

WORLD

THE BYZANTINE CATHOLIC

THE OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER OF THE ARCHDIOCESE OF PITTSBURGH VOL. 66 NO. 12 DECEMBER 2021

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One Body in Christ: Re-emerging from the Pandemic

ASSEMBLY 2021 AT ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST CATHEDRAL IN MUNHALL, PA



The Assembly of the Byzantine Catholic (Ruthenian) Metropolitan Church, was held Nov. 5 to 6 at St. John the Baptist Cathedral in Munhall, Pa. The Assembly, whose theme was "One Body in Christ: Re-emerging from the Pandemic," is part of a process which will culminate in the XVI Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops at the Vatican in Oct. 2023. Clockwise from top left: Father Andrew Summerson, Metropolitan Archbishop William Skurla, a group break-out session, Father Valerian Michlik, and Lori Downey and Sister Marian Dobos. Photos by Nick Havrilla Sr.

By The Office of Religious Education and David Mayernik Jr., Editor

"In a Metropolitan Church, sui iuris, an Assembly is to be held according to the norms of canon 140-145 and is to be convoked at least every five years" (The Eastern Catholic Code of Canon Law).

The faithful of the Metropolia along with the Most Reverend Archbishop William C. Skurla and Most Reverend Bishop Kurt Burnette, gathered Nov. 5 to 6 in an Assembly at the Cathedral of St. John the Baptist in Munhall, Pa.

Their purpose was to explore ways in which the church can improve the ability to listen to the faithful and learn what the pandemic has taught us about

worship, parish life, the American family, technology and our faith.

This opportunity paved the way for the Metropolia to enter into the consultation period in preparation for the Vatican's Synod of Bishops to be held in 2023 at the Vatican in Rome. More information on the Synod can be found on the USCCB website.

Gifted presenters included Archpriest John Kachuba, Eparchy of Parma; Therese Fetsko, Eparchy of Parma; Father Valerian Michlik, Archeparchy of Pittsburgh; Father Andrew Summerson, Eparchy of Parma; Most Rev. Kurt Burnette, Eparchy of Passaic; Deacon Tom Shubeck, Eparchy of Passaic; and Christopher Russo, Eparchy of Passaic.

All presentations were recorded

and are available for viewing on St. John the Baptist Cathedral's Facebook page at: <https://www.facebook.com/StJohnsMunhall>.

A panel participated in an evaluation/summary activity at the end of the program.

Members of the panel were: Deacon Greg Loya, Eparchy of Parma; Diane Rabaj, Eparchy of Passaic; Helen Kennedy, Archeparchy of Pittsburgh; Christopher Russo, Eparchy of Passaic; Blaise Wisniewski, Archeparchy of Pittsburgh; and Sister Susan Sisko, OSBM, Archeparchy of Pittsburgh.

Their ideas and suggestions were a valuable contribution on how to encourage participation, communion and mission in our parish communities.

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ETERNAL MEMORY VERY REVEREND RONALD P. LARKO

By The Byzantine Catholic Archeparchy of Pittsburgh

Very Reverend Father Ronald Paul Larko fell asleep in the Lord On Oct. 31. He was born on Aug. 16, 1949 in Wilkinsburg, Pa., the fourth of seven children of the late Margaret Jane (Gresock) and Michael J. Larko. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his brothers Robert and John.

He is survived by his brothers Michael J. (Marsha) Larko of Plum Borough, Pa. and Thomas (Karen) Larko of Punxsutawney, Pa., and his sisters Anna (John) Maier of New Florence, Pa., and Patricia (Edward) Morris of Plum Borough. Many nieces and nephews also survive.

Father Ron's early education was received at the schools of Penn Hills Pa., and he then earned a Bachelor of Science Degree in Education from Indiana University of Pennsylvania in 1972. Before entering the Seminary, he was a teacher at St. John the Baptist school in Plum Borough and he also taught Physical Science and Biology in Eisenhower High school in Warren, Pa. He likewise offered eight years of service as a clinical laboratory

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Very Reverend Ronald P. Larko

WORLD

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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.

Cathedral of St. John the Baptist Schedule of Services - Christmas 2021

Very Reverend Andrew Deskevich, Rector



Friday, Dec. 24 — *Vigil, Feast of the Nativity of Our Lord Christmas Eve*

9 a.m. Royal Hours
8 p.m. Vigil Liturgy

Saturday, Dec. 25 — *Feast of the Nativity of Our Lord Christmas Day*

9 a.m. Divine Liturgy

Cathedral of St. John the Baptist
210 Greentree Road | Munhall, Pa. 15120 | 412-461-0944

View services LIVE on the web at
www.stjohnsbyzantinecathedral.com

REMINDER:

There will be a **CHRISTMAS ISSUE** (Dec. 25) of *The BCW* in addition to the monthly December issue. Please send photos and stories to bcw@archpitt.org. Thank you!

Submissions deadline for the Christmas issue is Dec. 13.



The Archeparchy of Pittsburgh Chancery will be closed Friday, Dec. 24. The Chancery will resume regular hours on Monday, Dec. 27 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

66 Riverview Ave.
Pittsburgh, PA 15214
412-231-4000

Mount Macrina Manor Live Nativity

Mt. Macrina Manor's annual drive-through Live Nativity will be held 5-7 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 12 on the grounds of Mount St. Macrina, 520 W. Main St., Uniontown, Pa.

The Nativity will be set up along the Friendship Circle, adjacent to the facility.

Mary and Joseph, shepherds tending to their flock, the Three Kings, the Little Drummer Boy, and angels will be portrayed. In

addition, there will also be live animals, including a donkey, goat, sheep, calf, and an alpaca.

Angels will be passing out candy canes to visitors, along with listening to Christmas Carols

Five hundred luminaries will line the driveway that leads to the Nativity.

The event is free of charge and everyone is welcome. For information call Angie at 724-430-1179. ■





At your service

PRIESTS OF THE PITTSBURGH PROTOPRESBYTERATE SERVE UP PASTA, SMILES AT ST. ELIAS IN MUNHALL, PA.

By Father Frank Firko
Holy Ghost, McKees Rocks, Pa.

This year's Greater Pittsburgh Protopresbytery Pasta Dinner at St. Elias Church, Munhall, Pa. was served on Sunday, Oct. 24,

Ten of the Greater Pittsburgh Protopresbytery Clergy served nearly 125 people from a combination of area parishes.

Although there was no charge for the meal, a good-will offering was taken along with a raffle.

Following expenditures, the total profit sent to the Archeparchial Priests' Pension Plan was \$916.01.

This gesture of charity demonstrates appreciation to all retired priests who served our parishes, and are now drawing from the Plan.

