going.

Father Tyler Wisniewski, of St. John Chrysostom and St. John the Baptist, both in Pittsburgh, Pa., said livestreaming in no way replaces attending Sunday liturgy but serves an important purpose.

"The livestream has given the opportunity to many of our homebound parishioners to participate in the liturgy weekly. It has also introduced online visitors to liturgical services that are not always prayed in parishes, like the Paraklesis or the Moleben," he said.

"While in-person worship re-

mains essential, the live-streamed liturgies have helped individuals spiritually grow," he said.



## SS. Peter and Paul in Braddock Pa.

Arleen Jama, who assists in broadcasting liturgies at SS. Peter and Paul in Braddock, Pa., said the announced anticipated closing of seven Roman Catholic churches in the region has some faithful experiencing "uncertainty and displacement."

"In that context, digital outreach provides a gentle point of entry. It allows individuals to 'come and see' — to encounter the beauty and reverence of the Byzantine tradition before ever walking through the doors," she said.

"Recently, a prayer offered for those affected by the closures was widely shared across multiple Facebook pages and received significant engagement. Whether out of curiosity or spiritual need, many were introduced to our parish through that moment."

SS. Peter and Paul began broadcasting in the early months of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020 when in-person attendance was restricted.

"What began as a temporary solution has since become a regular part of our parish outreach," Arleen said.

Liturgies are live streamed on the parish's Facebook page and remain available for later viewing. Links are also shared on the

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## BROADCASTING THE GOOD NEWS

Story continued from page 6

parish's web site and YouTube for those without social media to access.

The parish employs OBS Studio live streaming software application and four Pan Tilt Zoom (PTZ) cameras for broadcasting.

She said SS. Peter and Paul has received heartfelt messages from homebound parishioners, those recovering from illness, traveling families, former parishioners who have moved out-of-state, and even people curious about the Byzantine Catholic tradition.

According to Arleen, SS. Peter and Paul has an average of 1,069 views since Jan. 1 in which 56.4 percent are 65 years old and older and 10.23 percent are 25 to 34 years old.

There have 5,656 total views in the United States, including 312 in New York City, 202 in Philadelphia, Pa., and 183 in Denver, Colo.

"Many have told us that even though they cannot be physically present, watching the liturgy helps them remain spiritually connected to their parish family," she said.

"While nothing replaces physical presence at Divine Liturgy, live streaming has become an important pastoral responsibility in our time. We say 'unfortunately' only because the Church is meant to gather in person — worship is incarnational, communal, and sacramental. Yet the realities of today require us to extend our reach beyond the walls of the church.

"For many of our older parishioners, live streaming is not a convenience but a lifeline. Those who are homebound, ill, or caring for loved ones are still able to pray the familiar hymns, hear the Gospel, and remain spiritually connected to their parish family."



### St. Elias in Munhall, Pa.

Greg Maranowski, who helps broadcast liturgies at St. Elias in Munhall, Pa., said the ministry began as a way to help out sick and shut-in parishioners participate in our Saturday and Sunday liturgies and has evolved into a way to spread our church's liturgical service and faith with others around the world.

"The ability to have someone connect and participate in the service with us from their laptop down the road, or their phone from across the world is what I think is the most important part.

The Catholic Church is a worldwide community, and being able to broaden and share that community with others outside of our local parish is really special."

St. Elias began broadcasting liturgies on Facebook, YouTube, and on the parish's web site in 2018. Father Vitalii Stashkevych is pastor.

"We use a camera that is set up at the back of our church, right above the entrance doors, for recording our liturgy. The camera does record audio, but our main audio inputs come from the lapel microphone that Father Vitalii wears on his robes and the cantor's microphone. The audio and video is then connected to the OBS Studio streaming software, which we use to balance and combine everything and stream to our various platforms," Greg said.

Some of the nicest comments he receives are from parishioners who aren't able to attend liturgy for various reasons.

"We have also received comments from viewers around the world who have asked about our parish and liturgy just from finding our videos on YouTube. Lastly, in-the-moment comments are very helpful for any technical issues that may arise. I check the stream a couple times throughout our liturgy to make sure everything is working correctly, and those comments have pointed out some things that can easily be missed from the streamer's end," he said.



### St. John Chrysostom in Pittsburgh, Pa.

Broadcasting is nothing new at St. John Chrysostom in Pittsburgh, Pa., where Sunday liturgies could be heard on the radio from 1956 to 1963. The first broadcast Divine Liturgy was celebrated by Monsignor John Bilock on Oct. 8, 1956.

