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"Faith and Fun Day"

ALTAR SERVERS OF THE ARCHEPARCHY OF PITTSBURGH ENJOY 17TH ANNUAL DAY OF FELLOWSHIP



Altar servers of the Archeparchy of Pittsburgh cheer the Pittsburgh Pirates at PNC Park during the 17th annual "Faith and Fun Day." Photo by David Mayernik Jr. For more photos, see page 3.

By David Mayernik Jr.
Editor

The mission statement for the 17th annual "Faith and Fun Day" for altar servers of the Archeparchy of Pittsburgh on July 27 was clear.

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

"The Way, the Truth, & the Life"

It's a reference to John 14:6, in which Jesus tells His apostles:

"I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."

This year's "Faith and Fun Day" included a tour of the Byzantine Catholic Seminary of SS. Cyril and Methodius in Pittsburgh, Pa. courtesy of Very Rev. Ron Barusefski, Rector.

In the Seminary chapel, Father Ron told altar servers "the Seminary is a big, important part of our Church today."

SS. Cyril and Methodius Seminary is celebrating its 75th anniversary year in 2026, as it was dedicated on Oct. 18, 1951.

Altar servers took a tour through the Seminary's classrooms, library, gymnasium, and student lounge.

Father Ron said there are many aspects to the Seminary's day-to-

day operations for its students.

"It's a house of formation."

Altar servers shared their love of helping their priests, being close to the altar, and holding candles in their own parishes.

"Your years as an altar server are going to be very important to you," Father Ron said.

Altar servers ate lunch at Remo's Catering and also visited the Museum of Illusions, located steps away from PNC Park, and Puttshack, an indoor miniature golf course in the Strip District.

The Museum of Illusions houses many exhibits created to trick the mind, such as an Ames room, which is designed to create an

optical illusion where people and objects appear much larger or smaller depending on where they are viewed.

The day ended at PNC Park to see the Pittsburgh Pirates beat the Arizona Diamondbacks 3-2 in 10 innings.

The day's activities were organized by Very Rev. Kevin Marks, Vocations Director for the Archeparchy of Pittsburgh and pastor at St. Michael in Hermitage, Pa. and St. Michael in Campbell, Ohio.

More than 50 youth attended the day's festivities along with priests and chaperones. ■



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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.

Byzantine Catholic Day at Kennywood

Byzantine Catholic Day at Kennywood on Thursday, July 23 began with prayer and fellowship at the St. John the Baptist Cathedral in Munhall, Pa. followed by fun at the park. ■
Thanks to Maria Iyengar for photos.



OFFICIAL
APPOINTMENTS
BY METROPOLITAN
ARCHBISHOP WILLIAM

Effective July 20, 2026

Father William Rupp relieved as Priest for Spiritual Needs and Liturgical Celebrations at St. John, Hawk Run; Dormition, Clarence; Community at State College and ministry to Penn State Students. His Sacramental Faculties as a Priest of the Archeparchy are suspended.

Father Nicholas Krivacs appointed Priest in Residence at St. John, Hawk Run; Dormition, Clarence; Community at State College and ministry to Penn State Students.

Deacon Dennis Prestash to continue as Administrator of the above sites until Oct. 1, 2026.

Effective July 27, 2026

Father Donald Bolls relieved as Pastor of Resurrection, Monroeville, and Administrator of Holy Trinity, Wall, and Request for Retirement from Active Ministry accepted,

Father Mark Le Roy appointed Administrator of Resurrection, Monroeville and Holy Trinity, Wall.

YOUNG ADULT PILGRIMAGE

18 TO 39 YEARS OLD
SINGLE, MARRIED



BASILICA & NATIONAL SHRINE OF OUR LADY OF LEBANON

NORTH JACKSON, OH



SEPTEMBER 26
10:00 AM DIVINE LITURGY

MORE DETAILS AND ACTIVITIES WILL BE ANNOUNCED SOON!
APPROXIMATE TIME OF DEPARTURE 4:00 PM



The Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministry
The Byzantine Catholic Archeparchy of Pittsburgh
www.archpitt.org

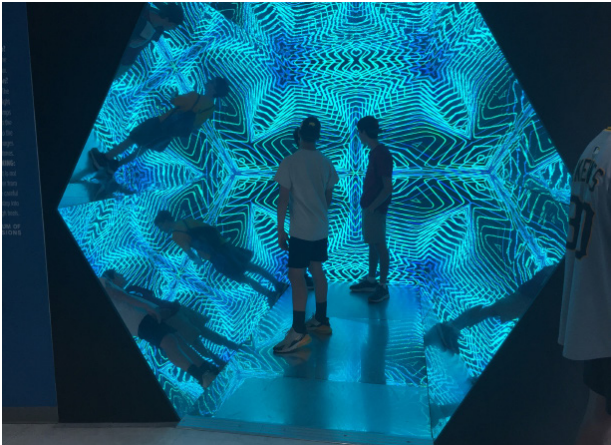
“Faith and Fun Day”

ALTAR SERVERS OF THE ARCHEPARCHY OF PITTSBURGH ENJOY 17TH ANNUAL DAY OF FELLOWSHIP

The 17th annual “Faith and Fun Day” for altar servers of the Archeparchy of Pittsburgh took place July 27 and included seeing the Pittsburgh Pirates beat the Arizona Diamondbacks 3-2 in 10 innings at PN Park.

The day also included a tour of the Byzantine Catholic Seminary of SS. Cyril and Methodius in Pittsburgh, Pa. and visits to the Museum of Illusions and Puttshack, an indoor miniature golf course.

See page 1 for a story. ■





ByzanTeen Splash Bash & More!