Thanks to all who attended the event. ■



Father Vasyl Polyak (Tarentum), Father Frank A. Firko (McKees Rocks, North Side), Father Vitalii Stashkevych (Munhall, Braddock), Very Rev. Andrew Deskevich (Munhall), Father Miron Kerul-Kmec (Greenfield, South Side), Deacon Sean Petrisko (Duquesne), Father Will Rupp (Duquesne), Father Radko Blichar (Lyndora, Gibsonia), Deacon Lawrence Hruska (Gibsonia) and Retired Father Robert Karl (Gibsonia).



One Body in Christ: Re-emerging from the Pandemic

ASSEMBLY 2021 AT ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST CATHEDRAL IN MUNHALL, PA

Story continued from page 1

Ninety-three participants attended the Assembly, representing all four eparchies.

Tentative plans are in process for a 2022 Assembly to take place in the Eparchy of Passaic. Check your eparchial websites in the near future for more information.

The Archeparchial Office of Religious Education would like to thank Archpriest Andrew Deskevich, Rector of St. John the Baptist Cathedral in Munhall, Pa. and the Cathedral catering staff for hosting the Assembly.



Deacon Thomas P. Shubeck

Even with the uncertainty of the past two years, Deacon Thomas began his talk Friday evening with the theme “Looking Back: Looking Ahead with a Hopeful Heart.”

During this pandemic, he said studies show a trend of anxiety and depression among younger adults and those without a high school education.

He pointed out the pandemic may have accelerated decreased church attendance, likening it to a “swarm of insects.”

“That swarm came into our lives and disrupted it and stirred up the elephant in the room. We can’t ignore it.”

On Saturday, Deacon Thomas discussed how looking ahead with a hopeful heart echoes Pope Benedict’s words that “hope is communal” and “no one is saved alone.”

“Our hope is for one another and that includes our enemies and strangers.”

Deacon Thomas said we have to work to more fully “go forth in peace” by reaching out to others who have not been to church in awhile, which he referred to as “nones.”

“We can perform these spiritual acts of mercy in different ways,” he said.

“We can’t be those frigid Christians that Chrysostom described who are indifferent to the salvation of others. It must begin with our participation in the Divine Liturgy...it is the only way to look forward with a hopeful heart.”

Deacon Thomas cautioned not to expect instant results, as sometimes seeds take months or years to take root.

“It comes down to person-to-



Deacon Thomas P. Shubeck



Father Andrew Summerson



Bishop Kurt Burnette, DD



Christopher Russo

person contact. It comes down to keeping an open, attentive eye and seeing people who have a need.

“We can learn and we can, with courage, reach out and make a difference in somebody’s life.”



Father Valerian Michlik

Discussing the future of worship in the Byzantine Catholic Church, Father Valerian said parishes have a vital role to play in the post-pandemic recovery.

But first he looked back to his final public Divine Liturgy at St. Gregory in Upper St. Clair, Pa. – March 15, 2020, the third Sunday of the Great Fast – before the lockdown.

He called the coming challenge “overwhelming.”

Worship was transferred to our domestic churches and livestreaming of services, installed at St. Gregory in 2019, became a necessity. The parish’s Bethany Ministry helped him stay in touch with parishioners.

“How did your parish priest respond to beginning of pandemic?” he asked those assembled.

“We came up with a plan, we came up with a program how to go out there and reach all of our parishioners.”

As covid infection rates decline and vaccinations increase, Father Valerian said he can envision the pandemic coming to an end.

And he feels congregational life will increasingly be more important.

“We may still feel a spiritual connection to physical places of worship that cannot be replicated in our homes. Our parishioners still

feel that strong tie to the church building, to the community.”

He called it a “vertical function of worship” for our people.

“Sacred places still play an important role and unique function in our lives.”

The “horizontal aspect” of churches as community centers must also be kept in mind.

“When we put those two together, it’s the cross of our Lord.”



Father Andrew Summerson

Father Andrew – speaking from the perspectives of son, pastor and scholar - discussed the essential features of the Divine Liturgy, calling it the “dynamite we have in our hands.”

He said perhaps being deprived of these gifts through the lockdown and attendance restrictions will give us a fresh perspective of the Liturgy.

“We’re trying to move forward with hope.”

Father Andrew said we need prayer to bring people back to the Church post-pandemic, citing the fruits of such prayers have included bringing a seven-year-old girl he baptized on Pentecost Sunday at St. Mary in Whiting, Ind. when churches resumed in-person worship in 2020.

“Industrial strength doses of liturgical prayer that includes, vespers, matins and Liturgy.”

He said the hardest part of the Divine Liturgy is “lifting up our hearts,” or bringing our brokenness and troubles to the altar so we can be transformed.

“We need an excellent liturgy

to proclaim this excellent Good News.”



Bishop Kurt Burnette, DD

Most Rev. Bishop Kurt Burnette, Eparchy of Passaic, discussed “The Eucharist” Holy Gifts to Holy People,” taking an in-depth look at the Body, Blood and Soul of Christ we receive during the Divine Liturgy.

“A gift beyond anything we can say in words,” he said.

Bishop Kurt said Scriptures say “the life is in the blood.”

“When we receive the precious flesh of Jesus, we receive the flesh that suffered as a consequence of our sins and for the forgiveness of our sins. We receive the flesh that walked on foot all over the Holy Land to bring light into darkness. We receive the flesh that healed lepers and the blind and the deaf and raised the dead and freed souls in bondage to demons and made joyful wine at the wedding feast.

“That same flesh calms the storm inside of our own souls.”



Christopher Russo

Christopher, creator of the young adult ministry “Theosis in Action” in the Eparchy of Passaic, ended Assembly 2021 by providing insight to the question “Where do we go from here?”

“You need three things: beauty, truth and goodness,” all of which the Byzantine Catholic Church is blessed to have.

He said the richness of the Byzantine liturgical life “engages the senses” and “being that icon of Christ to others fueled by that beauty and faith and truth.”

“The first interaction some people may have with our parishes is “Wow, this is beautiful.”

He presented an image of his family’s dinner table on Christmas Eve, saying the head of the table is always left empty and set with the finest things they own as a symbolic welcoming of Christ into our hearts.

“The seat is empty because the seat is reserved for the uninvited guest,” he said.

“We need to welcome those that may feel uninvited and give them the seat at the head of the table. This includes young people and engaging them further.” ■



Presenter biographies

Archpriest John S. Kachuba, MA

Ordained in 1974 for the Eparchy of Parma, Father John has served in leadership roles on a local, national and international level. He is the Spiritual Advisor for the Greek Catholic Union and a member of the Board of Directors.

Therese Fetsko, BA

Therese is the Executive Assistant for the Eparchy of Parma. She graduated from Christendom College in 2010 with a BA in Philosophy and History. She is gifted with organizational skills and participates in Right to Life Activities.

Deacon Thomas P. Shubeck, Ph.D

Ordained to the Diaconate for the Eparchy of Passaic in 2015, Deacon Tom holds degrees from Purdue University, Loyola of Maryland, University of Connecticut and Rutgers in Counseling Psychology, Marriage and Family Life and Pastoral Theology. He serves at St. Thomas the Apostle Byzantine Catholic Church in Rahway, N.J.