The radio ministry was transferred to St. John the Baptist Cathedral in Munhall, Pa. in October 1963, when Monsignor Bilock was appointed rector. He was installed as auxiliary bishop on May 15, 1973, and after his installation the radio broadcast moved to Holy Ghost in McKees Rocks, Pa. where liturgies can be heard on WEDO Radio 810 AM in McKeesport, Pa.

Eric Williams, who helps with livestreaming duties at St. John Chrysostom, believes the parish



Arleen Jama and Father Vitalii Stashkevych check broadcasting equipment at SS. Peter and Paul in Braddock, Pa.

*"When we have parish functions, I bring my tablet to church so the ladies in the kitchen can still see, pray and sing (and they do sing) along with the liturgy while they're preparing the meal. It's a simple thing, but it really helps keep everyone connected."*

*"One of the most meaningful parts of this ministry has been during funerals. Recently, we've had a few services where families had loved ones who couldn't travel, and being able to livestream the liturgy meant so much to them. They were truly grateful to be able to be part of it from a distance."*

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



Greg Maranowski broadcasts liturgies at St. Elias in Munhall, Pa.

Story continued on page 8



# BROADCASTING THE GOOD NEWS

Story continued from page 7

probably began broadcasting liturgies on EarthCam Webcam Network in about 2010, after Father Thomas Schaefer was installed as pastor.

The parish has been on YouTube since 2020 and Facebook since 2021.

Eric said around 2013 a new iMac streaming computer was purchased to manage the church's livestream and that's when he became more involved in the ministry.

"I did not start attending liturgies at St. John Chrysostom until 2015, and even then I was not a regular attendee, since I was still Roman Catholic at the time. By the time the pandemic hit, though, I was a member of the parish and assisting at the altar," he said.

"At that point, Father Tom and I felt that streaming was especially important, because nobody but the priest, cantor, and one server (myself) were permitted to be physically present," he said.

"However, there were problems. It wasn't possible for parishioners to watch recorded liturgies at their convenience because the stream was 24/7 and only on EarthCam. The previous stream manager was no longer available and I was not comfortable enough with Macs to use that streaming software," he said.

"So, in order to provide liturgies during the pandemic, I set up my Android phone on a mic stand and recorded for later upload to YouTube. Livestreaming wasn't feasible at that time, due to age of my phone and the low bandwidth of our Xfinity cable internet service."

Eric said comments the parish receives on Facebook and YouTube are generally along the lines of 'Glory to Jesus Christ!', 'Beautiful liturgy!', or 'Thank you for streaming this, Father'."

"We get concerned emails and comments when the streams are down due to technical difficulties."

In late 2020 or early 2021, Father Tom facilitated upgrading the standard definition cameras and iMac with high definition cameras and a Windows-based PC. Two new cameras — one mounted in front of the cantor loft and one at the back of the altar, facing the priest — were installed. This set-up is still in use today.



## St. Gregory in Upper St. Clair, Pa.

St. Gregory in Upper St. Clair, Pa. began broadcasting liturgies one year before the 2020 COVID-19 pandemic.

Jeff Rusinko handles the technical duties each Sunday, sitting in front of monitors in the Mother of God Chapel at the back of the church.

"We started with one camera... then we got another camera and then COVID happened. I was able to put tripods in the church because there weren't any parishioners in the church. (Father Valerian Michlik) liked that and we had a lot of positive reinforcement from that. Because people couldn't go to church and they felt like they were in church."

Now there are three cameras in the church and a remote camera is utilized on Good Friday and Holy Saturday to follow processions outside of the church. There are also plans to add a camera in the church hall to broadcast presentations during the year.

Father Valerian says he was initially against installing cameras inside St. Gregory to broadcast on Facebook but has since changed his opinion.

"Father Val was concerned, as I think most priests were, that people would stop coming to church," Jeff said.

