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PASTA & PRAISE

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PILGRIMAGE 2026 COMMEMORATIVE SECTION

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"Theotokos: Beacon of Hope"

92ND ANNUAL PILGRIMAGE IN HONOR OF OUR LADY OF PERPETUAL HELP
AT MOUNT ST. MACRINA IN UNIONTOWN, PA.



Children walked in procession to receive blessings from Metropolitan Archbishop William C. Skurla, Bishop Robert Pipta of the Eparchy of Parma, and Bishop Nil Lushchak, OFM, of the Byzantine Eparchy of Mukachevo, Transcarpathia, Ukraine on Sunday, Sept. 6 during the 92nd annual Pilgrimage in Honor of Our Lady of Perpetual Help at Mount St. Macrina in Uniontown, Pa. A commemorative pull-out section for Pilgrimage 2026 is on pages 7 to 10.

By David Mayernik Jr.
Editor

During the annual Children's Procession at this year's Pilgrimage in Honor of Our Lady of Perpetual Help at Mount St. Macrina in Uniontown, Pa., Sister Barbara Jean Mihalchick, OSBM, reminded those gathered the Theotokos is a "bright light in the darkness."

"Our Holy Mother Mary welcomes you spiritually and this year's theme is a bit like last year's theme. Last year it was 'Theotokos: Icon of Hope.' This year, we call her 'Theotokos: Beacon of Hope,'" she said.

This year's Pilgrimage took place Sept. 4 to 7 and was the 92nd annual in the history of Mount St. Macrina.

"What's a 'beacon'? A big, big bright light. What do we use them for? To guide and to

protect. Who uses them? Well, a beacon is often at the top of a tower to guide ships that are at sea. They guide and let the captain of the ship know where the land is. A boat can't float on land; it has to be aware where to stop. The beacon is super-bright and gives the signal," she said.

"The beacon is also a light to give guidance. If you're going to move from this side to that side, from this distance to that distance, the beacon also can show you how to go."

Metropolitan Archbishop William C. Skurla thanked children and parents for attending this year's Pilgrimage.

"It's always a favorite part of the Pilgrimage every year; the Children's Procession. Each year, they come from all over the United States — maybe a few from Canada slipped in — and we hope this is a good Pilgrimage for

you and a time when Our Lady of Perpetual Help is with you in a very, very special way."

"How beautiful to have you back with us in great numbers yet again!" Sister Barbara Jean said.

"Our Holy Mother, who prays for us, who brings us the grace of Jesus, both protects and guides us. She is our 'Beacon of Hope.'"

"It is to her we can turn in our prayers, in our needs, in our problems, in our sicknesses. In every need, we can turn to her. Ask for guidance, ask for protection, ask for help of all kinds because as the Mother of Jesus, no one is closer to Him. She intercedes for us; she asks, she begs, she tugs on His heart for us to guide us, to protect us, to hear our needs and bring them to our loving Savior. The Savior who went all the way to death on the cross to show His

Story continued on page 10

"Come and See" Weekend

MEN 18 TO 35 INVITED TO
NOV. 6 TO 8 RETREAT AT
BYZANTINE SEMINARY

By The Byzantine Catholic Archeparchy
of Pittsburgh

To be a priest... Don't you have to give up everything — your family, your friends, the things you enjoy? Don't you have to be super holy, super smart, or somehow "different"?

Our "Come and See" weekend can help you in your discernment of a priestly vocation.

Every young man must eventually make some hard decisions—college, career, marriage, family, religious life. How do I know what's right? Does God care what I decide? If you've ever thought about the priesthood, it's worth taking a weekend to learn how to listen to God's plans for your future.

The Byzantine Catholic Seminary of SS. Cyril and Methodius is hosting a "Come and See" weekend retreat for men ages 18 to 35 who may be considering a vocation to the priesthood in the Byzantine Catholic Church.

The event runs from 5 p.m. EST on Friday, Nov. 6 through 4 p.m. EST on Sunday Nov. 8 at the Byzantine Catholic Seminary of SS. Cyril and Methodius, 3605 Perrysville Ave. in Pittsburgh, Pa.

The weekend retreat is free of charge, and it includes sharing liturgical worship services and meals with the Seminary community, an introduction to the Seminary's Program of Priestly Formation, a tour of the Seminary, gatherings with the seminarians, talks, and a panel discussion.

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

Any man seeking further information or wishing to register

Story continued on page 3



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of life; to offer spiritual formation
through changing times; and
to celebrate community among
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BULLETIN BOARD

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.

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

Story continued from page 1

for this come and see weekend retreat of discovery is encouraged to contact his vocation director and use the online registration at <https://bcs.edu/come-and-see-2026/>. ■



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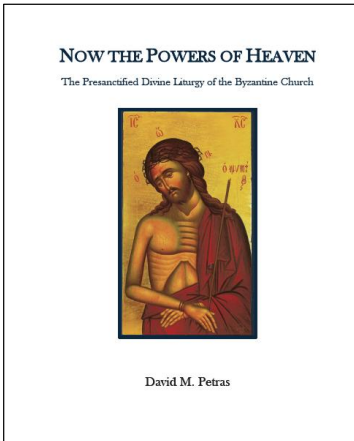
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+Robert M. Pipta
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ETERNAL MEMORY
SISTER THERESA BAVOL, OSBM

As quietly and peacefully as she lived, Sister Theresa (formerly Sister Agatha) entered her new life in the Kingdom early in the morning on Thursday, Aug. 13, the final day of the Feast of the Transfiguration of Our Lord. For all of us Sisters who shared our lives with hers, this was a fitting time for Sister's personal “transfiguration.”

The daughter of the late John and Susan (Vasilko) Baval, Sister Theresa was born on Oct. 3, 1931, in Trenton, N.J. She entered the Sisters of St. Basil on Sept. 15, 1949, and made her perpetual vows on Aug. 29, 1954. She taught in the parish schools of the Metropolia for over fifty years, teaching in the primary and lower elementary grades. Among the schools where she taught was her home parish school of St. Mary's, Trenton. When the parish school closed, Sister continued to serve there in parish ministry.

