

WORLD

THE BYZANTINE CATHOLIC



Special
PASCHA
issue!

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PASCHA 2022

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WORLD

THE BYZANTINE CATHOLIC

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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.

HOLY WEEK AND PASCHA SCHEDULE

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST
BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CATHEDRAL
210 GREENTREE ROAD
MUNHALL, PA. 15120
WWW.STJOHNSBYZANTINECATHEDRAL.COM
412-461-0944



Holy Week and Pascha services may be viewed
online at www.stjohnsbyzantinecathedral.com.

HOLY MONDAY

7 P.M. APRIL 11

- Presanctified Liturgy

HOLY TUESDAY

7 P.M. APRIL 12

- Presanctified Liturgy

HOLY WEDNESDAY

7 P.M. APRIL 13

- Presanctified Liturgy
with Anointing of the Sick

HOLY THURSDAY

7 P.M. APRIL 14

- Great Vespers with Divine Liturgy of
St. Basil the Great

GOOD FRIDAY

9 A.M. APRIL 15

- Royal Hours

7 P.M. APRIL 15

- Entombment Vespers for Good Friday
and Procession with the Holy Shroud

HOLY SATURDAY

7 P.M. APRIL 16

- Resurrection Matins and Divine Liturgy

THE RADIANT RESURRECTION

9 A.M. APRIL 17

- Divine Liturgy

BRIGHT MONDAY

9 A.M. APRIL 18

- Divine Liturgy

IN BLESSED MEMORY



HAPPY ARE THE ONES WHOM YOU HAVE
CHOSEN AND RECEIVED, O LORD;
THEY ARE REMEMBERED FOREVER. ALLELUIA!

Commemorating the 21st Anniversary
of the repose in the Lord of His Eminence

Archbishop Thomas Victor Dolinay
Metropolitan Archbishop of Pittsburgh

Born: July 24, 1923

Ordained: May 16, 1948

Episcopal Ordination: November 23, 1976

Enthroned as Metropolitan Archbishop: June 12, 1991

Fell asleep in the Lord: Bright Tuesday, April 13, 1993

IN BLESSED MEMORY



HAPPY ARE THE ONES WHOM YOU
HAVE CHOSEN AND RECEIVED, O LORD;
THEY ARE REMEMBERED FOREVER. ALLELUIA!

Commemorating the 13th Anniversary
of the repose in the Lord of His Eminence

Archbishop Judson M. Procyk
Metropolitan Archbishop of Pittsburgh

Born: April 9, 1931

Ordained: May 19, 1957

Episcopal Ordination: February 7, 1995

Fell asleep in the Lord: April 24, 2001



PASCHA 2022



Christ is Risen! Indeed He is Risen!

On Easter morning, Jesus arose from the darkness of death from the tomb. The apostles and disciples were filled with fear. In a flash of light, Christ overcame sin and death. He opened the path to eternal life for us. The whole world is invited to listen to the Easter story, to follow His teachings which will bring them to new life with the Risen Lord now and to the life to come in heaven.

As we celebrate the Lord's Resurrection this year, we continue to emerge from the third year under the dark cloud of virus. The current sixth wave of infections due to the new variants is less deadly and more manageable than the past waves. Gradually, people are adjusting to the new normal of life. We pray for those who have suffered and passed during the past year.

Unfortunately, another deeper darkness has descended upon the world. The current invasion and war between Russia and Ukraine has shocked the world. The Ukrainian soldiers have fought bravely beyond all expectations. There is hope that the killing will stop. However, thousands have died with damage in the billions of dollars. Ten million people have been displaced from their homes. We pray for the end of the madness and their return to their homes in peace.

Our people and churches have responded with the largest collection in the history of our Byzantine Catholic Church. So far, the Archeparchy and other Eparchies have collected over \$500,000 to help feed and support the homeless.

Bishop Nil of Mukachevo sends thanks on behalf of those in their time of desperate need. The stories from the bishop's calls confirm the images in the news which are chilling. The people living day to day without food and in fear is heart breaking. We continue to send our support and daily prayers that the suffering will end. We give thanks to all who are helping. And, we pray that the Mother of God will protect everyone from harm.

We remember to continue to pray the Act of Consecration to the Immaculate Heart of Mary:

“O Mary, Mother of God and our mother, in this time of trial we turn to you. As our mother, you love us and know us: No concern of our hearts is hidden from you. Mother of mercy, how often we have experienced your watchful care and your peaceful presence! You never cease to guide us to Jesus, the prince of peace....

Holy Mother, amid the misery of our sinfulness, amid our struggles and weaknesses, amid the mystery of iniquity that is evil and war, you remind us that God never abandons us, but continues to look upon us with love, ever ready to forgive us and raise us up to new life. He has given you to us and made your Immaculate Heart a refuge for the church and for all humanity. By God's gracious will, you are ever with us; even in the most troubled moments of our history, you are there to guide us with tender love....

O Mother, may your sorrowful plea stir our hardened hearts. May the tears you shed for us make this valley parched by our hatred blossom anew. Amid the thunder of weapons, may your prayer turn our thoughts to peace. May your maternal touch soothe those who suffer and flee from the rain of bombs. May your motherly embrace comfort those forced to leave their homes and their native land. May your sorrowful heart move us to compassion and inspire us to open our doors and to care for our brothers and sisters who are injured and cast aside.

