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## Celebrating 125 years at the Cathedral

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST CATHEDRAL IN MUNHALL, PA. MARKS JAN. 17, 1897 FOUNDING



A Divine Liturgy marking the Cathedral's 125 years was celebrated June 26. Pictured are altar server Marty Bovee, Father Thomas Dansak, Metropolitan Archbishop William Skurla, Very Rev. Andrew Deskevich and Seminarian Joshua Johnson. Photo by Nick Havrilla Sr. For a story and more photos, see page 6.

## Can anything good be happening?

88TH ANNUAL PILGRIMAGE TO MOUNT ST. MACRINA RETURNS TO FULL WEEKEND

by Sister Elaine Kisinko, OSBM

It seems obvious that we can have many valid and serious concerns today. Our world, our country and even our personal environments do not seem to be the peaceful, happy or at least better places we would like them to return to being. Never-ending wars, needless destruction, horrible violence, an economy in chaos, empty work places, new infectious diseases; the list could go on and on. And it must be accepted that our lives have been drastically changed by the pandemic and its effects.

However, even as these many undesirable troubles surround us, our Lord assures us, "I am with you always."

As people of faith and prayer, we continue to live in the hope

and trust that our Lord and His Mother will be with us to protect and help us and those who are dear to us.

An opportunity to sustain and increase that faith, hope and trust, awaits us at the 88th annual Pilgrimage to the Shrine of Our Lady of Perpetual Help at Mount St. Macrina in Uniontown, Pa. over the Labor Day weekend this year.

The Sisters of Saint Basil the Great have announced with great joy that it will be an "in-person" Pilgrimage beginning on Friday evening, Sept. 2, and concluding on Monday morning, Sept. 5.

So, yes, there is good happening indeed.

But the real sweetness of the Pilgrimage at this beautiful monastery property is the prayer both personal and liturgical, the

mystery of reconciliation, and the impressive gathering of our Church at every level from the youngest baby in the Children's Procession on Sunday to our highest ranking, Metropolitan Archbishop William Skurla.

As has happened year after year for these very many Pilgrimages, people will travel from far and near, they will be young and not-so-young, first time Pilgrims and every-time Pilgrims, and families both new and composed of several generations.

For all who come, it will be the witnessing and participation in the phenomenon of God's grace, so called because it has endured for almost a century.

This Pilgrimage has mattered to people personally in providing

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## "Truly a blessing"

16-YEAR-OLD ST. GREGORY PARISHIONER ATTENDS BYZANTEEN YOUTH RALLY IN EMMITSBURG, MD.

by Gretchen Bartz  
St. Gregory, Upper St. Clair, Pa.

From June 30 to July 3, I attended the ByzanTeen Youth Rally at Mount St. Mary's University in Emmitsburg, Md.

The rally is a gathering of ByzanTeens from all over the country every two years for faith, fun, and fellowship. The Eparchy of Passaic organized this year's rally. I attended with my brother, Matthew, and another fellow ByzanTeen from our parish, Steve Hanna.

After getting our room assignments and unpacking our stuff, we prayed Vespers in the beautiful Chapel of the Immaculate Conception. This was followed by dinner in the Patriot Dining Hall cafeteria and icebreakers in front of the student center. One of the icebreakers was learning different ethnic dances, including an Irish dance and a Belgian dance. These dances were some of my favorite parts of the rally.

Next, Matt Birk, who was on the winning 2012 Super Bowl team, gave the keynote presentation. He spoke about Catholicism in the NFL and then gave everyone a signed copy of his book, "All-Pro Wisdom: The 7 Choices That Lead to Greatness."

I found it interesting to know that there are many Catholics and other Christians in the NFL. After that, we prayed Compline and then hung out at the student center, playing games and eating snacks at the Bistro.

Friday began with optional Matins (Reconciliation available) and then Divine Liturgy. We were divided into four groups and rotated through four different talks over two days. The talks

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Archbishop William C. Skurla  
*President*

Sister Elaine Kisinko, OSBM  
*Copy Editor*

David Mayernik Jr.  
*Editor*

Deacon Robert J. Shalhoub  
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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.



## BULLETIN BOARD

### *Adult Eastern Christian Formation sessions at Holy Spirit in Pittsburgh, Pa.*

Are you interested in learning more about our Byzantine Catholic faith?

Join us for monthly Adult Eastern Christian Formation sessions. Each month, Father Michael Kunitz sets aside a Saturday afternoon to give an educational talk on a new topic related to our Eastern Catholic faith.

Sessions are held at Holy Spirit, 4815 Fifth Ave., Pittsburgh (Oakland), Pa. and St. Pius X, 2336 Brownsville Road, Pittsburgh, Pa.

■ 1 p.m. Aug. 13 (St. Pius X): *Byzantine Devotional Prayer*

■ 1 p.m. Sept. 17 (Holy Spirit): *Preparing for Death the Byzantine Way*

■ 1 p.m. Oct. 15 (St. Pius X): *What is a Byzantine Catholic?*

■ 1 p.m. Nov. 19 (Holy Spirit): *What is Philipovka (Philip's Fast)?*

■ 1 p.m. Dec. 10 (St. Pius X): *Celebrating the Holy Supper*

Do you have a topic you'd be interested in discussing? Please contact Father Michael and let him know! [frmichaelkunitz@gmail.com](mailto:frmichaelkunitz@gmail.com)

### *Helping Hands Day II*

If you missed the June 4 Helping Hands Day at Mount St. Macrina in June and are interested in volunteering, the Sisters of St. Basil the Great will have another clean-up day on Saturday, Aug. 20. More information will be released soon. Check their Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/sistersofstbasil.uniontown>.

The annual June event, sponsored by the Greek Catholic Union (GCU) and assists the Sisters of St. Basil as they prepare for the annual Pilgrimage in honor of Our Lady of Perpetual Help. ■



## “A priest forever”

Father Brian Norrell celebrated his first Divine Liturgy July 18 at St. Basil the Great in Irving, Texas.

Father Brian was ordained to the Presbyterate of the Archeparchy of Pittsburgh July 17 by Metropolitan Archbishop William Skurla.

A story on Father Brian's ordination will appear in the September 2022 issue of *The Byzantine Catholic World*.

God grant him many years! ■



### *We've moved!*

Epiphany of our Lord Byzantine Catholic Mission, 9301 Warfield Road, Gaithersburg, Md. 20882 serves suburban Washington, D.C., northern Montgomery County and the city of Frederick, Md.