OFFICE OF YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY EVENT MAKES A “SPLASH” EVEN WITHOUT A POOL

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

On Saturday, Aug. 8, the Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministry hosted the “2026 ByzanTeen Summer Splash Bash & More!” at the Greek Catholic Union’s St. Nicholas Chapel and Seven Oaks Country Club, both in Beaver, Pa.

After a quick icebreaker led by the Archeparchy’s Youth and Young Adult Director, Viktoria Zolnova, the teens’ day began with the Prayer of the Third Hour in the chapel, led by Father Tyler Wisniewski of St. John Chrysostom and St. John the Baptist Byzantine Catholic Churches, both in Pittsburgh, Pa.

An interactive talk on the Mystery of Baptism by Father Tyler entitled “You Are My Beloved Son” followed and encouraged participants to think deeply about who they really are as children of God.

It also included a demonstration of infant baptism, group discussion of Old Testament passages that foreshadowed baptism and how they revealed God’s love for us, time for personal reflection, and a renewal of baptismal promises.

While lunch and swimming at Seven Oaks were next on the agenda, an unfortunate power outage resulted in the pool being closed for the day. This was, of course, disappointing, but Seven Oaks graciously provided a private room for lunch, fellowship, and a few “bad weather” backup activities instead.

The teens truly made the best of it all, with a mystery box challenge, line dancing, board games, and time spent just hanging out together resulting in a fantastic time despite the last-minute change of plans!

The day ended with announcements for the Archeparchy’s next youth event—the annual ByzanTeen Fall Hike and Cookout with Metropolitan Archbishop William Skurla on Saturday, Sept. 12 — and a brief prayer for young people. More information about upcoming youth and young adult events can be found at www.archpitt.org.

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



Thanks are especially extended to Seven Oaks Country Club for accommodating our group

despite the pool closure and to our teens for their flexibility, their resilience, and for putting the

“splash” into this year’s Splash Bash, even without a pool! ■



“Connected in the Faith”

REFLECTIONS ON THE 2026 BYZANTEEN RALLY AT JOHN CARROLL UNIVERSITY IN CLEVELAND HEIGHTS, OHIO

*By Nathanael and Nikolas Kline
Assumption of the Mother of God,
Weirton, W. Va.*

The 2026 ByzanTeen Rally was hosted by the Eparchy of Parma at John Carroll University, Cleveland Heights, Ohio. Brothers Nathanael and Nikolas Kline attended the 2026 Rally. They attend Assumption of the Mother of God Byzantine Catholic Church in Weirton, W. Va. and reside in Steubenville, Ohio.

The Rally started like any other sleepaway event, and the other 129 youth seemed like any others we’ve met around our schools, churches, and communities, but throughout the weekend we gradually understood how special this weekend was.

We unpacked and then went to an ice breaker where we got into groups of five and talked about why we’re at the Rally, what we want to do at the Rally, and funny topics like how to climb up on the extremely tall dorm room beds.

After dinner was our first keynote speech about hope by Father Deacon Kyle Washut. He impressed us with the idea that Christian Hope can sustain us to dream big dreams and follow through on them. Everyone was impressed that he founded a new Catholic college at Wyoming Catholic and started the first full-time Byzantine Catholic chaplaincy for college students there.

Armed with college mail from Wyoming Catholic, we prepared for bed by repenting of our daily sins while praying for the universal Church and whole world at compline.

Looking back, the liturgical services of the weekend were a great sampling, with one of each service: Compline, weekday Divine Liturgy, Mystery of Anointing, Mystery of Repentance, the Hours, Akathist, Vespers, Hierarchical Divine Liturgy, and Matins. It is a lot more fun to participate in our liturgical services when over 100 other youth are participating with you. There were some great harmonies and great melodies, and this is coming from a serious vocal music student!

The second keynote really got us thinking about AI and if it integrates into a Byzantine Catholic spiritual life. Even if you are not convinced AI fits into your spirituality, the demo of Byzantine AI showed us that AI can help some people further immerse themselves into Christ through the deposit of faith.

The third Keynote turned into

an impromptu interview with our four bishops, and it was amazing how each of them were so different but together they had a relatable message of courage and faith for us young people. We learned that the theosis towards Christian perfection means looking for our progress rather than beating ourselves up when we are not perfect. And when we are feeling down, we need to remember that God is in love with us, just like Bishop Kurt’s dog loved him, or just like our hardest romantic crush.

With that, our biggest takeaway from the Rally was the great people. Personally, we were most excited to be reunited with a friend from our parish who had to move to Philadelphia. Hanging out with Emmanuel again was just like he had never left. But universally, we were impressed that our bishops, priests, and religious really do care about our people and our church. It was awesome having the assembly of all four bishops and clergy from all four eparchies present with us, along with nuns from the Sisters of St. Basil and Christ the Bridegroom Monastery, and all of these adults showed how much they cared about us by taking the time to sit with groups of youth at meals and to meet with us throughout the weekend.

Bishop Artur and Father Eugene were “GOAT’d” for their ping-pong skills, and Bishop Artur also showed us his soccer skills. The group from Saint Anthony the Great in St. Louis stood out by encouraging others to play Uno, Apples to Apples, and Ultimate Frisbee. We congratulate the Eparchy of Passaic for winning the Mitre Cup volleyball tournament between our four eparchies.