After serving in parish schools for close to 50 years, Sister Theresa was called to lend her talents in parish ministry once again at St. Therese's in St. Petersburg, Fla.

In Florida, Sister Theresa brought her artistic talents to bear in teaching art to the students who were in a home school program at one of the parish facilities. Sister's service there was greatly valued by all whose lives she touched.

Sister Theresa later had a rich and blessed ministry at Mt. Macrina Manor, sharing her gift of compassionate care with residents and staff alike. This compassion and concern continued even when her health declined, and she herself became a resident at the Manor.

Sister Theresa was greatly devoted to St. Therese, often requesting her intercession in prayer for those for whom she prayed. When she received a sign of a rose in some form, she believed these prayers were answered.

She very much enjoyed jigsaw puzzles; it was nothing to her to



Sister Theresa Baval, OSBM

work on a thousand-piece puzzle. Related to this was her enjoyment of Sudoku; working on these until she was successful. For all her ministries and interests, Sister is remembered fondly among the Sisters.

In addition to her community, Sister Theresa is survived by her nephew Bruce (Rochelle) Baval, her cousin Stephanie Hennessey and devoted great-nephews and nieces and cousins.

The Funeral Divine Liturgy was celebrated by Metropolitan Archbishop William C. Skurla; concelebrants were Very Rev. Andrew G. Deskevich; Rev. Jerome Botsko, monastery Chaplain; Rev. Kyprian Wojchowski, and Rev. Oleh Seremchuk. Very Rev. James A. Spontak, and Rev. James Ragan were in attendance.

In his homily, Metropolitan William called attention to Sister's sense of humor which stood her in good stead during her life, but especially in her later years as a resident at the Manor. This unfailing sense of humor accompanied her sincere compassion for others. We would do well to follow her example.

Sister Theresa is now enjoying her new life in the Kingdom, where she longed to be. Her Sisters in community and all in the circle of her life rejoice with her. May her memory be eternal! ■



In this documentary, available on YouTube, Sister Elaine Kisinko, OSBM, Secretary to the Archbishop, takes us back to her childhood in Monessen, Pa., where immigrant families built their lives around the steel mills and their Byzantine Catholic parish. She remembers married priests, Church Slavonic liturgies, grandparents who spoke to her in the language they had brought from Europe, and the close-knit Catholic community that first nurtured her vocation. At press time, the video has more than 6,000 views.



Clergy, Choir partner for Deanery Pasta Dinner, “Maryfest” on Sunday, Oct. 18 in Munhall, Pa.

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

By Darlene Fejka
Director, The Pittsburgh Byzantine Catholic Archeparchial Choir

The Pittsburgh Byzantine Catholic Archeparchial Choir (PBCAC) will present a short yet inspired “Maryfest” program at 2:30 p.m. on Sunday, Oct. 18 at their home-base — St. Elias Church, 4200 Homestead-Duquesne Road in Munhall, Pa.

The PBCAC’s choral tribute will feature beloved hymns and songs dedicated to the Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary. During the choir’s final notes, clergy of the Greater Pittsburgh Protopresbytery will be busy wrapping up their last-minute pasta dinner preparations downstairs in the parish social hall in anticipation of a crowd of pasta-loving attendees following the choir’s presentation.

The lower level of St. Elias Church will be transformed into a “Pasta Palace” as priests and deacons sporting chef’s hats and aprons will bustle from table to table serving some delicious cuisine at their popular annual Deanery Pasta Dinner.

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

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

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

There is no advance ticketing nor set charge for this come-as-you-are event; a free-will offering is suggested and kindly appreciated. Proceeds benefit the Clergy Retirement Fund.

Churches in the Greater Pittsburgh Presbytery include: St. John the Baptist Cathedral, Munhall; St. Elias, Munhall; SS. Peter and Paul, Duquesne; SS. Peter and Paul, Braddock; St. John the Baptist, Lyndora; Holy Ghost, McKees Rocks; Holy Ghost, North Side; St. Pius X, Pittsburgh; Holy Spirit, Oakland; St. John the Baptist, South Side; St. John Chrysostom, Greenfield; SS. Peter and Paul, Tarentum; St. Andrew, Gibsonia; and St. Gregory, Upper St. Clair; all in Pennsylvania. ■

PBCAC CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

Join the Pittsburgh Byzantine Catholic Archeparchial Choir at 2 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 20 as they present beloved hymns and carols of the Nativity season.

The presentation will be followed by the group’s popular “Cookie Reception” at St. Elias Church, 4200 Homestead-Duquesne Road in Munhall, Pa. ■



REFLECTION FROM MOUNT ST. MACRINA

Where does compassion from?

By Sister Barbara Jean Mihalchick, OSBM



This is a transcript of Sister Barbara Jean’s Oct. 11, 2025 reflection, which can be viewed at www.facebook.com/sistersofstbasil.uniontown.

Glory to Jesus Christ!

In the beautiful Gospel stories of Jesus’ life, we see so many examples of His loving ways. We heard about that previously in the Sermon on the Mount; throughout the Gospels we have the gorgeous stories of Jesus encountering others with love.

One of the Gospels is the raising of the widow’s son.

An interesting thing I came upon in preparing this is realizing and remembering Jesus raised people from the dead three different times in the Gospels. So we have the story here with the widow’s son. We have the story of Jairus and his daughter. And we have the story of Lazarus.

But the most interesting thing to me is that in each of these occasions Jesus first reaches to the one who is alive; with compassion, with concern for the ones who love the deceased.

In this story, Jesus walks right up to the mother of the dead young man and addresses her, first of all: “Do not weep.” And then turns to the son; raises him from the dead and he begins immediately

to speak.

With Jairus’ daughter, Jesus is first concerned with the father, who comes and begs for the help.

