

# WORLD

THE BYZANTINE CATHOLIC

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VERY REV. ANDREW DESKEVICH BLESSES WEST HOMESTEAD VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT 292



Very Rev. Andrew Deskevich of St. John the Baptist Cathedral in Munhall, Pa. blesses West Homestead Volunteer Fire Department 292 during an Aug. 14 Open House. The fire department is celebrating the 120th anniversary of its founding. For more photos, see page 11.

## "Worship of God in their own language"

SS. PETER AND PAUL IN BRADDOCK, PA. TO CELEBRATE 125TH ANNIVERSARY

By Mary Anne Mistick  
SS. Peter and Paul, Braddock, Pa.

What's a quasiquintennial?

That's what parishioners and friends of SS. Peter and Paul Byzantine Catholic Church in Braddock, Pa. will be asking on Sunday, Sept. 26 as they gather to celebrate the church's 125th anniversary with a special Divine Liturgy led by Archbishop William C. Skurla followed by a banquet at Saint John the Baptist Cathedral Center.

Exactly 125 years ago to the date — September 26, 1896 — SS. Peter & Paul Greek Catholic Russian Church, as it was then called, was dedicated with great fanfare and celebration.

The history of the church, at one time one of the largest and most active in the Archdiocese, is a

fascinating one, underscored by the deep devotion and faith of its founders, and passed on to today's members.

During the late 1800s, thousands of immigrants streamed into Braddock to work as laborers at what was to become the world-famous Edgar Thomson Steel Works. For those who arrived with roots in the Carpathian Mountains, something very important was missing — worship of God in their own language and with their own traditions.

In 1896, the congregation of the First Presbyterian Church of Braddock, located on George Street, built a new, larger church nearby and negotiations began between those church trustees and a group of Greek Catholic men for the purchase of the

original church, culminating in the purchase of the building for \$10,000. Father Nicholas Szcetovich was installed as the first pastor and the church was officially dedicated that September.

The congregation grew quickly. As the town of Braddock experienced tremendous growth and expansion, so did SS. Peter and Paul Church, making its presence felt as an important part of both the Braddock and Greek Catholic communities.

As the church continued to grow, so did its property footprint, in anticipation of building a larger church and a parochial school. A two-story, brick school was built and by 1919, SS. Peter and

Continued on page 4

## Seminary to host "Come and See" Weekend

Press release by the Byzantine Catholic Seminary of SS. Cyril and Methodius, Pittsburgh, Pa.

The Byzantine Catholic Seminary of SS. Cyril and Methodius in Pittsburgh, Pa. is pleased to host the "Come and See" Weekend of Discovery from Friday, November 5 to Sunday, November 7, 2021.

Invited to this retreat are men, ages 18 to 35, single or married, who may be considering a vocation to the priesthood in the Byzantine Catholic Church. The atmosphere will be prayerful, positive, and fraternal.

A past retreatant noted about his experience that the weekend was helpful for his "seeing both the difficulties and joys of Seminary and ordained life." It was also noted that "watching the seminarians look out for one another and serve parish communities was a great witness to the gospel."

The retreat includes sharing liturgical services and meals with the Seminary community and an introduction to the Seminary formation program. It will also include a tour of the Seminary, gatherings with the seminarians, and witness talks.

There is no tuition for this "Come and See" Retreat of Discovery. The retreat, meals, and lodging are free. The application deadline is October 13, 2021. For more information and to apply, please see the Seminary's website [www.bcs.edu](http://www.bcs.edu). Only those who are fully COVID vaccinated will be permitted to register this year.

Founded in 1950, the Byzantine Catholic Seminary is a free-standing, English speaking theological seminary, welcoming all those seeking the knowledge possessed by the Eastern ecclesial traditions.

The Seminary is authorized to grant graduate degrees by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and accredited by the Commission on Accrediting of the Association of Theological Schools. ■

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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.

# “Look at the Treasure, not the Structure”

CATECHISTS GATHER AT SEMINARY TO RETHINK ECF PAROCHIAL PROGRAMS

*Press release by the Byzantine Catholic  
Seminary of SS. Cyril and Methodius*

On Saturday, Aug. 14, 15 dedicated Catechists from Ohio, Pennsylvania and Michigan spent the day at SS. Cyril and Methodius Seminary in Pittsburgh, Pa. critiquing, reviewing and rethinking their ECF parochial programs.

The participants shared their experiences on how they conducted their ECF lessons during the pandemic. They are to be commended for their effort and creativity.

Presenter Marie Nester guided the group in looking at the history and organizational structure of the God With Us curriculum. She gave valuable suggestions on how adaptations can be made in light of present day realities.

All of the participants expressed deep gratitude to the authors of the curriculum and those who made contemporary revisions over the years. The treasured content cannot be discarded. The manual for every grade level reminds us of its purpose.

“The Total Eastern Christian Formation and Development Program is comprehensive and challenging. It can succeed if we are willing to study the aspects of the program as well as the faith-tradition which inspired it. We are heirs to more than 2,000 years of experience; yet we are challenged, just as our ancestors had been, by the special needs of the time. Our challenge is to discover a way to present the eternal message of the Gospel to the culture in which we live. Our Eastern Christian Tradition, an integrated life of worship, study, and fellowship, has much to offer all of us seeking a holistic faith-centered life.”

The introduction of digital tools and their use on a massive scale has caused profound and complex changes on many levels, including religious education.

Amanda Singel, Business Manager for the Eastern Catholic Eparchial Directors of Religious Education, reminded the Catechists about the valuable resources that can be found at God With Us Online.

God With Us Online is an outreach project of the Eastern Catholic Eparchial Directors of Religious Education (ECED) and the Eastern Catholic Associates (ECA). These two organizations are dedicated to the catechetical renewal of Eastern Catholics in the United States. ■



## God With Us ONLINE WEBINARS

**Rethinking Sunday School: The Problem & Practical Solutions**  
Monday, September 20, 2021, 5-6 p.m. PT/8-9 p.m. ET  
presented by Father Francois Beyrouti, Ph.D./D.Th

**Singing Our Faith: Music as Catechesis in our Eastern Tradition**  
Wednesday, October 16, 2021, 8-9:00 p.m. ET  
by Father David Anderson

**Register at: EASTERN CATHOLIC.ORG No charge for programs.**



## OFFICIAL APPOINTMENTS

BY METROPOLITAN  
ARCHBISHOP WILLIAM

Archbishop William has made the following clergy appointments effective, Thursday, August 5, 2021 (unless otherwise noted):

■ **Very Reverend Ronald P. Larko** relieved as administrator of St. Stephen parish, Leisenring, Pa.