We want to thank the planning committee and our chaperones, especially our lead chaperone Jon, Youth Coordinator Quinn, lead priest Father Vasyl, and our Dance DJ Rachel. All these experiences helped us to begin to realize what it means to be one church, amidst our many parishes throughout our national Metropolia. No matter who you are, people that are way different from you can still be connected in the Faith. People from near and far were still connected with us as a Brother or Sister in the Lord. For this realization and all the blessings of the 2026 ByzanTeen Rally, we proclaim: Glory to Jesus Christ! Glory to Him forever! ■



Bishop Robert Pipta of the Byzantine Catholic Eparchy of Phoenix, Metropolitan Archbishop William C. Skurla, and Bishop Artur Bubnevych of the Holy Protection of Mary Byzantine Catholic Eparchy of Phoenix participate in a question and answer session with teens at the 2026 ByzanTEEN Rally at John Carroll University in Cleveland Heights, Ohio.



PARISH NEWS



PAGE 6

SEPTEMBER 2026

SS. PETER AND PAUL IN TARENTUM, PA.

A blessed visit

BISHOP NIL LUSHCHAK, OFM, OF THE BYZANTINE CATHOLIC EPARCHY OF MUKACHEVO, TRANSCARPATHIA, UKRAINE VISITS U.S.

By Very Rev. Vasyl Polyak
SS. Peter and Paul, Tarentum, Pa.

SS. Peter and Paul Byzantine Catholic Parish in Tarentum, Pa. was honored to welcome a very special guest, Bishop Nil Lushchak, OFM, of the Byzantine Catholic Eparchy of Mukachevo, Transcarpathia, Ukraine, from July 11 to 19.

His visit to the Byzantine Catholic Archeparchy of Pittsburgh took place at the invitation of our Metropolitan Archbishop, William C. Skurla, and our parish was truly blessed to share in this memorable occasion.

Throughout his stay, Bishop Nil prayerfully celebrated the Divine Services, proclaimed the Holy Gospel, and preached inspiring homilies that encouraged the faithful to remain steadfast in Christ.

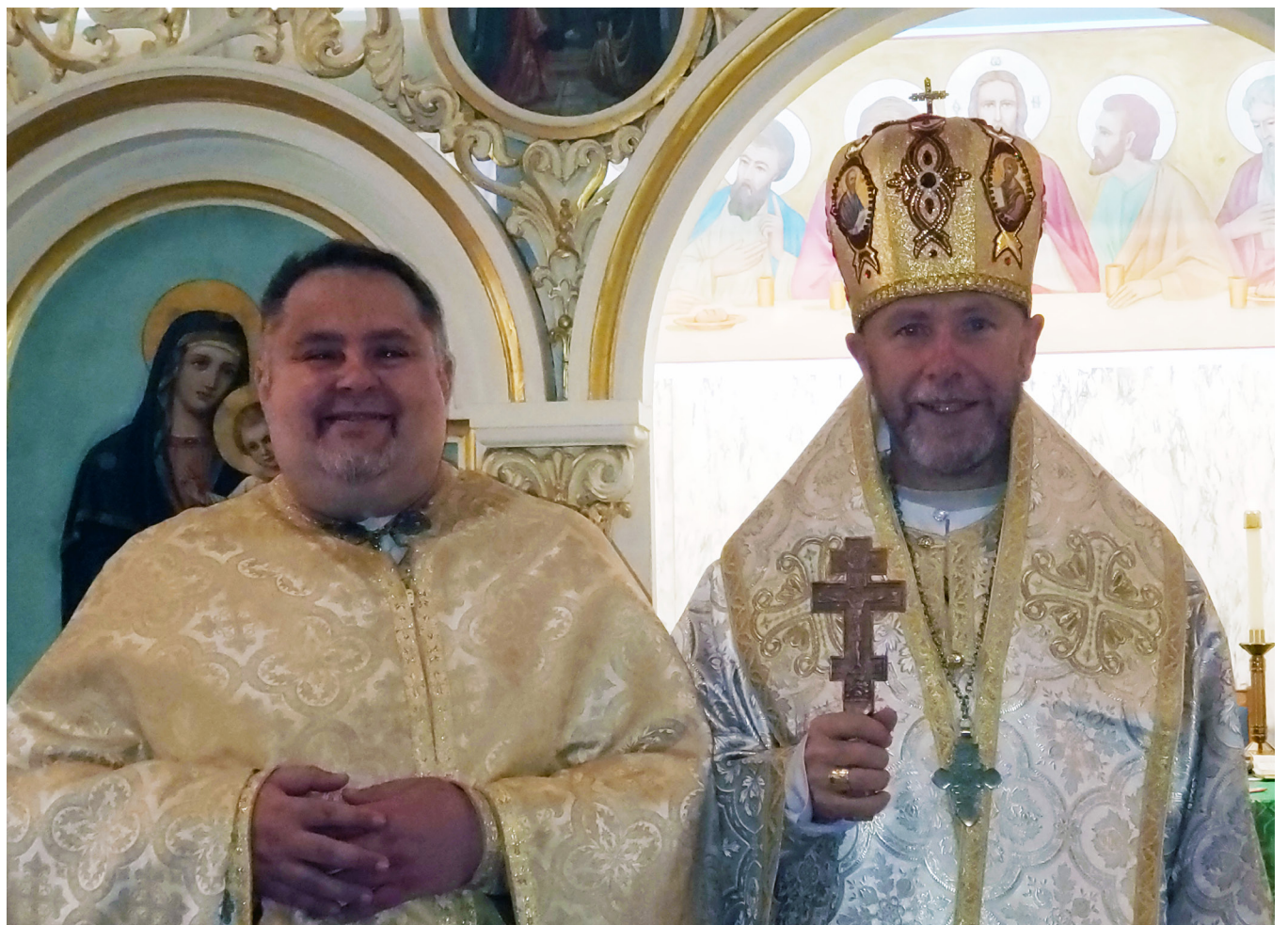
His presence reminded us that every bishop, as a successor of the Apostles, shares in the fullness of the sacrament of Holy Orders and is called to shepherd the Church through the guidance of the Holy Spirit. It was a privilege for our parish to pray together with him and witness his pastoral ministry firsthand.

