

# WORLD

THE BYZANTINE CATHOLIC

THE OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER OF THE ARCHDIOCESE OF PITTSBURGH VOL. 67 NO. 10 SEPTEMBER 2022

## INSIDE

### FAITH & FUN DAY

Altar servers of the Archdiocese of Pittsburgh visit Saint Anthony Chapel and cheer the Pirates to victory  
Page 3

### "THEY ARE SO VERY THANKFUL"

Luke Jordan, 18, of St. Elias in Munhall, Pa., serves the needy in Beattyville, Ky.  
Page 5

### KENNYWOOD DAY

Annual event in West Mifflin, Pa. returns following a two-year hiatus  
Page 15

## A century of faith

ST. MICHAEL IN CAMPBELL, OHIO CELEBRATES 100TH YEAR OF ITS FOUNDING



St. Michael in Campbell, Ohio celebrated its 100th anniversary July 31 with a Hierarchical Divine Liturgy and Grand Banquet at Palermo Banquet Center. Metropolitan Archbishop William Skurla was Principal Celebrant and Concelebrants included Father Kevin Marks, pastor of St. Michael in Campbell and St. Michael in Hermitage, Pa. For a story and more photos, see page 6.

## Steadfastly faithful

VATICAN ANNOUNCES BEATIFICATION OF FATHER PETRO OROS OF EPARCHY OF MUKACHEVO

by The Byzantine Catholic Archdiocese of Pittsburgh

On Aug. 5, the Vatican Bulletin proclaimed that the cause of "the martyrdom of the Servant of God Petro Oros, priest of the Eparchy of Mukachevo, Ukraine born in 14, July, 1917 in Biri, Hungary, and killed in the hatred of the faith on 28 August 1953 in Siltse, Soviet Union," is to be promulgated.

The date for his beatification was not announced.

In 1917 when Father Petro was born, Biri was a part of the Austro-Hungarian Empire. The family moved to Transcarpathia in 1919.

His Father was a Greek Catholic priest. He lost both parents at an early age: his father when he was 2 and his mother when he was 9.

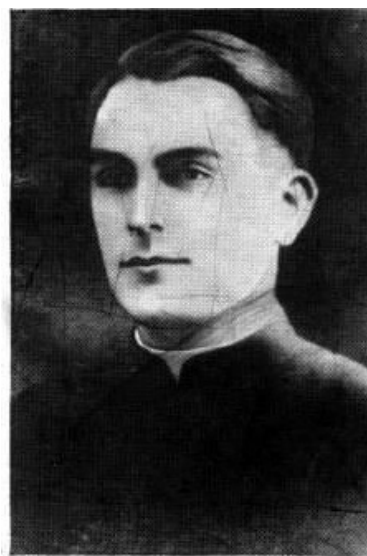
He entered the seminary in

Uzghorod, Transcarpathia in 1937, was ordained a celibate priest for the Greek Catholic Eparchy of Mukachevo on June 18, 1942, and his pastoral service began in several parishes.

By 1944, the entire region of Transcarpathia was under the occupation of Soviet troops of the Red Army and united to the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic and then to the USSR. He, as well as his brother priests, were greatly pressured to convert to Orthodoxy.

He resisted all of these efforts, and steadfastly remained faithful to the Pope and the Greek Catholic Church. Since he refused to change, he was forbidden to perform pastoral work.

On Dec. 19, 1944, Blessed Bishop Theodore Romzha clandestinely ordained Father Petro to the



Father Petros Oros

Episcopacy as the Auxiliary Bishop of Mukachevo.

By 1949 all the Greek Catholic Churches were closed, and the Eparchy of Mukachevo

Continued on page 3

## "I am a servant of the Lord"

BASILIAN SISTERS HONORED AT JUBILEE CELEBRATION

by The Sisters of St. Basil the Great Mount St. Macrina, Uniontown, Pa.

Each year, the entire community of the Sisters of St. Basil sets aside time for community sharing and for updates by its leadership on issues of concern and interest to the membership.

Being together as a total community is a great delight for all; the added voices in the chapel and the camaraderie during mealtimes all give witness to the joyfulness of this special week in the summer.

Community days are also a time when the anniversaries of entrance in religious life are celebrated. The day chosen for the celebration this year was Tuesday, July 19, the Feast of St. Macrina. Rev. Jerome Botsko, Monastery Chaplain, and Rev. Kevin Marks, concelebrated the Divine Liturgy of Thanksgiving.

"I am the servant of the Lord!" These words stirred our hearts as Father Kevin Marks as guest concelebrant and homilist, addressed the Jubilarians and the community in the Monastery Chapel at Mount St. Macrina.

A servant of the Lord, stated Father Kevin, is a person open to listening to the Lord's word, eager to do what is good.

He went on to note that this is best exemplified in the life of Mary, the Mother of God, the first and best of all the disciples.

These Jubilarians, as vowed religious, are servants in a unique way. Their service has comprised various ministries ranging from education and parish ministry to administration, leadership, and international and eparchial level ministry.

These Sisters have truly been "servants of the Lord," offering a total of 405 years of a praying, healing and life-giving ministry

Continued on page 4



UPS 081500  
ISSN 07442289

Official publication of the  
Byzantine Catholic  
Archeparchy of Pittsburgh

Serving parish communities in  
central and western Pennsylvania,  
Louisiana, eastern Ohio, Oklahoma,  
Tennessee, Texas and West Virginia

Published monthly (12 issues)  
plus two seasonal special issues

**Byzantine Catholic Press Associates**  
66 Riverview Avenue  
Pittsburgh, PA 15214  
Tel: 412.231.4000  
Fax: 412.231.1697  
E-mail: [bcw@archpitt.org](mailto:bcw@archpitt.org)  
Web site: [www.archpitt.org](http://www.archpitt.org)

Archbishop William C. Skurla  
*President*

Sister Elaine Kisinko, OSBM  
*Copy Editor*

David Mayernik Jr.  
*Editor*

Deacon Robert J. Shalhoub  
*Business Manager*

**Annual Subscription Rates**  
US \$14  
Canadian \$17  
International \$20

Periodicals Postage PAID at Pittsburgh, PA

*Postmaster: send address changes to:*  
**The Byzantine Catholic World**  
66 Riverview Avenue  
Pittsburgh, PA 15214

*Please allow 2 to 3 weeks for address  
changes to take effect.*

**Submissions deadline:**  
21st of the month prior to  
the month of publication.



The Byzantine  
Catholic World  
is a member of the  
Catholic Press  
Association.

## 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

### Seminary to host "Come And See" Weekend Nov. 4 to 6

The Byzantine Catholic Seminary of Saints Cyril and Methodius is pleased to host the "Come and See" Weekend of Discovery from Friday, Nov. 4 to Sunday, Nov. 6, 2022.