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### **Mark Your Calendar**

## **SPAGHETTI DINNER**

**Sunday, September 25<sup>th</sup>**

**SS Peter and Paul Church**

**701 Foster Avenue**

**Duquesne, PA**

**1:00 to 5:00 PM**

**Adults \$11.00 -**

**Children 10 and Under \$6.00**

**Children 5 and Under FREE**

**RAFFLES AND AUCTION**



BYZANTINE  
DIVINE  
LITURGY

Sundays at  
9 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](http://www.holyghost-byzantinecatholic.org)



# 88th Pilgrimage to Mount St. Macrina set for Sept. 2 to 5

Story continued from page 1

them with spiritual growth and strength, and in giving them the opportunity to join with pride in this event which unites them with other Byzantine Catholics, their parishes, and their eparchies in a special time of giving glory to God and honoring His Mother.

Because of this, it has also been significant for our Metropolitan Church, as its people gather as one. It has been said that the Pilgrimage holds our Church together.

Please plan to attend. The Sisters of St. Basil with our Associates and our bishops, priests, deacons, and faithful await your arrival, your presence, and the blessings that you will both receive and share. ■



Scenes from Pilgrimage 2021



## PILGRIMAGE 2022 SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

### Friday, Sept. 2

**6:30 p.m.**  
**COMPLINE** followed by **BLESSING OF WATER** at Lourdes

### Saturday, Sept. 3

**7 a.m.-noon**  
**MYSTERY OF RECONCILIATION**  
(Confessions) House of Prayer Patio

### OPENING OF PILGRIMAGE

**8 a.m.**  
**MATINS** at Shrine Altar

**9:45 a.m.**  
Procession with icon of Our Lady of Perpetual Help from House of Prayer to Shrine Altar

**10 a.m.**  
**DIVINE LITURGY**  
Welcome: Sister Susan Sisko, OSBM

**1-5 p.m.**  
**MYSTERY OF RECONCILIATION**  
(Confessions) House of Prayer Patio

**1 p.m.**  
**PARAKLIS** at Shrine Altar

**2 p.m.**  
**CHILDREN'S PILGRIMAGE**  
at Children's Tent

**ORIENTATION for TEENS**  
at Prayer Garden

**MYSTERY OF ANOINTING**  
at Shrine Altar

**3 p.m.**  
**TEEN PILGRIMAGE**  
at Prayer Garden

**4 p.m.**  
**VESPERS** with **DIVINE LITURGY**  
at Shrine Altar

**7:15 p.m.**  
Procession from House of Prayer to Mount Macrina Cemetery

Parastas/Procession to Shrine Altar/Akathist

Teen Social following Akathist

### Sunday, Sept. 4

**7 a.m.**  
**DIVINE LITURGY**  
at House of Prayer Chapel

**7:30 a.m.**  
**MATINS** at Shrine Altar

**7:30 a.m.-noon**  
**MYSTERY OF RECONCILIATION**  
(Confessions) at House of Prayer Patio

**9 a.m.**  
**DIVINE LITURGY**  
at Slavonic Shrine Altar

**11 a.m.**  
**DIVINE LITURGY**  
at Vocations Shrine Altar

**12:20-5 p.m.**  
**MYSTERY OF RECONCILIATION**  
(Confessions) at House of Prayer Patio

**1 p.m.**  
**CHILDREN'S PROCESSION** with Special Blessing for Youth and Young Adults - from House of Prayer to Mother of God Shrine

**2 p.m.**  
**ENRICHMENT SESSION**  
at Trinity Center  
**BEREAVEMENT SESSION**  
at Mausoleum  
**CHILDREN'S PILGRIMAGE**  
at Children's Tent  
**TEEN PILGRIMAGE**  
at Prayer Garden

**2 p.m.**  
**MYSTERY OF ANOINTING**  
at Shrine Altar

**3:45 p.m.**  
Procession from House of Prayer to Shrine Altar

**4 p.m.**  
**DIVINE LITURGY** at Shrine Altar  
Words of Gratitude: Sister Susan Sisko, OSBM

**7 p.m.**  
**CANDLELIGHT PROCESSION**  
beginning at ending at Shrine Altar

### CLOSING OF PILGRIMAGE

Following the Candlelight Procession:

**TEEN SOCIAL**  
at Prayer Garden Area  
**YOUNG ADULT SOCIAL**  
at Trinity Center  
**INPUT SESSION** – Seminarians (followed by a social)

### Monday, Sept. 5

**9:30 a.m.**  
**DIVINE LITURGY** at Shrine Altar

### NOTES:

■ Curfew is 1 a.m. for those youth participating in Chaperoned Youth Activities. For all other youth, the curfew is midnight.

■ Although casual attire is acceptable, Pilgrims are asked to be mindful of the religious nature of the services and activities that take place and to dress accordingly to traditional Christian values and standards of modesty. Thank you!

■ In order to provide and maintain a safe environment for children and youth attending the 66th annual Pilgrimage, a vital set of guidelines has been established regarding minors under the age of 18 who come to the Pilgrimage unaccompanied by a parent(s). Prior to Pilgrimage, parents must have completed and submitted two forms on behalf of each minor participating in supervised Pilgrimage activities: These forms, posted on our website, are: (1) Parental Consent and Waiver Liability Form and (2) Medical Matters Form. Completed forms may be dropped off at the Welcome Desk in front of the House of Prayer. Forms, further guidelines and information may also be obtained at the Information Desk in the House of Prayer. ■



# Happiest of anniversaries

VERY REV. ANDREW DESKEVICH CELEBRATES 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF ORDINATION TO PRIESTHOOD

by The Byzantine Catholic Archeparchy of Pittsburgh

On July 10, St. John the Baptist Cathedral Parish in Munhall, Pa. celebrated the 25th anniversary of the Ordination of Very Rev. Andrew J. Deskevich.

Father Andrew was ordained a priest by Metropolitan Judson Procyk on May 4, 1997 and began his priestly ministry as the assistant at the Cathedral.