Father Valerian M. +Michlik, JCOL

Ordained to the Presbyterate in 2000, Father Valerian is Professor of Pastoral Practice and Canon Law at SS. Cyril and Methodius Seminary and Instructor in the Diaconate Program for the Archeparchy. He is Pastor of St. Gregory Nazianzus Byzantine Catholic Church in Upper St. Clair, Pa.

Father Andrew Summerson, S.Th.D

Ordained in 2015 for the Eparchy of Parma, Father Andrew is a scholar in Early Christianity and Greek Patristic tradition. Presently, he is pastor of St. Mary Byzantine Catholic Church, Whiting Ind. He has membership in the Society of Biblical Literature and North American Patristics Society.

Bishop Kurt Burnette, DD

Bishop Kurt has a doctorate in Mathematics, a member of the California Bar Association and has a licentiate in Canon Law from the Pontifical Oriental Institute in Rome. He has extensive pastoral experience in addition to jail and prison ministry. Bishop Kurt served as rector of SS. Cyril and Methodius Seminary.

Christopher Russo, BS

Christopher is a graduate from Penn State University, currently working on his Master's degree in Biotechnology at Harvard University. He is a Senior Research Associate at Fulcrum Therapeutics in Cambridge, MA. Christopher is a member of St. Nicholas Byzantine Catholic Church in Danbury, Conn. and the creator of "Theosis in Action" a Young Adult Ministry.





“Home Again for Christmas”

ARCHEPARCHIAL CHOIR RETURNS TO ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST CATHEDRAL IN MUNHALL, PA. DEC. 19

by Darlene Fejka
Director, Pittsburgh Byzantine Catholic
Archeparchial Choir

The Pittsburgh Byzantine Catholic Archeparchial Choir invites all to share the spirit and joy of the Nativity as they once again present "Christmas at the Cathedral" on Sunday, Dec. 19. The hour-long program begins at 2 p.m. at the Cathedral of St. John the Baptist, 210 Greentree Road, Munhall, Pa.

Themed "Home Again for Christmas," the 2021 edition celebrates the Choir's return to its "home" at the Cathedral following a long hiatus due to the Covid-19 pandemic, and also a return to the group's first stand-alone Christmas presentation since 2018. The choir's program features beloved hymns and carols celebrating the Nativity of our Lord and the many wonders of the holy season. Selections from the Byzantine Ruthenian tradition as well as from Eastern and Western Europe and America will be presented.

To wrap up the homecoming event, a hospitality reception with refreshments and treats will follow the program in the lower level of the Cathedral. Admission is free and there is also plenty of free, level parking.

Please do note that although there are no strict mandates in place, the wearing of masks and



social distancing for audience members is suggested for the safety of all present. However, it is highly recommended that all who are ill with cough, fever or other socially communicable conditions to please refrain from in-person attendance and instead enjoy the Choir's presentation via internet at www.stjohnsbyzantinecathedral.com.

The 2021 "Christmas at the Cathedral" program is the 14th such presentation by the Archeparchial Choir, whose members will celebrate their 25th anniversary year in 2023.

Director Darlene Fejka and the PBCAC look forward to seeing faithful, family and friends of the Archeparchy on Sunday, Dec. 19 for this inspired program of joyous songs of the Nativity season. All are welcome! ■

ETERNAL MEMORY

REVEREND FATHER RONALD P. LARKO

Story continued from page 1

specialist to the United States Army Reserve.

1976 saw the beginning of his studies and formation for the priesthood at SS. Cyril and Methodius Seminary in Pittsburgh, Pa. He was ordained a Deacon in May of 1981, and the late Archbishop Stephen J. Kocisko ordained him a priest in Ascension Church, Clairton, Pa. on June 6, 1982.

Father Ron served the following parishes: St. John, Mingo Junction, Ohio; and Holy Trinity, Sykesville; SS. Peter and Paul, Punxsutawney; St. John, Barnesboro; Ascension, Arcadia; all in Pennsylvania; then St. Basil, Irving, Texas; returning again in Pennsylvania to Holy Ghost, McKees Rocks, Holy Ghost, Pittsburgh, St. Stephen Leisenring, and his final assignment, St. John the Baptist, Uniontown, Pa.

His Archeparchial appointments included: Chancellor, Consultor, Member of the Presbyteral Council, Priest's Pension Board, Clergy Task Force, and Renewal and Revitalization Commission and Protospesbyter of the Southwest and Mon-Valley Protospesbyterates. Father Ron also represented the Archeparchy at the Christian Associates of Southwestern Pennsylvania, and he ministered as Spiritual Director for the seminarians at SS. Cyril and Methodius Seminary.

Friends were received on Thursday, Nov. 4 at St. John the Baptist Church in Uniontown, Pa. The Parastas service for a priest was celebrated that evening by Very Reverend Andrew J. Deskevich.

The funeral Divine Liturgy was celebrated on Friday, Nov. 5, by Most Reverend Kurt Burnette, Bishop of Passaic as Most Reverend William C. Skurla was unable to attend. The priests of Father Ron's Presbyterate were concelebrants: Reverend Fathers Jerome Botsko, Christopher Burke, Oleh Seremchuk, and Stephen Wahal who also was the homilist. Very Reverend Andrew Deskevich served as the Master of Ceremonies, and the Seminarians assisted.

Matthew Miner, the parish cantor, with Seminarians led the congregational singing.

Very many priests of the Archeparchy and beyond as well as parishioners, former parishioners and Religious showed their esteem for Father Ron by attending.

In his homily Father Stephen noted that Father Ron touched many lives as a pastor, teacher, and one who lived the Good News of Jesus Christ and His Gospel — a good and faithful servant.

Interment followed in St. Mary Cemetery, Yatesboro, Pa.

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

“Carpathian Cookery”

cook book available for purchase

The “Carpathian Cookery” cookbook has entered its 19th printing and is now available for purchase.

The 330-page cook book has a new look and features a protective plastic cover. It includes sections on Christmas and Easter customs and recipes, traditional Rusyn and Slavic foods, other ethnic dishes, and many other tried-and-true recipes of parishioners of St. John the Baptist in Uniontown, Pa.

There are a variety of paska bread and kolachi (filled roll) recipes, as well as meatless dishes and Lenten recipes, suitable for the Great Fast, as well as the Pre-Christmas Fast.

Having sold more than 17,500 copies, the cook book was requested by the Library of Congress to be in their ethnic cooking collection.

The cost of the cookbook is \$14 plus \$4 postage and handling (\$18 total). If ordering from Canada,



please send a \$28 U.S. Postal money order payable in U.S. dollars to reflect the difference in the exchange rate and postage cost.