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

"Come and See" is a retreat weekend that takes place at the Byzantine Catholic Seminary in Pittsburgh, Pa. The retreat includes sharing liturgical services and meals with the Seminary community and an introduction to the Seminary formation program. It will also include a tour of the Seminary, gatherings with the seminarians, and witness talks.

There is no tuition for this "Come and See" Retreat of Discovery. The retreat, meals, and lodging are free. The application deadline is Oct. 12. For more information and to apply, please see the Seminary's website [www.bcs.org](http://www.bcs.org).

The Byzantine Catholic Seminary is a community of mentors, teachers, and students living and working in an ecumenical environment of Christian unity, integrity, and missionary spirit. The Seminary forms leaders for the Church who continue the mission mandate of our Lord Jesus Christ to "make disciples of all nations."

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

The Seminary is authorized to grant graduate degrees by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and accredited by the Commission on Accrediting of the Association of Theological Schools. The Seminary operates as a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization incorporated in Pennsylvania and is governed by a Board of Directors under the leadership of the Metropolitan Archbishop of Pittsburgh.

For more information, call the Seminary Office at 412-321-8383 or email at [office@bcs.edu](mailto:office@bcs.edu). ■

## Knights of Columbus assists Seminary students



Tim Richards, Pennsylvania State Secretary of the Knights of Columbus (center), visited the Chancery on Pittsburgh's North Side Aug. 16 to present Metropolitan Archbishop William Skurla (left) with a check totaling \$1,766. The funds will be used by the Archeparchy for the education of Pittsburgh seminarians at the Byzantine Catholic Seminary of SS. Cyril and Methodius. Also pictured is Very Rev. Andrew Deskevich, Protosyncellus.



## OFFICIAL APPOINTMENTS BY METROPOLITAN ARCHBISHOP WILLIAM

**Archbishop William** has made the following clergy appointments:

### August 4, 2022

■ **Father David S. Abernethy** appointed Spiritual Director Seminarians at SS. Cyril and Methodius Seminary.

### July 18, 2022

■ **Father Brian Norrell** appointed as Administrator of both St. Mary, Weirton, West Virginia, and St. John Avella, Pa.

### August 1, 2022

■ **Father Simeon Sibenik** relieved as Pastor of SS Peter and Paul Church, Warren, Ohio, and from active ministry to enter retirement.

■ **Very Reverend Ronald Barusefski** appointed Director of Human Formation for SS. Cyril and Methodius Seminary.

### August 17, 2022

■ **Father Will Rupp** relieved as Administrator from SS. Peter and Paul Church, Duquesne, Pa. and appointed Administrator of SS. Peter and Paul Church, Warren, Ohio.

■ **Father David S. Abernethy** appointed Administrator of SS. Peter and Paul Church, Duquesne, Pa. and Director of Campus Ministry for the Archeparchy of Pittsburgh. ■



## It's school time!

As we prepare for a new school year, I want to remind catechists, volunteers, and workers to check that their background clearances are up to date in preparation for the new school year.

The policy of the Archeparchy is to renew your background clearance every five (5) years. So those who did their clearance in 2017 are due to renew this year.

You can apply as early as three (3) months before your clearance expires.

You can email or call Sister Joanne Lickvar, the Safe Environment Coordinator, for forms. Call 724-438-8644 or email at [sjlickvar@archpitt.org](mailto:sjlickvar@archpitt.org). ■

## Upcoming events at the House of Prayer

The following events will take place at Mount St. Macrina House of Prayer, 510 W. Main St., Uniontown, Pa. To register for programs or more information, call 724-438-7149 or email [hpmsm@verizon.net](mailto:hpmsm@verizon.net). Offerings to be announced.

■ 6:30-8 p.m. Oct. 3, 10, 17, 24, 31 and Nov. 7, **Monday Evening Reading Series** (in person): "Developing Boundless Compassion" using Boundless Compassion: Creating a Way of

Life, book by Sister Joyce Rupp. Guides: Sister Barbara Jean Mihalchick, OSBM and Dr. Jo Ann Jankoski, D.Ed., LCMSW, MS, CCTP. Registration due: Sept. 26. Scholarships available.

■ 10-11:30 a.m. Oct. 15, **Saturday Morning Reflection:** "Mary and Eve: Two Women in God's Plan for Salvation" (in person). Hosted by Helenanne Hochendoner, M.A.T. Registration due: Oct. 8. ■



# Faith & Fun Day

13TH ANNUAL EVENT FOR ALTAR SERVERS RETURNS FOLLOWING A TWO-YEAR HIATUS

by David Mayernik Jr.  
Editor

Friendship. Prayer. Peace. Vocations.

Those are four words Father Kevin Marks asked altar servers of the Archeparchy of Pittsburgh to always keep close to their hearts.

“You’re someone very, very special to Jesus. You are a friend of Jesus,” he said.

Father Kevin, pastor of St. Michael in Campbell, Ohio and St. Michael Hermitage, Pa., delivered the homily during the Divine Liturgy to open this year’s Faith & Fun Day.

The 13th annual event on Aug. 18 included visits to Saint Anthony Chapel in the Troy Hill section of Pittsburgh, Pa., Dave & Buster’s restaurant and arcade in the North Hills and PNC Park to see the Pittsburgh Pirates beat the Boston Red Sox, 8-2.

This is the first Faith & Fun Day since 2019 due to the pandemic. Thirty-four altar servers, their family members and priests attended the all-day event.

“It’s very nice to be back after three years,” said Father Kevin.

Saint Anthony Chapel houses thousands of religious relics, including a large cross holding a “splinter of the True Cross, a thorn from the Crown of Thorns and a piece of stone from the Holy Sepulchre.”

Father Suitbert G. Mollinger financed construction of the chapel for his relics, which got underway in 1880.

Dedication took place on the Feast of St. Anthony, June 13, 1883.

The acquisition of life-size Stations of the Cross from Munich, Germany necessitated building an addition in 1892.

Father Kevin told altar servers prayer is the way to thank God and ask him for forgiveness.

“We can’t do all the talking. We also have to listen,” he said.

“He’s the one friend who will never give up on you.” ■



Photos by David Mayernik Jr.

## Earn your Master’s Degree in Theology at the Byzantine Catholic Seminary’s School of Theology

Degree options are offered both online and on campus.  
Catholic • Ecumenical • Flexible  
Affordable • Prestigious • Spiritually Enriching  
Rooted in ancient Christianity

To begin M.A.T. program in upcoming spring semester, application deadline is December 1.

[www.bcs.edu](http://www.bcs.edu)

Students have a choice of four different M.A.T. focus areas:

- Chaplaincy
- Dogmatics
- Liturgy
- Sacred Scripture



## Vatican announces beatification of Father Petro Oros of Eparchy of Mukachevo

Story continued from page 1 was suppressed. Father Petro, however, continued to secretly serve the people even though he was under a cloud of constant suspicion.

