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## “Prepare the way”

OFFICE OF YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULTS MINISTRY SPONSORS

BYZANTEEN SPRING HIKE AT RACCOON CREEK STATE PARK IN CLINTON, PA.



Father Tyler Wisniewski of St. John Chrysostom and St. John the Baptist, both in Pittsburgh, Pa. leads a group of young adults in prayer during the annual Spring ByzanTEEN Hike on Saturday, May 16 at Raccoon Creek State Park in Clinton, Pa. See page 2 for more photos.

By The Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministry

The Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministry hosted the 2026 Spring ByzanTEEN Hike at the Wildflower Reserve at Raccoon Creek State Park in Clinton, Pa. on Saturday, May 16. The theme for this hike was “Prepare the Way,” based on Matthew 3:3.

Activities began with prayer, led by Father Tyler Wisniewski, pastor of St. John Chrysostom and St. John the Baptist Byzantine Catholic churches, both in Pittsburgh, followed by a “get-to-know-you” game led by Viktoria Zolnova, the Archdiocese of Pittsburgh’s Youth and Young Adult Ministry Coordinator.

Blessed with pleasant weather, the group then set off on the trail, pausing occasionally for prayer, scripture, and brief reflections from Father Tyler on the true meaning of repentance and practical ways to cultivate



the fruit of the Holy Spirit in daily life.

Stops included the historic Hungerford Cabin, a vernal pool, the banks of Raccoon Creek, and Shafer’s Rock.

Along the way, the beauty of

God’s creation — including wildflowers, birds, small mammals, and even a northern ring-necked snake! — served as a remarkable backdrop for friendship and prayer, resulting in a memorable excursion for all.

The hike concluded with packed lunches from home and a visit to the Wildflower Reserve Interpretive Center, complete with a story from the naturalist of an extremely rare albino raccoon whose descendants are still found in the park today.

Many thanks to all who attended this event and to Father Tyler for accompanying us on the journey and blessing us with his spiritual guidance along the way.

The 2026 Fall ByzanTEEN Hike and Cookout will be on Saturday, Sept. 12.

More information about upcoming youth and young adult events in the Archdiocese of Pittsburgh can be found at [archpitt.org](http://archpitt.org). ■

## Ancient patron, modern growth

ST. ATHANASIUS OUTREACH IN TULSA, OKLA. CELEBRATES FIRST FEAST DAY

By Melissa Schudt  
Byzantine Catholic Outreach of Tulsa, Okla.

*“The Church needs you. The contribution that the Christian East can offer us today is immense! We have great need to recover the sense of mystery that remains alive in your liturgies, liturgies that engage the human person in his or her entirety, that sing of the beauty of salvation and evoke a sense of wonder at how God’s majesty embraces our human frailty!”*

— Pope Leo XIV address to Participants in the Jubilee of Oriental Churches, May 14, 2025

Embodying the sense of mystery and beauty of salvation that Pope Leo recently spoke of, the Byzantine Catholic Outreach of Tulsa, Okla. gathered May 2 to 3 to celebrate its first-ever patron saint feast for St. Athanasius the Great of Alexandria.

The weekend marked not just a liturgical milestone, but a joyful testament to a remarkable communal renewal for the faithful in northeastern Oklahoma.

### A Springtime of Growth in Tulsa

While the Outreach has maintained a presence in the Tulsa area since the late 1990s, the community experienced a profound reinvigoration beginning four years ago. Under the pastoral guidance of the Very Rev. Father Elias Rafaj of St. Basil the Great Byzantine Catholic Church in Dallas, Texas, a small group of faithful invested deeply in building a lasting, vibrant presence.

“When we began this renewed effort four years ago, we were just a few families,” Father Elias, who oversees the growing community, said.

Story continued on page 5



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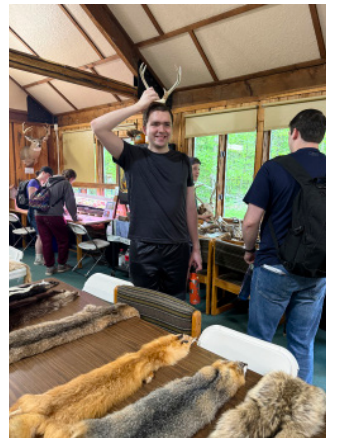
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## MISSION

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.

# “Prepare the way” see story on page 1

OFFICE OF YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULTS MINISTRY SPONSORS  
BYZANTEEN SPRING HIKE AT RACCOON CREEK STATE PARK IN CLINTON, PA.



*This is he who was spoken of through the prophet Isaiah: “A voice of one calling in the wilderness, ‘Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him.’”  
— Matthew 3:3*

# Resilience through hope, prayer

THE OFFICE OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION SPONSORS 21ST ANNUAL WOMEN'S DAY OF REFLECTION AT LA ROCHE UNIVERSITY

By The Office of Religious Education

Three gifted presenters graced us with their presence at the 21st annual Women's Day of Reflection, held April 18 at Kearns Spirituality Center on the campus of La Roche University in Pittsburgh, Pa.

Mike Clark, anchor at WTAE-TV shared his experiences with the death of his son Matthew, who died tragically in a mountain climbing accident seven years ago.

The faith-filled connections at the time of Matthew's death continue in Mike's life today. He reminded his listeners to be open and aware of how God speaks to us through others and helps us with resilience to accept new realities.

He ended his presentation by asking the audience to join him in singing, "I Want to Walk Like a Child of Light." This hymn reminds him of Matthew's time on earth and adapting to challenges in life.

As an experienced Catechist, mother of a teenage autistic son and someone who ministers to individuals with special needs, Michelle Wright shared practical coping strategies.

She reminded her listeners that scripture is filled with examples of resilience and "God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in distress" (Ps. 46:1).

Our third presenter, Amanda Singel, helped the women to draw encouragement from one another by guiding them in crafting a heart flower bookmark. The table sharing activity provided an opportunity to process traits and behaviors of resilient people.

The Office of Religious Education would like to thank Metropolitan Archbishop William C. Skurla for opening the event with a prayer service for the women and children in Ukraine.

Gratitude is also given to the planning committee and Sister Ruth Plante, OSBM, Mt. Macrina Gift Shop.

A plant auction provided a monetary donation that will be sent to the women and children in Ukraine who continue to experience suffering and destruction.