■ **Father Jerome G. Botsko** relieved as administrator of St. Mary parish, Morgantown, West Virginia and appointed administrator of St. Stephen parish, Leisenring while continuing as chaplain to the Sisters of St. Basil, Mt. St. Macrina, Uniontown, Pa.

■ **Father James Fraser IV**, a priest of the Eparchy of Passaic with service to the Archeparchy of Pittsburgh, appointed administrator of St. Mary parish, Morgantown, West Virginia.

■ **Father Miron Kerul'-Kmec** appointed administrator of St. John Chrysostom and St. John the Baptist churches, both in Pittsburgh, Pa. effective August 23, 2021.



# Basilian Sisters celebrate anniversaries of religious life

*Press release by the Sisters of St. Basil the Great, Mount St. Macrina, Uniontown, Pa.*

The Sisters of St. Basil the Great in Uniontown, Pa. gather annually for community meetings and celebrations in July. As is customary during this time, the Sisters commemorate the Jubilarians of the community.

This year Sister Euphemia Kopa celebrated 75 years of religious life and Sister Margaret Kapusnak, 70 years.

The Jubilee Divine Liturgy was held Tuesday, July 20, at the monastery with Chaplain Father Jerome Botsko officiating. The Sisters renewed their vows in

a spirit of thanksgiving amidst the prayers of all the community. A celebratory dinner followed with a program of remarks and reminiscences.

Sister Euphemia Kopa entered religious life from Assumption of the Mother of God Byzantine Catholic Church in Weirton, W. Va. She first served at the newly established St. Basil Home for Aged Women for two years and then dedicated her teaching years to the youngest children, kindergarten through second grade.

She was also a principal, the Administrator of the former St. Basil Home for Aged Women, and also served in the bishop's residence.

Of late Sister Euphemia has assisted in the monastery baking department and the medovniki project for the Pilgrimage as well as with hospitality.

Sister Margaret Kapusnak

arrived from St. Mary Byzantine Catholic Church in Johnstown, Pa.

Sister Margaret served as a teacher in the elementary and high school level for several years and was also the editor of The Voice magazine and Novice Directress before she began ministry in the Passaic Office of Religious Education.

Later, Sister served for six years in the General Administration of the Order in Rome.

After her return she was elected Provincial Superior in Uniontown in 1990.

Following her term in leadership, Sister taught English in Trebisov, Slovakia in the

newly established high school of the Greek Catholic Eparchy.

From 1997 to 2001 she was the Development Director for the Province, and since then, Sister has served as the Province Secretary at the monastery.

In his homily, Father Jerome referred to a statement of Pope Francis regarding women religious: "As Sisters you have been a leaven in this society that is irreplaceable and you have carried the People of God forward."

In congratulating the Sisters, Father also noted that it is possible to be faithful to a vocation for many years not so much because of us, but because the grace of God calls and sustains us.

At the festive dinner, Sister Susan Sisko, Provincial Superior, acknowledged the faithful service of these Sisters for a combined 145 years, as well as their diversity of talents offered joyfully to the Lord. ■

**"As Sisters you have been a leaven in this society that is irreplaceable and you have carried the People of God forward."**

— Pope Francis



Front: Sister Euphemia Kopa, Sister Margaret Kapusnak. Back: Sister Susan Sisko, Provincial Superior; Chaplain Father Jerome Botsko.

## ETERNAL MEMORY

### REVEREND FATHER JOSEPH JUGAN

Reverend Father Joseph Jugan, retired priest of the Archeparchy of Pittsburgh, fell asleep in the Lord on August 9, 2021, at his home in Johnstown, Pa. He was born on February 14, 1930 in Johnstown, the youngest and the last surviving of the six children of John and Mary (Teplica) Jugan.

He was graduated in 1949 from Johnstown Catholic High School (Bishop McCort), where he was a standout point guard on the basketball team, helping to lead them to the state finals in his junior year. Nicknamed "Jumpin' Joe" by a local sportswriter, he was inducted into the Bishop McCort Hall of Fame in 1973.

He entered the Byzantine Catholic Seminary in Pittsburgh in 1951 and received a B.A. from Duquesne University, Pittsburgh, Pa. He was ordained a priest by Bishop Nicholas T. Elko on June 1, 1958. Following his ordination, he served as assistant pastor at SS. Peter and Paul, Braddock, Pa., and St. John, Hazelton, Pa. In January 1961, he was appointed pastor of SS. Cyril and Methodius Church, Girard, Pa. During his pastorate there, he also served as Chaplain for the Knights of Columbus, in Albion and in Lake City.

In October 1968, he was assigned pastor of St. Michael, Canonsburg, Pa., where he served for nearly 48 years until his retirement on May 1, 2016. In his long tenure there, he oversaw many physical improvements to the facilities, including renovations and beautification of the church, renovation of the church basement to serve as classrooms for religious education and for social events and activities, expanded parking facilities, and the construction of a new rectory.

Archeparchial appointments included Consultor and Protopresbyter for the Tri-State Protopresbyterate.

After his retirement from active ministry, Father Joseph returned to his family and his hometown of Johnstown. He enjoyed sharing his love of nature, seeing the Creator in all of His creations. His favorite pastime was taking rides in the country. He had a special, lifelong devotion to St. Joseph, his namesake, and he was especially pleased that Pope Francis proclaimed 2021 as the "Year of St. Joseph." Since boyhood, he felt an unwavering call to the holy priesthood, and it was the joy of his life. He was equally effusive in his love for his family. He was a devoted son and supportive brother. His nieces and nephews will remember him always as a warm and caring, generous and fun-loving uncle who was a constant, active, and



Reverend Father Joseph Jugan

beloved presence in their lives. In words and deeds, he was a living example of real relationship with God, as Father and friend.

He was preceded in death by his parents; brothers, George, Stephen, John and wife, Sophie (Zahornetz); sisters, Mary, and Helen Varga; brother-in-law, Basil Varga; and nephew, John Michael ("Basil") Varga — all of Johnstown. He is survived by many nieces and nephews and numerous great- and great-great nieces and nephews.