Holy Mother of God, as you stood beneath the cross, Jesus, seeing the disciple at your side, said: “Behold your son” (Jn 19:26). In this way, he entrusted each of us to you. To the disciple, and to each of us, he said: “Behold, your Mother” (Jn 19:27). Mother Mary, we now desire to welcome you into our lives and our history.

At this hour, a weary and distraught humanity stands with you beneath the cross, needing to entrust itself to you and, through you, to consecrate itself to Christ. The people of Ukraine and Russia, who venerate you with great love, now turn to you, even as your heart beats with compassion for them and for all those peoples decimated by war, hunger, injustice and poverty....

Through your intercession, may God's mercy be poured out on the earth and the gentle rhythm of peace return to mark our days. Our Lady of the “fiat,” on whom the Holy Spirit descended, restore among us the harmony that comes from God. May you, our “living fountain of hope,” water the dryness of our hearts. In your womb Jesus took flesh; help us to foster the growth of communion. You once trod the streets of our world; lead us now on the paths of peace. Amen.”

May next Easter be a celebration with the darkness of pandemic and war lifted by the light of the Resurrection of Christ.

Christ is Risen!

+ William C. Skurla

Most Reverend William C. Skurla, D.D.
Metropolitan Archbishop of Pittsburgh



Praying for Ukraine

General Superior visits Sisters of St. Basil the Great in Uniontown, Pa.

Posted on Facebook March 29:

Recently Mother Marcela Runcan, OSBM, General Superior of the Order, visited the Sisters in Uniontown, Pa.

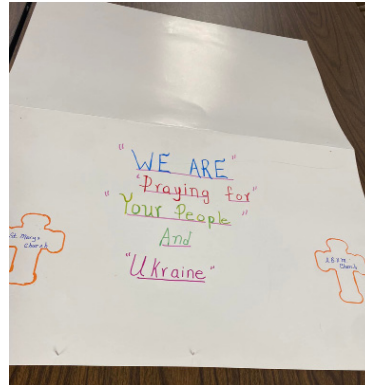
She distributed the new edition of the Kenotic Way, the Constitutions of the Order, to our sisters.

Mother Marcela expressed gratitude for the financial aid for Ukraine offered by benefactors, currently being collected via our Uniontown Province.

The money is being sent directly to our Sisters in Europe who are ministering to the Ukrainian refugees. ■

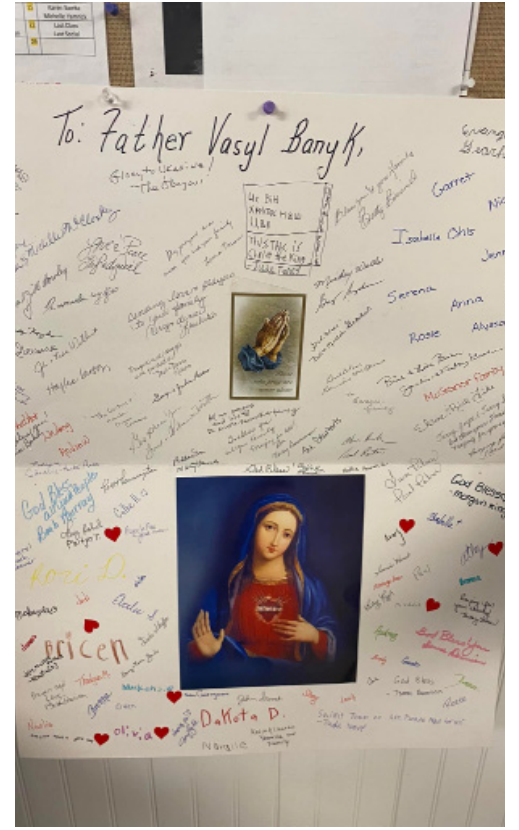


Support for Father Vasyl, family



Posted on Facebook March 27:

Thank you to Assumption Parish of Sykesville, Pa. and Saint Mary's Parish of Reynoldsville, Pa. Your support for Father Vasyl Banyk, pastor at Holy Trinity in Sykesville and Nativity of the Mother of God in DuBois, Pa., and his family are very much appreciated. May God grant you all many blessed years. ■



Moleben to the Holy Cross

Faithful at Holy Trinity in Sykesville, Pa. gathered March 31 for a Moleben to the Holy Cross, procession and Prayer for End to War in Ukraine. ■



Windber Churches praying for Ukraine

by William Koshute
St. Mary, Windber, Pa.

Aware of the direct connection to Ukraine as the homeland of assigned pastor Reverend Ivan Rusyn, his wife Mariana and their children, the Windber churches of all denominations: Roman Catholic, Church of the Brethren, Lutheran, Methodist, Orthodox, and all non-denominational churches have been praying constantly for Peace in Ukraine and the people of Ukraine.

Stepping into the narthex this week of St. Mary Church of the Dormition Byzantine Catholic Church in Windber, Pa, one is greeted with "An Eccumenical Outpouring of Support" from the Windber faith community as a special gift, in the form of signatures of prayer support for Father Ivan and his family.