With Lazarus, we know that when Jesus arrives in Bethany, He first speaks with Martha and later with Mary and is very deeply touched. But His first thought, action, and word is about compassion.

Where does compassion come from in us? Well, grace gives us the ability to love. And compassion is being able to be with another person.

So, in each of these instances Jesus is with the grieving persons. He lets His heart be touched by the sorrow of their hearts and reaches into that sorrow and grief;

changes it. He raises from the dead by His power, by His grace, by His love.

So what does it mean to us? Other times I have talked about the need to develop our hearts, our wills, our actions to think with love and compassion; to be touched by others and to touch not just the persons but the atmosphere that we’re experiencing. Can we bring positivity? Can we bring compassion? Can we bring love even if we must sacrifice to do it?

Jesus is our ultimate model in everything. Our graced ability comes through Him.

God bless you. ■

“The Great Outdoors”

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

By The Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministry

On Saturday, Sept. 12, the Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministry of the Archeparchy of Pittsburgh held its 2026 ByzanTeen Fall Hike and Cook Out at the Archeparchy’s Chancery building and the adjacent Riverview Park in Pittsburgh, Pa.

After a brief welcome and introductions on the Chancery’s lawn, this year’s hike took place in the “Old Zoo” area of the park.

Along the trail, Father Deacon Luke Crawford of Holy Trinity Byzantine Catholic Church in Sykesville, Pa. led the teens in the Prayer of the Ninth Hour and shared his thoughts on how both the Psalms and nature reveal God’s glory to us and help us pray.

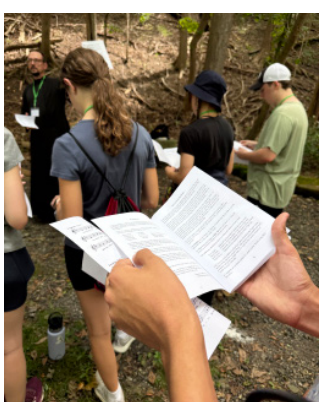
Despite the threat of severe thunderstorms in the afternoon, the rain held off until just after the group returned safely to the Chancery, where they gathered inside for this year’s cookout due to the inclement weather.

Metropolitan Archbishop William C. Skurla grilled delicious hot dogs and hamburgers for the occasion and joined the teens for the meal, which concluded with doughnuts and ice cream for dessert.

Games featuring team challenges followed dinner, and the evening ended with reflection upon the day and lots of exciting ideas from the teens for events they would like to see planned in the future.

Many thanks to Metropolitan Archbishop William for the excellent food and fellowship, to Father Deacon Luke for driving from Sykesville to accompany the teens and share his insights, and to all who participated in this annual event.

Keep an eye out for additional teen events at archpitt.org, or contact the archeparchy’s Youth and Young Adult Minister, Viktoria Zolnova, at youth@archpitt.org for more information! ■



ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST IN UNIONTOWN, PA.

Still going strong after 115 years

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

Parishioners of St. John the Baptist in Uniontown, Pa. were blessed to celebrate their 115th anniversary as a faith community on Sunday, Aug. 23.

Volunteers were busy with decorating, setting up displays, baking cookies, and more for the special day.

The Sunday morning Divine Liturgy was concelebrated with Metropolitan Archbishop William C. Skurla as the primary celebrant with Father Vasyl Symyon, former pastor, and Father Kyprian Wojciechowski, current pastor.

The traditional presentation of bread, salt, keys, and flowers took place.

A catered dinner followed at St. George Maronite Catholic Social Center.

After dinner, August birthday celebrants were honored.

Archbishop William' offered an encouraging message for parishioners to continue and maintain their beloved parish. ■





92ND ANNUAL PILGRIMAGE IN HONOR OF OUR LADY OF PERPETUAL HELP

“THEOTOKIS: BEACON OF HOPE”

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 4 TO MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 2026
MOUNT ST. MACRINA, UNIONTOWN, PA.



*Let us thank the Lord for those first
immigrants who carried this treasure of
faith across the ocean.*

■ HOMILY AT THE SUNDAY HIERARCHICAL DIVINE LITURGY OF BISHOP NIL LUSHCHAK, OFM,
OF THE BYZANTINE CATHOLIC EPARCHY OF MUKACHEVO, TRANS-CARPATHIA, UKRAINE ■

Glory to Jesus Christ!
My brothers and sisters
in Christ, when the first
Rusyn immigrants came
to this country looking for
work and a better future,
they brought with them
more than suitcases filled
with clothing. They carried
with them a much greater
treasure in their hearts:
faith in the Lord God, love
for Jesus Christ, and a deep
devotion to the Most Holy
Mother of God.
They left behind their
villages, their families,
and everything that was



familiar to them. But
there was something they
refused to leave behind:
their faith. This faith
became the foundation
upon which they built
their new life.
The Holy See gave these
faithful people a shepherd,

Bishop Basil Takach, a
humble and faithful priest
from the Mother Eparchy
of Mukachevo.
He came here to serve
people who were far from
their homeland but still
carried the faith of their
fathers and mothers within

their hearts.
Today, Bishop Basil
Takach rests here together
with other great shepherds
of our Metropolitan
Church. Their graves
remind us the Church we
have inherited did not
appear by accident; it was
built through faith, prayer,
sacrifice, tears, courage,
and love. And especially
through love of the
Mother of God.
In many ways that love
helped create this holy

Continued on page 8



92ND ANNUAL PILGRIMAGE IN HONOR OF OUR LADY OF PERPETUAL HELP

“THEOTOKOS: BEACON OF HOPE”

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 4 TO MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 2026

MOUNT ST. MACRINA, UNIONTOWN, PA.

Bishop Nil Lushchak, OFM

continued from page 7

place here on Mount St. Macrina. The Mother of God welcomes us in a special way. We might remember the moment when Mary entered the home of Elizabeth. Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting and exclaimed, “When the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the child in my womb leaped for joy. Blessed is she who believes!”