Friends were received on Thursday, August 12 at his home parish, St. Mary Church, Johnstown. The funeral service for a priest was celebrated that evening by Very Rev. Andrew J. Deskevich. Concelebrants were Monsignor Raymond Balta, Very Reverend James Spontak, and Rev. Fathers Robert Oravetz, Thomas Dansak, Michael Huszti, Ivan Rusyn and Edward Pyo. Rev. Fathers Stephen Wahal and Joseph Raptosh were in attendance as was Deacon Lucas Crawford

Very Rev. Andrew Deskevich celebrated the Funeral Divine Liturgy on Friday, August 13. Concelebrating with him were Monsignor Raymond Balta, Very Rev. James Spontak, and Rev. Fathers Robert Oravetz and Joseph Raptosh. Very Rev. Ronald Larko and Rev. Fathers Robert Karl, Edward Pyo and Ivan Rusyn were in attendance. Deacon Daniel Perich served as cantor for both services.

In his homily, Very Rev. Andrew mentioned Father Joe's long and full life of 91 years and his 63 years of ministry, even to his dying day.

He further added, "When we say before God that we are thankful to have known and loved someone like Father Joe, we are in fact thanking God for revealing something of himself yet again in human form."

Interment followed at Mount St. Macrina Cemetery, Uniontown, Pa.

In blessed repose, grant O Lord eternal rest to your departed servant the priest Joseph and remember him forever! ■

# “Worship of God in their own language”

SS. PETER AND PAUL IN BRADDOCK, PA. TO CELEBRATE 125TH ANNIVERSARY

*continued from page 1*

Paul had successfully opened the first "Uhro-Ruthenian Everyday School" in the United States. Demand was so great that the church had to turn students away. Father Cornelius Zapotocky, the pastor at that time, wrote that "my heart is broken because we can't accept everyone. I assure you that if we would accept everyone to our everyday school we would have more than 400 children."

By 1921, under the leadership of Father Stephen Kozak and the church trustees, preparations for the building of a new church began in earnest. A home was purchased for the church cantor, followed by construction of a new rectory on George Street. The new church was officially dedicated during a day-long celebration on Nov. 2, 1924 led by His Excellency, The Most Reverend Basil Takach, D.D., the first bishop of the Pittsburgh Exarchate. The Divine Liturgy was followed by a parade of 5,000 people marching joyously through the main streets of Braddock, followed by dinner and an evening concert at the Capitol Theater by the famous Duchnovich Choir.

The impressive church facade is modeled after the Holy Cross Cathedral in Uzhorod, Transcarpathia. The bell towers flanking the massive front four columns reach 126 feet above basement level, and remain a Braddock landmark to this day.

The church interior is even more breathtaking. The vaulted, semi-circular ceiling is approximately 42 feet from the floor to the center of the dome vault. Marble wainscoting surround the walls of the church and sanctuary. The stained art glass windows were imported from Munich, Germany and feature reproductions from old cathedrals in Europe. The massive altars are made of Italian Carrara marble flanked by 16-foot high Carrara columns. The church's seating capacity, including its balcony, is approximately 900 people.

Father Julius Grigassy, D.D. was the longest-serving pastor at SS. Peter and Paul Church, having ministered there from 1925 until his death in 1959. During his tenure the church experienced continued growth and program expansion, including the addition of the Sisters of the Order of Saint Basil the Great to administer the school, serving grades one



remained for 11 years until his retirement in 1970. He was followed by Father Blaise Kovach, who devotedly served SS. Peter and Paul until his death in 2001.

At the time of Father Blaise's arrival, Braddock was on the cusp of a downward spiral from which it would never recover, due to societal and economic shifts of the ensuing decades. Despite these challenges, and a declining membership, SS. Peter and Paul continued as a strong faith community.

After Father Blaise fell asleep in the Lord, the church was served by a number of priests, including Bishop John Kudrick and Monsignor Russell Duker as Interim Pastors and Father Stephen Wahal, Father David Bosnich, and Father John Cuccaro. In August 2018, Father Vitalii Stashkevych became Administrator of SS. Peter and Paul in addition to serving at the Holy Prophet Elias Byzantine Catholic Church in Munhall, Pa.

Father Vitalii has worked diligently to grow the church, greatly expanding its social media presence through the church website, Facebook page, and livestreaming of liturgies online. The number of people attending worship is increasing, several people have joined as members, and through the miracle of online streaming, hundreds of people from all over the United States are watching the Divine Liturgy on Sundays and Holy Days. The church has more than 1,400 Facebook followers who regularly check in to read the online bulletin and learn about the latest news of the church.

There is an old saying that "the more things change, the more they remain the same." One thing that hasn't changed in Braddock throughout the years is the devotion of SS. Peter and Paul parishioners to their church, embarking on their journey of faith in the same spirit that their founders began 125 years ago.

SS. Peter and Paul Byzantine Catholic Church will celebrate its 125th Anniversary on Sunday, Sept. 26 at 3 p.m. with a Divine Liturgy held at the church at 431 George St. in Braddock. The liturgy will also be livestreamed on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/SSPeterPaulBraddock/> or on the church webpage at <https://stspeterpaulbcc.com/on-line/>. ■

through eight.

A prolific scholar and writer, Father Julius operated a print shop on John Street and produced prayer books, catechisms, ecclesiastical calendars, and other items that are still in use to this day, leaving a lasting legacy for the Byzantine Catholic faith.

The church buildings on John and George Streets were a hub of activity for both the congregation and the community at large. There was the Parent-Teachers Guild;

the extremely active Women's Guild, softball and basketball teams; the Sodality; Holy Name Society; school operetta productions; the famous summer street fairs which raised thousands of dollars for the church; pierogi sales and bingo games; exciting field trips for students, and much more.

Following Father Julius' sudden passing, Father Andrew Dzmura returned to his home parish to assume leadership, where he



## Feast of St. Elijah

### ST. ELIAS IN MUNHALL, PA.

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

St. Elias Church in Munhall, Pa. celebrated the Feast of its patron saint — who was called to heaven in a fiery chariot — with the traditional blessing of vehicles.