The visit also provided many opportunities for fellowship. Parishioners enjoyed spending time with Bishop Nil during several social gatherings, where conversations, shared meals, and joyful moments strengthened the bonds of our parish family.

We are grateful for the warmth, kindness, and spiritual encouragement he brought to our community.

During his visit, Bishop Nil also met with the local Knights of Columbus Council in Natrona Heights, where Father Vasyl Polyak serves as chaplain.

The gathering included prayer, fellowship, and meaningful discussion. Bishop Nil shared the story of the growth of the Knights of Columbus in Ukraine and expressed his sincere gratitude for the generous support that the Knights and many faithful in



Very Rev. Vasyl Polyak, pastor of SS. Peter and Paul in Tarentum, Pa. and Bishop Nil Lushchak, OFM, of the Byzantine Catholic Eparchy of Mukachevo, Transcarpathia, Ukraine.



the United States have provided to the Ukrainian people during these difficult times.

The faithful of SS. Peter and Paul Parish are deeply thankful

for Bishop Nil's visit and the many blessings it brought to our community.

We pray that the Lord will continue to strengthen him in his

episcopal ministry and grant him many blessed and fruitful years in the service of Christ and His Church. ■

Feast of the Transfiguration

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST CATHEDRAL IN MUNHALL, PA.

Very Rev. Andrew Deskevich celebrated the Divine Liturgy and Blessing of Fruit on the Feast of the Transfiguration of Our Lord, Aug. 6, at St. John the Baptist Cathedral in Munhall, Pa. ■



Photos by Nick Havrilla Sr.

HOLY GHOST IN PITTSBURGH (NORTH SIDE), PA.

Very Rev. Frank Firko blessed fruit on the Feast of the Transfiguration at Holy Gost in Pittsburgh (North Side), Pa. ■



ST. NICHOLAS IN GREENSBURG, PA.

*By John Gomolak
St. Nicholas, Greensburg, Pa.*

On Aug. 6, the Transfiguration of our Lord, Bishop Larry Kulick of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Greensburg was invited to St. Nicholas in Greensburg, Pa.

Father Vasyl Banyk is pastor. After the Liturgy, the blessing of fruits and vegetables and Mirovanija (anointing with oil) took place. Afterward, refreshments were served. ■



Photos by Gerry Gomolak

ST. ELIAS IN MUNHALL, PA.

The Feast of the Transfiguration of Our Lord was celebrated at St. Elias in Munhall, Pa. by Father Vitalii Stashkevych. Fruits and vegetables are traditionally blessed on this Feast Day. ■



Feast of St. Elijah

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

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

St. Mary in Weirton, W. Va. welcomed nine members of the City of Weirton Fire Department to the parish's evening Divine Liturgy on July 20. Following the liturgy, Father Luke Iyengar blessed five City of Weirton fire trucks along with parishioners' automobiles and one bicycle in honor of the Feast of the Holy Prophet Elijah.

"We are grateful to the members of the Weirton Fire Department for joining us on this special Feast Day," Father Luke said. "Their commitment to protecting our



community reflects the spirit of selfless service and sacrifice."

Father Luke said it was a privilege to ask God's blessing upon the firefighters, their fire trucks and equipment, and all who place themselves in harm's way for the safety of others.

"May the Lord watch over them, keep them safe in every emergency and continue to bless them and their families." ■



ASCENSION OF OUR LORD IN CLAIRTON, PA.

Father Christopher Burke blessed vehicles after Liturgy for the Holy Day of the Prophet Elijah at Ascension of Our Lord in Clairton, Pa. ■



HOLY GHOST IN PITTSBURGH (NORTH SIDE), PA.

Fsther Frank Firko blessed vehicles on the Feast of St. Elijah at Holy Ghost in Pittsburgh (North Side), Pa. ■





Feast of St. Elijah

SS. PETER AND PAUL IN PATTON, PA.

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

After the Divine Liturgy on Saturday and Sunday, July 25 and 26, the blessing of vehicles took

place.
In the prayer of blessing, we ask the prophet Elijah for protection for our faithful in all their travels. ■



ST. ELIAS IN MUNHALL, PA.

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

St. Elias in Munhall, Pa. celebrated its Feast Day on July 20.
Since the prophet Elijah was taken up to heaven in a fiery chariot, traditionally our own modern “chariots” are blessed on this Feast.
Father Vasyl Symyon joined Father Vitalii Stashkevych to celebrate liturgy and then bless vehicles.
May God bless Father Vasyl on his recent appointment as the Director of Human Formation at our Byzantine Catholic Seminary



of SS. Cyril and Methodius in Pittsburgh, Pa. May God grant him many years and success in his endeavors! ■



ST. ELIAS IN MUNHALL PA.

Feast of the Dormition

The Feast of the Dormition of the Theotokos was celebrated at St. Elias in Munhall. Pa. Parishioners brought in flowers, which Father Vitalii Stashkevych blessed at the end of liturgy. ■



Annual picnic

St. Elias in Munhall, Pa. welcomed Archbishop William C. Skurla and Bishop Nil Lushchak of the Byzantine Catholic Eparchy of Mukachevo, Ukraine, to celebrate liturgy on July 26 with Father Vitalii Stashkevych before the annual church picnic.
Fun was had by all parishioners and friends. There was plenty of delicious food and games including pickleball and corn hole! And, thank you, St. Elias, the patron saint of the parish, for holding off the rain! ■





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

Feast of the Transfiguration

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

Following the Divine Liturgy for the Feast of the Transfiguration, Father Luke Iyengar blessed seasonal first fruits and vegetables brought by parishioners of St.