Mary's greeting brought joy. Mary's presence brought peace. Mary's faith strengthened the faith of Elizabeth.

She never keeps our attention only upon herself. She always brings us closer to her Son. She reminds us that God is near, that God has not abandoned us, and that God continues to work even when we cannot yet understand His plan.

Here, we honor the Mother of God through the beloved icon of Our Mother of Perpetual Help. Pope Benedict XVI once reflected that Christians honor many different icons of the Mother of God. Each image has its own beauty and its own history. Yet, all of them ultimately point us towards the image of Mary given to us in the Gospel. What does this Gospel image show us? It shows us who says, “My soul magnifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my savior.”

This is the most beautiful icon of Mary. Her entire life magnifies God.

Mary does not say, “Look at me.” She says, “Look at God.” She does not say, “See how great am I.” She says, “The Lord has done great things for me.”

This is what Mary teaches us today. To magnify the Lord means to recognize that God is greater than my problems, greater than my fear, greater than my plans, greater than my disappointments, and greater even than my own understanding.

To magnify the Lord also means to be grateful. Our ancestors understood this. They may not have possessed very much materially. Many worked difficult jobs. Many struggled with a new language and a new culture. Many lived with sickness and uncertainty. But they knew how to thank God. They thanked Him for their family. They thanked Him for Daily Bread. They thanked Him for the Church. They thanked Him for Divine Liturgy. They thanked Him for the protection of the Mother of God.

Perhaps, this is something Mary wants to teach us again today. We live in a world that constantly tells us what we are missing. We are taught we need more success, more comfort, more recognition. But Mary teaches us to notice what we have already received; to thank God for the sunrise and the sunset, for our father and mother, for our children and grandchildren, for bread and water. For health and for those who stand beside us when health becomes weak, for our Church, for our ancestors who preserved the Faith, and, above all, for Jesus Christ, the Son of God and our Savior.

Brothers and sisters, the greatest devotion we can offer to the Mother of God is not simply to light a candle before her icon. The greatest devotion is to imitate her faith. To say with her, “God is first.” To say with her, “I trust Him.” To say with her, “I am grateful.” To say with her, “My soul magnifies the Lord.”

Our great-great-grandparents did this before us. Our parents did this before us. Now it is our responsibility to do the same. We must carry his faith forward so that our children and grandchildren will also know Christ and love His mother.

Today, here on Mount St. Macrina, let us thank the Lord for those first immigrants who carried this treasure of faith across the ocean. Let us thank Him for Bishop Basil Takach and for all the shepherds who served our Church. Let us thank Him for this holy mountain and the spiritual home it has become for so many generations.

As you know, Ukraine has been living through fifth year of war. We are defending our homeland against Russia's brutal invasion and occupation. We are fighting for our freedom, for our people, and also for the freedom of our Church.

Our Church knows what occupation can mean. When the Soviet regime took control of our region, which was a part of Hungary in 1944, it soon began tasking away our Catholic churches. Our bishops and priests were arrested. Many were sent to prison and labor camps in Siberia. Some were killed. The Ruthenian Greek Catholic Church was eventually outlawed and forced underground. Today, once again, we are defending and fighting for our freedom. Our soldiers are defending our people at tremendous sacrifice.



But I want you to know something very important. Without your prayers and your help, it will be much harder for our people to persevere. Today, on behalf of our priests, our faithful, and those who are defending Ukraine, I want to thank you from my heart. Your prayers matter. Your generosity matters. Your friendship matters. You have become instruments of God's help for us in this very difficult time.

Let us pray: Lord, we thank you for Mary, the Mother of your Son and our Mother. We thank you that here on Mount

St. Macrina, she continues to welcome us, to intercede for us, and to lead us toward Christ. Most Holy Mother of God, our Mother of Perpetual Help, teach to believe as you believe, to trust as you trusted, and to be grateful as you were grateful. Help us to place God first in our hearts and our lives and together with you, may we always be able to say, “My soul magnifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior. Amen.”

Slava Isusu Christu! ■

92ND ANNUAL PILGRIMAGE IN HONOR OF OUR LADY OF PERPETUAL HELP
“THEOTOKOS: BEACON OF HOPE”
FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 4 TO MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 2026
MOUNT ST. MACRINA, UNIONTOWN, PA.



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



Glory to
Jesus Christ!
What a
magnificent
day!

If all of you
remember
last year's

Pilgrimage, it was perfect weather and we said, wow, that's once in several years and now we've been blessed once again with this magnificent weather.

Thank you all, every one of you, for being present here at Mount St. Macrina for this 92nd annual Pilgrimage.

We're really grateful for all of our Pilgrims who have traveled from not only coast-to-coast but Canada, Eastern Europe, from everywhere, to be here with us; to fill Mount St. Macrina with another year's worth of blessings and prayers and the aura that people feel when they come on this holy mount whether it's the day after Pilgrimage or the day before Pilgrimage and every time in between. You can feel the prayers and the love and the blessings that you have left behind here. Thank you all very much for your presence among us.

I, of course, want to thank our beloved bishops, our Metropolitan (Archbishop William C. Skurla), Bishop Nil (Lushchak, OFM), our clergy — who we love so dearly — our cantors, our ushers. On behalf of all the Associates, all of our Sisters, we thank every one of you for being a part of this Pilgrimage.

There are few groups I'd like to take some time to thank, specifically.

First of all, I want to thank all of our volunteers. We could not do this without you. It's impossible.

It would be an absolute impossibility to be able to conduct this annual Pilgrimage, No. 1, first and foremost, without our bishops and the support of our clergy. But certainly not without our volunteers.

Our volunteers, those you see and those you don't see: our cantors, our ushers; they're all volunteers. All those who are behind the scenes, those who have been setting up for days, whether it's parking or whether it's cooking or whether it's getting other things ready:

putting stakes in the ground, making sure the property is beautified. And I know I'm leaving all kinds of people out. You all know who you are.