To order, send a check or money order to: Ethnic Craft Club, St. John Byzantine Catholic Church, 201 E. Main Street, Uniontown, Pa. 15401, or call 724-438-6027 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Monday to Friday for more information. The email address is carpathiancookery@gmail.com. ■

Christmas
at the **Cathedral**

with the
Archeparchial Choir



Sunday, December 19
2:00 p.m.
Cathedral of St. John the Baptist

"Home Again for Christmas"
A choral program featuring beautiful and beloved Nativity hymns and carols from Byzantine and Western traditions

Hospitality reception with refreshments and treats following program in lower level of the Cathedral

All are welcome!
No admission charge.
Lots of free, level parking.

SS. PETER AND PAUL IN BRADDOCK, PA.

Blessing of 125th anniversary plaque

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

Parishioners of SS. Peter and Paul, Braddock, Pa. continued to celebrate their 125th anniversary with the blessing of a plaque specially made to commemorate the legacy of the church's founders.

On Sunday, Nov. 14, Father William Rupp — filling in for Father Vitalii Stashkevych — blessed the plaque, which is hanging in the church vestibule, before the Divine Liturgy.

The 18 inch by 14 inch etched aluminum plaque, designed by parishioner Arleen Jama, is inscribed at the top with an illustration of SS. Peter and Paul with a quote from Psalm 19: "Their sound has gone out into all the earth and their words to the ends of the world."

The intention of the plaque was to ensure that the tremendous sacrifices and faith of the church founders would be remembered and honored while recognizing the need for current members to continue this priceless legacy in the future.

The center of the plaque reads:

"Those who have gone before us in faith leave us a priceless inheritance that becomes our privilege and responsibility to pass on to those who come after us, even greater than before."

The cost of the plaque was paid for by donations from parishioners and was presented to Father Vitalii as a surprise prior to the church anniversary celebration on Sept. 26.

Following Liturgy, members gathered in the church social hall for their first Coffee and Donut Social since the beginning of the pandemic.

November was a busy month for parishioners at SS. Peter and Paul Church. Throughout the month, a monetary collection for the Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank was held, with Father Vitalii matching the funds that were collected.

On Sunday, Nov. 21, Father Vitalii blessed the annual Thanksgiving Bread, which was distributed to members after Liturgy.

From Nov. 28 through Dec. 19, parishioners are collecting new white socks, hats, gloves, and scarves to donate to the Light of Life Rescue Mission. ■



Father William Rupp blesses the 125th anniversary plaque at SS. Peter and Paul in Braddock, Pa.

HOLY GHOST IN MCKEES ROCKS, PA.

Marian Moleben

By Father Frank Firko
Holy Ghost, McKees Rocks, Pa.

The 35th Annual Archeparchial Marian Moleben for the advancement of Beatification and Canonization of our four Saintry Ruthenian-Byzantine Catholic Bishops of Eastern Europe was celebrated at Holy Ghost in McKees Rocks, Pa. on Sunday, Nov. 7.

This yearly event gathers clergy and faithful together to beseech the Mother of God for her assistance in advancing to Universal Sainthood: Bishop-Martyr Theodore G. Romzha (Uzhorod); Bishop-Martyr Paul P. Gojdich, O.S.B. M. (Presov); Bishop-Martyr Basil Hopko (Presov); and Bishop Alexander

Chira (Uzhorod).

We are grateful for the presence of our Ordinary, Archbishop William Skurla, and to Bishop Kurt Burnette, Passaic Eparchy, for leading the Moleben and blessing this annual spiritual event.

Special thanks to the clergy present, the Knight of Columbus, Holy Ghost Religious teachers and students for taking an active part, and the Archeparchial Choir, under the direction of Darlene Fejka, for solemnly honoring the event in singing the responses to the liturgical service.

Icons of these holy hierarchs were written by Mary Bebeeck of Hermitage, Pa. ■



Hierarchy, Clergy, and faithful who gathered to promote the Causes of Beatification and Canonization.



The Holy Ghost Religious Education young parishioners Ray Ripple and Anita Iyengar reverently process the icon of Bishop Romzha and the other three holy bishops to the front of the Church for veneration.



Knight of Columbus S.K. Paul Geleskie escorts each of the four icons to their positions to their place of honor near the front of the Church.



Prior to the Moleben, Father Stephen Wahal, conveys a brief faith-filled history of Bishop Romzha and Bishop Hopko to those gathered.



Following the procession of Bishop Gojdich and Bishop Chira, Father Michael Huszti (above), brings to light their inspirational lives.

Photos by Lori L. Ripple

ST. GREGORY IN UPPER ST. CLAIR, PA.

Library Speaker's Platform

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

On Sunday, Nov. 14, St. Gregory in Upper St. Clair, Pa. welcomed Dr. Greta Stokes Tucker from St. Benedict the Moor Parish in the Hill District of Pittsburgh.

Prior to her retirement, Dr. Greta Stokes Tucker served for nine years as Director of Religious Education for her parish family and 27 ½ years as the Director of the Office for Cultural Diversity & Persons with Disabilities for the Roman Catholic Diocese of Pittsburgh.

In her wonderful presentation Dr. Tucker presented to us the African American Catholics who have always had a spirituality that is influenced and conditioned by the traditions, theology, and spirit of the Catholic faith.

However, we learned that traits of a distinctive African American spirituality are rooted in their African ancestry and influenced

by the experience of slavery and oppression in the U.S.

Dr. Tucker presented to us the lives of a number of Black Catholics, both clergy and religious, who are now on the path of canonization.

We have learned of a number of organizations that have been instrumental in preserving the spirituality of African-American Catholics which is often expressed in liturgical rituals, music, art, and environment, and in family and communal relationships.

In the 21st century African-American Catholics are challenged to share the gift of their spirituality with the Catholic Church and all of humanity.

As a community of faithful we very much enjoyed having Dr. Greta Stokes Tucker with us and we also express sincere thanks to the members of our St. Gregory's Library Ministry for sponsoring this event in recognition of Black Catholic History Month. ■



ASCENSION OF OUR LORD IN CLAIRTON, PA.

Clairton, Pa. happenings

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

Ascension of Our Lord Byzantine Catholic Church in Clairton, Pa. welcomed the children back to the ECF program on Oct. 10.

The morning was sunny and

bright as the children met in the garden for morning prayers with Father Ivan Mina and the instructors,

Cindy Schlessinger, Tiffany Tomkowicz and Jessica Dufalla. Everyone was excited and ready to start the new year. ■



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

This fall, a beautiful statue of "Jesus and the children," was donated to Father Ivan Mina by Steve and Christina Kerr-Kail.

Mrs. Kail grew up in Clairton, Pa., attending Ascension Church, participating in the ECF program and volunteering for many of the events held at the church hall from the time she was a teenager and young adult.

She and her husband recently



moved back to the area and wanted to do something special for Father Ivan, choosing the statue as a gift to add to the parish gardens. ■

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

A Veterans Day recognition was held on Sunday, Nov. 14. The children from the ECF program presented the Pledge of Allegiance after Liturgy.