Finally, thank you to all the parishes who encouraged participation and the lovely women who attended. ■



Mike Clark



Michelle Wright





REFLECTION FROM MOUNT ST. MACRINA

# Their call is our call

By Sister Barbara Jean Mihalchick, OSBM



Sister Barbara Jean Mihalchick posts videos of her reflections each week on the Facebook page of the Sisters of St. Basil the

Great at <https://www.facebook.com/sistersofstbasil.uniontown>.

This is a transcript of her June 20, 2025 reflection.

Glory to Jesus Christ!

Now we begin into the gospels that follow the whole Pentecost season and as the season continues, we begin with the gospel that is about vocations, or that's the way most people think of it.

It's the call of Peter, Andrew, James, and John right by the Sea of Galilee and by circumstances it looks like Jesus shows up, says, "Come follow me, I will make you fishers of men," and they go with Him.

At the time in the culture, rabbis taught and taught and taught and then invited men to follow them and learn to teach as they taught. So, it's very possible that these fishermen heard Jesus speaking before this at the synagogue.

Their call is our call. We must not write off vocations as an issue for someone else or a work of the Church to call new leaders, to call new priests, sisters, and deacons. That's not what the vocation issue is by the light of this gospel. As Jesus called those men, Jesus also calls us by virtue of our baptism to also share His ministry to become fishers of men. The Lord asks for helpers who can give invitations to live the faith faithfully. Let's put it that way.

Some new insights I had about that: Think about inviting people to deeper faith, even within your own family. How would it begin? What would it look like?

Well, in my mind, it first looks like love. It first looks like charity. It first looks like forgiveness. It first looks like building harmony and love in one's family because if you want to invite people to faith but you don't give a good example of love, the faith won't take root. If we love one another and treat each other as Christians, as imitators of Jesus, we build an atmosphere in which all the best things can flourish: faith, hope, and love.

So, as we help each other to grow in these — faith, hope, and love — we will experience them in our



family setting. We will experience them in our parish setting. We each are called to this ministry. We're each called to this service as followers of Jesus Christ. The opposite is unacceptable because it isn't His way.

So, let us pray for insight on how I can greater live in love in my family or stimulate love in my family, reconcile differences or whatever needs attention. Then

let us talk about the faith, let us talk about the Lord, let us talk about the Church and its many blessings on our families, as well.

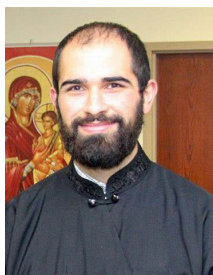
All of this relates to vocation and lays the groundwork that maybe someone in our own family will have a particular vocation. But the vocation of fishers of men belongs to all of us, the baptized.

God bless you. ■

ASK FATHER LUKE

## Unity in faith, worship, government'

By Father Luke Iyengar  
Assumption of the Mother of God,  
Weirton, W. Va.  
St. John the Baptist, Avella, Pa.



**Question:** Why do we have different Sunday readings from the Roman Catholics? If we are united to the pope,

shouldn't we be reading the same readings?

**Answer:** This is a good question because it touches on our very identity as Byzantine Catholics!

I'm going to treat this as essentially a question about the visible unity of the Catholic Church. If that's not what this question is really about, let me know!

The most obvious visible sign of the unity of the Church is that we are all in union with the pope. But what does that mean? If we look at paragraph 814 of the Catechism

of the Catholic Church (CCC), we get a clearer picture: "the unity of the ... Church is ... assured by visible bonds of communion: profession of one faith received from the Apostles; common celebration of divine worship, especially of the sacraments; and apostolic succession through the sacrament of Holy Orders, maintaining the fraternal concord of God's family."

Therefore, unity in faith, worship and government marks us as members of the one Catholic Church. Now how does this relate to our Sunday readings?

First, the Gospel we read on a Sunday isn't a matter of faith. Jesus and the Apostles did not say we have to read from a particular Gospel on any given Sunday, and the calendar of readings that most Roman Catholics currently use was only developed in the mid-1900s. Thus, we're in the clear there.

Next, there's common worship. What this means is basically that

all of us celebrate the same seven sacraments and can participate in each other's services. I've had Roman Catholic clergy concelebrate the Divine Liturgy with me, and I've concelebrated Mass with them. Unity in worship doesn't mean that we all celebrate the sacraments the same way, or even that different churches that use the same rite have the same feast days and readings (for example, various Roman Catholic religious orders have their own feasts that affect their liturgical calendars, so you may end up with different readings in a monastery church from what a diocesan parish would be reading on a given day).

Finally, we have unity in government. The pope, our archbishop and all the Catholic bishops of the world can trace their origin back to the 12 Apostles of Jesus Christ. Together, they govern the Catholic Church. As part of this, we have canon law, which organizes the Church's

life. In 1990, Pope St. John Paul II promulgated (published and ordered us to follow) the Code of Canons of the Eastern Churches, which now governs the life of all Eastern Catholic Churches. Canon 39 of this book orders that "The rites of the Eastern Churches, as the patrimony [inheritance] of the whole Church ... are to be observed and promoted conscientiously."

An important part of our rite is the calendar of readings, which developed differently in our rite over the course of history than in the Roman rite. By reading our traditional readings on Sundays instead of what the Roman Catholics read, we're reading exactly what the pope prescribed when he promulgated the Code of Canons of the Eastern Churches, and what the Catholic Church has always expected of us in earlier laws calling on us to faithfully observe our Byzantine Catholic rite. ■



# “God is doing something beautiful here in northeastern Oklahoma.”

ST. ATHANASIUS OUTREACH IN TULSA, OKLA. CELEBRATES FIRST FEAST DAY



Story continued from page 1

"To see that devotion blossom into nearly 40 registered households today is a testament to the Holy Spirit's continued work in Tulsa."

This growth is taking root in a remarkably fertile spiritual landscape. Just last year, *The Catholic World Report* highlighted the Roman Catholic Diocese of Tulsa as tied for the most fruitful diocese in the United States. The Byzantine Catholic Outreach of Tulsa is actively contributing to this regional spiritual vitality, ensuring that the Church in Oklahoma is truly breathing with both lungs, faithful to the vision of Pope St. John Paul II in *Oriente Lumen*.

The sacramental life of the community beautifully reflects this momentum. In 2025, the Outreach celebrated four rites of initiation — baptism, chrismation, and the Eucharist — as well as one crowning (marriage). These abundant blessings have only continued into 2026, which has already seen one conversion to the Catholic faith, one man applying to the seminary, and the welcoming of two new Christians through the rites of initiation.