Early in 1953, he was arrested and detained for more than two weeks at the detention center of the KGB in Uzghorod.

Another warrant was later issued

for him. On the eve of August 27, 1953, he celebrated the Divine Liturgy for a large crowd of people.

On the next day, Aug. 28, 1953, the Julian calendar date of the Dormition, a policeman shot and killed him in the railway station of the village of Siltse.

The place of Father Petro’s burial was secret for many years. ■

# Jubilee 2022

SISTERS OF ST. BASIL THE GREAT CELEBRATE JUBILARIANS AT MOUNT ST. MACRINA

Story continued from page 1

to our Byzantine Catholic Church and beyond.

Father Kevin encouraged the Jubilarians to continue being this eloquent sign, to let the holiness of God always shine through them. Finally, he offered to the Jubilarians the congratulations of Metropolitan William Skurla together with his own personal congratulations on this joyful occasion.

**Diamond Jubilarian, Sister Bernarda Sevachko** entered the community from St. Nicholas parish in Youngstown, Ohio. Her first 45 years of service were devoted to the teaching apostolate. The following 30 years, she had been active in pastoral and catechetical ministry for the five Byzantine Catholic parishes in the Youngstown area. There, her ministry was marked by her enthusiasm and unflagging energy. Following the completion of this ministry, Sister Bernarda returned to the Mount where she continues to offer service wherever needed with liveliness and vitality.

**Celebrating 70 years of Ministry: Sister Dolores Ann Vanischak, Sister Valeria Evanyo and Sister Helen Schott**

Sister Dolores Ann joined the Community from SS. Peter and Paul in Braddock, Pa. Since 1984, she has been in charge of the Monastery Library.

In past years, Sister Dolores Ann was very active in the Fayette County Chapter of the Multiple Sclerosis Society and served alternately as the society's president and secretary for many years.

Sister Valeria is a former member of St. John the Baptist Church, Pittsburgh, Pa. Following her assignments in teaching, Sister Valeria worked at the Vatican in the Secretariat of State and at the Generalate in Rome. Later, she served in the Eparchy of Parma as secretary to the late Archbishop Basil Schott.

Currently, Sister Valeria offers supportive services at Patronage of Our Lady Convent in Pittsburgh.

Sister Helen entered the community from St. John in Hazleton, Pa. Besides teaching and health care ministries, she served in leadership as Councilor and then as Provincial for two terms.

At Mt. Macrina Manor, she held the post of Director of Nursing, before returning to the



Front row: Sister Dolores Ann Vanischak and Sister Helen Schott. Middle row: Sister Valeria Evanyo; Sister Elizabeth Jane Tepley; Sister Susan Sisko, Provincial; Sister Ruth Plante; and Sister Bernarda Sevachko. Back row: Rev. Jerome Botsko, Monastery Chaplain and Rev. Kevin Marks.



Community week activities: Sister Susan Sisko, Provincial; and Sister Barbara Jean Mihalchick (left) and Sister Seraphim Olsafsky (right).

Monastery as Health Director for the community.

**Celebrating 60 years of Ministry: Sister Elizabeth Jane Tepley and Sister Ruth Plante**

Sister Elizabeth Jane came to the community from St. Mary in Trauger, Pa. After devoting her energies for over 30 years to teaching, Sister Elizabeth Jane moved on to parish ministry at St. John the Baptist Church in Uniontown, Pa., a ministry which was very dear to her heart.

Presently, Sister Elizabeth Jane devotes her time and energy to the Card Shop and Prayer Ministry at the monastery.

Sister Ruth entered the community from St. John the Baptist Church, now located in Trumbull, Conn. Like many of the Sisters, Sister Ruth served as teacher and principal for a number of years. She then served

in administration as a Councilor before being elected as Provincial for two terms, and an additional term in 2015.

Currently, much of Sister Ruth's energy and ministry is focused on managing the Religious Gift Shop at the Mount.

Each of the Sister Jubilarians has actively served the Church in a variety of ways. Each Sister, by her fidelity and commitment witnesses to the Good News of Jesus, touching countless lives.

At the festive meal following the Divine Liturgy, Provincial Sister Susan Sisko congratulated the Sisters and thanked them for their lives of prayer, witness, and service. Others offered personal tributes to each Jubilarian, highlighting the special and unique gifts each brought to her ministry. ■

REFLECTION FROM MOUNT ST. MACRINA

## Answering the Lord's call

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



This is a transcript of her Sept. 24, 2021 reflection. It can be viewed on the Facebook page of the Sisters of St. Basil the Great at <https://www.facebook.com/sistersofstbasil.uniontown>.

Glory to Jesus Christ!

In the summer that I turned 14 years old, my family moved to a different town and bought the house right next to the St. Nicholas Byzantine Catholic parish.

We had been an involved Catholic family in the town where we lived before and became even more so in this tiny parish.

In a couple of years, when I was a Junior, the home room teacher said, "It's time for you to decide your path for the future because you won't get into the college of your choice and the subjects you want."

I did begin to think about it and one thing that struck me is that I really enjoyed my involvement with the church. I participated in all the activities and, of course, the liturgical life, and became a Catechist in the parish because I was in Catholic high school, and I realized something about that touched me.

That helped me to set the direction or to recognize, in fact, the Lord's call. Because vocation is a "call." It's a call that touches into something real in one's life.

It's not necessarily so visible; it does require prayer and discernment, it does mean looking deep within to see what matters to you.

What mattered to me was the Church. What mattered to me was the Kingdom of God.

I was blessed to kind of actually experience a change of heart and mind.

We look at the Gospel this Sunday and it's Jesus encountering the fishermen at the sea. He uses their boat to teach. Then he says to Peter: "Put out into the deep. Catch all the fish;" a very good symbol of reaching out and serving in the Kingdom.

They obey, return to fishing, and, of course, there is an abundance. Then Peter says, "Oh my God, Who are You? I want my life to be about You."

That changes their lives. They left all to follow Him. It meant they took on all that was in Christ's life. They took on all that mattered to Him and it changed their lives.

My brothers and sisters, let us pray for vocations. Let us encourage vocations; you may know somebody with the right mind and heart for the service of the Kingdom of God. Reach out. Invite.

God bless you. ■



# “They are so very thankful”

18-YEAR-OLD LUKE JORDAN OF ST. ELIAS IN MUNHALL, PA. HELPS BUILD HOMES IN APPALACHIA

by Lori Jordan  
St. Elias, Munhall, Pa.

Once again, Luke Jordan, 18, parishioner of St. Elias in Munhall, Pa., traveled to Beattyville, Ky. with the Appalachian Work Camp.