Following the pledge, Father Ivan Mina invited the Veterans to come up to the altar for a special blessing.

After the blessing, each Veteran received a thank you card and Eat'n Park gift card.

Everyone joined in to sing "God Bless America" to conclude the program.

The Veterans recognized are: Julie Cochran, Michael Sowko, Michael Cherepko, Robert Bell, Donald Buchina, John Glegyak and Altar Server William Kerr. ■





SS. PETER AND PAUL IN WARREN, OHIO

Kolachi baking time...

by Lisa Mosko
SS. Peter and Paul, Warren, Ohio

The Social Hall at SS. Peter and Paul in Warren, Ohio was filled Nov. 5 and 6 with the aroma of fresh-baked kolachi.

We had plenty of help from our parishioners. We even had family members of one of our parishioners bring in seven extra helpers who came all the way from Fredericksburg, Va. and Columbus, Ohio.

Parishioner Trudy Vasco also helped even though it was her 93rd birthday.

Thank you to all who made this fundraiser a huge success!



Proceeds will benefit the church's 100th Anniversary Celebration in 2025. ■



ST. ELIAS IN MUNHALL, PA.

...and pirohi, too!

Young and not so young joined together to roll, cut, pinch, and cook pirohi for the upcoming Phillipian Fast at St. Elias in

Munhall, Pa.. Working together strengthens the bonds of our parish family! ■



SS. PETER AND PAUL IN DUQUESNE, PA.

Spaghetti dinner

by Judy Kacik
SS. Peter and Paul, Duquesne, Pa.

On the heels of a very successful Hoagie/Haluski Sale Nov. 2, Father Will Rupp and members of the Parish Club of SS. Peter and Paul in Duquesne, Pa. kept the momentum going with a successful Spaghetti Dinner Nov. 7.

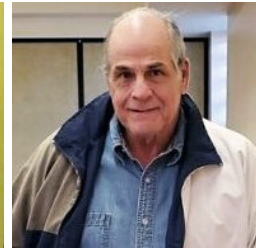
We wish to thank everyone who supported both of these projects. ■



Patty Vargo, Arlene Polivka and Barb Longstreth



Bob Kacik



Don Downey



Mary Ann Pesta



Stephanie Dojcek, Claudia Stipetic

ST. MARY IN BRADENVILLE, PA.

Building their future

by Laurene Kristof
St. Mary, Bradenville, Pa.

Following the Oct. 30 and 31 Divine Liturgies, Lodge 321 hosted Matching Funds Socials for the parishioners of St. Mary in Bradenville, Pa. The purpose of the socials was to raise money for the Church Maintenance Fund.

On Saturday, parishioners had coffee and cake as they socialized for the first time since the pandemic began.

On Sunday morning, five "Saints" attended the Liturgy. They were St. Gabriel the Archangel, St. George, St. John the Baptist, St. Lucia and St. Peter. The students who portrayed these saints were Devon Shetler, Blake Shetler, Luke MacDonald, Ellie MacDonald and Mila Almanza.

Father Athanasius Cherry spoke



about the significance of each saint and the children explained the symbols each carried. Following the Liturgy, parishioners had donuts, coffee and juice while enjoying each other's company.

GCU USA provided giveaways for everyone. Lodge 321 provided Giant Eagle gift cards as door prizes, which were awarded at each event.

While the total money donated to the Church Maintenance Fund has not been finalized, the parishioners were very generous. GCU USA will match the first \$5,000. ■



ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST IN SCOTTDALE, PA.

Dinner is served

The annual Spaghetti Dinner was held Oct. 17 at St. John the Baptist in Scottsdale, Pa. Below, Mike Lashinsky prepares spaghetti while Blaise Wisniewski, Anita Wisniewski and Dolly Litman prepare salads. ■



Dolly Litman, Barb Zaksek, Betty Sapola and JoAnn Suchko work on the salads.



A basket raffle was held at the conclusion of the dinner.

Honoring veterans

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST CATHEDRAL IN MUNHALL, PA.

St. John the Baptist Cathedral in Munhall, Pa. honored its veterans who have served our nation.

Very Rev. Andrew Deskevich blessed the living vets and

remembered those who have passed.

All attending received cookies decorated in a patriotic red, white and blue. ■

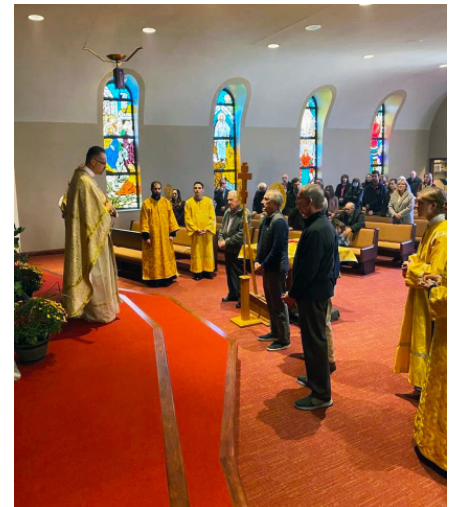


ST. GREGORY IN UPPER ST. CLAIR, PA.

*by Father Valerian Michlik
St. Gregory, Upper St. Clair, Pa.*

In anticipation of Veterans Day, on Sunday, Nov. 7, prayerful supplications were offered for all our living and departed St. Gregory's Veterans and Military Personnel.

Our parish family is grateful for the sacrifices you've made that we might live in a nation of peace and freedom. Today, we say, "Thank you!" to the women and men who have served our nation in the armed forces. ■



ST. MICHAEL IN CAMPBELL, OHIO

*by Father Kevin Marks
St. Gregory, Upper St. Clair, Pa.*

Our St. Michael Parish honored our Veterans Sunday, Nov. 7 in Campbell, Ohio.

Those in attendance received a special blessing and a tote bag.

Happy Veterans Day to our St. Michael Parish Veterans! ■





Tricks and treats

ST. MICHAEL IN CAMPBELL, OHIO

*by Father Kevin Marks
St. Michael, Campbell, Ohio*

Our St. Michael's parish ECF students had a 'spooktacular' time at the annual Halloween Bash on Oct. 26.

This fun-filled evening included Trick or Treating, games such as Pumpkin Bowling, Mummy

Wrap, Skeleton Relay Race, Witches Hat Ring Toss and Pin The Eyeball On The Zombie along with delicious food.

These Byzkids didn't want the night to end!

Thank you to our Catechists for making it a night to remember. ■



ST. GREGORY IN UPPER ST. CLAIR, PA.

*by Father Valerian Michlik
St. Gregory, Upper St. Clair, Pa.*

All was ready for this year's Trunk or Treat at St. Gregory. Following the Divine Liturgy our ECF students exited the Church Hall where our parishioners were ready to distribute candy.

Our children did really well and quickly filled up their bags with plenty of treats.

Afterward, we continued in the Church Hall with fun games and crafts.