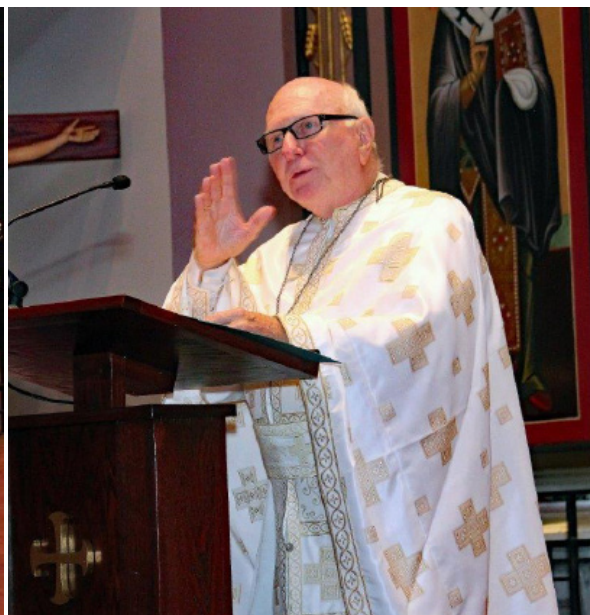
During the past 24 years, Father Andrew has served as pastor/administrator of St. Andrew the Apostle, Gibsonia; Holy Ghost, Northside Pittsburgh; SS. Peter and Paul, Erie; SS. Cyril and Methodius, Girard, all in Pennsylvania; and SS. Peter and Paul, Warren and St. Michael the Archangel, Newton Falls, both in Ohio. He also served at St. Elias, Munhall and presently as the Rector of St. John the Baptist Cathedral.

In addition to his parish ministry, he was appointed to the Intereparchial Youth Commission in 1998.

Metropolitan William Skurla appointed him as Chancellor in 2012 and in 2014 as Protoscellus, a position in which he serves to this present day. ■



Very Rev. Andrew Deskevich with his parents, Andrew and Linda Deskevich (front) and sister, Mary Ann Ostinowsky.



Metropolitan Archbishop William Skurla presents Very Rev. Andrew Deskevich with the gift of a pastoral cross. At right is altar server Marty Bovee.

Photos by Nick Havrilla Sr.

REFLECTION FROM MOUNT ST. MACRINA

## Psalms of praise

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 Aug. 6, 2021 reflection.

Glory to Jesus Christ!

I often talk about stories and we know that all of us have outstanding stories in our lives; or at least those we remember most often.

In the Epistle for the Feast of the Holy Transfiguration we have an outstanding story from dear St. Peter. It is the story of the Transfiguration. He is one of the Disciples who was present when the Lord revealed His glory.

It was overwhelming and, of course, a story Peter told the rest of his life, along with the outstanding experiences of being at the Cross and witnessing the empty tomb – the evidence of the risen Lord – and meeting Him.

In this Holy Feast we celebrate now, I look at the Apostles Peter, James and John who were there and who were overwhelmed by this experience: Jesus in His glory, Moses and Elias with him. They're "bowled over," as we would say.

I began to think about what might be going on in their minds and their hearts. Well, they were faithful Jews that had spent their lives in that religious practice and at the heart of it is the praying of the Psalms. I think if they were responding to God in that time, Psalms would have come to their minds, to their lips, to their hearts. "Give thanks to the Lord for He is good, for His mercy endures forever."

I want to call us to that kind of praise; the Psalms of praise should be something we learn and offer unto God. Many of them are integrated into the prayers of the Divine Liturgy. In fact, in all Christian and Jewish traditions, they are used very frequently but I would imagine lots of people don't even know one Psalm by heart.

They need to be close to our minds, our hearts, our lips for praise. They will help us in this journey of living close to God.

God bless you. ■



# “Truly a blessing”

16-YEAR-OLD ST. GREGORY PARISHIONER ATTENDS BYZANTEEN YOUTH RALLY IN EMMITSBURG, MD.

*Story continued from page 1*

were Challenges to Faith (e.g., the problem of suffering), The New Normal (life after the pandemic.), Our Faith in the Modern World (technology, morality, the relevance to our faith), and Why are We Byzantine Catholics? (challenging teens to make the faith their own). The talks were interesting, and I appreciated what each speaker had to offer.

Also on Friday there was guided private prayer in the chapel that focused on the Jesus Prayer. Then we went to lunch. The food was always delicious! I enjoyed the French fries, cheeseburgers, ice cream, and salad bar.

After lunch, we could choose one of three different activities: sports, crafts, or choir. I went to crafts and enjoyed spending time with the Sisters of Christ the Bridegroom Monastery while coloring bookmarks. Sports included volleyball, spikeball, basketball and more. Those who chose choir for their activity rehearsed the music for the Hierarchical Divine Liturgy on Saturday.

Friday afternoon we completed a service project in conjunction with Rise Against Hunger and together packaged over 14,250 meals to send overseas to people who need them. I greatly appreciated the chance to help others in need. Friday evening we listened to a talk on Reconciliation, prayed a Panachida service that mentioned our deceased loved ones by name, and had opportunities to receive the Mysteries of Reconciliation and Holy Anointing. We learned a Spanish dance on Friday night at the Bistro. Compline (optional) took place after that.

We prayed Matins on Saturday morning, and then everyone had breakfast and attended the second set of talks. Guided private prayer in the chapel was next, this time on praying with the Scriptures. Then it was time for lunch and our choice of activities again.

Late Saturday afternoon we took buses to the National Shrine of Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton for a Hierarchical Divine Liturgy. The shrine was beautiful, and I was pleased to be there and see all of the bishops celebrating Liturgy together. Saturday night ended with a vocations talk and a dance. I had so much fun hanging out and dancing with friends!



Holy Ghost in McKees Rocks, Pa. sent four teens: Nina Lecci, Laura Saber, Paul Rubish and Thomas Rubish; Seminarian Luke Iyengar; and chaperone Paul Rubish to the ByzanTEEN Rally in Maryland. The teens enjoyed the Rally, learned a lot and made new friends. They are looking forward to the next Rally in San Diego, Calif.



Sadly, Sunday morning it was almost time to say goodbye. We ate breakfast and prayed Matins. The rally closed with the announcement of the location of the 2024 rally (San Diego, Calif.) and a blessing. We all packed up and went home.

The rally was truly a blessing, and I had a great time. I met new friends to keep in touch with, loved being able to spend time with sisters from Christ the Bridegroom Monastery in Burton, Ohio, and Mount St. Macrina in Uniontown, Pa. and

enjoyed the activities and running around getting bishops, sisters, and friends to sign the green pew books that they gave us.