Father Vitalii Stashkevych blessed all modes of

transportation, including family vehicles, a handicapped accessible van and a vintage Austen Healey following the liturgy.

Parishioners gathered for a church picnic to celebrate.

Fun, fellowship, and great food was enjoyed by the young and the not-so-young in the church hall and grounds. ■



### ST. NICHOLAS IN NANTY-GLO, PA.

Father Robert Oravetz blessed vehicles on the Feast of St. Elijah at St. Nicholas in Nanty-Glo, Pa. ■



### HOLY GHOST IN PITTSBURGH, PA.

Father Frank Firko blessed vehicles July 20 at Holy Ghost on the North Side of Pittsburgh, Pa. ■



License plate number removed from photo by editor.

### HOLY TRINITY IN SYKESVILLE, PA.

Father Vasylyl Banyk blessed vehicles at Holy Trinity in Sykesville, Pa. on the Feast of Elijah. ■



ST. MICHAEL IN CAMPBELL, OHIO

By Father Kevin Marks  
St. Michael, Campbell, Ohio  
St. Michael, hermitage, Pa.

The Solemn Blessing of Cars took place July 17 and 18 at St. Michael parishes in Campbell, Ohio and Hermitage, Pa. in

anticipation and celebration for the Feast of St. Elijah.

The blessing is to thank God for providing ours cars and to preserve them from all evil and for safe travels. ■



ST. MICHAEL IN HERMITAGE, PA.



ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST IN SCOTTTDALE, PA.

Father Oleh Seremchuk, pastor at St. John the Baptist in Scottdale, Pa., blessed vehicles on the Feast of St. Elijah. ■



ST. GREGORY IN UPPER ST. CLAIR, PA.

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

Following the Divine Services on July 24 and 25, the Blessing of Vehicles took place in our parish family.

In our Holy Church, it has been a nice tradition to bless vehicles in commemoration of the prophet Elijah who was taken

into heaven on a fiery chariot. He is therefore known as the patron saint of vehicles, reminding us that we must struggle to manifest holiness in our lives, especially when we travel.

As we continue to enjoy these summer months, we wish all our faithful safe travels as we honor the holy prophet Elijah. ■



SS. PETER AND PAUL IN WARREN, OHIO

By Sister Barbara Pavlik, OSB  
SS. Peter and Paul, Warren, Ohio

There are many "firsts" for a newly ordained priest. One of these was the Blessing of Cars on the Vigil of the Feast of St. Elijah.

Father Miron Kerul'-Kmec, Jr. blessed the cars of the parishioners of SS. Peter and

Paul in Warren, Ohio.

He also had another "first." One of the parishioners brought a Fisher-Price car to be blessed for Father Miron's infant son.

Baby Miron will have to "grow into" his first vehicle. Father Miron was thrilled with the surprise gift! ■



Photos by Victoria Smolak



# Feast of the Transfiguration

## ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST IN MUNHALL, PA.

Very Rev. Andrew Deskevich blessed fruit following the Aug. 6 Divine Liturgy celebrating the Holy Transfiguration at St. John the Baptist Cathedral in Munhall, Pa. ■



Photo by Nick Havrilla Sr.

## SS. PETER AND PAUL IN WARREN, OHIO

By Sister Barbara Pavlik, OSB  
SS. Peter and Paul, Warren, Ohio

Our Byzantine Church gives us so many meaningful ways to celebrate our liturgical life.

Two of my favorite feast days are celebrated towards the end of our Liturgical Year: The Feast of the Transfiguration of Our Lord and The Feast of the Dormition, the transference of our Blessed Mother

from earth to heaven!

Both feasts bring with them special blessings, both spiritually and symbolically!

On the Aug. 5, the vigil for the Feast of the Transfiguration, Father Miron Kerul'-Kmec, Jr. blessed the grapes and other fruits which the faithful of SS. Peter and Paul Church in Warren, Ohio, brought to church. ■



## ST. ELIAS IN MUNHALL, PA.

Father Vitalii Stashkevych blessed fruits and vegetables for the Feast of Transfiguration at St. Elias in Munhall, Pa. ■



## ST. GREGORY IN UPPER ST. CLAIR, PA.

Father Valerian Michlik blessed fruit on the Feast of the Transfiguration Aug. 5 at St. Gregory in Upper St. Clair, Pa. ■



## ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST IN SCOTTDALE, PA.

Fruit was blessed by Father Oleh Seremchuk at St. John the Baptist in Scottsdale, Pa. in honor of the Feast of Transfiguration. ■



## ST. MICHAEL IN HERMITAGE, PA.

The Solemn Blessing of Fruit took place at Divine Liturgies at St. Michael in Hermitage, Pa. in celebration of the Feast of the Transfiguration. Father Kevin Marks is pastor. ■



# Feast of the Dormition

## ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST CATHEDRAL IN MUNHALL, PA.

St. John the Baptist Cathedral in Munhall, Pa. celebrated the Dormition of The Theotokos following the Aug. 14 and 15 Divine Liturgies led by Very Rev. Andrew Deskevich. Ladies of our parish received a flower from Father Andrew following the blessing. ■



## SS. PETER AND PAUL IN WARREN, OHIO

By Sister Barbara Pavlik, OSB  
SS. Peter and Paul, Warren, Ohio

Father Miron Kerul'-Kmec, Jr. blessed the plants and flowers for the Feast of the Falling Asleep of Our Blessed Mother at both the Vigil and the Feast Day Divine Liturgies on Aug. 14 and 15.

The "blessings" for the Feast of the Transfiguration of Our Lord and The Feast of the Dormition were taken home to be shared with family and friends! ■



## HOLY GHOST IN MCKEES ROCKS, PA.

Father Frank Firko blessed flowers in celebration of the Feast of the Dormition at Holy Ghost in McKees Rocks, Pa. ■



## ST. ELIAS IN MUNHALL, PA.

Father Vitalii Stashkevych blessed flowers at St. Elias in Munhall, Pa. on the Feast of the Dormition of the Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary. ■



## ST. NICHOLAS IN PERRYOPOLIS, PA.

by Frances Kranik  
St. Nicholas, Perryopolis, Pa.

The Dormition of the Theotokos 2021 was a busy day for the parishioners of St. Nicholas Church in Perryopolis, Pa.