"Thank you from the bottom of

our hearts for your prayerful support for the people of Ukraine.

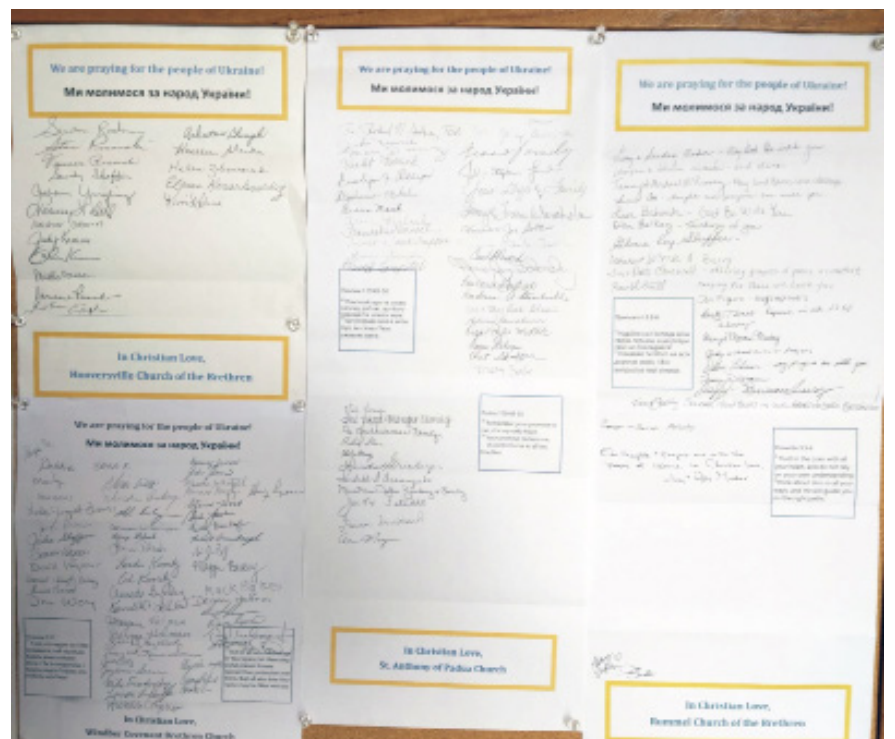
At this time our homeland Ukraine is experiencing a strong fight at all levels: military, financial and spiritual. Many people of Ukraine are greatly suffering, at the same time many are experiencing extraordinary support and love.

Millions of people of goodwill all over the world are standing up and united in a prayer for the Truth to Win.

May the people of America never experience such a tragic days in their history.

Thank you again for your support. God Bless you and all your families!"

This sincere gesture of prayer and kindness and others like it, will keep our faith and hope alive! ■



Holy Spirit Byzantine Catholic Church
March 31 at 8:48 PM

We continue to pray for an end to the invasion of Ukraine by Russia and for all of the innocent people harmed by it on both sides. May God grant eternal rest to those who have perished and healing to the injured.

#PrayForPeace #LordHaveMercy

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2 Comments



Coming together during the Great Fast

FAITHFUL GATHER FOR ANNUAL PITTSBURGH PROTOPRESBYTERY PENITENTIAL VESPERS SERVICES, SEMINARIANS HOLD RETREAT AT MOUNT ST. MACRINA

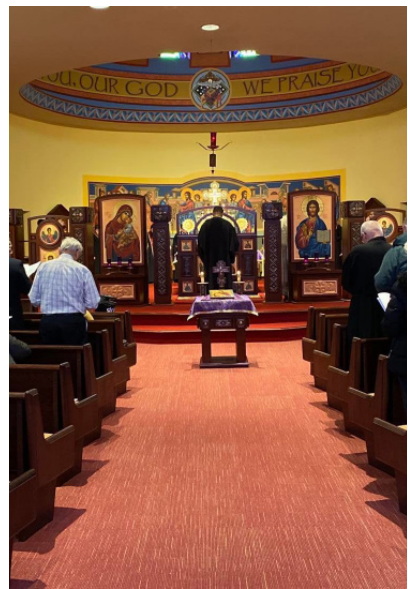
*By Father Valerian Michlik
St. Gregory, Upper St. Clair, Pa.*

On Sunday afternoon, April 3, the faithful of the Pittsburgh Protopresbytery/Deanery gathered for the final Great Fast Vespers at St. Gregory Byzantine Catholic Church in Upper St. Clair, Pa.

The homilist for the evening was Very Rev. Andrew J. Deskevich, Protosyncellus of the Archeparchy of Pittsburgh.

Following this prayerful event we all gathered in our Church hall for Lenten soup and bread that was served by our faithful.