I am grateful to everyone who made the 2022 rally possible! ■

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST CATHEDRAL IN MUNHALL, PA.

## Cathedral celebrates 125 years

by The Byzantine Catholic  
Archeparchy of Pittsburgh

On Sunday, June 26, the parish family of St. John the Baptist Cathedral in Munhall, Pa. celebrated the 125th anniversary of its founding.

The celebration began with the Divine Liturgy celebrated by Metropolitan Archbishop William Skurla and concelebrated by Very Rev. Andrew J. Deskevich, Cathedral Rector and Rev. Thomas Dansak.

A festive lunch was served in the Cathedral Center following the Divine Liturgy.

The parish was founded on Jan. 16, 1897 building its first church on Third Avenue in Homestead, Pa. The new church would be named after Saint John the Baptist, the patron saint of Greek Catholic Union Lodge 26 in Homestead.

The tiny church at 521 Third Ave. would only prove to be a mere way station on the journey of faith of St. John's Parish.

With immigration from the "Old Country" still in full swing, St. John's Parish continued to steadily increase in membership.

In 1902, the parishioners began fund raising to build a new church.

Two lots on the corner of Tenth Avenue and Dickson Street in the newly established Borough of Munhall were acquired to build the second church.

The new church building with its two large steeples would bear a striking resemblance to the cathedral church of Diocese of Mukačevo in Užhorod.

On June 14, 1903 the cornerstone was laid. On Dec. 27, 1903 the new church was solemnly dedicated.

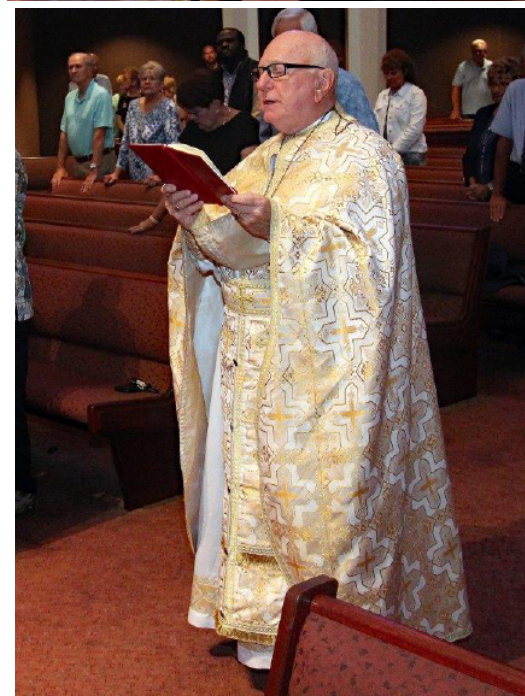
The parish steadily grew and in 1924 with the establishment of the Pittsburgh Exarchate by Rome, St. John the Baptist was designated as the Cathedral.

The parish suffered through the 1930 schism that affected many of our parishes. A parochial school was opened in August 1936.

The church underwent a renovation in 1958 to 1959. The parish would continue to thrive during the next 20 years through the various parish and school activities, liturgical, social and



Former students at St. John the Baptist Cathedral School gathered together with their teacher, Sister Elaine Kisinko (third from left).



Photos by Nick Havrilla Sr.

fund-raising.

In the summer of 1979 the parish began preliminary plans on the construction of a social center for the Parish on Greentree Road in Munhall.

The ground-breaking for the new St. John's Cathedral Center occurred on Sunday, Aug. 3, 1980.

The new St. John's Cathedral

Center was formally blessed and dedicated on May 23, 1982. After 10 years of successful fundraising, the parish broke ground for a new Cathedral and rectory to be constructed on the same property.

On Sunday, June 12, 1994, the new Cathedral church was solemnly blessed and consecrated.

In its 125 years, St. John Parish

has been served by 16 priests, 13 of which served as Cathedral rectors.

Parish vocations included eight priests and three sisters. In the 125 years, 17 cantors have served and three presently serve in the parish. ■



HOLY SPIRIT IN PITTSBURGH (OAKLAND), PA.

# Celebrating 115 years

by Mary Dzurichko  
Holy Spirit, Pittsburgh (Oakland), Pa.

Beginning with a Divine Liturgy of Pentecost offered by administrator Father Michael Kunitz, the Holy Spirit Parish in the Oakland area of Pittsburgh celebrated the 115th anniversary of its founding June 4.

This was followed by the first full parish party held since before the pandemic.

The dinner entrées were catered and augmented with appetizers, beverages, and various side dishes, allowing the church members



more time to socialize and enjoy the festivities.

These included a small basket raffle, an area for the children to play, and a display of some church historical memorabilia.

The joy was evident with hopes for many more blessed years! ■



SS. PETER AND PAUL IN DUQUESNE, PA.

# Spring celebrations

All stories by Lori Hatala  
SS. Peter and Paul, Duquesne, Pa.

On Memorial Day, Father Will Rupp and parishioners were able to have a dedication for the new pavilion, donated by Craig Skovranko, at our cemetery and participate in a Panachida for the deceased veterans of our parish.

Father Will and cantor Dan Evans also went to individual graves to bless and offer prayers as requested. Thank you! ■



Father Will Rupp and the parishioners of SS. Peter and Paul in Duquesne, Pa. celebrated Mother's Day with flowers honoring the living and deceased mothers, grandmothers, aunts, godmothers, etc. as well as a litany during the Divine Liturgy honoring each by name.

Father's Day was commemorated in a similar way with candles. Gold for living and red for deceased fathers, grandfathers, uncles, godfathers, etc. also with a litany during the Divine Liturgy honoring each by name. ■



Judy and Robert Kacik celebrated 55 years of marriage on June 17.

Barbara and Gerald Longstreth celebrated 46 years of marriage on June 19.

A blessing was offered for both couples. Mnohaya Lita and congratulations to them! ■



# Summer school

ST. GREGORY IN UPPER ST. CLAIR, PA.

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

On Monday, June 20, Vacation Church School began with prayer at St. Gregory in Upper St. Clair, Pa.

Following the Prayer of the Third Hour, our children were introduced to the Saint of the Day.

During this week we will learn about the Sacraments-Mysteries of our Holy Church, based upon the "Wilderness Adventure Through the Sacraments" program.