Beginning with the beautiful tradition of blessing flowers, a few families made bouquets both small and a little larger from their gardens. One long time parishioner commented the pitcher she used had been her grandmother's!

Father Oleh Seremchuk blessed

the flowers, which were lined up on the altar. Following that, we had our first parish picnic in two years in conjunction with the Perryopolis Knights of Columbus and their families who supplied a pig for a delicious pig roast.

In addition there was hot sausage, hot dogs, hamburgers, and chicken and all the traditional picnic sides.

All had a lovely afternoon visiting and enjoying each other's company. ■



## ST. GREGORY IN UPPER ST. CLAIR, PA.

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

For the Feast of the Dormition of the Most Holy Theotokos, St. Gregory's parish family welcomed this year the Most Rev. William John Waltersheid, auxiliary bishop of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Pittsburgh.

Bishop Waltersheid presided the Divine Liturgy and offered the homily on this special day.

At the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy the blessing of flowers took place. Afterward, the faithful had the opportunity to meet the bishop and to receive a blessing. ■





ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST CATHEDRAL IN MUNHALL, PA.

# “Spring into Summer”

St. John the Baptist Cathedral in Munhall, Pa. held its annual picnic Aug. 1.

The East Wind Symphonic Band gave their first outdoor performance of the season and a large crowd was on hand enjoying the concert immensely.

Unfortunately, the predicted inclement weather arrived early, at mid-performance. Everybody had to run for cover enjoying only the first half of the show!

Hopefully, they will return next year.

A good time was had by all attending. ■



Photos by Nick Havrilla Sr.

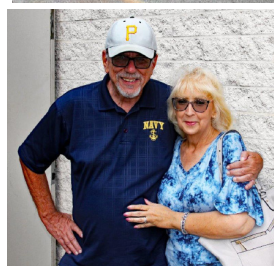
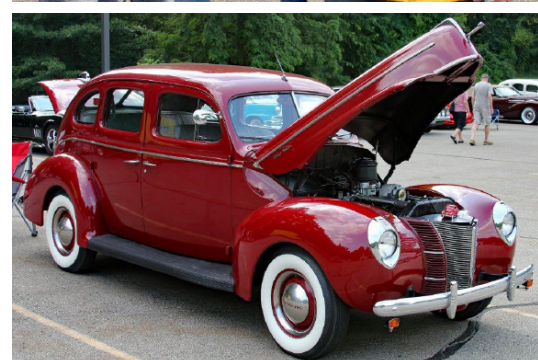
ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST CATHEDRAL IN MUNHALL, PA.

# Summer cruisin', Part 3

St. John the Baptist Cathedral in Munhall, Pa. hosted another of its summer Car Cruise fund raisers July 27. The event benefits the Cathedral.

The Cruise was another success, garnering many first time owners participating in the event.

Featured was an unusual unit built for speed (at right). It is outfitted with a drag parachute in the back end to help stop the car. ■



Photos by Nick Havrilla Sr.



ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST CATHEDRAL IN MUNHALL, PA.

# Class of 2021

St. John the Baptist Cathedral in Munhall, Pa. and Very. Rev. Andrew Deskevich honored its 2021 college graduates.

Allison Tima received a Bachelor of Science degree in Nursing from Indiana University of Pennsylvania and Nicole Pavasko received a Bachelors of Pharmaceutical Sciences degree from University of Pittsburgh. ■



Allison Tima, Very Rev. Andrew Deskevich, Nicole Pavasko.

# Dinner is served

St. John the Baptist Cathedral in Munhall, Pa. hosted a take-out breaded chicken dinner and bake sale fundraiser Aug. 14 to 15.

Very Rev. Andrew Deskevich and many parishioners participated in preparing the meal for the tasty event. ■



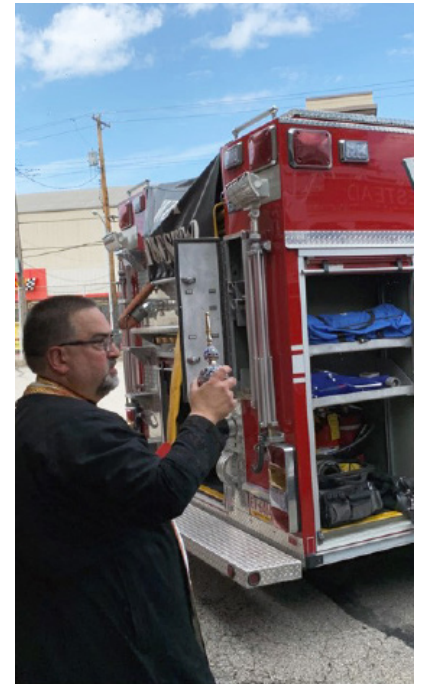
Photos by Nick Havrilla Sr.

# Blessing the VFD

The West Homestead Volunteer Fire Department 292 held an open house on August 14 to celebrate the 120th anniversary of its founding and the rededication of the fire house following recent renovations.

Many residents were on hand to hear Vice-President and Safety Officer Dave Harhai, Chief John Dindak, and meet the local firefighters. Dave is a member of St. Elias Church in Munhall, Pa.

Father Andrew Deskevich of St. John the Baptist Cathedral was invited to bless the fire hall and engines. Other guests included State Sen. Jay Costa and State Rep. Summer Lee. ■



Chief John Dindak, State Sen. Jay Costa, Very Rev. Andrew Deskevich, State Rep. Summer Lee, West Homestead Council President Joe Baran, Vice-President and Safety Officer Dave Harhai.

HOLY TRINITY IN WALL, PA.

# Soles 4 Souls

by Marylyn Barone  
Holy Trinity in Wall, Pa.

Holy Trinity in Wall, Pa. held a Soles 4 Souls fund raiser to help to create opportunities for women in developing nations to start and sustain a small business.

Under the guidance of Linda and Tom Olick, members of Holy Trinity, boxes for collection were placed at Holy Trinity, Resurrection Church, Jackson's Hardware, Webb's Gym and Morola Barber Shop with the help of GCU members from Central Pennsylvania Regional Lodge, Southwest Pennsylvania Regional Lodge and Home Office lodge.

More than 200 pairs of new and gently worn shoes were collected and sent to Soles 4 Souls.

After Linda calculated the value of all the shoes and sent the report to the GCU they matched the value reported. ■



Tom and Linda Olick present Father Don Bolls with a check from the GCU for \$5,000.