For the volunteers who are picking up garbage, for the volunteers who spent days making sure the restroom facilities were taken care of; other things that you don't see were taken care of. To those people and to all of you who volunteered so tirelessly for us, thank you. Thank you so much.

I want to thank our employees. When we hire people — and it's not very often because we've had faithful employees for many, many years — one of the things we say is: "What are you doing Labor Day weekend?" That's part of the deal.

We have tremendous employees who work tirelessly throughout the year but most especially at this time of year. It's above and beyond the call of duty. To our faithful, faithful employees who have given us so much of their time and so much of their talents for many, many years — some for 50 years, 40 years, and few years — we are extraordinarily grateful. Thank you to them.

And there's one last group who we love so dearly and the Sisters have a very special relationship with and that's our seminarians. Our seminarians, throughout the year, are available to us when we need them. We are available to them when they need us.

A couple times a year they come on retreat, they spend some time with us, but they also, before Pilgrimage, they're the ones who have to set these icons up because I can't lift them. They're the ones who do a lot of the heavy lifting and, by golly, tomorrow they're the ones who are the ones who are going to take everything down and store it all away so they remember where it is next year when they have to come and put it all back together again.

So, to our dear seminarians, who work so hard, and their rector, Father Ron (Barusefski), we say a big "thank you." Thank you very much, guys.

We're not quite closing yet. We have the Candlelight Processional this evening we hope everyone will be a part of. Please go home safely. Remember that we love you, that we're thinking of you, that we pray for you, and that we'll definitely leave the light on for you and see you next year.

God bless you. ■



92ND ANNUAL PILGRIMAGE IN HONOR OF OUR LADY OF PERPETUAL HELP
 “THEOTOKOS: BEACON OF HOPE”
 FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 4 TO MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 2025
 MOUNT ST. MACRINA, UNIONTOWN, PA.



Pilgrimage

continued from page 1

love for us and always wants us to be in His grace.”

Archbishop William, Bishop Robert Pipta of the Eparchy of Parma, and Bishop Nil Lushchak, OFM, of the Byzantine Eparchy of Mukachevo, Transcarpathia, Ukraine blessed those participating in the Children’s Procession at the Shrine Altar

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

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

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

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

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



TEXT MESSAGES

“Pilgrimage is alive”

By David Mayernik Jr.
Editor.



Sitting in an office on the third floor of the Chancery during the work week, I hear the tone of the front door’s bell ring

multiple times during the day.

Usually it’s the mail carrier, a package delivery, or clergy or layperson who has an appointment with the Archeparchy of Pittsburgh.

But on the afternoon of Monday, Aug. 31 — the week of the 92nd annual Pilgrimage at Mount St. Macrina in Uniontown, Pa. — someone else was waiting on the front porch.

It was a man in his 70s asking if this was a place where candles are lit for various intentions.

No, Teresa Sekel, finance coordinator, told him. It’s a place of business, not a church.

The man explained he wanted to light a candle for his wife, who was due to have surgery on Friday.

He told Teresa about being a sick 9-year-old years ago when his parents took him to a place in Uniontown that he remembers as having “candles, water, and big rocks.”

Teresa told him that was the Lourdes Grotto on Mount St. Macrina during the annual Pilgrimage on Labor Day weekend and she would be happy to light a candle for his wife there this weekend.

Of course, the memory was the impetus for him to ring the doorbell of the Chancery at 66 Riverview Ave. that day.

It truly is remarkable to think about how many lives have been affected by those who have attended Pilgrimage over its 92 years of existence.

In big and small ways — both are undoubtedly important — the sights, sounds, and words on the rolling hills of Mount St. Macrina on Labor Day weekend each year affects pilgrims in so many ways throughout the entire year that nourishes both body and soul.

The man on the Chancery’s front porch is just another piece of evidence.

“Pilgrimage is alive,” Teresa said. ■



ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST IN LYNDDORA, PA.

Icon writing class

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

St. John the Baptist in Lyndora, Pa. offered a class on how to write an icon.
The eight-week class was taught by Mary Baycura Seibel. Mary's grandfather hand carved the icon screen that is in St. John's Church.
Before each class started. the

class would pray to put focus on the writing of the icon. For many of the students this was their second time learning how to write an icon.
At the completion of the class the students brought their icons to church, where Faher Radko Blicher blessed them during the Divine Liturgy. ■



Annual church picnic

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

St. John the Baptist in Lyndora, Pa. had their annual church picnic inside the church this year because of the rainy August Sunday afternoon.
The food was catered by the Fairground Market. Everyone

enjoyed the Bingo game that included wrapped prizes.
By the time Bingo was half over, the rain had stopped and the children got to go outside to try their luck at hitting the pinata full of candy which was donated by their teacher, Amanda Trapp Stavish. ■



ST. ELIAS IN MUNHALL, PA.

A beautiful day in the neighborhood

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

St. Elias in Munhall, Pa. is very proud of our young parishioner, Claudia Jean Crevar, who participated in the Ice Sports Industry World Competition at the Alpha Ice Arena in Harmarville, Pa.
Her team performed a Mr. Rogers tribute and placed third in this world competition.
She follows in the footsteps of her late grandmother, Claudia Baker, who was featured in a 1968 Union National Bank newsletter for her skating abilities at the South Park Ice Rink. Congratulations, Claudia! ■



Parish picnics

ASCENSION OF OUR LORD IN CLAIRTON, PA.

By Trish Roberts
Ascension of Our Lord, Clairton, Pa.

Father Christopher Burke and Ascension of Our Lord Byzantine Church in Clairton, Pa. held their annual church picnic on Aug. 16.
Father Donald Voss and St. Nicholas parish were invited to join us, helping to make it a great day.
Guests enjoyed burgers and hot dogs from the grill, along with a delicious variety of potluck side dishes and desserts brought by parishioners and friends.