He joined a group of 150 volunteers from St. Thomas the Apostle Parishes, Munhall, Pa. and St. Joan of Arc Parish, South Park, Pa. to build and refurbish homes of low-income, elderly or needy people in the Appalachia Region.

Owsley County is one of the poorest counties in the United States. The living conditions for the unfortunate in this region are deplorable.

Father Dan Sweeney, from St. Thomas the Apostle, has involved himself and the parishes he has ministered to a relief effort for the people of Owsley County.

Over the past 40 years he has organized a week-long “building blitz.” He and his volunteers travel to Kentucky and spend ten days building homes, decks, additions and repairing current structures.

This summer the Appalachia Work Camp built two homes, repaired a trailer home and painted a home that AWC built 20-plus years ago. They also put on five porches and a handicap ramp.

In house no. 1, JR and Eva moved to the Booneville area in 2011 and have been living in a 25-foot travel trailer. They received a two-bedroom home on a hill above their trailer.

In house no. 2, Jamie received a two-bedroom home built next to her mother’s home on her property.

Jamie has three grown children and a handicapped grandchild, so her new home has a wheelchair ramp and walk in shower to accommodate a wheelchair.

Each home now has running water. Two water lines were dug by hand, each almost 400 feet.

In a mobile home repair, Cindy lost her husband to COVID last summer. She is suffering from serious health issues from her bout with the virus. She is now living alone in her mobile home.

They had closed in a back porch to make an extra bedroom for their grandson, but the ceiling was caving in. AWC repaired the room for her. This was a major undertaking.

AWC built a home over 20



Luke Jordan paints a home built more than 20 years ago by Appalachian Work Camp.



Home builders in progress.



Handing keys to the new home owners.



Luke Jordan (left) uses a sawzall.

“WHOEVER IS KIND TO THE POOR LENDS TO THE LORD, AND HE WILL REWARD THEM FOR WHAT THEY HAVE DONE.”

PROVERBS 19:17



Appalachian Work Camp crew with a home they built.

years ago for Dion and the single mother of two has never been able to afford to have the home painted since it was built.

AWC gave it a fresh coat of paint. Exterior trim and porch were replaced.

“Working with the Appalachia Work Camp is a very heart-touching experience for me. The reaction of the families which received the homes was moving to say the least. They are so very thankful for what we do for

them,” Luke said.

“This year was the first home blessing I attended. When Father Dan prayed and blessed the home we built, it was very emotional for all involved. Despite working in the daily storms, heat and humidity, I had a great and fun time in Kentucky and plan on returning next year.”

Due to the pandemic and inflation, the cost of building materials, food, gasoline etc. drastically increased.

Some of the fundraisers were canceled because of the pandemic. In June, a special collection was taken at St. Elias to help defray some of these costs. Parishioners and friends of St. Elias gave so generously to the cause.

Luke is already looking forward to going back to Kentucky in 2023.

Please keep Luke and all the volunteers in your prayers as they do God’s work. ■

ST. MICHAEL IN CAMPBELL, OHIO

## St. Michael celebrates 100 years

by *The Byzantine Catholic Archeparchy of Pittsburgh*

St. Michael in Campbell, Ohio celebrated its 100th anniversary July 31 with a Hierarchical Divine Liturgy and Grand Banquet at Palermo Banquet Center.

Metropolitan Archbishop William Skurla was Principal Celebrant and Concelebrants were Father Kevin Marks, pastor of St. Michael in Campbell and St. Michael in Hermitage, Pa.; Very Rev. Richard Lambert, pastor of St. Mary in Youngstown, Ohio; Father Mykhaylo Farynets, pastor of SS. Peter and Paul in Boardman, Ohio and St. Nicholas in Youngstown; and Father James Ragan, pastor of St. John the Baptist in Hawk Run, Pa. and Dormition of the Mother of God in Clarence, Pa.

Reverend Deacon Dennis Prestash served and Very Rev. Andrew Deskevich, rector of St. John the Baptist Cathedral in Munhall, Pa., was Liturgical Master of Ceremonies. Liturgical responses were provided by the Pittsburgh Byzantine Catholic Archeparchial Choir.

Altar servers were: Seminarian-Lector John Welch, Seminarian-Lector Luke Iyengar, Noah Hicks, Michael Katula, Nicholas Mitulinski, Jesse Santana and Christopher Vokish.

Reader of the Epistle was Miss Aubrey Lynn Vokish and Gift Bearers to Metropolitan William were: Robert Shevetz, Bill Ohlin, Annette Hospodar and Isabella Santana Sfera.

St. Michael was incorporated as a parish on Aug. 21, 1922 with Father Nestor Rakovsky appointed as resident pastor in 1926. Father Joseph Milly (1932), Father Michael Warady (1939) and Father George Petro (1946) were appointed pastors with Father George purchasing the MacIntyre Farm, part of the Blackburn Estate, with the foresight of building St. Michael's parish complex.

An official groundbreaking was held on July 2, 1950 with Father Paul Vasko appointed as pastor in 1953.

St. Michael was dedicated on Oct. 26, 1952.

Other notable events in St. Michael's history:



Metropolitan Archbishop William Skurla, Father Kevin Marks



- Seventy Kindergarten children were enrolled in the first class of the Byzantine Catholic Central School in 1953.
- Father Victor Romza is appointed pastor in Sept. 1963.
- Members of the Youth Ministry traveled to Colorado to see Pope

John Paul II in Aug. 1993. Byzantine Catholic Central closes its doors in 2009.

- Upon the retirement of Monsignor Victor Romza, Father Kevin Marks is appointed pastor by Metropolitan William Skurla. Monsignor Victor Romza, who

served as pastor for more than 50 years, falls asleep in the Lord.

- The Church was painted and new carpeting installed in 2021 and Icons were written and installed in the sanctuary and archway in 2022. ■



# Feast of the Transfiguration

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST CATHEDRAL IN MUNHALL, PA.

Father Thomas Dansak celebrated the Holy Transfiguration Aug. 6 at St. John the Baptist Cathedral in Munhall, Pa. with the Blessing of the Fruit. ■



SS. PETER AND PAUL IN DUQUESNE, PA.

Father Will Rupp blessed the first fruits of the season celebrating the Feast of Transfiguration at SS. Peter and Paul in Duquesne, Pa. ■



ST. ELIAS IN MUNHALL, PA.

Father Miron Kerul'-Kmec celebrated the Feast of the Transfiguration at St. Elias in Munhall, Pa. ■



ST. JOHN CHRYSOSTOM IN PITTSBURGH, PA.