CHURCH OF THE RESURRECTION IN MONROEVILLE, PA.

## Feast Day picnic

Church of the Resurrection in Monroeville, Pa. held a picnic Aug. 15 following the Divine Liturgy on the Feast of the Dormition.

Hamburgers and hot dogs were grilled outside and folks brought covered dishes.

Highlights included lawn games and Rusyn music provided by Zajedno.

A great time was had by all for the 38 parishioners in attendance. ■



ST. MARY IN YOUNGSTOWN, OHIO

## Church cantor weds

On May 8 at St. Mary in Youngstown, Ohio, parishioners and friends witnessed the Crowning Ceremony uniting Daniel Kovachik, parish cantor, and Francey McCall. Very Rev. Richard Lambert was the celebrant and Mary Beth Byers, cantor at SS. Peter and Paul in Warren, Ohio, sang the responses. Our prayers and best wishes go out to them for a Blessed and Happy life together. God grant them many years! ■



## First Confession

On Sunday, June 27, Giovanna Rose Hohos celebrated her First Reconciliation at St. Mary in Youngstown, Ohio. Following the Divine Liturgy, she received a prayer book, rosary Bible and certificate. God bless her with many Blessed Years! ■



## Father's Day fundraiser

On Sunday evening, June 20, Lodge 164 and St. Mary in Youngstown, Ohio held a fundraiser to benefit the Church and Social Center. One hundred ten players attended while 14 Lodge members worked with six non-GCU workers. After 20 bingo games and many pull-tab games, the net profit was \$1,042. GCU giveaways of personal sanitizer and jar grippers were enjoyed by each player. This is a Church Matching Fund event. Also, on May 16, a Spring Fundraiser was held to benefit three local charities which raised \$2,440, which was also matched by the GCU. Eleven Lodge members worked with five non-GCU workers selling Bingo sheets and pull-tab games. ■





ST. GREGORY IN UPPER ST. CLAIR, PA.

# Hats off for graduates!

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

At the conclusion of the Aug. 1 Sunday Divine Liturgy, altar server Dylan Hernandez received a special blessing as a graduate from Robert Morris University.

As a parish family we offer our prayers for Dylan as he begins a new chapter in his life. Many happy and blessed years! Mnohaja lita! ■



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

On Sunday, Aug. 8, prayerful supplications were offered for all our St. Gregory's graduates.

At the end of the Divine Liturgy, college graduates Hayley Planitzer and Anja Michlik, and high school graduates Libby Timko and

Tyler Kiss came forward to receive a special blessing as we celebrated this important milestone in their lives.

Following the Divine Liturgy, we enjoyed cake and fellowship in our church hall during which our high school graduates, Libby and Tyler, received scholarship awards from our St. Gregory's Men's Club. ■



ST. NICHOLAS IN GREENSBURG, PA.

# Celebrating 101

by Father Regis Dusecina  
St. Nicholas, Greensburg, Pa.

Following the Divine Liturgies on the weekend of July 18, parishioners at St. Nicholas in Greensburg, Pa. celebrated the 101st birthday of Susan Dusecina, mother of Father Regis Dusecina and the oldest parishioner.

Cantor Andrew Regalla led parishioners in singing "Happy Birthday," "God grant you many blessed years" and "Alleluia," an inside joke between her and the cantor.

Sue comes from a family of 13 and celebrated her birthday that afternoon with her family, numerous nieces, nephews and friends.

Her life was marked by several historical events of the 20th century that many like to hear.

Among them, she recalls seeing



the beginning of the aviation age from the farmland in Latrobe, Pa., where she resided, as Charles A. Lindbergh waved from the Spirit of St. Louis and tipped its wings to her and her siblings. Another was seeing the German dirigible, the Graf Zeppelin, float over the farm. ■



ST. MICHAEL IN HERMITAGE, PA.

# Family ties

By Bill Dzuricko  
St. Michael, Hermitage, Pa.

In the Spring of 2014, Greg and Catherine Sieracki and their family joined the parish of St. Michael in Hermitage, Pa.

Shortly thereafter, their children were confirmed through the Sacrament of Chrismation, administered by Father Kevin Marks.

Within three weeks after joining the church, five of the Sieracki "young men" began their ministry of serving at the altar.

Seven years later, the "Sieracki Servers" have become a welcome and comforting fixture at the St.

Michael altar. Their consistency, persistence, and dedication is impressive and appreciated, especially knowing that the Sieracki family travels almost one hour, one-way, from Rome, Ohio to Hermitage!

The St. Michael parish family would like to thank Theodore, 21; John, 20; Peter, 17; Augustine, 12; and Timothy, 9; for all of their years of serving at the altar and adding to the solemnity of our wonderful Divine Liturgy. We look forward to many more years of seeing you helping out at our altar. We are truly blessed to have the five "Sieracki Servers"! ■



**SIERACKI SERVERS:** Frank Wahal, Tim, John, Father Kevin Marks, Gus, Peter, and Ted.



Photos by Alyssa Vasil

# Happy birthday, Greta!

Margaret "Greta" Ann Marks, mother of Father Kevin E. Marks, turned 80 years old on Wednesday, July 21.

A special Divine Liturgy was offered by her priest son on her birthday and a birthday party was held on Friday, July 23. Happy 80th birthday, Greta! ■



Margaret : "Greta" Ann Marks, Father Kevin Marks

ST. ELIAS IN MUNHALL, PA.

# Community Days

St. Elias sold their famous pirohi and haluska Aug. 14 at West Homestead Community Day. Thank you Firefighter Dave Harhai for providing the booth! ■





# THOUGHTS FOR OUR DAY

by Archpriest David M. Petras



## THE ANAPHORA: HUMAN SOLIDARITY




The Anaphora, the “Prayer of Offering,” which is also called the Eucharistic Prayer, the “Prayer of

Thanksgiving” by the Western Church, is the center of our worship at the Divine Liturgy. In this prayer we recall the wondrous works of salvation that God has done for us, all of which come together in the Mystical Supper — the last supper that our Lord had with his followers. In this supper he joined the sacrifice of love on the Cross and his resurrection, that we might have life in fullness, with a ritual meal making himself ever present and enable us to unite with him in his ultimate act of salvation, as we “offer to you yours of your own.” The Son of God is with us physically in the bread and wine transformed into his body and blood, so that the promise of the incarnation — the birth of Immanuel, “God is with us” — is fulfilled in the assembly of the Church, the “synaxis,” the “gathering together,” as the community of faith, making all of God’s love active — uniting us, transforming us, giving us life, making us like God by offering our lives for one another.