Vespers services were also held this year at: St. John the Baptist, Lyndora, Pa.; SS. Peter and Paul, Duquesne, Pa.; Holy Ghost, McKees Rocks, Pa.; and St. John Chrysostom, Pittsburgh, Pa. ■



Posted April 5 on Facebook:
The Seminarians of SS. Cyril and Methodius Seminary, in Pittsburgh, Pa., recently made a Poustinia retreat at Mount St. Macrina House of Prayer. They sang the Akathist Hymn to the Theotokos Friday evening in the Shrine of Our Lady of Perpetual Help, then spent time in silent prayer. On Sunday morning they participated with the Sisters in the Divine Liturgy of St. Basil the Great at the monastery. ■





BULLETIN BOARD

“A New Perspective on Compassion-Courage-Confidence”

17TH ANNUAL WOMEN’S DAY OF REFLECTION SET FOR MAY 7 AT ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST CATHEDRAL, MUNALL, PA.

The 17th annual Women’s Day of Reflection will be held 9 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Saturday, May 7 at the Cathedral of St. John the Baptist, 210 Greentree Road, Munhall, Pa.

This year’s theme is “A New Perspective on: Compassion-Courage-Confidence.” Presenters include:

■ Dr. Regina Poletunow Boerio, Ph. D, a Professor of Psychology & Dean of Humanities and Social Studies at Franciscan University in Steubenville, Ohio.

■ Andrea Wedner, who was seriously wounded Oct. 27, 2018 in a vicious attack on the Jewish community during a morning worship service at Tree of Life Synagogue in the Squirrel Hill neighborhood of Pittsburgh, Pa.

■ Alissa West, who provides Music Therapy services for individuals of all ages with physical and developmental disabilities.

Dr. Poletunow Boerio will discuss “Compassion in Times of Uncertainty,” Andrea will discuss “Courage in Adversity” and Alissa will discuss “Confidence in the Healing Power of Music.”

The event is sponsored by the Byzantine Catholic Archeparchial Office of Religious Education.

A dedicated committee meets throughout the year to plan and coordinate the day, working with a theme of interest to women to help them grow in their spirituality. The springtime event also features a luncheon, vendors and a bountiful basket auction with proceeds donated to local

women’s shelters.

Contact Sister Marion Dobos at 412-322-8773 or mdobos1@gmail.com for more information. Cost of \$40 includes lunch. No refunds. Pre-registration is required. Deadline is April 25.

A registration form is available at archpitt.org. ■

A New Perspective on: Compassion-Courage-Confidence
St. John the Baptist Cathedral, 210 Greentree Road, Munhall, Pa 15120
Saturday, May 7, 2022 (Registration Deadline: April 25, 2022)

Name _____
 Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 Parish _____ Pastor _____

Make check payable to: Office of Religious Education

FEE: \$40 – includes lunch (No Refunds) Please mail this form and your registration fee to:
Office of Religious Education
3605 Perrysville Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15214
(412) 322-8773

Additional registration forms can be found at www.archpitt.org

“The Church as a Family”

22ND ANNUAL SEMINARY LECTURE SET FOR MAY 12

By The Byzantine Catholic Seminary of SS. Cyril and Methodius

The Rev. Dr. Radu Bordeianu will deliver both in person and through livestream the 22nd annual SS. Cyril and Methodius Lecture of the Byzantine Catholic Seminary entitled “The Church as a Family.”

Saint John Chrysostom wrote that “the house is a little Church.” Indeed, Christian upbringing begins in the family, where the spouses are priests for each other, and they dedicate their children to God. As any other family, the Church has many types of members. Some are active in their parishes, some hold different beliefs (mixed marriages), some are only culturally Christian (they are no longer active, but identify with a certain church), while others are “nones” because they do not belong to any church. In a deeper sense, however, all are members of the diverse family that is the Church.

The public is welcome to register for and attend this lecture on Thursday, May 12 at 7 p.m. at the Saint John Cathedral Center in Munhall, Pennsylvania. The lecture will be livestreamed via our website (www.bcs.edu) and



Rev. Dr. Radu Bordeianu

recorded for future access by the public on our YouTube archive. The Seminary website also has registration information for those who plan to attend in-person.

Father Radu Bordeianu is an Associate Professor of Theology at Duquesne University and assistant priest at Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church in Pittsburgh. His research focuses on ecumenical dialogues and various teachings on the Church. He is the author of *Dumitru Staniloae: An Ecumenical Ecclesiology* (2011, Romanian translation 2022), and the editor of *It is the Spirit Who Gives Life: New Directions in Pneumatology* (2022). He served as President of the Orthodox Theological Society of America and is currently a member of the North American Orthodox-Catholic Theological Consultation – the official dialogue between the two churches. He is a co-convener of

the Christian-Jewish Dialogue in Pittsburgh and is involved in local ecumenical dialogues.

The annual lecture series is sponsored by the Byzantine Catholic Seminary of SS. Cyril and Methodius in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, a community of mentors, teachers, and students living and working in an ecumenical environment of Christian unity, integrity, and missionary spirit.

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 the Master of Arts in Theology and Master of Divinity degrees by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and is accredited by the Commission on Accrediting of the Association of Theological Schools. ■



Sundays at 9:00 a.m.
WEDO Radio 810 AM
McKeesport, Pa.
Broadcast live from Holy Ghost Church McKees Rocks, Pa.
 OR via Internet: click “Listen Live” link at www.holyghost-byzantinecatholic.org

The Archeparchy of Pittsburgh Chancery will be closed Thursday, April 14 and Friday, April 15 during Holy Week and Bright Monday, April 18.