Beyond these milestones, the Outreach has established a robust infrastructure to nurture the faith of its members. Through active Eastern Christian Formation programs for both children and adults, the community ensures that the rich theological and liturgical heritage of the East is faithfully passed down and deeply understood by the next generation.

## Honoring St. Athanasius

The recent St. Athanasius Feast Weekend epitomized this vitality. At the center of the weekend's veneration was a stunning 300-year-old icon of St. Athanasius, displayed alongside sacred relics of the saint. Both served as a powerful visual and spiritual anchor for the faithful.

Adding to the joy of the weekend, the children's education program staged an entertaining performance of a play titled *St. Athanasius Against the World*, bringing the saint's courageous story to life for the Outreach and its many guests.

"It's providential that St. Athanasius is our patron," reflected Father Elias following the performance. "He stood firm for the truth of the faith against the overwhelming currents of his time, often feeling like it was him against the entire world. He reminds us that it takes courage to hold fast to our traditions and beliefs and to share them with others."

As the Byzantine Catholic Outreach of Tulsa looks toward the future and its prayerful transition to a canonical Mission, it stands as a growing, vibrant part of the Church.

"Pope Leo talks about how much the Church needs the beauty and mystery of our liturgy," Father Elias said. "To see people in Tulsa stepping into that mystery, bringing their families, and really falling in love with it — it's a joy. God is doing something beautiful here in northeastern Oklahoma."



The Byzantine Catholic Outreach of Tulsa, Okla. now houses this 300-year-old icon of St. Athanasius (right) from Greece.

The Outreach has grown from just a few families to nearly 40 registered households over the last four years.

The Byzantine Catholic Outreach is helping the Tulsa community breathe with both lungs — East and West.

Four of the Outreach's children (bottom photo) perform *St. Athanasius Against the World* to teach visitors more about the saint's courageous story.



# PARISH NEWS

ST. ELIAS IN MUNHALL, PA.

## Eternal Memory

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

Even the rain could not stop the intrepid cemetery clean-up volunteers from St. Elias in Munhall, Pa.

Armed with weedwackers,

chainsaws, and trash bags, the crew worked all morning beautifying the cemetery in West Mifflin, Pa.

Thanks to all who helped and Eternal Memory to all our loved ones buried here. ■



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

Steel Valley Scouts from Troop 4 and former members of Troop 15 placed American flags on the graves of all our service members at St. Elias Cemetery in West Mifflin, Pa. They also replaced

any markers that hold the flags which appeared damaged.

We are grateful for their efforts in remembering our fallen service members. We thank all those who served our country. May their memory be eternal. ■



## Celebrating Mother's Day

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

Mother's Day was celebrated with Divine Liturgy at St. Elias in Munhall, Pa. Candles were lit for our living and deceased mothers. Roses were given to all our mothers.

And a celebration was held in the church hall for one of our favorite mothers and godmother.

Janet Englert celebrated her 90th birthday! May God grant her many more!

And may God continue to bestow his blessings on all our living mothers and remember all the mothers with Him in His heavenly kingdom.

Father Vitalii Stashkevych is pastor. ■



## Summer treats

St. Elias in Munhall will be selling potato cheese pirohi and haluski this summer at Munhall's 125th anniversary on June 13. See you then! ■



Anthony DeProspero and Jackie Kutzfara finished the Pittsburgh Half-Marathon! St. Elias is proud of our runners! Congratulations!



Superb bowlers from St. Elias in Munhall, Pa. participated in the National GCU Bowling tournament held at the Meadows in Washington County. Barbara Wahal, Greg Maranowski, and Patricia Kutzfara represented St. Elias.



ST. GREGORY IN UPPER ST. CLAIR, PA.

# Saluting our graduates

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

On Pentecost Sunday, May 24, prayerful supplications were offered for all our St. Gregory's graduates: Kayla Uhrlen, The Ohio State University; Makayla Boes, Keystone Oaks High School; Matthew Bartz, Home Education Program; Evan Makohus, Keystone Literacy Training Academy; and Matthew Lutte, Peters Township High School.

At the end of the Divine Liturgy, our graduates came forward to receive a special blessing as we celebrated this important milestone in their lives.

Following the Divine Liturgy, we enjoyed cake and fellowship in our church hall.

As part of our celebration St. Gregory's Women of Faith presented our graduates with the gift of a book to mark this special occasion. All our graduates received a scholarship award from our St. Gregory's Men's Club after which they presented their



essays.

O Lord, we are grateful for Your great benefits which You have so richly bestowed upon us in Your loving-kindness, we bless and give thanks to You and we beseech You to look graciously upon us and these graduates, who have completed their courses of study. Grant that they grow in wisdom and understanding. May they prosper in good works for the glorification of Your holy name. Give them health and long life that they may labor for the building up and glory of Your holy Church, this nation, and of all Your people. ■



ST. MICHAEL IN CAMPBELL, OHIO

# Remembering the fallen

By Father Kevin Marks  
St. Michael, Campbell, Ohio

The Blessing of Graves at our St. Michael Cemetery took place on May 24, Pentecost Sunday

afternoon.

We remember all our deceased loved ones and those who died in the service of our country this Memorial Day weekend. ■



ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST IN SCOTTDALE, PA.

# “Mother of the Year”

Sandy Kadylak was honored as “Mother of the Year” at St. John the Baptist in Scottsdale, Pa.

Pictured at right are Harrison Myers, Mark Seremchuk, Sandy Kadylak, and Father Oleh Seremchuk. ■



HOLY SPIRIT IN PITTSBURGH, PA.

# The Sacredness of Life

By Mary Dzurichko  
Holy Spirit, Pittsburgh, Pa.

Holy Spirit Church in Pittsburgh, Pa. had a busy Great Fast with successful results. On April 17, we hosted a Moleben (prayer service) for the Sacredness of Life and Supplication for the Victims

of Abortion. This was on the eve of the first annual Pittsburgh Pro-Life March and Rally, which was organized by Deacon Paul Boboige, and presided over by Metropolitan Archbishop William C. Skurla and Father Michael Kunitz. ■



# Annual Palm Cross sale

The Revilak Family's annual Palm Cross sale once again provided substantial funds for the benefit

of Holy Spirit in Pittsburgh, Pa., which were presented to Father Michael Kunitz in April. ■



# Lenten Almsgiving

Our parishioners and friends generously donated to the Lenten Almsgiving collection at Holy Spirit in Pittsburgh, Pa.