In the Anaphora, God is present among us who “mystically represent the Cherubim,” and proclaim his holiness. A very early Father of the Church, St. Irenaeus, explained, “For as the bread, which is produced from the earth, when it receives the invocation of God, is no longer common bread, but the Eucharist, consisting of two realities, earthly and heavenly; so also our bodies, when they receive the Eucharist, are no longer corruptible, having the hope of the resurrection to eternity.” It is clear, then, that when we have prayed the Anaphora, the next step is obvious, we must partake of these heavenly realities, we must share in the Body and Blood of Christ in a holy union that, as the priest says when distributing Communion, forgives us our sins and brings us into life everlasting. This is true human solidarity, for we are made one in Christ, as St. Paul wrote, “The cup of blessing that we bless, is it not a participation in the blood of

Christ? The bread that we break, is it not a participation in the body of Christ? Because the loaf of bread is one, we, though many, are one body, for we all partake of the one loaf” (1 Corinthians 10:16-17).

Between the consecration of the offering and our reception of it in Holy Communion, we express our human solidarity in praying

 In the Anaphora, God is present among us who “mystically represent the Cherubim”

for one another. By prayer we are led into a spiritual union with one another in which we become aware of the needs of each, and ask God that we might become the people that God has created us to be, and that we might fulfill our human existence in God’s grace and in God’s blessing. In the Anaphora of St. John Chrysostom, this is done in a simpler way. We pray specifically for the church authorities, the civil authorities and for those who live a monastic life, all so that “we may lead a calm and quiet life in all piety and holiness” (1 Timothy 2:2). Then, after we pray for the church authorities by name, we add two petitions from the Litany of Peace for every city or community, and for those who travel, for those who are sick or suffering and for those who are deprived of freedom in captivity. There is then a third petition from a litany of mercy. We pray for those who bring offerings (bread for the Liturgy, from the Rite of Preparation) and perform good deeds (from the Liturgy of Fervent Supplication) and for those who remember the poor. It was a common practice at Liturgies to not only celebrate the banquet of our Lord, but to offer food and alms for those who were poor. Therefore, we see clearly here the Christian option for those who are deprived and under-privileged.

The remembrance of community needs is much more extensive in the Anaphora of St. Basil. One

of the reasons for this is that in the early centuries of the church the Anaphora of St. Basil was the ordinary Sunday prayer of the community. As this was the main gathering of all the people, their very many needs became the subject of prayer. As in the Anaphora of St. John Chrysostom, we pray for those who bring offerings, serve in the church and remember the poor. We ask that they receive in return “rich and heavenly gifts.” We pray for deliverance from troubles beyond our power — “plague, famine, earthquake (Constantinople is in an earthquake zone), flood, fire, violence, foreign invasion and civil war.” We pray for the needs of all — families, the youth, the aged, the weak and the homeless, and then for those possessed, for travellers, widows, orphans, captives, the sick, the captive, and anyone in need or distress. This request is made universal: “you know each of them and their requests, each home and its needs.” We pray for God’s grace and assistance in what we can affect by our behavior: “preserve the virtuous in your virtue and, in your kindness, make those who are evil good.”

In the second part of our petitions, we also pray for the environment, “Grant us a healthful and agreeable climate and gentle showers upon the earth that it may be fruitful, and crown the cycle of the seasons with your kindness”(a phrase borrowed from Psalm 64). This part of the prayer is long because we struggle to remember the needs of all people and declare explicitly, “O God, remember those who we have not remembered whether through ignorance or forgetfulness or multitude of names, for you know the age and name of each, you know each of them even from their mother’s womb.” As Christians, we are asked to love all, even our enemies, and so we pray for “those who love us and for those who hate us.” Because God “knows each (person) and their requests, each home and its needs,” we beg him to “be all things to all people.” Indeed, this whole prayer challenges us also to be like God, to be merciful and loving to all, and to imitate St. Paul, who said, “To the weak I became weak, to win over the weak. I have become all things to all, to save at least some”(1 Corinthians 9:22). ■



### IN PERSON EVENT

#### ASSEMBLY OF THE BYZANTINE CATHOLIC (RUTHENIAN) METROPOLITAN CHURCH

November 5 & 6, 2021

St. John the Baptist Cathedral  
Munhall, PA

#### “One Body in Christ: Re-emerging from the Pandemic”



#### Topics

**Looking Back: Looking Ahead with a Hopeful Heart**  
Deacon Tom Shubeck

**Our Worship Post Pandemic**

Fr. Valerian Michlik & Fr. Andrew Summerson

**The Eucharist: Holy Gifts to Holy People**  
Most Rev. Bishop Kurt Burnette

**Growing Parishes Post Pandemic**  
Deacon Basil Balke

Plus Breakout Sessions & Vendors

Registration: [archpitt.org](http://archpitt.org) or  
your eparchial website





BYZANTINE CATHOLIC SEMINARY  
OF SAINTS CYRIL AND METHODIUS  
FORMING LEADERS FOR THE CHURCH

## LITURGICAL SCHEDULE AT THE SEMINARY

"COME, LET US SING  
JOYFULLY TO THE LORD"

Join the Seminarians of Byzantine Catholic Seminary at 3605 Perrysville Ave, Pittsburgh, Pa., for Liturgical Prayer. Visitors are welcome at the Seminary chapel. *Masking required of those who are not fully COVID vaccinated.* Enter through the chapel door that faces Perrysville Avenue. It's recommended visitors call 412-321-8383 in advance. For more information about the Seminary: go to [www.bcs.edu](http://www.bcs.edu).