The Chancery will resume regular hours on Tuesday, April 19, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

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- Dogmatics
- Liturgy
- Sacred Scripture





TEXT MESSAGES

Lost then found

by David Mayernik Jr.
Editor



Have you ever been thankful to find something you didn't even know was lost?

It's among the more satisfying things in everyday life.

I had the experience recently in the form of a Hills Department store bookmark.

Remember Hills?

To people living in the Pittsburgh area, Hills — “The Anti-Inflation Department Store” — was better than Walmart, Target and Gabe's wrapped up in one.

From the aromas of Cherry Ices and popcorn in the entrance's concession area to a toy department with toys stacked to the ceiling on the highest shelf, there was gold in them thar Hills.

But I digress.

The front of the bookmark I found states “Good reading costs 20% less at Hills” but the opposite side is what makes it such a treasure.

It's my 12-year-old handwriting with an 11-item list of “What I got for Easter.” I didn't mark down the year but I'm thinking it must be circa 1981.

Every Easter my grandpap would set up an elaborate hunt for myself and my brother and sister.

We'd start with a clue that would either lead us to the shower in the basement or the back porch and then on to the enormous attic on the third story of the house on Alliquippa Avenue in Monessen, Pa.

The final hiding place was reserved for our huge Easter baskets filled with candy. (I especially loved the little chocolate bunnies.)

I totally forgot about this, but I wrote down everything I got and where it was hidden:

“1. By Refrigerator: (Twin Pod) Cloud Car Pilot.” (A “Star Wars” action figure.)

“2. Living Room Couch: Animal Crackers Book.” (I collected a lot of books with comic strip compilations.)

“3. Back Porch: Pac-Man Mug.”

“4. Dryer: Grand Prix Cartridge.” (A video game for my Atari 2600. Finding toys in the dryer was the best!)

I still have some of those things somewhere — but for some reason, I'm truly thankful this bookmark is still around after more than 40 years.

Have a blessed Pascha. ■

Vatican releases pope's Lent, Holy Week, Easter schedule



Rome's Colosseum is illuminated during the Way of the Cross in this March 30, 2018, file photo. The Vatican has published Pope Francis' calendar for Holy Week and Easter. Two years after the pandemic, the Via Crucis will once again be celebrated at the Colosseum. Catholic News Service photo/Paul Haring.

by Junno Arocho Esteves
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY — The Vatican published Pope Francis' calendar for Holy Week and Easter, which includes the Way of the Cross at Rome's Colosseum for the first time in two years.

The annual commemoration of Christ's passion at the Colosseum was canceled in 2020 due to restrictions on outdoor gatherings to prevent the spread of COVID-19. And in 2021, there was a pared-down Way of the Cross service in St. Peter's Square.

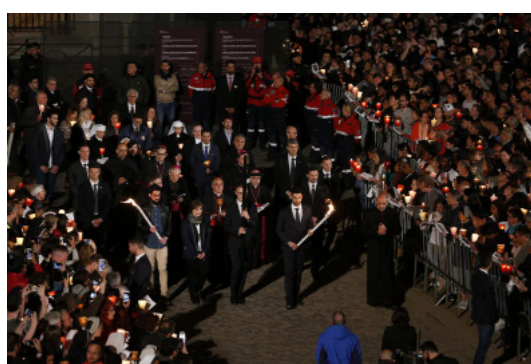
The Vatican said that Masses on Palm Sunday, Easter Sunday, as well as a canonization Mass May 15 will be celebrated outdoors for the first time since the pandemic began.

As is customary when first publishing the pope's calendar for Holy Week, the Vatican did not provide the time or place for his celebration of the Mass of the Lord's Supper on Holy Thursday, April 14.

Before the pandemic, Pope Francis had made it a tradition to celebrate the Mass and foot-washing ritual at a prison or detention center, refugee center or rehabilitation facility.

Last year, the pope celebrated a private Mass on Holy Thursday with Cardinal Angelo Becciu, the former prefect of the Congregation for Saints' Causes, who was forced to resign amid an investigation into suspected financial malfeasance.

A man holds a cross during the Way of the Cross presided by Pope Francis at the ancient Colosseum in Rome in this April 19, 2019, file photo. Two years after the pandemic, the Via Crucis will once again be celebrated at the Colosseum. Catholic News Service photo/Paul Haring.

REFLECTION FROM
MOUNT ST. MACRINA

Christ is risen!

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

This is a transcript of her April 4, 2021 reflection.

Christ Is Risen!

Yes, friends, we've come to the Feast of the Glorious Resurrection of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, depicted here with the Icon of the Descent into Hades, since no one saw the Resurrection.

But we know its power; we know its truth. We know its consequences: as Adam and Eve are raised from the dead, we, too, will be raised in Christ. In fact, we are. In this beautiful Feast, our Church starts with the beginning of John's Gospel, which has a lot of parallels with the beginning of the Old Testament, the Book of Genesis.

“In the beginning was the Word,” this Gospel says, and in the beginning was God's creation. The connections are made for life and the renewal of life as happened in the Great and Holy Feast of the Resurrection.