Father Michael Kunitz, along with parish charity organizer Mary Dzurichko, presented the proceeds and food donated to Dana Parker, manager of the Community Health Services Food Pantry, at their South Oakland facility. ■



ASSUMPTION OF THE MOTHER OF GOD IN WEIRTON, W. VA.

# Parishioners rally for Spring Clean-up

By Mike Garan  
Assumption of the Mother of God,  
Weirton, W. Va

Parishioners of St. Mary's in Weirton, W. Va., came together on Saturday, May 16, for the parish's annual spring clean-up, lending their time and energy to beautify the church grounds, rectory, and parking areas.

Blessed with a partly cloudy sky and warmer weather, volunteers worked side by side to confront a wide range of tasks that refreshed the parish property.

Throughout the day, crews weeded the parking lot, flower beds and sidewalks; cleared leaves and debris; trimmed bushes; mowed and edged the lawn; plus cleaned and reorganized the kitchen.

The spirit of cooperation and shared purpose was evident as parishioners pitched in wherever help was needed, demonstrating pride in their parish and a strong sense of community.

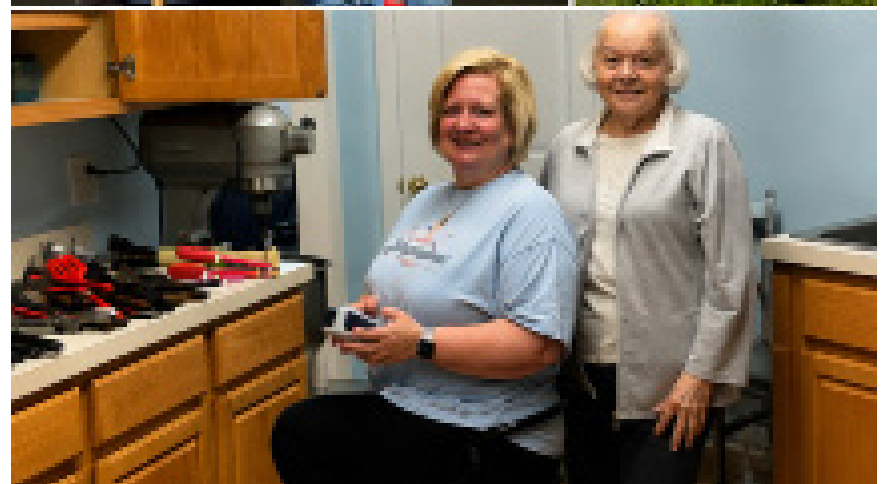
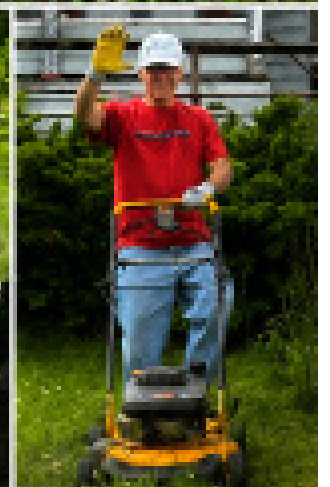
Following the morning's work, Altar Society members served the crew a well-deserved lunch that included hot dogs, pasta salad, chips, desserts and cold drinks. The meal offered an opportunity for everyone to relax and reflect on a job well done.

Father Luke Iyengar expressed his gratitude for the many hands that made the day a success.

"I am deeply grateful for our parishioners' dedication to St. Mary's," he said.

"Their willingness to care for our parish home is a beautiful witness of their time, talent and love for the church. Thanks to their hard work, our grounds are well maintained and truly welcoming to all who worship and visit here."

The annual clean-up again proved to be a meaningful way for the St. Mary's parishioners to work together in service and ensure the parish remains a place of beauty, hospitality and pride. ■





ASSUMPTION OF THE MOTHER OF GOD IN WEIRTON, W. VA.

# Double blessing

By Mike Garan  
Assumption of the Mother of God,  
Weirton, W. Va

In the course of eight days, the family of Samuel Goodge and his wife Michaelene celebrated ceremonies of Baptism, Confirmation (Chrismation) and the Holy Eucharist at St. Mary's parish in Weirton, W.Va.

First, the Church welcomed Sam into the Church on Holy Saturday during the Paschal Vigil Divine Liturgy of St. Basil the Great. He grew up in Cambridge Springs, Pa., where he and his sister were raised by their mother and practiced the Methodist faith, regularly attending church with his great-grandmother.

After earning two undergraduate degrees plus a PhD in Organizational Learning and Leadership from Gannon University, he met Michaelene Larch and later married her. Michaelene is a graduate of Wheeling University, where she earned a Master of Science degree in Nursing. They now reside in Weirton with their four-month-old daughter, Addison, and two rescue dogs.

Inspired by Michaelene's passion and desire to return to her childhood church, he began attending St. Mary's, where he met Father Luke Iyengar. Through Father Luke's welcoming and open guidance, along with weeks of conversation, reflection and personal study, Sam discovered the values of the Byzantine Catholic Church strongly aligned with his own developing faith.

"Through my wife's example, Father Luke's guidance and my own journey of faith, this has become a truly meaningful decision for me," Sam said. "I'm grateful for the support of my family and the St. Mary's community, and I look forward to growing in my faith and building a strong spiritual foundation for



my family."

Then Addison took center stage during the Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom on Thomas Sunday when four Godparents — count 'em, four! — participated as witnesses to her entrance into the Church. Her God-given guides are Kathy Granato, Morgan Larch, William Larch and Ayden Goodge.

While her father was able to speak for himself, Addison relied on Granato to make the profession of faith by reciting the Creed and afterwards renouncing Satan and all his works.

During Addison's formative years, her Godparents will assist Sam and Michaelene in her religious formation and encourage her growth in faith, prayer and participation in the Church. Additionally, they are expected to act as spiritual helpers and reinforce her religious and moral upbringing.

"With joy in Christ, we celebrate Addison's holy baptism, giving thanks for the blessing of her double blessing Godparents — William, Ayden, Kathy, and Morgan — who will walk beside her, guiding her in faith, prayer and life in the holy Church," Michaelene said.