Mary in Weirton, W.Va. The traditional blessing symbolizes gratitude to God for the harvest and for His abundant gifts, while reminding the faithful to offer the first fruits of their labor to God with heartfelt thanks.



Paronal Feast, Procession

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

St. Mary's observed the Feast of the Dormition with its time-honored Divine Liturgy, blessing of flowers and patronal procession. The celebration provided a fitting expression of the parish's faith and devotion to honor its heavenly patroness and to pursue her continued protection and intercession for its families, parish and community. Father Luke Iyengar said, "Our Blessed Mother remains



the ideal and perfect example of discipleship, always pointing us to her Son and our Lord, Jesus Christ."



Annual Parish Picnic

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

Parishioners of St. Mary's gathered Aug. 16 at Starvaggi Park in Weirton, W.Va. for the parish's annual picnic, held each year following the Dormition Fast and to celebrate their patronal feast, the Dormition of the Theotokos. The picnic featured traditional favorites including chicken, roast

beef, hot dogs, cheesy potatoes, tossed and fruit salads, vegetables, desserts and beverages. "We gathered not only to honor the Dormition of our Blessed Mother and her glorious Assumption into heaven, but also to thank everyone who generously shares their time, talent and treasure throughout the year for the benefit of the parish," Father Luke Iyengar said.



HOLY GHOST IN MCKEES ROCKS, PA.
HOLY GHOST IN PITTSBURGH (NORTH SIDE), PA.

Parish picnic

Holy Ghost in McKees Rocks, Pa. and Holy Ghost on Pittsburgh's North side held their annual picnic on July 26. The GCU provided the meats and buns and parishioners brought sides and desserts.



ST. ELIAS IN MUNHALL, PA.

West Homestead Community Day

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

St. Elias pirohi and haluski were big sellers at the crowded West Homestead Community Day on Saturday, Aug. 15. Many thanks to all the volunteers and patrons who make this annual event a huge success!





ST. JOHN CHRYSOSTOM IN PITTSBURGH, PA.

“Brushstrokes of Faith”

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

“We are called to become living icons of Christ” was the theme of this year’s Summer ECF week-long program at St. John Chrysostom Church in Pittsburgh, Pa.

Father Tyler Wisniewski, administrator, and Elizabeth Harbist, ECF Coordinator, designed “Brushstrokes of Faith” focusing on understanding the significance of icons in our Byzantine faith.

The week began with Divine Liturgy for the Feast of St. Elias. Teachers Matt and Monica Rodrigues and Lori Schultz used the icon of St. Elias to launch the week’s lessons and activities.

After lunch on Monday, everyone stayed to tie-dye t-shirts which we all wore to Kennywood! It was messy fun!

A variety of activities were utilized throughout the week to best serve the 15 students ranging from ages 3 to 16.

John Hochendoner joined the group on Tuesday to conduct an icon writing workshop with the students. On Wednesday, we traveled to New Guild Icon Studio in Braddock to learn more from the iconographers whose work adorns our beautiful church as well as many other Byzantine churches.

Cathy Silvestri and John Biros shared their vast knowledge of the annual Pilgrimage at Mount St. Macrina in Uniontown Pa. The children learned about the origin and importance of the icon procession; pilgrimages in Eastern Europe; medovniki for sustenance; and St. Macrina and her family.

Seminarian Jim Hartung taught the children about miraculous icons. Each day students reflected on what they learned before enjoying a hot lunch which began with student-led prayer.

Small group activities throughout the week included outdoor games, a rhyming icon scavenger hunt inside the church, a large icon word hunt puzzle, and a mini pilgrimage held on our campus.

The older students practiced chant and learned a few hymns in Church Slavonic under the tutelage of our retired cantor, Kevin Beres.

To be living icons of Christ, we are called to love and serve others. We partnered with Fishes & Loaves Ministry to collect non-perishable food to help underserved families in the Greenfield and Hazelwood neighborhoods.



Father Tyler reminded the students, “By collecting food for those in need, we are serving Christ Himself.”

In addition to a parish-wide food drive, the students canvassed the neighbors along Saline Street, in Ruska Dolina, sharing information about the food drive and asking for non-perishable

food donations.

On Friday, the children visited the neighbors to collect donations. The generosity of our neighbors was remarkable. The students collected more than 20 bags of food.

Our week’s work will culminate on Aug. 30, when the students and teachers will share with the

whole parish what they learned during Brushstrokes of Faith. They will also present the collected food to Deacon Tom from Fishes & Loaves Ministry, along with a \$2,000 check, courtesy of GCU Community Matching Funds Program. ■



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

Annual parish picnic

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

Infant Jesus of Prague and St. Nicholas held their annual picnic on July 19. It was a wonderful afternoon — the children loved the bounce house and kid games and the

adults were very competitive in the corn hole tournament. We also celebrated Father Michael and Marina Faynet's birthdays. The weather was perfect, the food delicious and everyone had a great time. Thank you to the Byzantine Social Club for organizing the event. ■



HOLY GHOST IN MCKEES ROCKS, PA.

Blessing of teachers, students

Very Rev. Frank Firko blessed the teachers and students for the new school year at Holy Ghost in McKees Rocks on Sunday, Aug. 9. ■



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

ST. GREGORY IN UPPER ST. CLAIR, PA.