“Jesus was in the world and the world came to be through Him,” referring back to the Creation. “But the world He entered did not know Him. He came to His own creation but His own people did not accept Him.”

As we've gone through the whole Lenten experience, we've been focusing on commitment; commitment to the One who committed His life among us. His life, His suffering; even in the midst of offering His Father's truth to all people, led Him, ultimately, to give His life totally in commitment.

In the giving of His life — the Cross, Death, Resurrection — is the completion. And a completion for us. We are in the Passion, in the Death, in the Resurrection. New life is given to us and Eternal Life is given to us. The Book of Genesis is fulfilled in this Resurrection and in our participation in it.

My friends, let us gloriously celebrate this holy gift, this holy fulfillment, in all the weeks that will follow now in the great joy of singing “Christ is risen!” By death, He conquered death and unto us he has given all of us this new life!

Share it. Enjoy it. God bless you.



ST. MICHAEL IN HERMITAGE, PA.

Veneration of the Holy Cross

by Father Kevin Marks
St. Michael, Hermitage, Pa.

On March 20, the Third Sunday of the Great Fast, the Veneration of the Cross is celebrated.

The cross is solemnly processed and enthroned on the tetrapod and we sing the hymn, "We bow to Your Cross, O Lord, and we glorify Your Holy Resurrection."



SS. PETER AND PAUL IN PUNXSUTAWNEY, PA.

Last call for pierogi

Posted on Facebook March 29: The last week of making pierogi is done. Thanks everyone who ordered! Thank you everyone who came today and helped with pierogi! We appreciate each of you for donating of your time! May God Bless you! ■



ST. GREGORY IN UPPER ST. CLAIR, PA.

Blessing of Prayer Shawls

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

At the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy for the Fifth Sunday of the Great Fast, the Blessing of Prayer Shawls took place in our parish family.

These prayer shawls handcrafted by our faithful will now be delivered to our parish homebound and retired clergy and religious sisters.

The members of our prayer shawl ministry continued afterwards in the church hall creating more prayer shawls for future pastoral visitations.

At the same time members of our St. Gregory's Library Ministry met to discuss the "On the Road to Pascha" Program during which we had the opportunity to share our Lenten reflections. ■



ST. ELIAS IN MUNHALL, PA.

Fish Fry-day!

St. Elias in Munhall, Pa. continued its Lenten fish fries April 1. ■





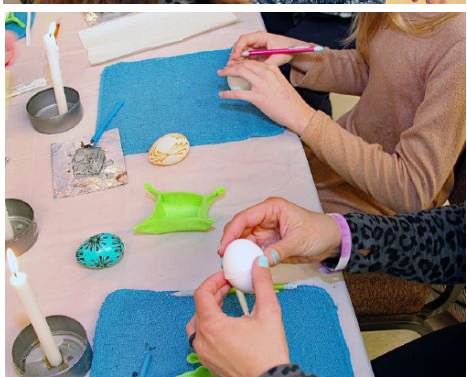
ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST CATHEDRAL IN MUNHALL, PA.

The art of Pysanky

Andrea Harhai, a talented parishioner of the St. John the Baptist Cathedral in Munhall, Pa., offered a Pysanky class at the Social Center April 2.

Passing on the Easter tradition of decorating eggs, those attending had a meaningful experience learning the art.

Michele May co-taught the class and shared her display of pysanky. ■



Photos by Nick Havrilla Sr.

“Messiah in the Passover”

CELEBRATING PASSOVER AND UNDERSTANDING THE LAST SUPPER

By David Mayernik Jr.
Editor

Every Christmas, Nathan Puro’s family whisked him away from their Jewish neighborhood in Scarsdale, N.Y. to Larry Paskow’s Harbor Island Spa in Miami Beach, Fla.

It was there he first got his hands on the New Testament.

“I’d never seen a New Testament. I was bar mitzvahed...it was through that book, that New Testament, and also the influence of a Christian housekeeper who lived in our home who was a born again Christian and witnessed to us...that I came to Christ.”

Nathan, who has been involved in the Messianic Movement since 1989 and served as Messianic Rabbi of Shores David Messianic Congregation from 2004 to 2019, visited St. Gregory in Upper St. Clair, Pa. March 27 with his wife Susan for a presentation entitled “Messiah in the Passover.”

Currently serving as an emissary with Tikkun International and director of a ministry titled Plea Over Pittsburgh, he is a graduate of Word of Life Bible Institute and studied at The King’s University (Jewish Studies Program) and School of Messianic Theology.

Nathan explained different aspects of the traditional Passover Seder table — wine, matzah (unleavened bread), bitter herbs — to shed light on what Jesus and His disciples shared at their last meal together. The event was sponsored by St. Gregory’s Library Ministry.

He described the 15 parts of the Passover Seder, from the weeks of cleansing the household to the final piece of matzah that is consumed.

Passover celebrates the exodus of the Israelites from slavery in Egypt and begins on the 15th day of the Hebrew month of Nisan.

“When Jesus sat down to observe the Passover, how old was the Passover? It was 1,500 years old when Jesus sat down. Add to that 2,000 (years) and this is a 3,500-year-old meal. So that’s a lot of time to get some traditions,” Nathan said.