When not at St. Mary's or enjoying leisure time, Sam works as the Director of Residence Life at Robert Morris University while Michaelene is a Nurse Practitioner.

Then what's in store for their first-born? "Sister Addison" has a nice ring to it! ■

By Mike Garan  
Assumption of the Mother of God,  
Weirton, W. Va

For the third time in as many weeks, St. Mary's in Weirton, W.Va., celebrated the joy of new life in Christ with the baptism of Helena Folk-Freund, daughter of Christopher and Danielle Folk-Freund, on Ointment-Bearers Sunday.

Surrounded by family and parishioners, the six-month-old was received into the Church through the sacred mysteries — anointed in baptism, sealed in chrismation and nourished for the first time with Holy Communion — thus marking the beginning of her life in faith and unity with the Holy Trinity.

"It was truly a gift for us to witness the intricate and beautiful process of the sacraments," her father said. "Helena was so attentive to the process. It was like she was waiting for this in her young life with eagerness. Seeing her receive the Most Precious Blood with ease made my heart soar!"

Helena is the youngest of five children and sister to Norah, 5; Odessa, 4; Alexandria, 3; and Constantine, 1. The family relocated from Lake Country, Wisc., to Steubenville, Ohio, late last summer after Christopher accepted a position as HVAC Chair and General Manager at the College of St. Joseph the Worker in the spring of 2025.

According to its website, the college "forms students into effective and committed members of their communities by teaching them the Catholic intellectual tradition while training them in skilled and dignified labor." Select trade paths include carpentry, electrical, HVAC and plumbing.

Christopher has worked in his trade for 10 years, starting as an apprentice and working his way up to foreman at a large company that



serviced mostly southeastern Wisconsin, including Milwaukee and Madison. In Ohio and West Virginia, he is also a fully licensed HVAC contractor as well as a teacher.

"I love the students. They are such good kids and it brings me a great sense of pride to help them learn a valuable trade that will help them uplift their communities and provide for themselves and their families," Christopher said.

Danielle earned a BA in History and BA in Philosophy. Before motherhood, she studied to be an Archivist/Historian and briefly taught history. She also has worked as a librarian, an archivist and a museum guide but is now focused on homeschooling her five children.

"At some point, I would like to donate my time and knowledge to St Mary's to build a digital and physical archive of the church's history," she said. "I actually archived a whole church's history for my undergrad final project, so it would be exciting for me to do it again."

Helena's baptism in the Byzantine rite is a "family first" as her parents and siblings are baptized Roman Catholics,

Story continued on page 10



**WELCOMED IN BAPTISM:** Goodge and Larch family members pose in front of St. Mary's altar following Addison Goodge's Baptism/Confirmation/First Holy Communion. Pictured in front (l to r): Sam Goodge, Kathy Granato holding Addison, Michaelene Larch and Father Luke Iyengar. In back (l to r): William Larch, Morgan Larch and Ayden Goodge.



ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST IN SCOTTDALE, PA.

# Paska baking

The ladies and gentlemen of St. John the Baptist in Scottdale, Pa. made paska for the Easter season. Starting to rprepare the ingredients are Kathy Onusko and Barb Zaksek (below left). Catherine Catalina mixes batches of dough (below right). ■



With the finished paskas are: Janice Frederick, Catherine Catalina, Cindy Hribal, Barb Zaksek. Kathy Onusko, and Terry Frederick. Not pictured: Sandy and John Kadylak, Mike Dedo, Margie Edwards, Andrea Junk, and Anita Wisniewski.

Preparing the baking pans and forming the loaves are Barb Zaksek, Anita Wisniewski, Jackie Cuneo, and Margie Edwards.



Forming the braids for the paska are Andrea Junk, Tom McGraw, Cindy Hribal, Barb Zaksek, Terry Frederick, Jackie Cuneo, and Margie Edwards.

Father Oleh Seremchuk conducting the blessing of Easter baskets at St. John the Baptist in Scottdale, Pa. ■



ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST IN UNIONTOWN, PA.

# Sacramental milestones

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

On Saturday May 9, four children experienced sacramental milestones at St. John Church in Uniontown, Pa.

Jamison Parker, Violet Parker, and Lincoln Balas received Chrismation. They also made their first Solemn Communion, along with Ryan Mihalko.

Prior to this event, they also made their first Confession.

This took place under the

direction of Father Kyprian Wojciechowski, ECF coordinator Marcia Harrer, and the ECF staff.

Each child was presented with a certificate, a Mystical Supper icon, and a children's book of Scriptural readings from the parish family. Parents, sponsors, parishioners, and family members attended the Liturgy to celebrate this meaningful event in these children's lives. ■



ASSUMPTION OF THE MOTHER OF GOD IN WEIRTON, W. VA.

Story continued from page 9

having attended St. Jerome's Church in Oconomowoc, Wisc. But Christopher's new job steered his family to St. Mary's parish community at a joyful moment of new beginnings.

Soon after Helena's birth, they had visited many area churches. However, on one cold Sunday morning last January, they decided to visit St Mary's.

"We were a little late to the Divine Liturgy," Danielle recalled, "so we were trying to quickly and quietly usher our children into the church. As soon as we settled in, we earnestly listened to the parishioners sing the liturgy; Father Luke's (Iyengar's) words were charismatic and thought-provoking; and we were in awe of the beauty of how the Eucharist was prepared in the Byzantine Rite."

It didn't take the couple long for them to realize that they had found their new home of faith and worship.

"In the car ride home, we couldn't stop raving about how wonderful the experience was, and we've been worshipping at St. Mary's with eagerness and joy ever since," Christopher said.

According to Danielle, Father Luke quickly made an impression upon the family as a

most kind shepherd to his flock.

"We couldn't ask for a better priest to guide us," she stated. "He already has offered a helping hand to us in times of need," she said.

"He has blessed our home and happily accepted dinosaur chicken nuggets as a meal with our kids. And he continues to provide us the Lord's wisdom through life's trials and tribulations that bring us comfort and hope.

"And we also appreciate how wonderful all the parishioners have been to our family since we joined St. Mary's."

"The Folk-Freunds walked in and stole the hearts of the parish," Father Luke commented. "We're very blessed to have them here."

Helena's Godparents are the Maltby family, proxied by the Veiga family. The Maltby family are friends from the family's former parish in Wisconsin. They have been a rock of great friendship to the Folk-Freunds and have set a devoted example of parenting, education and love.