Flea Market 2026

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

The line of excited people in the parking lot on Saturday morning, Aug. 1, was just one indicator that the annual flea market would be a huge success. A wide variety of items for sale added to the event's appeal, drawing in bargain- hunters and shoppers from all over the South Hills of Pittsburgh. Prior to this fundraiser event, our hard-working parishioners

were in the Church hall setting up, pricing, and donating their time and effort to make this a successful event. Thank you to all who planned, set up, shopped, browsed, prayed, cleaned up, and broke down the Flea Market. It was a fabulous time of Church fellowship together with hard work and many laughs. A huge "thank you!" to everyone and may Our Lord bless you for your love and dedication to St. Gregory! ■



ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST IN UNIONTOWN, PA.

All stories by Julia Pillar and Bonnie Balas. St. John the Baptist, Uniontown, Pa.

Feast of St. Elias

The weekend Liturgies on July 18 to 19 commemorated the Feast of St. Elias. Vehicles were blessed after the Saturday vigil Liturgy and before the Sunday morning Liturgy.

Amid the raindrops, faithful believers stood with umbrellas open, waiting for Father Kyprian Wojciechowski to bless their vehicles. ■



Birthday wishes

The July birthday social was held after the Saturday evening Liturgy on July 18 in the Social Ministry Room. Father Kyprian Wojciechowski was one of the birthday celebrants this month. Among the array of foods were Father Kyprian's favorites —

pizza and hot wings. Those who attended enjoyed the light meal and refreshments provided by the Social Ministry Committee. May God grant them many happy, healthy, and blessed years! ■



Lesser Blessing of Water

Father Kyprian Wojciechowski performed the Lesser Blessing of Water for the Feast of the Procession of the Venerable and Life-Giving Cross on Saturday, Aug. 1. After the Liturgy, those in attendance partook in the newly blessed holy water. ■



Feast of the Transfiguration

On Thursday Aug. 6, two Divine Liturgies were celebrated to commemorate the Feast of the Transfiguration of Our Lord. Father Kyprian Wojciechowski blessed the fruits and vegetables that were brought in by the parishioners. Afterwards, they

shared their blessed items with one another. At this time, Father Kyprian also blessed new altar servers' vestments, which were expertly made by parishioner Kay Breakiron. ■



Feast of the Dormition

For the morning Liturgy on Aug. 15, the shroud of Mary was displayed and adorned with flowers brought in by the

parishioners to be blessed. The shroud was displayed throughout the weekend for those attending the Liturgies to venerate. ■



St. John The Baptist Byzantine Catholic Church 20th Annual Classic Car Show



Registration: 12 pm to 2 pm
With a registration fee of \$12
Car Show 12 pm to 4 pm
Rain or Shine

Date: September 27, 2026
Location: 185 East Main Street
Uniontown PA 15401



Classes Include

- 1900-1930
- 1931-1950
- 1951-1960
- 1961-1965
- 1966-1970
- 1971-1976
- 1977-1987
- 1988-2010
- Street rod/Modified Trucks
- 1959-older
- 1960-2010

No Judging For 2011 and Newer

Golf cart will be on site for transportation

Proceeds will benefit St. John the Baptist Church Maintenance Fund

The First 150 cars will receive dash plaques along with Over 25 trophies awarded

Music Provided By DJ Arnie Amber

50/50 Drawing
Byzantine Auction

GREAT FOOD



THOUGHTS FOR OUR DAY

By Archpriest David M. Petras

VARIANT BURIAL RITES



In the last few articles, we have described the standard burial service for a Christian, and the prayers and rites that are observed for all faithful. However, there are also categories of people for whom the standard service may be somewhat modified. These groups are, in particular, monks, priests and children.

Children have a rite tailored for them because of their innocence of personal sin. This service is celebrated for children up to the age of seven. The child must have been baptized, which removes the ancestral or original sin. The child, then, is innocent until they reach the age at which they are capable of serious sin. In the ritual, therefore, all reference to forgiveness of sin is removed. Since this is an important feature of the funeral of laypersons, most of the liturgical texts have been modified, particularly the Canon and the Hymns of Farewell. The latter hymns emphasize this innocence, "Death is release for children for they have been untouched by the evils of life. They attained their reward and heavenly joy. They are happy in the bosom of Abraham and now rejoice along with the divine choirs of holy children. They dance in faith because they have departed innocent of the corruption of sin." The service does not end with a prayer of absolution, but the priest prays, "In the present life, O Lord, you watch over children. In the life to come you prepare a place for them, the bosom of Abraham,

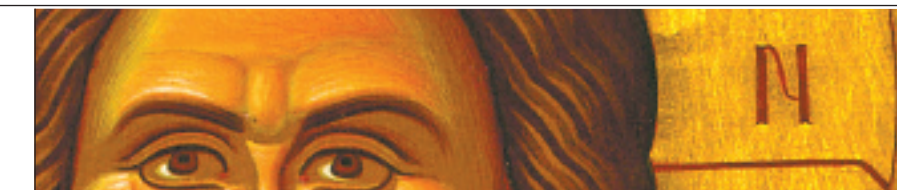
and because of their purity a radiant angelic place where the souls of the just abide." We do sing "Eternal Memory" for the child, because our final destiny and everlasting life is through the memory of God.

The funeral of a child, which is especially sad, today is an infrequent event. We have become much more efficient in preserving the lives of vulnerable children. Until recent generations, however, infant death was a great danger. Many lost their life in infancy and childhood. This also skewed the life span statistics. People think that the average person died about 40, but the reality is that about

The most elaborate burial is reserved for priests. In a way, this is expected from the honor that a priest has in the Christian community.

half died in infancy and half lived to the regular 70 or 80 years, as the psalmist said centuries ago, "Our span is seventy years, or eighty for those who are strong" (Psalm 89:10). This means that if three die at age one, and three live to 76, the average is 38 years, but the reality was that if people got past childhood, they had a good chance at normal life span.