Father Miron Kerul'-Kmec celebrated the Feast of the Transfiguration and Blessing of Fruit at St. John Chrysostom in Pittsburgh, Pa. ■



# Feast of the Dormition

Father Frank Firko blessed flowers and herbs for the Feast of the Dormition at Holy Ghost in Pittsburgh (North Side), Pa. ■



# Feast of the Dormition

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST CATHEDRAL IN MUNHALL, PA.

Very Rev. Andrew Deskevich celebrated the Feast of the Dormition of the Theotokos Aug. 15 at St. John the Baptist Cathedral in Munhall, Pa. ■



ST. MARY ASSUMPTION IN NEW SALEM, PA.

Father Christopher Burke blessed fruit on the Feast of the Transfiguration and flowers on the patronal feast day of St. Mary's Assumption Byzantine in New Salem, Pa. ■



Photos by: John Kormanik

SS. PETER AND PAUL IN DUQUESNE, PA.

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

SS. Peter and Paul in Duquesne, Pa. celebrated the feast of Dormition with Father Will Rupp blessing flowers and herbs.

It also happened to be the last Divine Liturgy before Father Will's transfer to Warren, Ohio.

Happy Feast! ■



ST. JOHN CHRYSOSTOM IN PITTSBURGH, PA.

Father Miron Kerul'-Kmec celebrated the Feast of the Dormition at St. John Chrysostom in Pittsburgh, Pa. ■



ST. ELIAS IN MUNHALL, PA.

The Blessing of Flowers for the Feast of the Dormition of the Mother of God at St. Elias in Munhall, Pa. ■





ST. STEPHEN IN LEISENRING, PA.

# St. Stephen marks 130th anniversary

by Bob Gillingham  
St. Stephen, Leisenring, Pa.

On Sunday, Aug. 14, the parishioners of St. Stephen the Protomartyr Byzantine Catholic Church in Leisenring, Pa. celebrated 130 years since their founding in 1892.

The celebratory day began with an 11 a.m. Divine Liturgy offered for the Church's founders and all other past and present parishioners.

In the Sunday Bulletin, Father Jerome Botsko set the tone for the day: "We give Thanksgiving to Almighty God for our parish church of St. Stephen and its 130 years of existence in Leisenring, Pa. We thank God today for His many Graces and blessings given to each of us in celebration of 130 years of eternal life and happiness in His Kingdom. May God grant to all of us celebrating today this momentous milestone in the history of St. Stephens Church many more happy and blessed years in peace, health, and happiness."

We parishioners quickly picked up on Father Jerome's thankful, and joyous message, and several parishioners remarked on how much more meaningful today's Divine Liturgy had been as we continue to use for God's glory the blessings He has given to each of us through our affiliation with St. Stephen the Protomartyr and our Ruthenian faith.

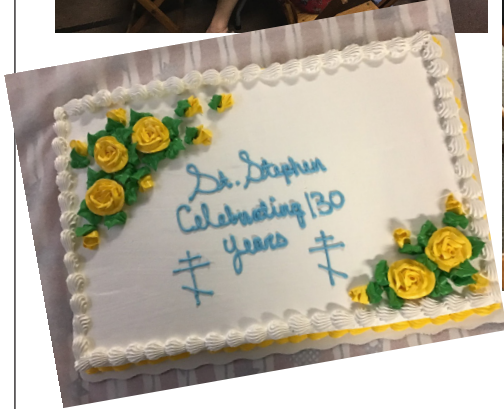
St. Stephen's has always had wonderfully popular annual summer picnics, even in the emotionally brutal war years when parish families had loved members serving abroad.

As usual, the Ladies Guild organized and managed this 130th Anniversary Celebration picnic, held on church grounds. Beginning around 2 p.m. parishioners began arriving with specially cooked items that they wished to share with fellow parishioners.

God's magnificence and bounty were no more evident than in the menu: Sauerkraut and kolbassi, halupki, kolbassi, and hot dogs, cold rice salads, pierogies, baked beans, cheesy potatoes, fried chicken, and desserts of all types; all homemade and delicious.

Music played in the background, loud enough to notice, but not loud enough to diminish the easy conversation of old friends with the common bond of religious belief. Of course, parishioners went for refills as often as they wanted, and food was still left for anyone to take home.

A book, "St. Stephen the



Protomartyr Byzantine Catholic Church Leisenring Pennsylvania, A History in Celebration of the 130th Anniversary 1892-2022," by Theresa Karaffa, Betty Jane Karaffa, Melba Gillingham, and Bob Gillingham, Ph.D., was given to all parishioners.

It consists of 196 pages of photographs and text outlining the spiritual and physical growth of the St. Stephen parish from its earliest days in 1892 with Father Alexander Dzubay, the notable priest who organized numerous Byzantine Catholic churches as far west as Illinois.

The book is buttressed by 75 photographs that tell the story of St. Stephen's people and its buildings.

"The St. Stephen book," as it has come to be named, was originally begun as a project to document the history of the St. Stephen parish, the oldest in western Pennsylvania, since many of its most knowledgeable parishioners are no longer with us. The critical need for the project hit home when we soon realized that no parishioner knew the meaning of the old Slavonic

words and phrases above the altar area and on the major cemetery cross.

Few parishioners remembered the Wayside Shrine standing in front of the church and beside Crawford Avenue. These are crucial to the spiritual and physical development of the St. Stephen parish, and our spiritual heritage!

And so began the research into Father Alex Dzubay, John Leisenring and H.C. Frick, the "patch towns" of Leisenring no. 1, Leisenring no. 2, and Leisenring no. 3, the Greek Catholic Union, all the fraternities and sodalities associated with St. Stephen's, our priests, our cantors, choirs, the milieu in which we lived, the Connellsville Coal Seam, the Cemetery, the Rectory, the additional shrines and crosses erected on the property to honor God and His Mother, and so much more.

St. Stephen is indeed fortunate in having Theresa and Betty Jane Karaffa as parishioners.

They have spent a life-time under the guidance of their parents from the Uhal and Karaffa families recording and documenting the growth of the parish.

Anna Uhal Karaffa, their mother, now deceased, translated from Slovak to English a passage on the beginning of the church as it was written originally for the 30-year anniversary in 1924 by John Brascajko, one of the founders of the Church and the Greek Catholic Union Lodge #18.

Below is Anna Karaffa's translation:

**History of St. Stephen's Greek Catholic Church Leisenring no.1, Pa. (as it appeared in the 30th Anniversary Booklet, Aug. 30, 1924)**  
Written by John Brascajko and Translated by Anna Uhal Karaffa

In 1892, Father Alexander Dzubay was sent to Leisenring #1, from Wilkes Barre, Pa. to talk to the people about building a church. So he talked to the people and they selected a committee of 12 men. Then he and the committee went to Scottdale to the H.C. Frick Coke Co. to seek help. The H.C. Frick Coke Co. promised them some land and help to build a church. But not wanting to depend entirely on the Frick Co., the committee organized a lodge, which is Lodge #18 of St. Stephen's. So Father Dzubay and his committee went from house to house looking for parishioners of our Greek Rite. In the meantime, they had their religious services in the home of Mr. Michael A. Maczkov, one of our good parishioners.