Though Helena's family remains Roman Rite Catholics, they are exploring the possibility of fully entering into the Byzantine Catholic tradition.

"We are discerning potential rite changes, but we're taking our time," Christopher said. ■



ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST IN LINDORA, PA.

# “Salad days”

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

St. John the Baptist in Lyndora, Pa. recently had their annual Salad Bingo. Guests were treated to a variety of salads, sandwiches and desserts before playing bingo.

The prizes were all in gift bags

so the winner didn't know what they were getting.

There was also 12 drawings for door prizes, a basket raffle, and a 50/50. Guests were asking already when the next bingo would be. The GCU matched the profit that was made. ■



# History in the making

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

Parishioners of St John the Baptist in Lyndora Pa. enjoyed the digitally remastered video of the church's history during the weekend of April 25 to 26.

Drew Moniot produced the original video in 1988 for the church's 75th anniversary.

Drew gave a brief introduction and closing remarks. A special feature showed interviews by Peter Baycura, church historian, with Archbishop Stephen J. Kocisko, who built the new church in 1955.

Interested persons are able to see the two-part video by going



Drew Moniot

to the parish website at [www.stjohnbyzlyn.com](http://www.stjohnbyzlyn.com) and clicking on the history tab. ■



SS. PETER AND PAUL IN PATTON, PA.

# Glorifying the Lord

By Father Roman Andrii  
SS. Peter and Paul, Patton, Pa.

I want to start this post with the words of the psalmist David: “Let every breath praise the Lord.”

The ecumenical choir “Cantata” visited our church, SS. Peter and Paul in Patton, Pa. Through

different voices and beautiful songs we glorify our Lord. This Sunday evening was very spiritually filled and incredible.

Through this evening we received both spiritual and physical food. We are grateful to the organizers of this event and to all the people who helped us in holding this event. ■



ST. MICHAEL IN CAMPBELL, OHIO

# St. Michael's Kitchen Krew

By Margaret Ford  
St. Michael, Campbell, Ohio

Throughout the year, St. Michael's Kitchen Krew has worked hard pinching pirohi, making hundreds of quarts of authentic haluski, and preparing tasty dinners for the benefit of St. Michael's Byzantine Catholic

Church in Campbell, Ohio.

The group also supports parish celebrations like the sharing of Paschal foods on Holy Saturday.

The Krew served it's last dinner for the season on May 17 and will take a summer break, resuming food sales in September. ■



ST. GREGORY IN UPPER ST. CLAIR, PA.

# First Reconciliation

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

On Sunday, April 26, the First Reconciliation of three wonderful children – Livia, Larisa and Benjamin — took place at St. Gregory in Upper St. Clair, Pa.

As a community of faithful we rejoiced to see how these children took upon themselves that responsibility for their actions and their relationship with Christ through the Mystery of Reconciliation-Confession. ■



# Mother' Day 2026



# Happy birthday, Deacon Michael!

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

At the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy on Sunday, May 17, a surprise was waiting for our dear Father Deacon Michael George.

In celebration of his milestone birthday, he was presented with a beautiful, embroidered Deacon Orarion and an icon of his patron saint Archangel Michael.

We continued in the church hall celebrating Deacon Michael's birthday. As a community of faithful we thank Father Deacon Michael and Lorri George for their many years of ministry/service in the Archeparchy of Pittsburgh and in our parish



family of St. Gregory. We ask our Lord to bless Father Deacon Michael and his family for many happy and blessed years! Mnohaja Lita! ■



# “Maifest”

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

On Saturday, May 16, St. Gregory's Church Hall came alive for “Maifest 2026.”

The evening began with a festive Bavarian-style buffet enjoyed by all. The evening continued with spirited live music from Bavaria, Austria, Slovenia, and a few

American classics by Mädel Jäger, “Your Favorite Bros-in-Hosen.”

This wonderful evening concluded with a special raffle, 50/50, and door prizes.

Sincere thanks to all who participated in this first time event that bright us together for a wonderful spring fest! ■





ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST IN UNIONTOWN, PA.

All stories by Julia Pillar and Bonnie Balas

### Happy Second Anniversary

Father Kyprian Wojciechowski celebrated his second anniversary to the priesthood on Tuesday, April 28. A 6 p.m. Divine Liturgy was held to commemorate the event.

A social, which followed the Liturgy, was held in his honor.

The parishioners of St. John the Baptist are blessed by his service to the parish. ■



### April Birthday Social

The monthly April Birthday social was held on Sunday, April 19 after the Sunday morning Divine Liturgy.

Pani Emily led the prayer

before meals, and St. John Social Ministry provided slider sandwiches, dips, salads, cake and more. ■



### Four Seasons Party

Many St. John parishioners attended the second annual Four Seasons Party fundraiser at St. Mary Assumption Church, New Salem, Pa. on May 3.

Those attending won prizes, enjoyed fellowship, and were pleased to support a neighboring parish's fundraising effort. ■



### Benefit Spaghetti Dinner

On Sunday, April 26, St. John parishioners and friends pulled together to help fellow parishioners who lost their home to a devastating fire on Palm Sunday.

Upon hearing the news of the fire, Father Kyprian and Pani Emily jumped into action to start a collection that day for the family. Pani Emily also headed up

a spaghetti dinner to benefit the family.

Parishioners, friends, and local businesses donated raffle baskets and prizes, as well as baked items for a bake sale which accentuated the income for the 630-plus spaghetti dinner tickets sold.

A substantial amount was made which will greatly assist the family in this time of need. ■



### Mother's Day, May Birthday Celebration

A tribute to mothers took place on Sunday, May 10 in St. John Social Hall after the Sunday Divine Liturgy. The well-attended brunch prepared by men of the parish offered a buffet of breakfast foods.

The St. John Social Ministry Committee provided flowers and a favor, which was a mini prayer quilt with a patch depicting a scripture passage. May birthday celebrants were also recognized at this event. ■





## THOUGHTS FOR OUR DAY

By Archpriest David M. Petras

### THE HISTORY OF THE BISHOP'S MINISTRY



The role of bishops in the Church has developed in history. The word "bishop," itself means "overseer."