We express our sincere thanks to all who participated in this fun event. ■



2021 Year in Review

Taking a look back...

As the year draws to a close and the calendar prepares to turn to 2022, it's important to take a look back to the previous 12 months.

Following the start of the pandemic in early 2020, this year continued to be challenging in many ways.

But as conditions improved, Metropolitan Archbishop William Skurla reinstated the obligation to attend the Divine Liturgy in person on Sundays and Holy Days beginning on Aug. 15, the Feast of the Dormition of the

Theotokos, the Mother of God.

Faithful celebrated the risen Lord on Pascha, reignited parish activities such as summer picnics, and post-Divine Liturgy fellowship, and celebrated a return Sept. 5 to Mount St. Macrina in Uniontown, Pa. for the annual Pilgrimage in Honor of Our Lady of Perpetual Help.

The staff of *The Byzantine Catholic World* wishes you a Joyous Christmas and a Blessed New Year! ■

Jan. 10



Take me to the river

With the Monaca-Rochester Bridge as a backdrop, members and friends of the three Byzantine Catholic parishes of Beaver County, Pa. — St. Mary, Ambridge; St. George, Aliquippa; and St. Nicholas Chapel, Beaver — gathered on Sunday, Jan. 10, the Sunday after Theophany, for the Great Blessing of Water. Led by pastors, Father Will Rupp and Father Geoffrey Mackey, they gathered at Bridgewater Crossing, a Beaver County park, to bless the waters where the Beaver River flows into the Ohio. Photo by Janessa Fisk.

Feb. 10



Do you want to build snowman?

On a cold, snowy February day, Nikolai Stashkevych, son of Father Vitalii and Pani Mary Stashkevych, built a snowman to welcome everyone to St. Elias in Munhall, Pa.

April 4



The Radiant Resurrection

Faithful returned to parishes for Holy Week and Easter this year following restrictions put in place during the pandemic in 2020. Archbishop William Skurla and Very Rev. Andrew Deskevich (top) during Easter procession at St. John the Baptist Cathedral in Munhall, Pa.; Father Vasyl Banyk blesses baskets at Holy Trinity in Sykesville, Pa.; baskets at St. John the Baptist Cathedral; and Father Kevin Marks blesses baskets at St. Michael in Campbell, Ohio.

June 5



“Helping Hands Day”

Volunteers came to the House of Prayer at Mount St. Macrina in Uniontown, Pa. June 5 for “Helping Hands Day.” The event, sponsored by the Greek Catholic Union, returned this year following a hiatus in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic.



A year of ordinations



Father Miron Kerul'-Kmec Jr. (left) was ordained to the priesthood June 26 by Archbishop William Skurla at St. John the Baptist Cathedral in Munhall, Pa.



Deacon Robert Lee Jones was ordained to the Presbyterate by Archbishop William Skurla in the chapel of SS. Cyril and Methodius Seminary on Thursday, Aug. 26 during the opening Divine Liturgy for the new academic year.



Metropolitan Archbishop William Skurla ordained Nathanael Mark Kline to Minor Orders, the Sub-Diaconate and the Diaconate on Saturday, Aug. 21 at his home parish, St. Mary Assumption in Weirton, W. Va.



Archbishop William C. Skurla ordained Sub-deacon Michael David Kunitz to the Diaconate Oct. 3 during the parochial Divine Liturgy at the Cathedral of Saint John the Baptist in Munhall, Pa.

Summer fun in July



Fun in the summertime

Clockwise from top: John Onusko, Mike Marcej and Steve Motsey busy cooking burgers and hot dogs on the grill July 27 during the fourth annual parish picnic at St. John in Scottsdale, Pa.; St. Michael in Campbell, Ohio sponsored its "Treasured" Vacation Bible School the week of July 12, as parish children learned that God knows, hears, comforts, forgives and chooses them because they are; and St. John the Baptist Cathedral in Munhall, Pa. served a mid-summer take out roast beef dinner July 17 and 18.

Sept. 5



"Showers of blessings"

Archbishop William Skurla (top left) delivers his homily during the Hierarchical Divine Liturgy at the 87th annual Pilgrimage in Honor of Our Lady of Perpetual Help Sept. 5, as faithful of the Archeparchy of Pittsburgh returned to Mount St. Macrina in Uniontown, Pa.

Sept. 19



Celebrating 50 years

St. Gregory celebrated its 50th anniversary Sept. 19, beginning with the procession led by St. Gregory's Acolytes, the Knights of Columbus, and ECF children. It concluded with clergy and the Most Rev. Metropolitan Archbishop William C. Skurla.

Sept. 26



Celebrating 125 years

SS. Peter and Paul in Braddock, Pa. celebrated its 125th anniversary Sept. 26 with a Hierarchical Divine Liturgy celebrated by Archbishop William Skurla.



THOUGHTS FOR OUR DAY

by Archpriest David M. Petras


THE PRE-SANCTIFIED DIVINE LITURGY



There are two anaphoras in common use in the Byzantine Church, one attributed to St. Basil the Great and the other to St. John Chrysostom. When these prayers are said, the bread and wine offered by the community become the Body and Blood of Christ by the power of God. The anaphora is the real re-enactment of God's salvation, and the gifts consecrated are completed by receiving them in Holy Communion, which brings about our deification, for we become what we eat. The gifts we receive are not the dead body of our Lord, but his living Body, raised in the mystery of the Resurrection. We might say, then, that the anaphora is not only the prayer of sacrifice, but the prayer of resurrection.

The most holy time of the year in the Church is the Great Fast, which we also call the Great Lent. It is a solemn time of preparation to celebrate Pascha, the Greek term for Passover, which commemorates the salvation of our Lord accomplished on the Cross and in his glorious Resurrection. The Byzantine Church thus decided that we would also abstain from the commemoration of the resurrection as we prepare ourselves for the celebration of the Resurrection. A Divine Liturgy was created in which there was no anaphora, no eucharistic prayer, which would be a commemoration of the mystery of the resurrection. This period is from the Monday after Cheesefare, or Forgiveness, Sunday until Holy Saturday.

There were four exceptions: each Sunday, for Sunday is the weekly celebration of resurrection; each Saturday, for Saturday is the Sabbath day and is holy; the feast of the Annunciation, one of the twelve great feasts which certainly partakes of the mystery of our Lord's incarnation; and Holy Thursday, the day on which Jesus instituted the mystery of the Eucharist.


A Divine Liturgy was created in which there was no anaphora, no eucharistic prayer, which would be a commemoration of the mystery of the resurrection.

Yet though there was no anaphora prayed on the days of the Fast, it was felt that the faithful could not be deprived of the Bread of Life, Holy Communion in the Body and Blood of Christ. Therefore, the holy gifts were consecrated on the preceding Sunday, and were distributed during the week in a service of Communion with Vespers, called therefore the "Presanctified" Divine Liturgy. The Great Fast was seen as our forty day journey to the promised land of the resurrection, and so we were fed with the holy gifts just as the Hebrew children were fed on manna from heaven during their forty year journey to the promised

land of Israel. Originally, the Presanctified Liturgy was celebrated daily, but today the custom is that it is celebrated on Wednesday and Friday and the first three days of Holy Week. We are not deprived, then, of the spiritual food that gives us life.