There was also a special burial service for monks and nuns who



took monastic vows of poverty, chastity and obedience. Their life was seen as a heroism of faith, a renunciation of the riches of the world, a kind of spiritual death to the cares and passions of the world. The funeral service for a monastic, however, is very similar to that of a lay person, except that the Canon is replaced by an office of eight antiphons with four stichera (hymns) at each.. These hymns meditate on the meaning of death, though not as explicit to the monastic life as would be expected. For the monk, as for all human beings, death is a rest and a passage to the life promised by God, as the sticheron at Antiphon 3 proclaims, "You know the human nature which you fashioned, O Christ God, we pray: Give rest to him (her) who has been taken from us, in the dwelling place of all who rejoice in you, that he (she) might glorify your divinity." Oil is poured upon the body just before burial, and the monastic is buried in their monastic robes. The burial of a monastic, therefore, is marked by simplicity.

The most elaborate burial is reserved for priests. In a way, this is expected from the honor that a priest has in the Christian community. It is also because of a historical reason. Priests were the officiants of burial services, and thus preserved for themselves the fullness of the traditional services. All of the rites for a layman are observed, but there is also added an office of five Epistles and Gospels, each with their own prokeimena, stichera and litanies ending with special prayers. At the Canon, the usual kontakion is sung, but with all of its twenty-four ikoses (usually

reduced in practice). A Hymn of Light is said, together with the psalms of praise (Psalms 148-150) with stichera. These stichera are the only part of the rite that were composed especially for the priest. They begin, therefore, "Your godly minister has gone to you, O Christ, now divinized by your life-creating mystery as he is taken away. Receive his soul like a bird in your hands" The stichera have an element of humility, that the priest is like every human being, who life has a natural limit, "Strange is the mystery of death, for it comes untimely upon all. Nature comes to ruin. By force death takes presbyters, hegumens, and scholars, teachers and thinkers of vain thoughts. Death brings bishops, pastors and all mortals to decay." The presbyteral burial concludes with the anointing, which was once done for all Christians.

The orders of deacon, priest and bishop were all buried with the vestments of their office. Deacons were buried with the office for laymen, since they did not enter priestly orders and were the representatives of the lay community at the holy table of our Lord. It used to be the norm for bishops to be buried with the order for monks, since they took monastic vows to service in their office, but now they are usually buried as a priest. There was no separate rite for bishops. In the Roman rite, those in orders were buried facing the congregation, for the reason that they proclaimed the gospel, but in the Byzantine Church, everyone faced the altar because all of us have to face God and answer for our lives. ■

PARISH LITURGIES BROADCAST VIA INTERNET

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

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

**St. John the Baptist Cathedral
Munhall, Pa.**
www.stjohnsbyzantinecathedral.com

**Holy Ghost
McKee Rocks, Pa.**
www.holyghost-byzantinecatholic.org
www.youtube.com, then type Holy Ghost Church Live Stream

**St. John Chrysostom
Pittsburgh, Pa.**
www.sjcbcc.com

**St. Gregory
Upper St. Clair, Pa.**
www.facebook.com/stgregoryusc

**St. Michael
Campbell, Ohio**
www.facebook.com/st.michaelbyz.campbell

**St. Elias
Munhall, Pa.**
www.facebook.com/StEliasByzantineCatholicChurch/

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

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

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

**St. Mary
Bradenville, Pa.**
Go to Youtube.com 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

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

To read/download the Listen, Teach, Send: A National Pastoral Framework for Ministries with Youth and Young Adults, go to www.usccb.org.

You do not need to read Listen, Teach, Send in advance to participate in the conference, but it is encouraged

CONFERENCE DETAILS:

DATES: October 23-25, 2026

- **Beginning Oct. 23 (on 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 on Oct. 24 (Saturday) at 9 a.m.** with Morning Prayer (Ruthenian) and Sessions on Listening and Teaching, with interactive



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

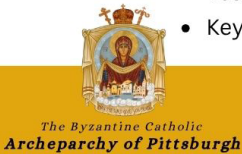


Highlights of the Weekend:

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



United States
Conference of
Catholic Bishops



[Register Here](#)

[Explore More Online Here](#)



small-group discussions. In the afternoon, visiting St. Anthony’s chapel, followed by dinner and bowling.

■ **Oct. 25 (Sunday) at 9 a.m.:** Session on Sending, and the conference concludes with the Divine Liturgy (Maronite) at 11 a.m.

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: Oct. 14.

Echoes East and West: Listen, Teach, Send

VIRTUAL NETWORKING
ZOOM MEETINGS

As we prepare for the conference, we also invite you to participate in our upcoming Virtual Networking Zoom Meetings.

These informal, one-hour gatherings are designed to help attendees get to know one another, build new friendships, and begin forming a community before we meet in person.

Preparatory Meeting 1:

Thursday, Sept. 3, 2026
8 p.m. Eastern Time
(U.S. and Canada)

Register in advance for this meeting: <https://usccb.zoom.us/j/8456789012>

Preparatory Meeting 2:

Thursday, Oct. 1, 2026
8 p.m. Eastern Time
(US and Canada)

Register in advance for this meeting: <https://usccb.zoom.us/j/9567890123>

Preparatory Meeting 3:

Thursday, Oct. 15
8 p.m. Eastern Time
(US and Canada)

Register in advance for this meeting: <https://usccb.zoom.us/j/0678901234>

We look forward to meeting you
online and welcoming you in person
this fall!