The first day of learning was on Holy Baptism and Holy Chrismation. Besides learning about these two Sacraments, our children very much enjoyed game time together that was related to the theme of the day. During music time we learned our hymns from the celebration of Holy Baptism and also enjoyed a fun song from the program. Afterwards it was craft time for all.

The day concluded with a luncheon prepared by our parishioners. ■



ST. MICHAEL IN CAMPBELL, OHIO.

St. Michael in Campbell, Ohio held its Monumental Vacation Bible School the week of July 10. Father Kevin Marks is pastor. ■



ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST IN UNIONTOWN, PA.

# Parish celebrations

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

On Sunday, June 19 following the Divine Liturgy at St. John the Baptist Church in Uniontown, Pa., a parish celebration was held

which recognized fathers, June birthdays, and 2022 high school and college graduates.

The Social Ministry Committee prepared a brunch for this occasion. ■



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

Following the Sunday Divine Liturgy on June 26, a covered dish luncheon was held at St. John the Baptist Church in Uniontown, Pa. in honor of the nativity of their patron saint. The Social Ministry Committee provided meats and essentials, while the parishioners contributed appetizers, salads, side dishes, and desserts. ■



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

Parishioners who celebrated a birthday in July were recognized on Sunday, July 10 following the

Divine Liturgy.

Light refreshments and cake were served by the Social Ministry Committee to those in attendance. ■





# Feast of St. Elijah

## ST. MICHAEL IN CAMPBELL, OHIO

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

The Solemn Blessing of Automobiles took place at the July 16 Saturday Vigil and July 17 Sunday Liturgy in anticipation of the Feast of the Holy Prophet Elijah on July 20.

The blessing prayer was very powerful thanking God for "providing these vehicles and assign to them a guardian angel to protect it against all evil."

Parishioners and visitors participated in this wonderful Byzantine Catholic custom this past weekend. ■



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

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

On Saturday and Sunday, July 16 and 17, we had the annual blessing of vehicles in our parish family. This blessing takes place in our parish every year in commemoration of the prophet

Elijah who was taken into heaven on a fiery chariot. Our modern vehicles have become "our chariots in the modern world."

We pray that these vehicles will always be used for the benefit of all and to keep from danger those who use and are around them. ■



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

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

After the celebration of the Divine Liturgy at St. John the Baptist in Uniontown, Pa.,

vehicles were blessed by Father Vasyl Symyon for the Feast of St. Elias. One parishioner even had his wheelchair blessed. ■



## ST. JOHN CHRYSOSTOM IN PITTSBURGH, PA.

Father Miron Kerul'-Kmec blessed cars on the Feast of St. Elias at St. John Chrysostom in Pittsburgh, Pa. ■



ST. JOHN CHRYSOSTOM IN PITTSBURGH, PA.

# Welcome, Yevgraf!

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

The parish community of St. John Chrysostom in Pittsburgh, Pa. welcomed 6-year-old Yevgraf Victor Eggenberger on Sunday, July 17 when he received the Mysteries of Initiation during Divine Liturgy.

Yevgraf is the son of Victor and Irina Eggenberger. His godparents are Lynda McFarland and Mark Slivka.

Yevgraf was so excited for this most holy and special day as were his maternal grandparents who watched via internet from their home in Russia.

Following Divine Liturgy parishioners convened in the



church hall for cake and beverages and to welcome Yevgraf into our Byzantine Catholic family. ■



Mark Slivka, Irina Eggenberger, Father Miron Kerul'-Kmec, Yevgraf Eggenberger, Victor Eggenberger and Lynda McFarland.

# Work Day

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

More than 30 parishioners of St. John Chrysostom in Pittsburgh, Pa. gave of their time and talents on June 25, to spruce up the church property and grounds.

Teams were organized to clean and inventory the kitchen; shelve books in the library/work room; trim hedges, prune trees and pull weeds; organize storage rooms

and clean out the garage. At noon everyone stopped to enjoy lunch and fellowship, and then we all got back to work.

From the youngest, Theresa Schultz, to the perhaps the most senior on site, Micky Sopira, everyone helped, including Father Miron Kerul'-Kmec.

New friendships were made as well as plans to tackle more projects around the church, which are already underway. ■



# Surprise celebration

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

On June 26, the parish family of St. John Chrysostom in Pittsburgh, Pa. surprised Father Miron Kerul'-Kmec with a celebratory luncheon following Divine Liturgy in honor of the first anniversary of his ordination.

Father Miron's wife, Sarah, and their children, along with Sarah's family from Ohio joined the festivities.

Father Miron was humbled by the outpouring of congratulations and good wishes.

May God grant his priestly servant Miron many more happy, healthy and blessed years! ■





SS. PETER AND PAUL IN WARREN, OHIO

## Feast Day celebration

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

The evening began with a Liturgy officiated by Very Rev. Andrew Deskevich. We greatly appreciated that he made the trip to SS. Peter and Paul in Warren, Ohio to celebrate with us.

After the Liturgy, parishioners and guests enjoyed a delicious dinner at DiLucia's Banquet Center, followed by the Comedy and Magic of Eric Thompson. He has performed around the

globe and shared the stage with many famous comedians and entertainers. He had us all in stitches. Eric is also a local businessman, who owns Satolli Carpet & Floor Covering in downtown Warren.

A 50/50 drawing was held and everyone attending got a box of homemade cookies as a favor. One lucky person at each table got to take home the centerpiece.

May God grant many blessed years to all the parishioners at SS. Peter and Paul Church! ■



## Christmas in July

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

Christmas came early for the parishioners of SS. Peter and Paul Church in Warren, Ohio.

After each Liturgy in July, parishioners were able to purchase

a small Christmas tree or a gift box with unknown items such as gift cards, lottery tickets, knick knacks or multiple items inside. It was fun for all ages.

Thanks to Patty James for spearheading this event. ■



ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST IN NORTHERN CAMBRIA, PA.

## Feast of St. John the Baptist

by Father Roman Andriitso  
St. John the Baptist, Northern Cambria, Pa.

Father Roman Andriitso invited Father Ivan Rusyn and Deacon Raymond Zadzilko to come and celebrate Divine Liturgy together on Friday, June 24 for the feast day of St. John the Baptist in

Northern Cambria, Pa.

Three altar servers, who were the children of the priests, also assisted in the liturgy.

Afterward, everyone enjoyed a covered dish dinner in the church hall. ■



ST. MICHAEL IN HERMITAGE, PA.