In origin, they were appointed by the apostles to "oversee" the communities they had established. The apostles were missionaries, the bishops were local clergy. The bishop, therefore, as the successor of the apostles, is often called "shepherd." This was the commission given by Jesus to Peter, "Feed my lambs, feed my sheep." The bishop is also a member of an episcopal college. In the Gospels, Jesus treats the apostles as a kind of council. There are to be twelve, to witness to the resurrection to the twelve tribes of Israel, and, in the future, to judge them. When Judas betrays Jesus, Matthias must be elected to make up the number twelve. There are indications that this number was symbolic. In the New Testament, there are many more "apostles," and the bishops, as successors of the apostles, are not limited to twelve.

As shepherd, the bishop is charged with guiding, leading, teaching and enlightening the people. Since there was to be only one shepherd of the sheep, each bishop was restricted to guiding the Christian community of one city. As presider over the eucharist, his church included the area that could be covered by a viable eucharistic community. Sometimes bishops had to be disciplined on this score. The Nicene Council, Canon 15, forbade the transfer of bishops from city to city, a law that is

honored more in the breach, and Canon 16 forbade them to ordain clerics from another city. After the conversion of the empire, the bishops also acquired a civil custody of the city. This was symbolized by the eagle rug upon which bishops stand ceremonially. The eagle represented his guardian role over the city, as Psalm 90:4 says: "With his pinions he will cover you, and under his wings you will take refuge." The requirements for a bishop, therefore, were, 1) that he be a people's man, chosen from among the people; 2) that he be suitable for times of poverty; 3) that he be a good man, generous,



**As shepherd, the bishop is charged with guiding, leading, teaching and enlightening the people.**

merciful and wise. The earliest way of choosing bishops was election from the people, either by the presbyters or by the presbyters and people together. The choice of a bishop was very important, since he acquired a great role in the whole society, especially in the social services, feeding the hungry, taking care of the sick, the widows and the orphans.

The Apostolic Constitutions (Syria, 4th century), describes one process for choosing bishops: "A

bishop to be ordained is to be, as we have already said,...chosen by the whole people, who, when he is named and approved, let the people assemble, with the presbytery and the bishops that are present, on the Lord's day, and let them give their consent" (8, 2, 4).

The consent of the people is still given, in the singing of "Axios," after the ordination. In the second century, it became a necessary part of the rite that the bishop be ordained by at least three other bishops. This was to give the neighboring churches a say in the election of bishops, and the episcopal college would have a veto power on an unworthy choice.

In the third century, bishops begin to form a definite college. St. Cyprian noted: "There are many bishops in the body; they are joined together by the cement of mutual concord and the bond of unity so that if any one of our college attempts to frame a heresy, to wound and worry the flock of Christ, the others come to the rescue" (Epistle 68:3-4). Examples of this are the condemnation of the Novatian heresy in Rome, and the deposition of Paul of Samosata in Antioch. Bishops wrote letters of communication to each other, a practice noted by the pagan Emperor Aurelius (Church History 4, 22, 1).

In the Fourth Century, this collegiality reached its ultimate point in the institution of the ecumenical council. Patriarchates, Metropolitanates and Provinces are established and the Church becomes organized across the Empire. Beginning with Nicea (325), the ecumenical council became the highest dogmatic

authority in the Church, because it represented the consensus of the bishops of the world (or, at least, those of the Roman Empire, since those outside its boundaries usually did not participate, this led eventually to the rejection of the Council of Ephesus by the East Syrian Church and the rejection of Chalcedon by the "monophysites").

One problem with this was that the new system tended to favor administrators rather than leaders. Bishops were to become "the moderators, protectors of the status quo, defenders of tradition, administrators, and not innovators." This happened because of the need in the Church for tradition. The Spirit is present in the Church always, but "He will not speak on his own, he will speak only what he hears...He will remind you of everything I have said to you" (John 16:13; 15:25). There is a necessity for some standards of faith, otherwise, the Church would split into numerous sects, and the unity of the Body of Christ would be destroyed. St. Paul warned, "Keep watch over yourselves, and over the whole flock the Holy Spirit has given you to guard. Shepherd the church of God, which he has acquired at the price of his own blood. I know that when I am gone, savage wolves will come among you who will not spare the flock" (Acts 20:28-29). One can never pretend that bishops are always perfect leaders, but they are the most visible sign of the Spirit in the Church and respect for their office is necessary so that "there will be one flock, one shepherd" (John 10:16). ■



## PARISH LITURGIES BROADCAST VIA INTERNET

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

For changes or to be listed, send information to bcw@archpitt.org.

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

**Holy Ghost  
McKee 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](https://www.facebook.com/stgregoryusc)

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

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

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

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

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

**St. Mary  
Bradenville, Pa.**  
Go to Youtube.com and type in "St. Mary's Byzantine Media"



# 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, Oct. 23, 2026 -  
Sunday, Oct. 25, 2026

■ **Beginning on Oct. 23 (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.

■ **Continues Oct. 24 (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.

■ **Oct. 25 (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:

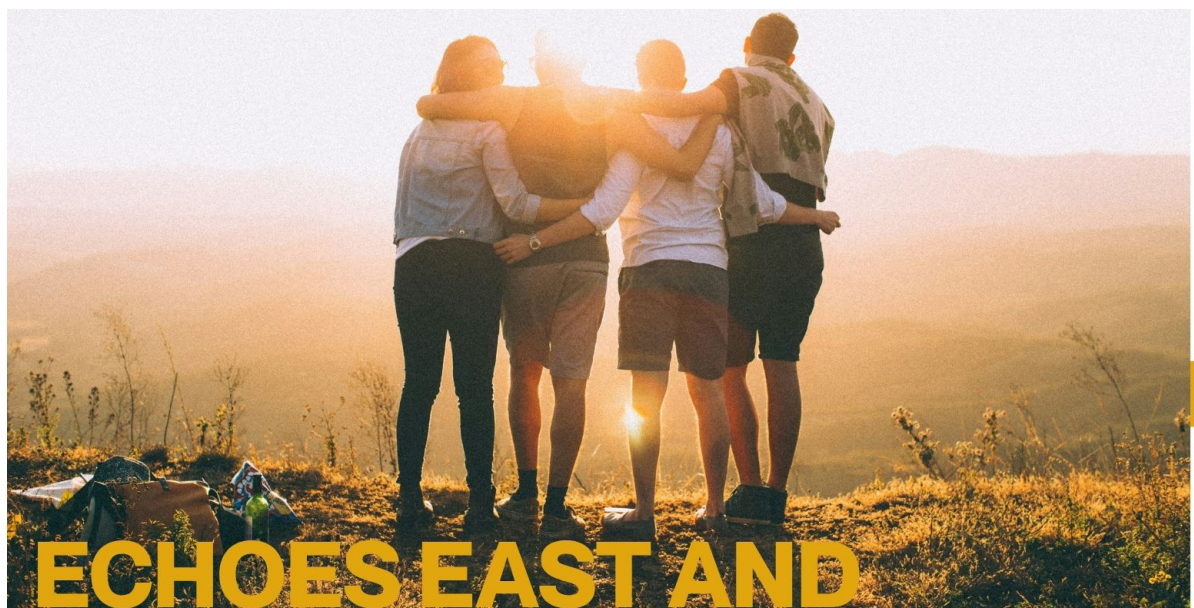
Payments can be submitted online at the end of the registration form.