The money was coming in slowly, so they approached the better off friends, Mr. Fred Kail and Mr. L. Mikaleb, who loaned them some money and the church started being built, with God's help and was named St. Stephen's Greek Catholic Church.

In 1896 they started to build the parish house. The H.C. Frick Coke Co. donated 12 acres of land and gave \$25.00 each month as a gift. Later they started giving us all the coal to heat the church and parish house.

The church then organized a woman's lodge, St. Helen's Lodge #136, a children's lodge, St. Peter and Paul #49-50, a young man's Sokol, St. Nicholas Lodge #4 and a young ladies Sokol Lodge, St. Mary Magdalene Lodge #33. By July 30, 1924 we had 1284 members, all members of the Greek Catholic Union, Sojedenije. God is with us (S nami boh).■

For information on ordering the St. Stephen book, see page 16.



SS. PETER AND PAUL IN DUQUESNE, PA.

# Farewell, Father Will

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

Mnohaya lita to Father Will Rupp on his transfer to SS. Peter and Paul in Warren, Ohio. With God's guidance you change lives. You will be greatly missed and forever in our prayers. Z'Bohom!



ST. GREGORY IN UPPER ST. CLAIR, PA.

# Flea market finds

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

The line of traffic waiting to turn into St. Gregory's Church parking lot on Saturday morning, Aug. 6, was just one indicator that the annual flea market would be a huge success.

A wide variety of items for sale added to the event's appeal, drawing in bargain-hunters and shoppers from all over the South Hills of Pittsburgh.

Prior to this fundraiser event, our hard-working parishioners

were in the Church hall setting up, pricing, and donating their time and effort to make this a successful event.

Thank you to all who planned, set up, shopped, browsed, prayed, cleaned up, and broke down the Flea Market.

It was a fabulous time of Church fellowship together with hard work and many laughs. A huge Thank you to everyone and may Our Lord bless you for your love and dedication to St. Gregory!



ST. JOHN CHRYSOSTOM IN PITTSBURGH, PA.

# Cantoring at camp

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

From July 20 to 24, the North Bend Park & Campground in Bodyton, Va. was the site of this year's Federation of North American Explorers (FNE) camp.

The camp was open to children ages 8 to 16 and adult leaders.

St. John Chrysostom in Pittsburgh, Pa. parishioner Eric Williams and his daughter Lily were among those who traveled from Maine, Michigan, New Jersey, West Virginia and Pennsylvania to celebrate their

faith under the banner of "We will see His presence within us."

FNE is a scouting organization that's "Catholic to its core." Many leaders and scouts who are Byzantine Catholic, asked the camp spiritual leader, Bishop Milan Lach, to offer Byzantine liturgies during the five-day event.

Eric Williams, a cantor-in-training at St. John Chrysostom, under the guidance of long-time cantor, Kevin Beres, served as one of the camp's male leaders. Eric chanted the epistles and served as cantor for three weekday liturgies and one Sunday liturgy.



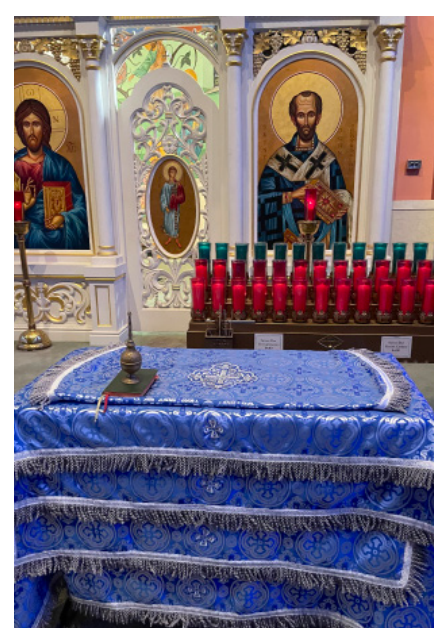
# Altar linens for Marian Feasts

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

Following Divine Liturgy on Sunday, July 24, Father Miron Kerul'-Kmec blessed new altar cloths for Marian Feasts at St. John Chrysostom in Pittsburgh, Pa.

The beautiful blue linens adorned the tetrapod, altars and Holy Table for the Feast of the Theotokos.

The fabric for the linens were gifts of the Timo Foundation. The linens were made by parishioner Elizabeth Harbist.



# Feast of St. Elijah

HOLY SPIRIT IN PITTSBURGH, PA.

by Mary Dzurichko  
Holy Spirit, Pittsburgh, Pa.

Father Michael Kunitz braved the heat of the day and blessed the vehicles after the Sunday Divine

Liturgy in honor of St. Elijah at Holy Spirit in Pittsburgh, Pa.

Members of the parish joined in with the singing of the St. Elijah hymn. ■



ST. ELIAS IN MUNHALL, PA.

Father Vitalii Stashkevych blessed vehicles—including bicycles and scooters—July 24 at St. Elias in Muhall, Pa. in honor of the Feast of St. Elijah. ■



SS. PETER AND PAUL IN DUQUESNE, PA.

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

SS. Peter and Paul in Duquesne, Pa. celebrated the Feast of The Holy and Glorious Prophet

Elijah with Father Will Rupp blessing wheeled vehicles.

There were cars, a bicycle, and even a stroller.

Happy Feast! ■



ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST IN SCOTTDALE, PA.

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



SS. PETER AND PAUL; IN BRADDOCK, PA.

Father Vitalii Stashkevych blessed vehicles July 24 at SS. Peter and Paul in Braddock, Pa. in honor of the Feast of St. Elijah. ■





ST. MARY IN WEIRTON, W. VA.

# Welcome, Father Brian!

St. Mary in Weirton, W. Va. welcomed its new pastor, Father Brian Norrell, and his family, Pani Missy and son Nick, July 24.

Following the Divine Liturgy, Father Brian blessed vehicles for the feast of St Elias.

The official welcome reception for Father Brian and his family was held following both Divine Liturgies.

May God grant you many happy and blessed years! ■



# Clean-up Day

Thank you to everyone who came out yesterday to help with clean up day! We also appreciated Father Brian Norrell jumping

in to help out! Work is always easier when followed by a little breakfast! ■



CHURCH OF THE RESURRECTION IN MONROEVILLE, PA.

# Fun in the sun

The Church of the Resurrection in Monroeville, Pa. enjoyed a picnic following liturgy on Aug. 14.

With more than 65 in attendance participants were treated to grilled

hot dogs and kolbasi along with a covered dish lunch complete with games and a live Rusyn band.