## Hall of Fame career

by William Dzuricsko  
St. Michael, Hermitage, Pa.

Barb Dzuricsko was recently inducted into the Pennsylvania High School Track & Field Hall of Fame as a "Contributor."

Her contributions include: being an outstanding athlete who placed at the 1974 and 1975 State Track Meet at Penn State University; being an excellent Head Coach at Hickory High School for 30 years which included several District 10 and State Championships; being a long time Track & Field Meet Director for District 10 and the City of Hermitage Invitational; and now serving as a PIAA Track & Field and Cross Country Official.

The induction took place on Saturday, May 28 at Shippensburg



University during the 2022 PIAA Track and Field State Championship Meet, where Barb and Bill worked the Triple Jump event.

Barb's husband, Bill, presented the award to Barb. Barb and Bill are members of St Michael Byzantine Catholic Church in Hermitage, Pa. as well as GCU. Lodge # 258. ■

## Happy anniversary

William and Barbara Dzuricsko celebrated their 40th wedding anniversary on June 19, 2022.

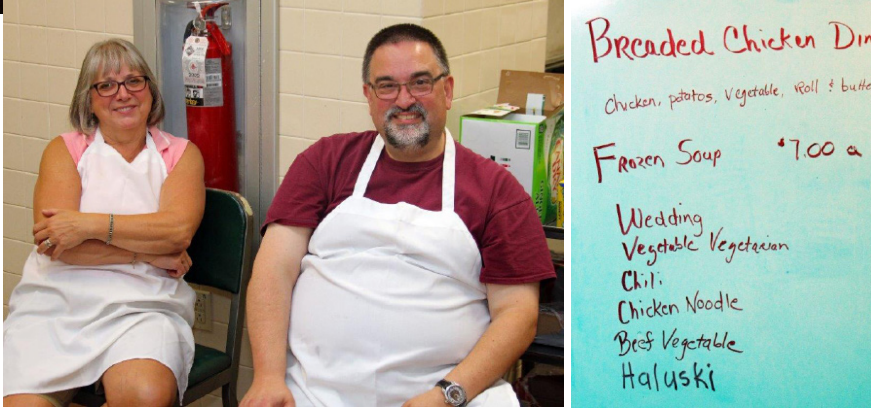
Father Kevin Marks offered congratulations and gave the jubilarians a special blessing and a gift of flowers at the end of the 9:00 AM Divine Liturgy. ■



ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST CATHEDRAL IN MUNHALL, PA.

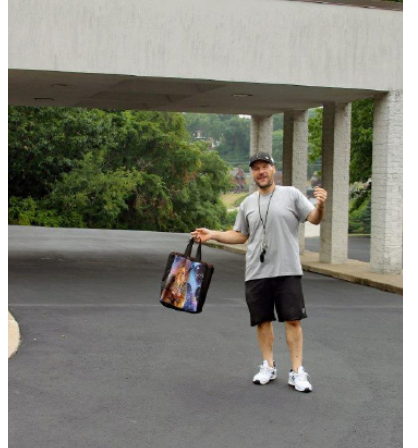
# Take-home dinner

The Cathedral Kitchen's monthly take-out dinner at St. John the Baptist Cathedral in Munhall, Pa. was a menu consisting of breaded chicken, vegetables and potatoes with butter and rolls. The meal was delicious! ■



# Just toying around

The Cathedral kitchen was open serving up great food while young and old enjoyed the toy displays during the July 16 Too Groovy Toy Show at St. John the Baptist Cathedral's Social Center in Munhall, Pa. ■



Photos by Nick Havrilla Sr.



# First Solemn Communion

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

Grffin Bohna received the sacrament of First Holy Communion at St. John the Baptist in Scottsdale, Pa.

Father Oleh Seremchuk is pastor. ■



## ST. MARY IN WINDBER, PA.

By Mariana Rusyn  
St. Mary, Windber, Pa.

Sunday, May 22 was especially joyful for St. Mary's Parish in Windber, Pa.

Two of our parish children: Giovanni Bartolomucci and Viktor Rusyn celebrated their First Confession and Holy Communion.

The boys took an active part in this festal Liturgy by memorizing and reciting a Creed, Our Father and the prayer before the Holy Communion and singing three new songs for the Holy Communion.

A big thank you to our ECF teacher Mary Kay Pcola for teaching and preparing them for this important step in their Christian lives.



Viktor Rusyn, Father Ivan Rusyn and Giovanni Bartolomucci

Following the Divine Liturgy all our ECF students, their parents and relatives enjoyed a festive cake and pizza in a beautifully decorated church hall. ■

## Fun in the summertime

St. John the Baptist in Scottsdale, Pa. held its annual church picnic on Sunday, June 26. ■



The annual Service Award was presented by Father Oleh Seremchuk to to Mary Ann Zozula and Jane Bricker.



Steve Matsey and Mike Marcej



## Hats off for graduates!

By Mariana Rusyn  
St. Mary, Windber, Pa.

On Sunday, June 17 we congratulated our two 2022 high school graduates: Hannah Tallion, Windber High School; and Ethan Cafeo, Richland High School.

Father Ivan Rusyn prayed a blessing prayer over each of them after which they received gifts from

our St. Mary's parish.

Both Hannah and Ethan and their families are active and faithful members of our St. Mary's church.

Hannah has been a long-term student of ECF classes and Ethan is an Epistle reader and helps out with cantoring at church.

May God bless them! ■



Hannah Tallion (left) and Ethan Cafeo (right) with Father Ivan Rusyn.



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

### Updates to St. John Chapel

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

Kay Breakiron expertly made new altar linens for the St. John the Baptist Chapel. Other changes include altar renovation and a new tabernacle. ■



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

### Welcoming deacon candidates

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

On Sunday, June 26, we welcomed the students of our School for Diaconate Studies at the Byzantine Catholic Seminary.

These deacon candidates, who come from all over the United States, are in Pittsburgh for the two weeks of intensive classes at

our seminary.

These classes are followed, each year, by a program of distance learning through guided reading and the writing of papers.