2026 ByzanTeen Fall Hike and Cookout

September 12  Riverview Park

Registration and Welcome at 1:00 pm
Byzantine catholic Archeparchy of Pittsburgh
66 Riverview Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15214

Hike begins at 1:30 pm
Trail difficulty level: EASY
Walking time with prayer and activity stops: about 2 HOURS

Games and Cookout with Metropolitan Archbishop William Skurla at 3:30 pm

Pick up at 6:30 pm
Byzantine Catholic Archeparchy of Pittsburgh
66 Riverview Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15214



REGISTER by September 4 via QR CODE
OR visit www.archpitt.org

Registration Fee \$15/person
Cookout included

7th Grade through High School



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

Upcoming events at Mount St. Macrina

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

To register for programs or more information, call 724-438-7149 or email hpmsm@verizon.net.

- **“Embracing the Church Fathers East and West”:**
10 a.m.-noon Saturday, Oct. 3. Presenter is Father Andrew Hamilton. Conference, reflections, and lunch.

- **Spiritual Reading Series with Sister Barbara Jean, OSBM: “To Love As God Loves” by Roberta Bondi:**
10:30 a.m.-noon, Wednesdays, Oct. 7, 14, 21, 28.

- **Father Thomas Moore — Spiritual Reflections:**
9 a.m.-noon Saturday, Nov. 7. Conference, reflections and lunch.

AROUND THE ARCHEPARCHY



STUFFED CABBAGE DINNER — Sept. 26 to 27, St. John the Baptist Cathedral, 210 Greentree Road, Munhall, Pa. Stuffed Cabbage Dinner is offered as take-out or eat-in. The dinner includes: Stuffed Cabbage, mashed potatoes, vegetables, and roll and butter. Price is \$14 per dinner. Dinners may be picked up 4-6 p.m. Sept. 26 and 10 a.m.-noon Sept. 27. In addition, stuffed cabbage will be sold by ½ dozen for \$20 or by the dozen for \$36, but these need to be pre-ordered. Call parish office at 412-461-0944 to place orders. Quarts of haluski, frozen soups, and our kolache will be sold.

THREE-DAY FESTIVAL IN JOHNSTOWN — 4-10 p.m. Friday, Sept. 4; Noon-10 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 5; Noon-6 p.m., Sunday, Sept. 6. Hosted by St. Mary, 411 Power St., Johnstown, Pa. Annual three-day Cambria City Ethnic Festival. A city block full of food and entertainment.

ANNUAL RUMMAGE SALE — 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 12, St. Pius X, 2336 Brownsville Road, Pittsburgh (Carrick), Pa. Bake sale, food items and lots of treasures for you to find! For information, call 412-881-8344.

TWO-DAY BASKET PARTY IN CONEMAUGH — Noon-5 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 12, Noon Sunday, Sept. 13, Holy Trinity, 217 Fourth St., Conemaugh, Pa. St. Ann's Ladies Guild hosts two-day Basket Party. Tickets: 25 for \$5. On Sunday, drawings begin at 2 p.m. Admission: \$10 and includes lunch, beverage, dessert, and 25 tickets.

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST 20TH ANNUAL CLASSIC CAR SHOW — Sunday, Sept. 27, St. John the Baptist, 185 E. Main St., Uniontown, Pa. Registration at noon- 2 p.m. after which the car show will continue until 4 p.m. Rain or shine. Registration fee: \$12 and the first 150 cars will receive dash plaques and goody bags. There will be more than 25 trophies including one large trophy, Father Kyprian's Favorite, awarded. Classes include: 1900-1930, 1931-1950, 1951-1960, 1961-1965, 1966-1970, 1971-1976, 1977-1987, 1988-2010, Street Rod/Modified, Trucks 1959 and older and 1960-2010. No judging for 2011 and newer. Arnie Amber, Oldies DJ, 50/50 drawing contest, Byzantine Auction, and delicious food including a variety of sandwiches, soups, halushki, baked goods, and more will be featured. A golf cart shuttle will be available for on-site transportation. Contact information: 724-438-1382 (leave message). Proceeds benefit the St. John the Baptist Byzantine Church Maintenance Fund.

TWO-DAY BASKET PARTY IN NANTY GLO — 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 10, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 11, St. Nicholas of Myra, 1191 Second St., Nanty Glo, Pa. Parish Guild of St. Nicholas of Myra hosts two-day Basket Party. Both days are walk-through events. Homemade ethnic foods will be available for purchase.

ST. JOHN CHRYSOSTOM 2026 STEELERS TAILGATE — Sunday, Oct. 18, St. John Chrysostom, 506 Saline St., Pittsburgh, Pa. Doors open at 11:30 a.m. and 1 p.m. kick-off for Steelers vs. Tampa Bay Buccaneers. Big screen TVs, plenty of food and drinks (BYOB). Football pools, Chinese Auction, and raffles. \$20 for adults and \$10 for children ages 5 to 12. First 100 adult tickets sold receive free block pool entry to win \$75 at halftime and \$150 at game's end. Pre-sale only. No tickets sold at the door. Contact John Niskach at 412-209-8397.

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST SPAGHETTI DINNER AND BASKET RAFFLE — Sunday, Oct. 18, St. John the Baptist Church, 525 Porter Ave. Scottdale, Pa. Sponsored by the Altar Society of St. John the Baptist. Dinner includes spaghetti, meatballs, salad, roll, dessert and beverage. Requested donation: Adult, \$12; children under 12, \$6. Take-out available. There will also be a basket raffle. For information, call 724-220-5062.

DATES TO REMEMBER



SEPT. 4 to 7

92nd annual Pilgrimage in honor of Our Lady of Perpetual Help
The Sisters of St. Basil the Great
Mount St. Macrina, Uniontown, Pa.

SEPT. 8

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

SEPT. 14

Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross

SEPT. 20

Celebration of Marriage
St. Elias, Munhall, Pa.

See more upcoming events at www.archpitt.org



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SUBMISSIONS DEADLINE:
SEPTEMBER 17