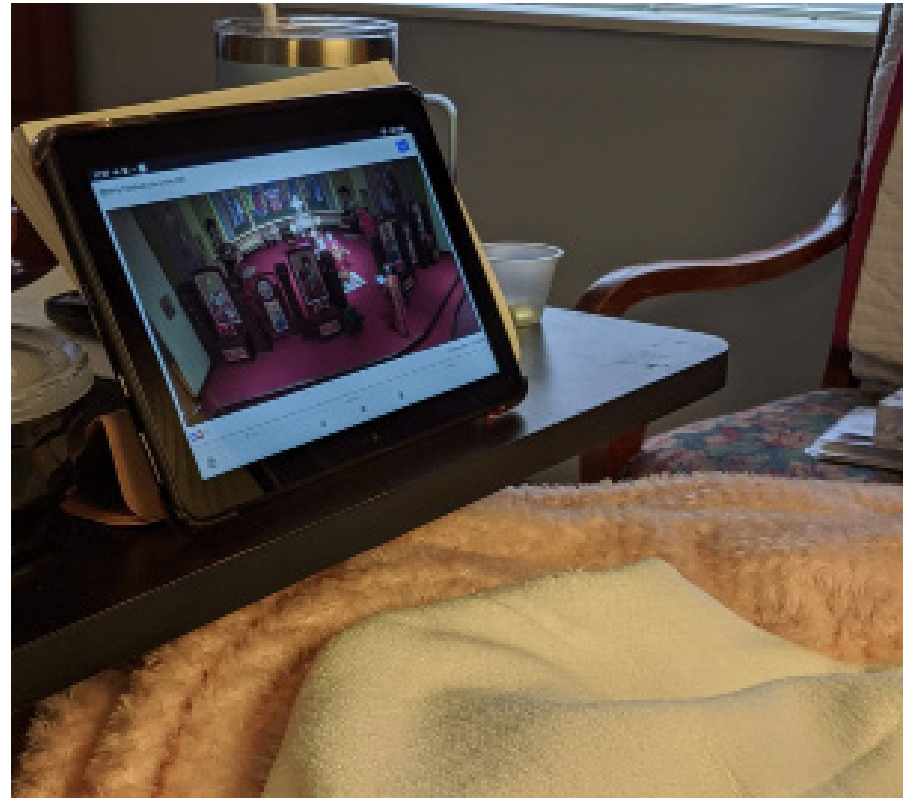
"But during COVID, we had hundreds of people watching it; people all around the world watching it. Today there was someone in South Carolina watching it, we get New York, occasionally somebody in Michigan. Texas was a big one."

Jeff, who has a strong technical background in his professional life, installed the cameras and wiring inside St. Gregory. He attended trade school for electronics, worked for a phone company for 20 years, and set up audio-visual equipment for schools, malls, and the Allegheny County Airport Authority.

Jeff said he considers broadcasting liturgies a necessary ministry for many reasons.

"I think it's important. I can relate to this — my father, 83, can watch it from home," he said.

"I think it helps people who are either shut-in or for whatever reason can't make it to a liturgy, they can at least watch this. This helps spread the Word beyond the four walls of St. Gregory, Upper St. Clair, or Pittsburgh. We are in a digital age nowadays and we have to accept this. You're not going to fight this technology. I think you have to accept it and use it to the best of your ability." ■



## PARISH LITURGIES BROADCAST VIA INTERNET

Here is the most current list of parishes broadcasting Sunday Divine Liturgies and other services to the Faithful via their websites and social media sites such as Facebook.

For changes or to be listed, send information to [bcw@archpitt.org](mailto:bcw@archpitt.org).

**St. John the Baptist Cathedral**  
*Munhall, Pa.*  
[www.stjohnsbyzantinecathedral.com](http://www.stjohnsbyzantinecathedral.com)

**Holy Ghost**  
*McKees Rocks, Pa.*  
[www.holyghost-byzantinecatholic.org](http://www.holyghost-byzantinecatholic.org)  
[www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com), then type Holy Ghost Church Live Stream

**St. John Chrysostom**  
*Pittsburgh, Pa.*  
[www.sjcbcc.com](http://www.sjcbcc.com)

**St. Gregory**  
*Upper St. Clair, Pa.*  
[www.facebook.com/stgregoryusc](http://www.facebook.com/stgregoryusc)

**St. Michael**  
*Campbell, Ohio*  
[www.facebook.com/st.michaelbyz.campbell](http://www.facebook.com/st.michaelbyz.campbell)

**St. Elias**  
*Munhall, Pa.*  
[www.facebook.com/StEliasByzantineCatholicChurch/](http://www.facebook.com/StEliasByzantineCatholicChurch/)

**SS. Peter and Paul**  
*Braddock, Pa.*  
<https://www.facebook.com/SSPeterPaulBraddock/>

**St. Michael**  
*Hermitage, Pa.*  
<https://www.facebook.com/stmichaelbyz.hermitage>

**St. Stephen**  
*North Huntingdon, Pa.*  
[www.facebook.com/ststephenbyzantinecatholicchurch](http://www.facebook.com/ststephenbyzantinecatholicchurch)