Throughout the afternoon, everyone had fun playing Bingo, bidding on auction items, trying their luck on a punch board, and playing cornhole. Cornhole finalists were two happy winners



receiving Bob Evans gift cards.
The children enjoyed the relay games, everyone won prizes, and they especially had fun jumping into the bale of straw searching for candy. ■



SS. PETER AND PAUL IN WARREN, OHIO

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

It was a beautiful day on Sunday, Aug. 23 as we celebrated our annual Summer Picnic. Plenty of delicious food and desserts were available to fill our hungry bellies. LCR and cornhole were played by

the adults while the children tried to break open the pinata and were blowing bubbles. Our signature root beer floats were being served, and rides were given in an antique car that Father Miron Kerul'-Kmec called "The Byz Mobile." ■





ST. GREGORY IN UPPER ST. CLAIR, PA.

Honoring our grandparents

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

Grandparents hold a unique place in our children's lives, so it seems proper to honor them on their special day.

This took place at St. Gregory in Upper St. Clair, Pa. on the weekend of Sept. 5 to 6.

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



Annual Parish Picnic

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

Blessed with beautiful weather, we gathered on Sunday, Sept. 13, for the Sunday before the Exaltation of the Holy Cross.

Prayerful supplications were offered for the 40th anniversary of the Consecration of St. Gregory and the beginning of the new school year 2026-27.

At the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy, our dedicated

ECF Teachers together with our students received a special blessing.

Our celebration continued with our parish picnic during which we all enjoyed great food, music and fellowship. A great hit again this year was the petting zoo.

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



Parish picnics

ST. NICHOLAS IN PERRYOPOLIS, PA.

By Frances Garguilo
St. Nicholas, Perryopolis, Pa.

On the afternoon of Sunday, Aug. 16, St. Nicholas in Perryopolis, Pa. held its annual parish picnic for all the members of our church and the members of the area Knights of Columbus.

Additionally, it was an opportunity for all in attendance to wish a fond farewell to long-time parishioner Carol Ann Hamilla as she will be moving on to the other side of the

country for her next chapter in life.

The Men's Club dished up a delicious slow roasted beef donated by Harry Novak, that along with many delicious side dishes was more than enough for all present.

We were blessed in that the rain held off until all was cleaned up.

Best wishes to Carol Ann, you will be missed by many. ■



SS. PETER AND PAUL IN PATTON, PA.

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

Recently, our parish community gathered for our annual Parish Picnic, providing a wonderful opportunity to spend time together outside the church.

Parishioners of all ages enjoyed delicious food, friendly conversation, and a variety of activities from pickleball and cornhole to fun games for children and adults.

The day reminded us once again

that a parish is not only a place where we come together in prayer, but also a spiritual family where we support one another, share our joy, and create lasting memories.

We sincerely thank everyone who helped organize this wonderful event, prepared the food, and took part in the celebration.

May the Lord continue to bless our parish family and grant us many more opportunities to grow together in faith, unity, and joy! ■



ST. NICHOLAS IN GREENSBURG, PA.

Feast of the Dormition

By John Gomolak
St. Nicholas, Greensburg, Pa.

Father Vasyl Banyk blessed parishioners' fresh flowers on the Feast of the Dormition at St. Nicholas in Greensburg, Pa. on Sunday, Aug. 16.

After the service, everyone went to the social hall to celebrate Father Vasyl's birthday. "Happy Birthday" was sung and lunch was served. Happy birthday, Father Vasyl!



ASCENSION OF OUR LORD IN CLAIRTON, PA.

Altar server William Kerr assisted Father Christopher Burke as he blessed bouquets and baskets of garden flowers

and herbs during the Divine Liturgy on the Feast of the Dormition of the Theotokos at Ascension of Our Lord in Clairton, Pa. ■



ST. NICHOLAS IN GREENSBURG, PA.

Blessing of students, teachers

ECF classes began at St. Nicholas in Greensburg, Pa. with the blessing of the students and teachers on Sunday, Sept. 13. After the liturgy, a social hour was held in the newly renovated social hall. Father Vasyl Banyk is pastor. ■



SS. PETER AND PAUL IN TARENTUM, PA.

Special blessing

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

On Sunday, Sept. 6, following the Divine Liturgy, the parish family of SS. Peter & Paul Byzantine Catholic Church in Tarentum, Pa. gathered in a special way to pray for our young faithful as they begin a new school year.

The beginning of school is always an important moment in the lives of children and their families. A new academic year brings new teachers, new classmates, new responsibilities, and new opportunities to learn and grow. For this reason, our parish community offered its prayers for our children and young people, asking God to grant them wisdom, strength, good health, protection, and success in their studies. The prayer concluded with a blessing with holy water, followed by a parish social and an opportunity for our community to spend time together.

When we think about children, we naturally think about everything that we adults must teach them. They have much to learn before they are ready to participate fully in the spiritual, professional, and social life of the adult world. Parents, grandparents, teachers, clergy, and the entire Christian community share responsibility for helping them grow in knowledge, faith, responsibility, and love.

Yet Christian life reminds us of something equally important: while children have much to learn from adults, adults also have much to learn from children.

Children can remind us how to trust completely, how to love without constantly calculating what we will receive in return, and how to approach life with

an open heart and an open mind. They often possess an optimism that adults gradually lose as we encounter disappointments, responsibilities, and difficulties. A child can forgive quickly, hope again after disappointment, and find joy in things that adults may no longer even notice.

Our Lord Jesus Christ Himself directed our attention to children. When His disciples tried to prevent children from approaching Him, Jesus told them, "Let the little children come to me," and taught that the Kingdom of God belongs to such as these. He also taught His followers that they must change and become like children if they wish to enter the Kingdom of Heaven.

Of course, Christ was not asking His disciples to become childish. Rather, He invited them — and He invites us—to rediscover the spiritual qualities that children can show us so naturally: simplicity, humility, trust, sincerity, openness, hope, and the ability to receive love.

As another school year begins, therefore, perhaps there is a lesson for all of us. Our children are returning to their classrooms to learn, but we adults should never imagine that our own education is finished. We remain students throughout our entire Christian lives.