“Our presenter explained how



Nathan and Susan Puro with Father Valerian Michlik



the rituals and traditions point back to God’s commands to His people to follow in the Old Testament, lead us to a deeper love and understanding of Christ the Son of God sent by the Father to be our Savior,” Father Valerian Michlik, pastor at St. Gregory, said.

For example, there is the Matza-Tash (unity bag); a three-compartment bag designed by rabbis for the Seder, each holding a separate ceremonial piece of Matzah bread.

The host reaches into the second compartment, takes out the matzah, breaks it in two and put some-half back into the Matzah-Tash. The other half — the afikomen — is wrapped it in a white linen cloth until it is “revealed” after the Seder.

“Once it is revealed, we realize it has been with us all the time. This symbolizes the Jewish Messiah was with our people during all the centuries of suffering in the Diaspora, although hidden from their view...Remember: it is broken, ‘buried’ and brought back. Does that remind you of anyone?” Nathan said.

“It is broken and distributed to everyone at the Passover table.”

Nathan explained rabbis say matzah takes the place of the Paschal Lamb. Jesus used this special piece of matzah as a symbol of his body about to be broken.

“It is the last piece of food that is eaten during the Passover Seder. Its taste is to linger in our mouths. We are to develop a taste for this unleavened piece of bread,” he said.

“Jesus, by this act, was indicating that His own sacrifice on the cross, as symbolized by this matzah, would take the place of the Passover offering now and forever.”

Nathan believes Jesus needed to observe that Passover with his Disciples.

“I believe through that He found strength to go to the Cross... I think that encouraged him as he anticipated the suffering that would be His just hours away. The Passover really was the vehicle to which Jesus could best communicate the most significant events in His life.” ■



THOUGHTS FOR OUR DAY

by Archpriest David M. Petras



RESURRECTION IN THE OLD TESTAMENT



The Resurrection of Christ is the center of our Christian faith. How the resurrection took place is not described in the Gospels, but it is certainly presented as a historical reality and the evangelists witness to the effects: Jesus is seen by his followers and the tomb is empty. In the articles to come, I want to return to the meaning of Jesus' resurrection. First, I want to make the observation that Jesus' resurrection was not the first or only rising from the dead. However, it was unique because it brought about a new relationship of people with God, and gave us the hope of eternal life. In the resurrections that occurred before our Lord, the people risen returned to life in this world and had to die again. Jesus, however, does not return to living in human society after his resurrection. He ascends into heaven to take his place at the right hand of the Father. Resurrections from the dead are attributed to the prophets Elijah and Elisha in the Old Testament. We are not speaking about a theology of resurrection or prophecies about resurrection in the future. For example, in Isaiah 26:19, the prophet proclaims: "But your dead shall arise, their corpses shall rise, awake and sing, you who lie in the dust" (Isaiah 26:19). This is the final verse of the Canticum of Isaiah, which is the Fifth Ode on the Matins Canon of the Church, chosen perhaps for its reference to resurrection. Or of the wondrous

reading of the dry bones that rise again in Ezechial 37, which became the subject of the great African-American Hymn, and is the reading for the Liturgy of the Word at Matins on Holy Saturday. We speak here of actual resurrections from the dead:

In I Kings 17, the Prophet Elijah raises the son of the widow

Elisha goes himself, and "he lay upon the child on the bed, placing his mouth upon the child's mouth, his eyes upon the eyes, and his hands upon his hands. As Elisha stretched himself over the child, the body became warm. He arose, paced up and down the room, and then once more lay down upon the boy, who now sneezed seven times and opened his eyes" (2 Kings 4:34-35). This seems more like a gradual healing of a boy who has just died. This story is likewise read at the Paschal Vigil. In both cases, the boys return to ordinary human life, and must die again some day.

A naturalist philosophy would focus on the mechanics of the resuscitations, for that is, indeed, what they are. Our deeper concern here is the faith meaning of these resurrections. It should be noted that they are performed through the prayers of prophets. We think, sometimes too simplistically, that prophets are men who foretell the future. Forecasting the future is just a sidebar to their deeper function, which is to discern and proclaim the will of God. That is why we find the formula in Scripture so often and as the liturgical heading for a prophetic reading, "Thus says the Lord." First and Second Kings, however, are less prophetic texts than history. They give the life of Elijah and Elisha, some of their prophecies and mostly their acts. If these resuscitations are the will of God, then what is being proclaimed is that the God of Israel is a God of life. Life is restored here to the poor - to the widow who has only her son, and to the Shunnamite woman,

not terribly poor materially by any means, but humble in spirit, because of her barrenness. Then her only son, granted to her miraculously, is torn from her. God hears the petition of these people and grants them life.