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

**St. Mary**  
*Bradenville, Pa.*  
Go to [Youtube.com](http://Youtube.com) and type in "St. Mary's Byzantine Media"



# A dedicated community

SISTERS OF ST. BASIL GREAT IN UNIONTOWN, PA. CELEBRATE THE BLESSING OF THEIR NEW HOME



Posted March 15 on the Facebook page of the Sisters of St. Basil the Great:

*On Thursday, March 12, 2026, the Sisters of St. Basil—Our Lady of Perpetual Help Province—celebrated a momentous occasion. Metropolitan Archbishop William C. Skurla blessed the Sisters' new home. The house, which was their first Provincial house in Uniontown, was once owned by coal baron J.V. Thompson, and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.*

The Sisters of St. Basil the Great broke ground on a new addition to the Provincial house during the Pilgrimage in Honor of Our Lady of Perpetual Help in 2024.

They were also joined by Metropolitan Archbishop William C. Skurla, Bishop Robert Pipta, Bishop Kurt Burnett, and John M. Evans, AIA, of LGA Partners LP of Pittsburgh, Pa., the architectural firm for the project.

"It's a large structure that will house all of us," Sister Susan Sisko, Provincial, said during the groundbreaking ceremony. ■



# Stitching faith into charity at St. Mary

THE THEOTOKOS KNITTING SOCIETY AT ASSUMPTION OF THE MOTHER OF GOD IN WEIRTON, W. VA. HELPS NEEDY ONE STITCH AT A TIME

By Greg Miliote  
Assumption of the Mother of God,  
Weirton, W. Va.

What began as a quiet aspiration during the Philippian Fast has grown into a vibrant work of charity and fellowship at St. Mary's Church in Weirton, W. Va.

The newly formed Theotokos Knitting Society, founded by parishioners Britta Miliote and Megan Rinehart, is transforming prayerful intention into tangible acts of mercy — one stitch at a time.

The idea took shape at the beginning of the Philippian Fast, when several women of the parish reflected on how to deepen their spiritual practices through concrete works of mercy. Inspired by the season's call to repentance, almsgiving and preparation for the Lord's coming, they decided to form a knitting group dedicated to the needy.

Over the course of the winter, the women crafted high-quality wool scarves, each one carefully made and chosen for warmth, durability and beauty. Afterwards, they donated the completed scarves to City Mission in Washington, Pa., providing comfort to men and women facing hardship during the coldest months of the year.

As the liturgical year turned toward the Great Fast and warmer months ahead, the group's charitable focus shifted. Members have begun knitting baby blankets and shawls to support mothers and infants served by AIM Women's Center in Steubenville, Ohio — a ministry that offers pregnancy resources and compassionate care to women and families.

Participation in the Theotokos Knitting Society continues to grow as new members join the effort. The women gather periodically for fellowship and shared knitting time, strengthening bonds within the parish community. At other times, members contribute from home, weaving prayer into their work while balancing family and daily responsibilities.

Rinehart reflected on the spiritual heart of the initiative.

"During the Philippian Fast, we were asking how we could live the fast more intentionally through the corporal works of mercy,"



Rinehart said. "Knitting together became a way to pray with our hands while serving Christ in the poor.

"In Matthew 25, the Lord tells us that whatever we do for the least of His brethren, we do for Him. Every scarf and blanket is made with that truth in mind.

"What has inspired us most is how this small effort has deepened friendships and created a sense of spiritual sisterhood in our parish," Rinehart continued.

"We hope other Byzantine Catholic women across the Archeparchy will join us — whether by knitting, praying or donating materials — so that together we can extend the compassion of Christ and the loving protection of the Theotokos to those most in need."

The society's name reflects its spiritual inspiration: the Theotokos, the Mother of God, who models humble service, maternal care and unwavering obedience to the Lord. Members strive to imitate her quiet generosity as they serve Christ through their handiwork.

Miliote and Rinehart noted that the image of the Theotokos spinning thread when the angel appeared to her at the Annunciation was of particular importance to



them during the Philippian Fast. They said imitating the Theotokos in this way was a chance to prepare to say "yes" to God asking to dwell in their hearts.

Women throughout the Byzantine Catholic Archeparchy of Pittsburgh are invited to participate in this growing ministry. Those interested in joining or supporting the effort may contact

the group at [theotokosknittingsociety@gmail.com](mailto:theotokosknittingsociety@gmail.com).