The Presanctified Divine Liturgy has no Anaphora. The gift is already the real presence of the Body of Christ, for the bread is consecrated on Sunday, but not the wine. The gift of the Body of our Lord is brought to the Holy Table in a solemn procession which is done in silence. After the gift is placed on the Holy Table, there is no prayer of approach to the altar, no kiss of peace, no anaphora, but the deacon immediately says the litany of the Angel of Peace and the priest reads the prayer before the Our Father. This is a particularly solemn prayer for Holy Communion which may be said to be the replacement for the Anaphora. We should attend carefully to this prayer in order to understand the mystery of the Great Fast.

The Presanctified Divine Liturgy was introduced probably in the fifth century after our Lord, and some would possibly have considered it untraditional. The prayer begins, then, by addressing God as "God of mysteries beyond human thought and vision," and that God has "revealed to us the service of this liturgy," and that it is, indeed, a "gift and sacrifice for our (the priest's) sins and for the peoples failings.." The priest knows he has sinned but does not judge the people. The gift of Holy Communion is then proclaimed as a wonder and miracle that delivers us "from every impurity," and "sanctifies our souls and bodies with a holiness that

cannot be taken away." The gift is intended for us who stand before the presence of God in the holy mysteries present on the Holy Table of the altar. We cannot make ourselves worthy of the gifts by our own power, but only by the action of God who enables us to partake of the gifts "with a pure conscience, without shame and with an enlightened heart." That this is true is confirmed by two passages from the New Testament, first, that we are given life and united with Christ, as Jesus taught us in the Gospel of St. John, "whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood remains in me, and I in him" (John 6:56) and second, that we become temples of the Holy Spirit by partaking of the Bread of Life, as St. Paul wrote, "Do you not know that your body is a temple of the holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own?" (1 Corinthians 6:19). Holy Communion, then, is that true mystery that rescues us from evil and gives us God's promised blessings, the fulfillment of our journey to his Holy Land.

Before distributing Holy Communion, the priest unites the consecrated bread which is the true Body of Christ with unconsecrated wine to facilitate the giving of the gift. It is now generally believed that the wine remains plain wine, and not the Blood of Christ. However, some liturgists believe that the faith of the Church was that the wine becomes the Blood of Christ when it touches the consecrated Body of Christ. In either case, we treat it with great respect, for, indeed, in the Presanctified Divine Liturgy, we are given life by being united with Christ himself, our true God. ■

PARISH LITURGIES BROADCAST VIA INTERNET

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

St. Stephen
North Huntingdon, Pa.
www.facebook.com/ststephenbyzantinecatholicchurch

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



TEXT MESSAGES

Christmas on Aliquippa Ave.

by David Mayernik Jr.
Editor



On Sept. 21, 1897, the New York Sun published an editorial responding to a query from eight-year-old Virginia

O'Hanlon: "Some of my little friends say there is no Santa Claus. Papa says, 'If you see it in THE SUN it's so.' Please tell me the truth; is there a Santa Claus?"

The newspaper's response, in short was: "Yes, VIRGINIA, there is a Santa Claus. He exists as certainly as love and generosity and devotion exist, and you know that they abound and give to your life its highest beauty and joy."

It's too bad I never got to meet Virginia because I could have told her about the time — around 80 years later in 1977 — I got to see Santa Claus

Following midnight mass at St. Mary in Monessen, Pa., my 8-year-old self saw Santa Claus on top of my grandparents' three-story house on Aliquippa Avenue.

After getting out of the car, I spotted a dark figure, moving gingerly across the narrow rooftop.

But questions of how someone could possibly deliver toys to every house around the world in one night — posed by my dad at the time — lingered.

Later that night, I was sleeping on the rollaway bed and distinctly saw a red light shining through the window. It had to be Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer.

I'm not aware of any follow-ups to Virginia's story but I hope her faith was restored by the Sun.

Mine was on that bitterly cold Christmas Eve.

True story.

■ Once again, I'll end the year in this space the same way I have every year since 2016, with the final lines of my favorite Christmas poem, "E.B. White's Christmas."

It was published in The New Yorker on Dec. 20, 1952 and is written by the author of beloved children's books "Stuart Little" and "Charlotte's Web."

It's worth a Google search to read the entire poem.

And last, we greet all skaters on small natural ponds at the edge of woods toward the end of afternoon. Merry Christmas, skaters! Ring, steel! Grow red, sky! Die down, wind! Merry Christmas to all and to all a good morrow!

Have a blessed Christmas and a healthy 2022! ■



BULLETIN BOARD

Mount St. Macrina online programs

Mount Saint Macrina House of Prayer, 510 W. Main St., Uniontown Pa. has announced upcoming virtual online programs on Zoom.

For more information or to register, call 724-438-7149 or email hpmsm@verizon.net. Email address required to receive link.

■ **Christmas Afternoon of Reflection** with Father Stephen Wahal. 1-2:30 pm. Dec. 12. Offering: \$20. Registration due: Dec. 7. Available on Zoom. ■

Hitting the right notes

The East Winds Symphonic Band performed Oct. 17 at St. John the Baptist Cathedral in Munhall, Pa. The event supported the Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank. ■



Photos by Nick Havrilla Sr.



Pre-Cana Program

for engaged couples
Ss. Cyril & Methodius Seminary
Saturday March 26 & April 2, 2022

Topics covered:

- ❖ Communication, Forgiveness & Intimacy
- ❖ Finances & Budgeting
- ❖ Marriage & Sexuality
- ❖ Why a Church Wedding?
- ❖ Elements of a Healthy Marriage
- ❖ Theology of Marriage/Crowning Ceremony

For information about registration, fees, etc. go to archpitt.org – Office of Religious Education link

REFLECTION FROM MOUNT ST. MACRINA

To see, notice and respond

by Sister Barbara Jean Mihalchick, OSBM
Sisters of St. Basil the Great
Mount St. Macrina, Uniontown, Pa.



Sister Barbara Jean Mihalchick posts videos of her reflections each week on the Facebook page of the Sisters of St. Basil the Great. This is a transcript of her

Dec. 5, 2020 reflection.

Glory to Jesus Christ!

Are you managing to keep an attitude of gratitude?

I'm trying to stay thankful for little things. One special thing is St. Nicholas' Feast falls on Sunday this year (2020).

In the Eastern Catholic Church, the Byzantine Catholic Church especially, we give particular honor to this saint and call him our Patron. We historically know very little about him but the traditions and legends passed on to us tell us about a man of great kindness and compassion; an imitator of Our Lord Jesus Christ.