If Elijah and Elisha, as prophets, are able to pray for life and have it granted, then how much more Jesus, who was seen by the people as the Great Prophet: At the raising of the son of the widow of Nain, "They (the witnesses) began to praise God, 'A great prophet has risen among us,' they said, and 'God has visited his people.'" (Luke 7:16) "They said (Luke and Cleopas speaking to the risen Jesus whom they do not yet recognize), 'All those that had to do with Jesus of Nazareth, a prophet powerful in word and deed in the eyes of God and all the people'" (Luke 24:19). Both of these passages are from the Gospel of Luke, though that is not the only gospel in which he is called a prophet (cf. Matthew 16:14 and John 4:19), and both passages are in the context of a resurrection. Jesus, however, was to prove to be more than a prophet: "When Jesus went into the region of Caesarea Philippi he asked his disciples, 'Who do people say that the Son of Man is?' They replied, 'Some say John the Baptist, others Elijah, still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.' He said to them, 'But who do you say that I am?'" Simon Peter said in reply, 'You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.'" (Matthew 16:13-16) We must now turn to Jesus, who said "I am the Resurrection and the Life" (John 11:25). ■

We must now turn to Jesus, who said "I am the Resurrection and the Life."

(John 11:25)

in Zarephath. He does this by stretching himself out three times on the dead boy, praying, "O Lord, let the life breath return to the body of this child" (1 Kings 17:21). Of course, it is not the prophet who brings about the Resurrection, but "The Lord heard the prayer of Elijah; the life breath returned to the child's body and he revived" (Verse 22). This story is read at the Vigil of Pascha at Vespers.

In 2 Kings 4, Elisha, who received a double portion of the spirit of Elijah, performs a similar resurrection. Again, it is a young boy that is raised. He is the son of a woman in Shunem (not a widow) who had done a kindness to Elisha. Her son dies, and Elisha sends his servant Gehazi to the house. Gehazi lays his staff on the child, who does not revive.

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>

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. 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 April

| | |
|---------------|---|
| WED 13 | 5 p.m. Presanctified Divine Liturgy (R) |
| FRI 15 | 8 a.m. Matins with 12 Gospels (R) Noon Office of Readings (R) 5 p.m. Entombment Vespers (R) |
| SAT 16 | 8 a.m. Orthros of Great Saturday (M) 5 p.m. Vespers and Divine Liturgy of Pascha (M) |
| SUN 17 | 8 a.m. Resurrection Matins and Divine Liturgy (R) 4 p.m. Agape Vespers (R) |
| MON 18 | 8 a.m. Resurrection Matins and Divine Liturgy (R) |
| MON 25 | 8 a.m. Divine Liturgy (R) |
| WED 27 | 7 a.m. Divine Liturgy (M) |
| FRI 29 | 5 p.m. Vespers (M) [LS] |
| SAT 30 | 9 a.m. Divine Liturgy (R) 5 p.m. Great Vespers (R) |

(M) Melkite tradition (R) Ruthenian tradition [LS] Livestream

AROUND THE ARCHEPARCHY



ST. MICHAEL 100TH ANNIVERSARY — St. Michael Byzantine Catholic Church in Campbell, Ohio will be celebrating their 100th Parish Anniversary on Sunday, July 31. If anyone has ties to the Parish and has moved away and would like to receive an invitation to the celebration, you may email: stmichaelcampbell100@gmail.com or call 330-755-4831.

ANNUAL CRAFT/VENDOR SHOW AND FOOD FESTIVAL — 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Saturday, April 23, St. John the Baptist Cathedral, 210 Greentree Road, Munhall, Pa. Dozens of tables of crafters and vendors, crafter showcase auction, raffles, stuffed cabbage/lasagna dinners, haluski, St. John's baked goods and more. For information, call 412-461-0944.

SUPER SATURDAY SALE — 9 a.m.-3 p.m. April 30, St. Pius X, 2336 Brownsville Road. A craft and vendor show. Bake sale and ethnic food will also be sold. We are recruiting vendors and crafters. Any questions, call the church at 412-881-8344.

ETHNIC DINNER — 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Saturday, May 7, St. Mary, Route 981, Trauger, Pa. Take-out only. No dine-in meals. Dinner includes: Halupki, pirohi, Haluski, kolbasi and cake. No substitutions/No à la carte. Drive around and pick-up in back of Social Hall. Tickets: \$15; must be purchased in advance. To purchase tickets call or text Marlene at 412-526-0285 or Marge at 724-787-5631 or call the Parish Rectory at 724-423-3673. Last day to purchase tickets: is April 30.

BREADED PORKCHOP DINNER — 4-7 p.m. Saturday, May 14; 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Sunday, May 15; St. John the Baptist Cathedral, 210 Greentree Road, Munhall, Pa. Take-out only breaded porkchop dinner Price is \$12 per dinner, which includes: breaded porkchop, stuffing, 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.

ST. ELIAS HALL RENTAL — The social hall at St. Elias, 4200 Homestead-Duquesne Road, Munhall, Pa., for your next event — parties, meetings, receptions — is available for rental. Large and spacious. For information, call 412-461-9271.

DATES TO REMEMBER



APRIL 11 to 16
Holy Week
Chancery closed April 14 to 15

APRIL 15
Great and Holy Friday

APRIL 17
Pascha — The Glorious Feast of the Resurrection of Our Lord

APRIL 18
Bright Monday
Chancery closed

Tenth anniversary of Archbishop William's Enthronement

APRIL 24 to 26
Archbishop William attends the
Conference of Pennsylvania Bishops
St. Charles Borromeo Seminary, Wynnwood, Pa.

See more upcoming events at www.archpitt.org



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