In a world often marked by haste and distraction, the steady rhythm of knitting has become, for these women, a form of prayer and a reminder that small acts of love can warm both body and soul. ■



# ECHOES EAST AND WEST: LISTEN, TEACH, SEND

A weekend of prayer,  
community, and formation

*Eastern and Western  
Churches forming young  
people as disciples of Christ*

**Echoes East and West:  
Listen, Teach, Send**

Rooted in the pastoral vision of the USCCB Framework for Ministries with Youth and with Young Adults: Listen, Teach, Send, this weekend retreat gathers members of the Eastern and Western Catholic Churches ministering to young people and families for a time of prayer, reflection, and shared mission rooted in Christ. Through keynote talks, the celebration of the Divine Liturgy, communal prayer, and opportunities for fellowship, participants will encounter the beauty of the Church's diverse traditions while deepening their commitment to Christ's call for their lives. By actively listening to one another, receiving the wisdom of the Church, and strengthening bonds of community, this retreat seeks to renew participants to be sent forth as joyful witnesses of the Gospel. All those serving in the church's ministries as youth ministers, young adult ministers, catechists, pastors, family life directors, coaches, campus ministers, scout leaders, and parents are invited to attend.

**Who is this conference for?**

- Ministers working with
- Youth & Young Adults
- Campus Ministers
- Catechists
- Priests, seminarians, and religious
- Ministry leaders who seek to engage young people, families, and parents

**CONFERENCE DETAILS:**

**DATES:**

**Friday, May 22, 2026 -  
Sunday, May 24, 2026**

- **Beginning on May 22 (Friday) at 4:30 p.m.** with Welcome & Check-in, followed by the 6:30 pm Divine Liturgy (Maronite) at St. Sharbel Spirituality Center, and Dinner Buffet and Social.



## ECHOES EAST AND WEST: LISTEN, TEACH, SEND

*A weekend of prayer,  
community, and formation* ✨



SCAN ME

**MAY 22-24**

OUR LADY OF VICTORY  
MARONITE CATHOLIC  
CHURCH  
1000 Tropical Avenue  
Pittsburgh, PA 15216

**Event Theme:**

*Eastern and Western  
Churches forming  
young people as  
disciples of Christ*



**Highlights of the Weekend:**

- Divine Liturgy
- Testimonies of Faith
- Keynote Talks
- Meals and Fellowship
- Small Group Discussions
- Prayer, Encounter, and Dialogue



United States  
Conference of  
Catholic Bishops



The Byzantine Catholic  
Archeparchy of Pittsburgh

[Register Here](#)

[Explore More Online Here](#)



- **Continues May 23 (Saturday) at 9:00 a.m.** with Morning Prayer (Ruthenian) and Sessions on Listening and Teaching, with interactive small-group discussions. In the afternoon, visiting St. Anthony's chapel, followed by dinner and bowling.

- **May 24 (Sunday) at 9:00 a.m.:** Session on Sending, and the conference concludes with the Divine Liturgy (Maronite) at 11:00 am.

**LOCATION:**  
*Our Lady of Victory  
Maronite Catholic Church,  
1000 Tropical Ave,  
Pittsburgh, PA.. 15216*

**CONFERENCE FEE:**  
\$50 per person

Includes materials, snacks, meals (Friday dinner, Saturday lunch & dinner), a tour of St. Anthony's Chapel, and bowling

**Payment Instructions:**  
Payments can be submitted online at the end of the registration form.

**Recommended Hotels  
(for out-of-town attendees):**

- Comfort Inn and Suites Pittsburgh South
- Days Inn by Wyndham Pittsburgh
- Holiday Inn Express and Suites Pittsburgh West
- Hampton Inn Pittsburgh/Greentree

**To REGISTER, please fill in the form available at archpitt.org.**

**The registration deadline:  
May 15, 2026**

# “I HAVE CALLED YOU FRIENDS”

(John 15:15)

## CONVERGE! 2026

An Annual Gathering of Teens and Young Adults  
Sponsored by the Archeparchy of Pittsburgh & Holy Trinity Byzantine Catholic Church, Sykesville, PA



**SATURDAY, APRIL 11, 2026**  
**10:00 AM – 4:00 PM**

**HOLY TRINITY BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH**  
104 SHAFFER STREET, SYKESVILLE, PA 15865

**Highlights of the Day:**

- **Divine Liturgy and Q&A Session** with Archbishop Metropolitan William C. Skurla
- **Lunch and Fellowship**
- **Keynote Address** by Dr. Alexander Harb (Melkite Catholic – Alabama)
- **Separate activities & interactive sessions** for teens and young adults

**This event is open to:**

- **Teens:** 7th grade through high school
- **Young Adults:** Ages 18–39 (single and married)
- **Parents** are welcome to attend with their teens.