### Schedule of Services for September

1	7 a.m. Divine Liturgy (R)
2	7 a.m. Divine Liturgy (R)
3	8 a.m. 1st Hour and Divine Liturgy (M) 6 p.m. Moleben Invoking Holy Spirit (R)
4	7 a.m. Divine Liturgy (R)
7	7 a.m. Parastas (R)
8	7 a.m. Divine Liturgy (R)
9	7 a.m. Divine Liturgy (R)
10	8 a.m. 3rd Hour and Divine Liturgy (M) 6 p.m. Akathist - Annunciation (R)
11	9 a.m. Divine Liturgy (R) 5 p.m. Great Vespers (M)
12	7 a.m. Festal Matins (R)
13	8 a.m. Divine Liturgy (R)
14	8 a.m. Festal Matins and Divine Liturgy (R)
15	7 a.m. Divine Liturgy (R)
16	7 a.m. Divine Liturgy (R)
17	8 a.m. 1st Hour and Divine Liturgy (M) 6 p.m. Vespers w/ 2nd Kathisma (M)
18	9 a.m. Divine Liturgy (R) 5 p.m. Great Vespers (R)
19	7 a.m. Festal Matins (R)
20	8 a.m. Divine Liturgy (R)
21	7 a.m. Moleben for those in Illness (R)
22	7 a.m. Divine Liturgy (R)
23	7 a.m. Divine Liturgy (R)
24	8 a.m. 3rd Hour and Divine Liturgy (M) 6 p.m. Vespers w/ 3rd Kathisma (R)
25	9 a.m. Divine Liturgy (R) 5 p.m. Great Vespers (R)
26	7 a.m. Festal Matins (M)
27	8 a.m. Divine Liturgy (R)
29	7 a.m. Divine Liturgy (R)
30	7 a.m. Divine Liturgy (R)

(M) Melkite tradition      (R) Ruthenian tradition

## AROUND THE ARCHEPARCHY



**STUFFED CABBAGE DINNER** — 4-7 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 11; 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 12; St. John the Baptist Cathedral, 210 Greentree Road, Munhall, Pa. Take-out only stuffed cabbage dinner Price is \$10 per dinner, which includes: stuffed cabbage, potatoes, veggie, roll and butter. Pre-orders will be guaranteed. To pre-order, call 412-461-0944. In addition we will be selling quarts of haluski, quarts of soup, our kolache, and various baked goods.

**ANNUAL RUMMAGE SALE** — 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 11, St. Pius X, 2336 Brownsville Road, Carrick, Pa. Items are still being accepted. Questions or to make arrangements for drop-off, call the church at 412-881-8344. Current CDC guidelines will be adhered to; no exceptions.

### ICONOGRAPHY WORKSHOPS —

■ Sept. 16 to 19, St. Robert Bellarmine Church Hall, 1313 5th Ave., E. McKeesport, Pa. Marylyn Barone will conduct an iconography workshop for Mary Mother of God Parish for adults at all levels of experience. You will write an icon of the Immaculate Heart of Mary or Our Lady of Protection on a 8 x 10 gesso-covered board. The class will be Thursday evening, Friday evening, all day Saturday and noon Sunday until finishing. You must be able to attend all four days to have a completed icon. The cost of \$130 will cover all supplies. Using a pre-prepared prototype, you will learn techniques for faces, garments, 23-karat gold gilding and background. Participants from three or more of Marylyn's previous workshops may elect to do an icon of their choice. The theology of iconography and specifically the Theotokis will also be presented. There will be the opportunity to attend services. Snacks as well as coffee and tea will be provided on all days. A deposit of \$25 is required and the class will be limited to 20 people. For more information, call Marylyn Barone at 412-678-9453 or email [mwbarone@comcast.net](mailto:mwbarone@comcast.net).

■ Oct. 14 to 17, Most Holy Name of Jesus Parish, 1700 Harpster St., Troy Hill, Pa. Marylyn Barone will conduct an iconography workshop for adults at all levels of experience. You will write an icon of the Nativity of Jesus Christ. The class will be Thursday evening, Friday evening, all day Saturday and Sunday, noon until finishing. The cost of \$135 will cover all supplies. For further information, call Marylyn Barone at 412-678-9453 or email her at [mwbarone@comcast.net](mailto:mwbarone@comcast.net).

**CLASSIC CAR SHOW** — Registration noon-2 p.m., show continues until 4 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 26, St. John the Baptist, 185 E. Main St., Uniontown, Pa. Rain or shine. Registration fee: \$10. First 150 cars receive dash plaques and gifts. More than 25 trophies, including Father Ron's Favorite, will be awarded. Classes include: 1900-1930, 1931-1950, 1951-1960, 1961-1965, 1966-1970, 1971-1976, 1977-1987, 1988-2005, Street Rod/Modified, Trucks 1959 and older and 1960-2005. No judging for 2006 and newer. Arnie Amber, Oldies DJ, 50/50 drawing contest, Byzantine Auction, and delicious food including sandwiches, soups, halushki, baked goods, and more. A golf cart shuttle will be available for on-site transportation. Contact information: 724-438-6027 (leave message). Proceed benefit the St. John the Baptist Maintenance Fund.

**ANNUAL CRAFT/VENDOR SHOW AND FOOD FESTIVAL** — 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Oct. 16, St. John the Baptist Cathedral, 210 Greentree Road, Munhall, Pa. Dozens of tables of crafters and vendors, crafter showcase auction, raffles, stuffed cabbage dinners, haluski, pierogies, St. John's baked goods and more. For information, call 412-461-0944.

**HOLIDAY BASKET EXTRAVAGANZA** — Noon-? Nov. 21, St. John the Baptist Cathedral, 210 Greentree Road, Munhall, Pa. Donation: \$20, includes take home chicken parmesan dinner. Extra dinners may be purchased for \$10 each. 20+ Basket Raffle, variety of vendors and 50/50 Drawing. St. John's Baked Goods (kolache and more) and door prizes. Tickets must be purchased in advance. For tickets and information, call Diane at 412-303-6534. Any CDC, state and local health department guidelines at the time will be followed during the event.

## DATES TO REMEMBER



### SEPT. 5

87th annual Pilgrimage in honor of Our Lady of Perpetual Help  
*Mount St. Macrina, Uniontown, Pa.*

### SEPT. 8

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

### SEPT. 12

Celebration of Marriage  
*St. Elias, Munhall, Pa.*

### SEPT. 14

Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross

### SEPT. 19

50th Anniversary Celebration at St. Gregory  
*Upper St. Clair, Pa.*

### SEPT. 26

125th Anniversary Celebration at SS. Peter and Paul  
*Braddock, Pa.*

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

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