Following the Divine Liturgy, the deacon candidates had the opportunity to enjoy fellowship with our parishioners in our Church Hall. ■



# Summer picnics

## SS. PETER AND PAUL IN BRADDOCK, PA.

Parishioners at SS. Peter and Paul in Braddock, Pa. gathered together July 10 for their annual picnic. Father Vitalii Stashkevych is pastor. ■



## HOLY TRINITY IN SYKESVILLE, PA.

Holy Trinity in Sykesville, Pa. held its parish picnic on July 10. Father Vasyl Banyk is pastor. ■



## ST. ELIAS IN MUNHALL, PA.

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

Food, fun, and great parish family fellowship! Young and not so young all enjoyed the festivities at the St. Elias parish picnic in Munhall, Pa..

The traditional St. Elias rain didn't deter anyone from having a great time! ■





## THOUGHTS FOR OUR DAY

by Archpriest David M. Petras

### BAPTISM: RESURRECTION

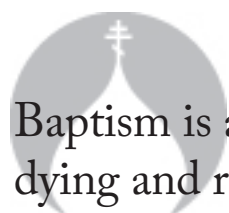


The first meaning of baptism is rebirth in the life of the Holy Trinity. God is our Father and Christ our brother in the Holy Spirit. When we enter the water in baptism three times, the first symbolism then, is of the Holy Trinity, but the second is of Resurrection, for when our Lord died on the Cross, he was in the tomb for three days. The baptismal font, then, may be said to be a representation of the tomb because of the three day burial of our Lord. Because of this, it became the tradition of the Church to celebrate baptism at Pascha, the feast of the Resurrection of our Lord. It was celebrated in the vigil Liturgy of the feast.

As the candidates were being baptized, there were readings from the Old Testament foreshadowing the mystery of baptism. The readings ended with the passage from the prophecy of Daniel, where the three youths, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, were rescued from the fiery furnace, a sign of life in faith and resurrection. The New Testament reading is St. Paul's Epistle to the Romans, chapter 6, where baptism is described as dying and rising in Christ: "are you unaware that we who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were indeed buried with him through baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might live in newness of life" (Romans 6:3-4). This epistle is also read at every baptism.

The Catechism of the Catholic Church § 628, says, "Baptism, the

original and full sign of which is immersion, efficaciously signifies the descent into the tomb by which the Christian who dies to sin with Christ in order to live a new life" (Cf. Romans 6:4). I commented on both of these ideas (rebirth and resurrection) in the catechetical book *Light for Life* (p. 74). These two ideas are the main chords of a theology of baptism:

  
**Baptism is a spiritual  
dying and rising  
in Christ, a laying  
down of our lives in  
obedience to God**

Water cleanses, refreshes, and is essential for life. As such it is a symbol of rebirth, of life. Water also carries an element of death, of destruction. Water, which parted for the Chosen People fleeing Egypt, drowned their masters. And so it also represents death: the burial and resurrection of Jesus. In the Paschal Canon we sing, "Yesterday I was buried with you, O Christ [referring to the baptisms on Holy Saturday], but today I rise, resurrected with you." The baptism in the Jordan is a synopsis of the whole gospel, the gospel in miniature. By his humble descent even to death on the cross, Jesus was exalted above all other names (Phillipians 2) and brought the human race the gift of life. The entrance into the Jordan river is the entrance of God into the world. The descent into the water is the burial in the tomb. Just as Christ was condemned for blasphemy

on the cross, his baptism is his acceptance of repentance for sin. On the Cross, Jesus was revealed as the Son of God because of his love. In the Jordan, he was revealed as the Son of God by two witnesses, the Father and the Holy Spirit. Because of this, our baptism is also our death to sin and resurrection to eternal life.

This is shown also by an identification of the descent into the Jordan with the descent of Jesus into Hades. The descent into Hades is a Christian story expressing Jesus' victory over death by the Cross and Resurrection. In this tradition, Hades is personified, and in the Liturgy, the Jordan is also personified. "The waters saw the Lord and were terrified" (Psalm 76:17). "The heads of the dragons in the river were crushed" (Psalm 73:13). "Christ sanctified us in the waters, and crushed the heads of the dragons in the water." Just as Jesus lifts out Adam and Eve from Hades, so Jacob of Serugh describes how Jesus explains his baptism to John, "I am trying to find the lost Adam; let me go down and look for Adam, the fair image."

Baptism is a spiritual dying and rising in Christ, a laying down of our lives in obedience to God, concomitant with the will to even lay down our bodily lives for the faith if necessary. Baptism is a radical rejection of what is evil and the commitment to following the way of Christ, even to the point of death. St. Paul concludes, "Consequently, you too must think of yourselves as being dead to sin and living for God in Christ Jesus" (Romans 6:11). Baptism is worship of God, as St. Paul later says in Romans: "I urge you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to offer your bodies as a

living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God, your spiritual worship. Do not conform yourself to this age but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and pleasing and perfect" (Romans 12:1-2). The passage from Romans 6, therefore, has become the most important theological source in the Byzantine tradition. It is a shift from an earlier emphasis on the baptism in the Jordan. Both ideas were found in East and West, but it was a matter of emphasis. Prof. Gabriele Winkler wrote, "In the fourth century, however, the development of the whole baptismal liturgy underwent considerable change .... The baptismal font, once seen as womb and also referred to as Jordan, changes now ... into sepulcher and grave; the immersion becomes the imitation of Christ's burial and resurrection."

Baptism and the eucharist are joined in this - they are both worship and sacrifice, drawing their meaning and effectiveness from the death of Jesus on the cross and his resurrection. Baptism, then, can be understood only through the lens of the resurrection. We are now able to read the commission of our Lord, who suffered on the Cross and rose from the dead, to baptize, which is seen by many theologians as the establishment of Christian baptism: [Jesus said] "All power in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, until the end of the age" (Matthew 28:18-20). ■

## 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](mailto:bcw@archpitt.org).

**St. John the Baptist Cathedral**  
Munhall, Pa.  
[www.stjohnsbyzantinecathedral.com](http://www.stjohnsbyzantinecathedral.com)

**Holy Ghost**  
McKees Rocks, Pa.  
[www.holyghost-byzantinecatholic.org](http://www.holyghost-byzantinecatholic.org)  
[www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com), then type Holy Ghost Church Live Stream

**St. John Chrysostom**  
Pittsburgh, Pa.  
[www.sjcbcc.com](http://www.sjcbcc.com)

**St. Gregory**  
Upper St. Clair, Pa.  
[www.facebook.com/stgregoryusc](https://www.facebook.com/stgregoryusc)

**St. Michael**  
Campbell, Ohio  
[www.facebook.com/st.michaelbyz.campbell](https://www.facebook.com/st.michaelbyz.campbell)