May we teach our children well, support them faithfully, and pray for them constantly. But may we also have the humility to learn from them. Whatever our age, may we remain spiritual children of our Heavenly Father — trusting in His providence, open to His grace, confident in His love, and always ready to grow. ■





ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST IN UNIONTOWN, PA.

Pilgrimage blessings

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

Many St. John parishioners volunteered at the second Helping Hands Day at Mount St. Macrina on Aug. 22 for a final clean-up for the upcoming Pilgrimage.

On Sept. 1, parishioners eagerly showed up to make nearly 300 dozen pirohi to be donated to the light lunch booth to sell.

During the Pilgrimage on Sept. 4 to 7, members of St. John parish helped with parking cars, lighting candles at the shrines, serving food, ushering, and helping wherever needed.

A highlight of the weekend was being able to represent the church by carrying the processional cross at the services.

St. John parishioners feel blessed to give service to the Sisters of St. Basil. ■



Celebrating Grandparents Day

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

At the end of the weekend Divine Liturgies on September 12 to 13, Father Kyprian Wojciechowski called all grandparents forward to receive a special blessing in

commemoration of SS. Joachim and Anna, the grandparents of Our Lord.

Also, on Sunday, St. John Social Ministry provided refreshments to honor September birthdays at the parish. ■



We Bow to Your Cross

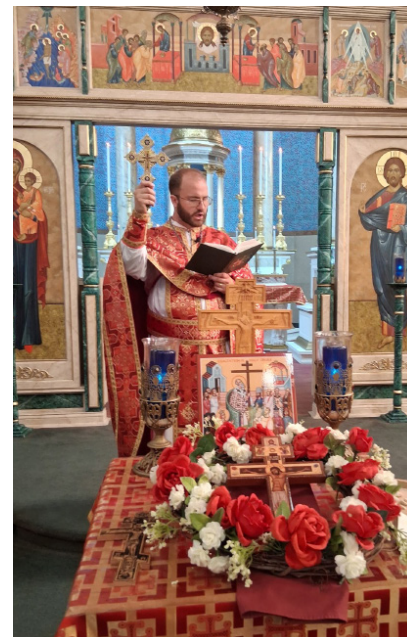
By Bonnie Balas and Julia Pillar
St. John the Baptist, Uniontown, Pa.

On Sept. 14, Father Kyprian Wojciechowski celebrated an early morning Divine Liturgy with the Sisters at Mount Macrina; a 9 a.m. Liturgy at St. John in Uniontown, Pa.; a midday Liturgy at St. Stephen in Leisenring, Pa.; and finally an evening Liturgy at St. Mary in Morgantown, W. Va.

Despite serving nine liturgies in three days, Father Kyprian was still enlivened by his great devotion to the Cross.

In his homily, he recalled the late Father Robert Karl's expression of love for the Cross by singing "We Bow to Your Cross."

New red altar server vestments,



which were recently donated, were also blessed after the Liturgy at St. John. ■



44th ANNUAL CARPATHO-RUSYN CELEBRATION



ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST
BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH
201 E. MAIN ST. UNIONTOWN, PA



SUNDAY OCTOBER 25th, 2026
12 NOON TO 5PM

DIVINE LITURGY AT 9 AM DOORS OPEN AT 12 NOON

Music by "SOKYRA" at 1:00 PM and 4:00 PM

SLAVJANE FOLK DANCERS at 2:30 PM



FOLK DISPLAYS MUSIC
CRAFTS RAFFLES VIDEOS
DEMONSTRATIONS SPEAKERS
CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES FAMILY FUN



FOR INFORMATION CALL: 724-438-1382 (M-F 9AM-3PM,
Leave message) FREE ADMISSION. Handicapped Accessible
Please check parish website for any updates

<http://www.stjohnbaptist-byzath-uniontown.org/>
www.facebook.com/StJohnByzUniontown

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



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



United States
Conference of
Catholic Bishops



The Byzantine Catholic
Archeparchy of Pittsburgh

Highlights of the Weekend:

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



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/8123456789>

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/9876543210>

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/0987654321>

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

AROUND THE ARCHEPARCHY



GREATER PITTSBURGH DEANERY CLERGY TO SERVE PASTA DINNER PLUS MORE — 3-5 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 18, St. Elias Church, 4200 Homestead-Duquesne Road, Munhall, Pa. Mark your calendars! The Priests and Deacons in the Greater Pittsburgh Deanery will host a complimentary pasta dinner and the event will be preceded by a “Maryfest” Singing Program presented by the Archeparchial Choir at 2:30 p.m. The Clergy will be preparing and serving the dinner. Your parish will be placing a sign-up sheet for your signature.. We must know how many to prepare for! The final day for registration is Sunday, Oct. 11. A freewill offering will be taken to subsidize the project. Any profit that will be made will go to purchasing gifts card to our administratively retired priests. This small gesture demonstrates appreciation for their many years of spiritual service to the faithful. Please assist us to support this worthy project!

ANNUAL CRAFT/VENDOR SHOW AND FOOD FESTIVAL — 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 17, St. John the Baptist Cathedral Center, 210 Greentree Road, Munhall, Pa. There will be 60 crafters and vendors, crafter showcase auction, raffles, ethnic favorites including stuffed cabbage, haluski, pirohi, and other foods. Eat in or take-out. St. John’s baked goods, famous kolache and more. For information, call 412-461-0944.

HOLIDAY BASKET EXTRAVAGANZA — Noon-4 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 15, St. John the Baptist Cathedral Center, 210 Greentree Road, Munhall, Pa. Doors open at noon. Donation of \$25 includes: Sit Down Dinner served at 1 p.m.. Beef Tips over noodles, Vegetable, Salad, Roll and Butter and Dessert and Door Prizes. Basket Auction drawing beginning at 3:45 p.m. 50/50 and other raffles will be available. Variety of vendors to begin your Christmas shopping early. Tickets must be purchased in advance. Contact Diane Pochron at 412-303-6534.