*Don't miss this yearly celebration of next-generation followers of Christ gathered together in joy, connection, faith, and friendship!*

**SCHEDULE**

10:00 AM – Arrival and Confessions offered

**10:30 AM – Divine Liturgy celebrated by Archbishop Metropolitan William C. Skurla**

12:15 PM – Registration, Lunch & Fellowship

**1:00 PM – Keynote Address: Dr. Alexander Harb (Melkite Catholic – Alabama)**

1:30 PM – Separate activities and interactive sessions for teens and young adults

**3:00 PM – Back together: Q&A with Archbishop William**

3:45 PM – Wrapping up & Thank You

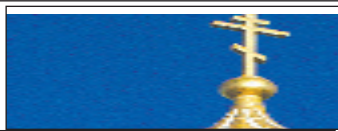
**4:00 PM – Conclusion and Closing Prayer**

*Don't miss this yearly celebration of next-generation followers of Christ gathered together in joy, connection, faith, and friendship!*



The Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministry  
The Byzantine Catholic Archeparchy of Pittsburgh  
[www.archpitt.org](http://www.archpitt.org)

## AROUND THE ARCHEPARCHY



**POST-EASTER CASH BASH IN CONEMAUGH** — 6–9 p.m. Saturday, April 11, Holy Trinity, 217 Fourth St., Conemaugh, Pa. Dinner is served at 6 p.m.; games and drawings follow until 9 p.m. Tickets: \$10 includes dinner and drawings. For more information, contact Georgia Lehman at 814-242-2083.


**ST. MARY'S SUPER BINGO** — 2–6 p.m. Sunday, April 12, St. Mary's Center, State Route 981, Trauger, Pa. Doors open at noon. Games start at 2 p.m. Tickets cost \$35 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. \$1,500 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.

**ST. PIUS X ANNUAL SPRING CRAFT AND VENDOR SHOW** — 9 a.m.– 3 p.m. Saturday, May 2, St. Pius X, 2336 Brownsville Road, Carrick, Pa. There will be refreshments and baked goods for purchase. A Basket Raffle will also be held. There are still tables available for purchase. Call the Church at 412-881-8344 or Pat Geary at 412-759-2024.

**STUFFED PORK CHOP DINNER IN CONEMAUGH** — Sunday, May 3, Holy Trinity, 217 Fourth St., Conemaugh, Pa. Sponsored by the Blessed Bishop Theodore Romzha Men's Fraternity of Holy Trinity. Take-outs only. For more information, contact Tom Oleksa at 814-487-4791.

**ICONOGRAPHY WORKSHOP** — This workshop is 4 p.m. Friday, May 15 to 3 p.m. Sunday, May 16, Hosue of Prayer, Mount St. Macrina, 500 W. Main St., Uniontown, Pa. Marylyn Barone will conduct an iconography workshop for adults at all levels of experience featuring Saint Photini, the Samaritan Woman. Registration at 2:30 p.m. This includes Friday evening, all day Saturday and Sunday after liturgy until finished. You must be able to attend all three days to have a completed icon. Materials, meals and overnight accommodations provided. Commuters welcome. Offering: \$425; Commuters: \$375. The workshop will be limited to 15 people. Contact House of Prayer to register at 724-438-7149. Registration due: May 8. All icons will be on an 8 x 10 gesso covered board. Using a pre-prepared prototype, you will learn techniques for faces, garments, 23 karat gold gilding and background. The theology of iconography and specifically Saint Photini will also be presented. There will be the opportunity to attend services.

## DATES TO REMEMBER



**MARCH 30 to APRIL 2**  
Holy Week  
*Chancery closed April 2 to 3*

**APRIL 3**  
Great and Holy Friday

**APRIL 4**  
Holy Saturday  
Archbishop William and Christian leaders bless the City of Pittsburgh

**APRIL 5**  
Pascha —The Glorious Feast of the Resurrection of Our Lord

**APRIL 6**  
Bright Monday  
*Chancery closed*

**APRIL 18**  
Thirteenth anniversary of Archbishop William's Enthronement as Metropolitan Archbishop of Pittsburgh

**See more upcoming events at [www.archpitt.org](http://www.archpitt.org)**



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**NEXT ISSUE:**  
**MAY 2026**

**SUBMISSIONS DEADLINE:**  
**APRIL 17**