### 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](http://archpitt.org).

The registration deadline: May 15, 2026



# ECHOES EAST AND WEST: LISTEN, TEACH, SEND

A weekend of prayer, community, and formation



SCAN ME

## OCT 23-25

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

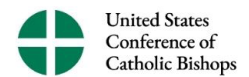
### Event Theme:

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



The Byzantine Catholic Archeparchy of Pittsburgh

[Register Here](#)

[Explore More Online Here](#)



## YOUTH & YOUNG ADULT EVENTS 2026

& more to come

### JULY 9-12

4 DAYS / TEENS

#### BYZANTEEN RALLY

John Carroll University, Cleveland, OH  
Eparchy of Parma

### AUG 2-4

FRI-SAT / COLLEGE STUDENTS

#### WORKING RETREAT

Mt. Macrina, Uniontown, PA

### AUG 8

SATURDAY / TEENS

#### 2026 BYZANTEEN SPLASH BASH & MORE AND BYZANTEEN RALLY REUNION

St. Nicholas Chapel, Beaver & Seven Oaks Country Club Swimming Pool, PA

### SEP 12

SATURDAY / TEENS

#### 2026 FALL BYZANTEEN HIKE & COOKOUT

Riverview Park and the Chancery, Pittsburgh, PA

### OCT 3

SATURDAY / YOUNG ADULTS

#### 2026 ARCHEPARCHIAL YOUNG ADULT PILGRIMAGE

Basilica and Shrine of Our Lady of Lebanon, North Jackson, OH

### OCT 23-25

FRI-SUN

/ MINISTRY LEADERS WHO SEEK TO ENGAGE YOUNG PEOPLE, FAMILIES, AND PARENTS

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

Our Lady of Victory Maronite Catholic Church, PITTSBURGH, PA

### NOV&DEC

MONDAYS / YOUNG ADULTS

#### PHILIP'S FAST BIBLE STUDY FOR WOMEN

7:00 pm via Zoom

### AND MORE

VISIT [WWW.ARCHPITT.ORG](http://WWW.ARCHPITT.ORG)

SCAN THE QR CODE AND FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK TO STAY CONNECTED!



[youth@archpitt.org](mailto:youth@archpitt.org)



The Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministry  
The Byzantine Catholic Archeparchy of Pittsburgh



# MADE FOR THE JOURNEY

*Working retreat for college students*

Led by  
Campus ministry priests  
of the Archeparchy of Pittsburgh

**August 2 - 4, 2026**  
ARRIVAL at 3 pm - 5 pm  
WELCOME at 5 pm  
DINNER 6 pm

SCAN THE QR CODE  
AND REGISTER BY  
JULY 26, 2026



**Mount Macrina**  
500 West Main Street  
Uniontown, PA 15401

**COST: \$70**  
Registration Fee,  
Accommodation, Meals

**What to expect?**

- Talks, small group discussions, and reflection time
- Prayers, time for confession, and spiritual direction
- Work - we will help the Sisters of St. Basil the Great to get ready for the Annual Pilgrimage in honor of Our Lady of Perpetual Help
- Social activities and much fun
- Join us to meet other college students and our Byzantine Catholic campus ministry priests!

THE OFFICE OF YOUTH AND YOUNG  
ADULT MINISTRY  
THE BYZANTINE CATHOLIC  
ARCHEPARCHY OF PITTSBURGH



WWW.ARCHPITT.ORG

AROUND THE ARCHEPARCHY



**1776 RAFFLE**— St. John Chrysostom, 506 Saline St., Pittsburgh, Pa. Win \$1,776 in Cash or Meat Package and \$1,000 in Cash. Meat supplied by Lampert's Market, McKeesport, Pa. Winner responsible for picking up meat at Lampert's: 6 T-Bone Steaks, 6 NY Strip Steaks, 6 Delmonico Steaks, 6 Porterhouse Steaks, 6 Filet Mignon Steaks, 6# Baby Ribs, 5# Homemade Kielbassi, 6# Hot Sausage, 10# Chicken Breast, 10# Chicken Thighs, 2 Bags Natural Casing Wieners, and 25 Quarter Pound Burgers. Winning Number from the 7 p.m. Pennsylvania Pick 3 Lottery on Monday, June 29. Benefits St. John Chrysostom Chimney & Maintenance Fund. Donation: \$10. Void after 30 days. All unsold tickets property of St. John Chrysostom. Call Tony for tickets at 412-491-1938.



**Thursday, July 23  
11 a.m. to 9 p.m.**

**Kennywood Amusement Park  
4800 Kennywood Blvd.  
West Mifflin, Pa. 15122  
Tickets will be available soon!**

**\$28 – ages 4 + Free – ages 3 and under**

**Tickets will be sent regular US Mail between 3 to 5 days after payment is received. Large ticket orders will be sent UPS.**

**ALL tickets bought at this discounted rate must be used on July 23, 2026.**

**Deadline to order tickets is Thursday, July 9.**

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



**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)**

**DATES TO REMEMBER**



**JUNE 10 to 12**  
United States Conference of Catholic Bishops  
annual Spring Meeting  
*Orlando, Fla.*

**JUNE 21**  
Father's Day

**JUNE 24**  
Feast of the Birth of the Forerunner John the Baptist

**JUNE 29**  
Feast of the Preeminent Apostles Peter and Paul  
*Chancery closed*

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

**THE BYZANTINE CATHOLIC WORLD**

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**NEXT ISSUE:  
JULY 2026**

**SUBMISSIONS  
DEADLINE:  
JUNE 18**