PBCAC CHRISTMAS PROGRAM - Join the Pittsburgh Byzantine Catholic Archeparchial Choir on Sunday Dec. 20 as they present beloved hymns and carols of the Nativity season. The 2 p.m. presentation will be followed by the group’s popular “Cookie Reception” at St. Elias Church, 4200 Homestead-Duquesne Road in Munhall, Pa.

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, calll 724-220-5062.

FUNDRAISER SPAGHETTI DINNER, BASKET RAFFLE & BAKED GOODS SALE — Noon-4 p.m. Oct. 18, Ascension of Our Lord Church, 318 Park Ave., Clairton, Pa. Benefits church repairs. Choose a spaghetti dinner which includes spaghetti with homemade sauce, meatballs, salad, bread and beverage or a meatball hoagie meal with coleslaw, chips, and drink. Adults: \$12. Children 10 and under: \$5. Eat in or take-out. For more information, call Trish at 412-233-7814.

4TH ANNUAL CARPATHO-RUSYN CELEBRATION — Noon-5 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 25, St. John the Baptist, 201 E. Main Street, Uniontown, Pa. Divine Liturgy at 9 a.m. There will be ethnic foods such as holubki, pirohi, halushki, kolbasi and sauerkraut, soup, pagach, baked goods (long rolls, a variety of pastries, cakes, kolachi, breads, and much more). This annual event will feature performances of Rusyn Folk music by “SOKYRA” at 1 and 4 p.m. and continue throughout the afternoon. Slavjame folk dance group will perform at 2:30 p.m. There may be a speaker and/or video presentations on Rusyn cultural aspects such as customs and traditions. The day will include a display of artifacts, authentic costumes, models of Rusyn wooden churches, photographs, and documents. There will be folk art demonstrations such as pysanky, embroidery, iconography, bobbin lace making, and children’s activities. Crafts, embroidered Easter basket covers, parish cookbook ”Carpathian Cookery” will be for sale, raffles, and more. Subject to change. Father Kyprian Wojciechowski is administrator. Handicapped accessible. No charge for admission. Call 724-438-1382 M-F 9AM-3 PM, (leave message) for information. Check parish website <http://www.stjohnbaptist-byzcath-uniontown.org/>, Facebook www.facebook.com/StJohnByzUniontown, or call 724-438-1382 (leave message).

STORIES & SONGS FROM THE MOUNTAINS II — 1:30-5 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 7, Holy Spirit Church Auditorium, 4815 Fifth Ave., Pittsburgh (Oakland), Pa. Save the date and bring your friends to our second Fall event of music and stories performed by the Rusyn Folk Group “Sokyra” for your listening and dancing pleasure followed by a buffet dinner of ethnic foods! Advance tickets available until Nov. 1 for \$25, students \$15, which can be purchased online through the website QR Code, <http://www.HolySpiritByzCath.com>, or call the rectory 412/687-1220 to make a reservation. Mail a check payable to Holy Spirit Church by Nov. 1. Tickets at the door: \$30. Tickets include admission, entertainment, dancing, and dinner. Basket Raffle and 50/50 Raffle tickets sold during the event. All proceeds benefit building improvement projects.

ST. MARY’S SUPER BINGO. —2 -6 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 8, St. Mary’s Center, State Route 981 , Trauger, Pa. Doors open at noon. Games start at 2 p.m. Tickets cost \$35 for 24 games and include first set of Regular cards (Specials are included), one Jackpot and lunch. Extra cards and a WTA Quickie may be purchased at admission. Tickets must be reserved or paid for in advance. None sold at the door. Seating is limited. For tickets, call or text Marlene at 412-526-0285 or Marge at 724-787-5631. 16 Regular games: \$100, 4 Specials: \$200. \$1,500 Jackpot Series. Regular: \$200, Letter X: \$300, Full Card: \$1,000. There will be opportunities for a 50/50, Chinese Auction, Instant Tickets, and a Lottery Tree. Proceeds benefit the Church’s Building and Maintenance Fund. Pre-orders only taken for Halupki and Halushki. Halushki cost: \$10 per quart; 6 Halupki for \$18, 12 for \$30. Pre-packaged and available for pick-up on the day of the Super Bingo.

ANNUAL SPAGHETTI DINNER — 1-5 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 8, SS. Peter and Paul, 701 Foster Ave., Duquesne, Pa. Sponsored by the SS. Peter and Paul Parish Club. Cost is \$13 for adults, \$6 for children 6 to 10 years old. No charge for children under 5 years old accompanied by an adult. There will also be raffles and auctions.

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST PIROHI SALE — St. John the Baptist, 201 E. Main Street, Uniontown, Pa. are making pirohi (pierogi) sales for take-out only. Available are Potato/Cheese or Sauerkraut, and Prune (frozen only); and can be ordered cooked or frozen at \$12 per dozen. Orders may be placed by calling 724-434-5355 (this number only) Monday through Wednesday beginning at 9 a.m. (unless limit is reached prior to that time). On message: Specify type(s), number of dozens ordering, and leave name, phone number, and time of pick up which will be Friday 9 a.m.-noon in back of school building in upper parking lot.

DATES TO REMEMBER



OCT. 1
Feast of the Protection of the Theotokos

OCT. 4 to 8
Annual Clergy Retreat
Antiochian Village Conference & Retreat Center, Bolivar, Pa.

OCT. 7 to 14
Archbishop William attends Synod meeting in Rome

OCT. 18
“Maryfest” and Freewill Deanery Pasta Dinner
2:30 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 18
St. Elias, 4200 Homestead-Duquesne Road, Munhall, Pa.

OCT. 23 to 25
“Echoes East and West: Listen, Teach, Send”
Eastern and Western Churches forming young people as disciples of Christ
Our Lady of Victory Maronite Catholic Church, Pittsburgh, Pa.

NOV. 1
Standard Time (“fall back”) resumes at 2 a.m.

See more upcoming events at www.archpitt.org



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