So much so that even in the liturgical prayers of the Byzantine Church, they insert in this Feast prayers directly from Christmas.

Let me share a couple of them.

The fruit of your good works, O Holy Father, has brought joy to the hearts of the faithful. Who, indeed, has not heard of your wonderful works and not admired your patience and humility, the joy with which you fill the poor and the compassion that you show to the afflicted. You have truly been an admirable example for all and now that your unfading crown has been placed on you, O Holy Nicholas, pray for our souls.

That's a prayer that honors him, of which there are many. But on the same page, this prayer directly related to the coming of Our Savior:

O Zion, People of God, be happy; rejoice, O Jerusalem, the city of Christ Our God. Welcome the Creator who rests in a manger in a cave. Open your gates, Jerusalem, and I will enter so that I may see Him Who holds all creation in His hand, even though He lies in the manger wrapped in swaddling clothes. The angels ever praise this life-giving Lord Who is the only Savior of all.

Why are they linked so? The key message is "compassion."

Remember I was talking about Advent and preparing for Christmas with the plight of our neighbor in mind: to see, to notice and to respond. Certainly, this is what Nicholas, and his contemporary format of Santa Claus, is all about. To see, to notice a true need, to respond with action that matters.

That's still our Call as we are the Body of Christ; His working hands, in these times.

God bless you. ■



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.

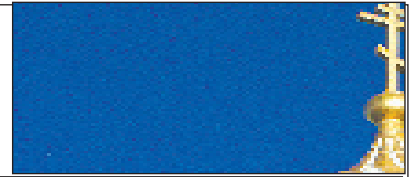
Schedule of Services for December

WED 1	7 a.m. 1st Royal Hour of Nativity (R)
THU 2	7 a.m. 3rd Royal Hour of Nativity (R)
FRI 3	7 a.m. 6th Royal Hour of Nativity (R)
	6 p.m. 9th Royal Hour of Nativity (R) [LS]
SAT 4	9 a.m. Divine Liturgy (M) [LS]
	5 p.m. Nativity Vespers (R) [LS]
SUN 5	8 a.m. Festal Matins with Divine Liturgy (R)
MON 6	7 a.m. Festal Matins with Divine Liturgy (R)
TUE 7	7 a.m. Emmanuel Moleben (R)
WED 8	7 a.m. Divine Liturgy (R)
THU 9	7 a.m. Festal Orthros (M)
FRI 10	8 a.m. 3rd Hour with Divine Liturgy (M)
SUN 12	7 a.m. Festal Matins (R)
MON 13	8 a.m. Divine Liturgy (R)
WED 15	7 a.m. Divine Liturgy (R)
THU 16	7 a.m. 1st and 3rd Hour (R)
FRI 17	8 a.m. 6th and 9th Hour (R)

(M) Melkite tradition

(R) Ruthenian tradition

[LS] Livestream

AROUND THE
ARCHEPARCHY

PRE-CANA PROGRAM — The Office of Religious Education will sponsor a Pre-Canva Program for engaged couples on Saturday, March 26 and Saturday, April 2, 2022 at SS. Cyril and Methodius Seminary in Pittsburgh, Pa. Topics covered include: Communication, Forgiveness and Intimacy; Finances and Budgeting; Marriage and Sexuality; Why a Church Wedding?; Elements of a Healthy Marriage; and Theology of Marriage/Crowning Ceremony. For information about registration, fees, etc. go to archpitt.org – Office of Religious Education link.

HOLY GHOST PIROHI KITCHEN — Dec. 3, 10 and 17, Holy Ghost, 206 Helen St., McKees Rocks (The Bottoms), Pa. Potato and Kraut. (Cheese when available). Cost: \$12 per dozen. To order, call 412-331-5155 between 9 a.m.-noon on Wednesday prior to sale date. Limited orders on day of sale. Eat-in available Winner of Kennywood's Pierogie Fest 2019 and 2020. The order desk opens at 9 a.m. Fridays and remains open for a limited number of phone orders. Walk-ins are subject to availability. No additional orders are taken on the last Friday before Christmas (Dec. 17), as orders sell-out on the Wednesday prior. Masks are required for non-vaccinated persons.

CHRISTMAS CRAFT/BAKE SALE — Noon-5 p.m. Dec. 4, 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Dec. 5, St. John the Baptist, 201 E. Main St., Uniontown, Pa. Many craft items made by the Ethnic Craft Club of St. John the Baptist. The sale will feature indoor and outdoor wooden decorations, Santas, trees, snowmen, window stars, wreaths, tree ornaments including some with icons or pysanky designs, and imported items including embroideries, icons, and other folk art from Slovakia and Ukraine. Raffles to be awarded. Available once again is the parish cookbook, “Carpathian Cookery” now in its 19th printing. Delicious baked goods, including long rolls (nut, poppyseed, apricot, and pineapple cottage cheese), small kolachy (pastries filled with nut, poppyseed, and apricot), breads, molded candy, many varieties of cookies, and more will be available for purchase. Nativity Display will be shown (subject to change). No charge for admission. For information call the church office at 724-438-6027 from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Monday to Friday (leave message).

ST. ELIAS CHRISTMAS BAKERY AND PIROHI ORDER PICK-UPS — St. Elias in Munhall, Pa. is reminding all who placed orders to pick-up at these times: Bakery orders: 11 a.m.-1 p.m., 5-6 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 11 and 10 a.m.-noon Sunday, Dec. 12. Pirohi orders: 10:15 a.m.-2 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 12. St. Elias thanks all who supported the church in these important fundraisers and wish all a very blessed Christmas and healthy and prosperous New Year!

GOULASH DINNER — 4-7 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 15, 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 16, St. John Cathedral, 210 Greentree Road, Munhall, Pa. A take-out only Goulash dinner includes Beef Goulash, dumplings, veggie, roll and butter. Pre-orders will be guaranteed. To pre-order, call 412-461-0944. In addition, quarts of haluski, quarts of soup, our kolache, and various baked goods will be sold.

DATES TO
REMEMBER

DEC. 5

St. Nicholas Celebration
St. John the Baptist Cathedral, Munhall, Pa.

DEC. 6

Feast of Our Holy Father Nicholas of Myra

DEC. 8

Feast of the Maternity of Holy Anna

DEC. 19

“Christmas at the Cathedral”
Pittsburgh Byzantine Catholic Archeparchial Choir
St. John the Baptist Cathedral, Munhall, Pa.

DEC. 25

Feast of the Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ
Chancery closed Dec. 24

DEC. 26

Feast of the Synaxis of the Holy Theotokos

DEC. 27

Feast of the Holy Protomartyr Stephen

DEC. 31

Vigil of the Feast of the Circumcision of our Lord
Vigil of the Feast of St. Basil the Great
New Year's Eve
Chancery closed Dec. 31

See more upcoming events at www.archpitt.org

THE BYZANTINE CATHOLIC
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CHRISTMAS 2021

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DECEMBER 13