It was an excellent time of family and fellowship for all. ■



SS. PETER AND PAUL IN TARENTUM,, PA.

# Picnic in the park

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

With God's blessing, a good number of faithful SS. Peter and Paul in Tarentum, Pa parishioners and friends were able to come together for a parish picnic. There was good weather, delicious food, and great company in a very friendly atmosphere.

Also, exciting programs for kids and a bingo game for adults were provided.

Attending were our neighbor's Roman Catholic priests, some Byzantine Catholic faithful from



other parishes, and friends of the parish who help and support the church congregation with fundraising projects.

Most essential was the presence of Jesus Himself with His blessing and grace among us. ■



ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST IN LYNDORA, PA.

# ECF students keep busy

by Amanda Stavish  
St. John the Baptist, Lyndora, Pa.

As the parishioners of St. John the Baptist in Lyndora began the new church year, we looked back at the activities that the ECF students and parish family enjoyed during the past year.

ECF students completed a number of projects designed to enhance and reinforce their studies.

The projects included: snakes, doves, snow globes, Easter cards, and planting flowers in pots for

Mother's day. In addition, they visited Kraynak's and Daffin's Chocolate Village in Hermitage, Pa. during the Christmas season followed by a visit to St. John the Baptist Carpatho-Rusyn Orthodox Church.

The students also participated in our Parish activities including the annual Fasengy, visit from St. Nicholas, the parish 50/50 raffle, and a presentation by parishioner Micheal Dancisin who explained the art of Pysanky Egg decorating.



ST. ELIAS IN MUNHALL, PA.

# Community Day eats

St. Elias parishioners sold their delicious pirohi and haluska at Community Day in West Homestead, Pa. Thanks to everyone who supported us! More are being made for the holidays!



ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST IN UNIONTOWN, PA.

# Coming together

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

To honor the Theotokos, parishioners brought in many beautiful flowers in celebration

of the feast of Dormition. After Liturgy, these flowers were blessed by Father Vasyl Symyon. ■



On June 22, a liturgy, veneration of the relics of St. Sharbel, and holy anointing were held at St. George Maronite Catholic Church in Uniontown, Pa. Father James Fraser and Father Vasyl Symyon concelebrated with Father Aaron, pastor of St. George. ■



On Aug. 17, Father Vasyl Symyon and parishioners of St. John the Baptist parish began cleaning the kitchen area in preparation for the upcoming pirohi sales, which resume in September. Parishioners will also be making pirohi to donate to the 88th Pilgrimage at Mount St. Macrina. ■





ST. NICHOLAS IN GREENSBURG, PA.

# Happy birthday, Susan!

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

Friday, July 22 marked the 102nd birthday of Susan Dusecina, mother of Father Regis Dusecina, pastor of St. Nicholas in Greensburg, Pa.

Susan is the oldest parishioner along with June M. Repnick, 96; Agnes Uhall, 95; and Elizabeth Sterba, 93; and William and Catherine Sullenberger, both 92.

Following the weekend Liturgies on July 24, parishioners gathered to relate best wishes and sing "Happy Birthday" and "God Grant Many Blessed Years," led by cantors Andrew Regalla, Robert Permuko and Felix Krynicki.

Susan was born in 1920 and comes from a family of 11, of whom five sisters and one brother are living.

Celebrating Susan's birthday has become an inspiring event at St. Nicholas.

Those who visit like to hear her many stories of past experiences and historical events she has witnessed. She relates stories of the "box," the invention of television and seeing it for the first

time. Spaghetti and hamburgers were new-found foods.

One of the stories is of Charles A. Lindbergh, who made the first nonstop solo flight from New York to Paris in 1927, tipping the wings of the Spirit of St. Louis and waving to her and her sister over the farm where she then resided in Lycippus, Pa.

She recalls a time when there were no priests to celebrate Sunday Liturgies weekly. The family would gather at her grandfather's home, who would conduct a prayer service and read the gospels. Sunday morning was a time of prayer and no work of any kind — even reading the newspaper had to wait until the afternoon.

When Divine Liturgies were held in the parish, they were filled to capacity. Cars were a luxury, most walked to church in all kinds of weather, which was never an excuse for not going to church when there was a priest to offer the Divine Liturgy.

What's the secret to Susan's longevity: walking! ■



Celebration following Saturday night Vigil



Celebration following Sunday morning Divine Liturgy

HOLY GHOST IN MCKEES ROCKS, PA.

# Feast of Bishop Gojdich

*By Maria Iyengar  
Holy Ghost, McKees Rocks, Pa.*

Holy Ghost in McKees Rocks, Pa. celebrated the Feast Day of Blessed Bishop Paul Gojdich on Sunday, July 17.

Father Frank Firko preached

a homily on his life and led the congregation in prayer.

Following the Divine Liturgy each member of the congregation was blessed with a relic of Bishop Paul. ■



# Venerating Bishop Hopko

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

The parishioners of Holy Ghost Churches of McKees Rocks and the North Side, both in Pennsylvania, commemorated the anniversary of the passing of Blessed Bishop-Martyr Basil Hopko at the weekend Divine Liturgies on July 23 to 24.

At its conclusion a prayer of

petition was offered to God through the holy hierarch's intercession that their request be answered.

All then approached to receive a blessing of the first class relic and then to venerate Bishop's Hopko's icon.

Parishioner Julia Ann Mosko places her petition before the holy prelate's image. ■





## THOUGHTS FOR OUR DAY

by Archpriest David M. Petras

### BAPTISM: CANDLE AND CLOTHING



The baptism in water is followed by two symbolic actions which symbolize the meaning of the sacramental mystery. After the new Christian has been baptized in water, the priest washes his hands, while the newly-baptized is dried with a towel. At this time, Psalm 31 [32] was sung, though it was omitted in the Small Trebnik, only because the rite was shortened slightly. It is restored in our proposed translation. In ancient Constantinople, at the Paschal Baptismal Vigil, Psalm 31 was sung as a refrain to "All you who have been baptized . . ." as the Patriarch and newly-baptized processed into the church from the baptistry. It is very appropriate for someone just baptized, for the Psalm begins, "Blessed are they whose trespasses are forgiven and whose sins are remitted." Before baptism, the candidate renounced the devil, the source of all evil and all sin. Having been baptized, we are now free from the power of sin, not by our own human abilities, but by the grace of God. Indeed, as we come into the Church, St. Paul teaches, "do not present the parts of your bodies to sin as weapons for wickedness, but present yourselves to God as raised from the dead to life and the parts of your bodies to God as weapons for righteousness. For sin is not to have any power over you, since you are not under the law but under grace" (Romans 6:13-14). Psalm 31 continues this theme, therefore, "O happy the man to whom the Lord imputes no guilt, in whose spirit is no guile. You, Lord, have forgiven

the guilt of my sin. Be glad in the Lord and rejoice, you righteous ones!"