**St. Elias**  
Munhall, Pa.  
[www.facebook.com/StEliasByzantineCatholicChurch/](https://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](http://www.facebook.com/ststephenbyzantinecatholicchurch)

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



## AROUND THE ARCHEPARCHY



**ALTOONA CURVE BASEBALL GAME** — SS. Peter and Paul Byzantine Catholic Church in Portage, Pa. is organizing a group to see the Altoona Curve take on the Akron RubberDucks at 6 p.m. Thursday, August 4 at PNG Field in Altoona, Pa. Optional picnic at 5 p.m. Tickets for both the picnic and game are \$22 for ages 13+ and \$20 for ages 2-12. No charge for under 2 years old. Tickets for only the game are \$9 per person. Contact seminarian Reader Luke Iyengar at [Liyengar3@gmail.com](mailto:Liyengar3@gmail.com) or the parish office, 814-736-9780 for more information and to sign up.

**FLEA MARKET** — 8 a.m.-3 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 6, St. Gregory, 2005 Mohawk Road, Upper St. Clair, Pa. Browse and buy kitchen and household items, jewelry, toys, small furniture, sports equipment, holiday items and much more. For information, call 412-835-7800.

**ST. STEPHEN 130th ANNIVERSARY** — St. Stephen the Protomartyr Byzantine Catholic Church in Leisenring, Pa., the first Byzantine Catholic Church in western Pennsylvania and the first brick Byzantine Catholic Church in the United States, was founded in 1892.

St. Stephen will celebrate its 130th Anniversary on Aug. 14 with a Divine Liturgy at 11 a.m. and a picnic celebration in the afternoon. To mark the occasion, parishioners will receive a copy of *St. Stephen the Protomartyr Byzantine Catholic Church Leisenring Pennsylvania, a History in Celebration of the 130th Anniversary, 1892-2022*, written by Theresa Karaffa, Betty Karaffa, Melba Gillingham, and Robert Gillingham, Ph.D. The book will be offered for sale to the public after the August celebration with all proceeds going to St. Stephen.

**ANNUAL COMEDY NIGHT** — 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 20, St. Gregory 2005 Mohawk Road, Upper St. Clair, Pa. Performers include Missy G. Hall and Matt Wohlfarth with host David Kaye. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. Tickets are \$25 each and include draft beer, snacks and sodas/mixers. Picnic style food available for purchase, 50/50 raffle and gift auctions. For guests 21 years old and older. Tickets on sale at Rectory or contact Mike Kiss at 412-818-1295. Buy tickets online at [slapstickproductions.com](http://slapstickproductions.com).

**POLKA PARTY** — 7-10 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 27, Tanglewood Center, 10 Austin Ave, Lyndora, Pa. Sponsored by St. John the Baptist in Lyndora. Featuring The Polka Meisters Band. Tickets: \$20/person. Limited tickets available. Halushki, kielbasa and kraut, hot dogs and non-alcoholic beverages available for purchase. BYOB. For will call reservations, send your name, number of tickets and check payable to "St. John's Ladies Guild." For more info, call 412-353-9585.

**SPAGHETTI DINNER** — 1-5 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 25, SS. Peter and Paul, 701 Foster Ave., Duquesne, Pa. Cost: \$11, adults; \$6, ages 10 and under. No charge for ages 5 and under. Raffles and auction.

**ICONOGRAPHY WORKSHOPS** — Marylyn Barone will conduct two iconography workshops for adults at all levels of experience The first is Sept.15 to 18 at Church of the Resurrection, 455 Center Road, Monroeville, Pa. You will write an icon of Saint Jude. The second will be Oct. 20 to 23 2022 at Most Holy Name of Jesus Parish, 1700 Harpster St., (Troy Hill) Pittsburgh, PA 15212. You will write an icon of The Immaculate Heart of Mary. The classes will be Thursday evening, Friday evening, all day Saturday and noon until finishing on Sunday. You must be able to attend all four days to have a completed icon. The cost of \$135 will cover all supplies. All icons will be on an 8 x 10 gesso covered board. Using a pre-prepared prototype, you will learn techniques for faces, garments, 23-karat gold gilding and background. Participants from three or more of my previous workshops may elect to do an icon of their choice. The theology of iconography and specifically the two icons will also be presented There will be the opportunity to attend services. Snacks as well as coffee and tea will be provided on all days. A deposit of \$25 is required and the class will be limited to 15 people. For further information, call Marylyn at 412-678-9453 or email her at [mwbarone@comcast.net](mailto:mwbarone@comcast.net).

**16TH ANNUAL CLASSIC CAR SHOW** — Sunday, Sept. 25, Registration from noon-2 p.m., Car Show continues until 4 p.m., 185 E. Main Street, Uniontown, Pa. Registration fee: \$10. First 150 cars receive dash plaques and goody bags. Rain or shine. More than 25 trophies, including one large trophy-Father Vasyl's Favorite - will be awarded. Classes will includes 1900-1930, 1931-1950, 1951-1960, 1961-1965, 1966-1970, 1971-1976, 1977-1987, 1988-2006, Street Rod/Modified, Trucks 1959 and older and 1960-2006. No judging for 2007 and newer. Arnie Amber, Oldies DJ; 50/50 drawing contest; Byzantine Auction, and delicious food such sandwiches, soups, halushki, baked goods, and more will be featured. A golf cart shuttle will be available for on-site transportation. For information, call 724-438-1382 (leave message). Proceeds benefit the St. John the Baptist Byzantine Church Maintenance Fund.

### DATES TO REMEMBER



#### AUG. 6

Feast of the Transfiguration of Our Lord

#### AUG. 15

Feast of the Dormition of the Theotokos

#### AUG. 18

Faith and Fun Day for Altar servers

#### AUG. 25

Opening Divine Liturgy at SS. Cyril and Methodius Seminary  
*Pittsburgh, Pa.*

#### SEPT. 2 to 5

88th annual Pilgrimage in honor of Our Lady of Perpetual Help  
*Mount St. Macrina, Uniontown, Pa.*

#### SEPT. 8

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

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

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66 Riverview Avenue  
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Tel: 412-231-4000  
Fax: 412-231-1697  
Email: [bcw@archpitt.org](mailto:bcw@archpitt.org)  
Website: [www.archpitt.org](http://www.archpitt.org)

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