Before baptism, the candidates used to remove their clothing to stand naked to enter the baptismal font. This is still done for babies, though for the sake of propriety, adults are either baptized by the pouring of water, or are partially unclothed to enter a font. This



The light of the candle is a sign of the meaning baptism, which the Fathers called "enlightenment."

is a symbol of the first innocence of Adam and Eve before their fall into sin in paradise. We read in the book of Genesis that after following the deceit of the serpent, "Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they were naked; so they sewed fig leaves together and made loin cloths for themselves" (3:7). The clothing with a new garment symbolizes the purity of our life in Christ. Giving the garment, the priest says, "The servant of God (name) is clothed in the robe of righteousness, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen; and the people sing, O most merciful Christ our God, you clothe yourself with light as with a garment, give me a robe of light."



One who has been baptized is "dead to sin," and has clothed him(her)self with Christ, who is completely sinless. The troparion attached to this connects the idea of enlightenment with the clothing — Christ is clothed in a robe of light (cf. Psalm 103:2). An adult may be clothed is a white sticharion, an infant may be clothed in the family's traditional baptismal gown, or a special white garment may be supplied for the occasion. The garment must be white to symbolize purity from sin. Therefore, this rite of clothing is recalled when the newly-baptized processes around the font after chrismation, "All you who have been baptized into Christ have been clothed with Christ. Alleluia!" (Galatians 3:27). In ancient times, the white garments were then worn for seven days following initiation. Since adult baptisms were done at the Paschal Vigil (of Easter), this is one reason that the week was called "Bright Week."

The giving of a candle is not found in other branches of the Byzantine rite, and is exclusive to Catholic Ruthenians. After the clothing in the baptismal robe, as the priest gives the lighted candle to the newly baptized, or their sponsor, he says, "Receive this lighted candle, and during your entire life strive to shine with the light of faith and good deeds, that when the Lord comes, you may be able to meet him with light together with all the saints and enter unhindered into the court of his heavenly glory and reign with him through all eternity. Amen." The rite itself is of Roman origin, but the Sacred Congregation for Oriental Churches permitted it to remain in the ritual because it is not opposed to Byzantine

theology or spirituality. Some priests provide a decorated candle, and allow the neophyte to keep it as a remembrance of baptism. In other Slav rites, the sponsors hold lighted candles throughout the service.

The light of the candle is a sign of the meaning of baptism, which the Fathers called "enlightenment." The sacramental mystery is technically called "enlightenment." Someone about to be baptized is called a "photozomenos," (someone about to be enlightened). The neophyte is called newly-enlightened. In fact, the Catechism of the Catholic Church quotes Gregory the Theologian, who writes, "Enlightenment is the greatest and most magnificent of the gifts of God. For just as we speak of the Holy of Holies and the Song of Songs, so is this called enlightenment, as being more holy than any other enlightenment which we possess" (Homily 40).

In 1 Peter 2:9, actually a baptismal homily tells us, "You are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people of his own, so that you may announce the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light." The Greek word for baptism is *baptisma*, so the Church historian Eusebius coined a new word *photisma* ("enlightenment") for baptism. In the Litany after the Gospel, the deacon therefore prays, "Again we pray for the newly enlightened servant of God (name), that he (she) be protected in the pure profession of faith, in all piety and in the fulfillment of the commandments of Christ all the days of his (her) life." ■

## 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](https://www.facebook.com/ststephenbyzantinecatholicchurch)

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



# Rain & shine

BYZANTINE CATHOLIC DAY RETURNS TO KENNYWOOD IN WEST MIFFLIN, PA.

## TEXT MESSAGES

by David Mayernik Jr.  
Editor



For awhile at Byzantine Catholic Day at Kennywood Park, the faithful couldn't be blamed if they were unsure whether to ride Noah's Ark or start building an ark of their own. But rain showers finally moved out of West Mifflin, Pa. and the sun showed itself from behind dark clouds.

This was the 100th anniversary of the annual event sponsored by the Greek Catholic Union.

It was back July 28 following a two-year hiatus due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Metropolitan Archbishop William Skurla celebrated a prayer service with Very Rev. Andrew Deskevich, and welcomed the gathered faithful back to the park.

It was my first time back at Kennywood in three years and I spent the first couple of hours standing beneath an awning near a photo booth, watching the rain pour down.

I offered a wry smile to the gentleman standing near me and told him this isn't the weather I was hoping for when I didn't have to be in my office today.

Bur the rain finally let up and I spent the afternoon and early evening walking around the park, eating my share of fries from the Potato Patch and people-watching.

And, no, I did not brave going on any of the rides —the Thunderbolt, Jack Rabbit or Steel Curtain — in the "Roller Coaster Capital of the World."

I am not a fan of height nor speed so those were definitely out.

It was good to see Father Frank Firko, pastor of Holy Ghost in McKees Rocks, Pa. and Father Jerome Botsko, chaplain for the Sisters of St. Basil the Great at Mount St. Macrina in Uniontown, Pa., as I roamed around the park.

Late in the afternoon, as I was sitting on a bench, watching people walk by, I saw the same man who I was staying out of the rain, five hours prior.

He recognized me and — stretching his arms to acknowledge the sunshine — said, "Isn't this better?"

"Definitely," I smiled back. ■



Photos by David Mayernik Jr.



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

Even heavy rains couldn't stop the parishioners of St. John the Baptist from attending the GCU Byzantine Family Fun Day at Kennywood Park on July 28.

Despite the gloomy morning, it turned out to be a beautiful day to spend with fellow Byzantine Catholics. ■



## AROUND THE ARCHEPARCHY



**STUFFED CABBAGE DINNER** — 3-6 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 10; 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 11; St. John the Baptist Cathedral, 210 Greentree Road, Munhall, Pa. Take-out only stuffed cabbage dinner Price is \$12 per dinner, which includes: stuffed cabbage, potatoes, veggie, roll and butter. Pre-orders will be guaranteed. To pre-order, call 412-461-0944. In addition we will be selling quarts of haluski, quarts of soup, our kolache, and various baked goods.

**RUMMAGE SALE** — Saturday, Sept. 10, 9 a.m.-3 p.m., St. Pius X, 2336 Brownsville Road, Carrick, Pa. Lots of Christmas decorations and baby supplies such as high chairs, strollers, etc. this year.

**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.

**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.

**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 include 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 as 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.

**SPAGHETTI AND BASKET RAFFLE** — Noon-3 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 16, St. John the Baptist, 525 Porter Ave., Scottdale, Pa. Dinner includes spaghetti, meatballs, salad, roll, dessert and beverage. Donation: \$10, adults; \$5, children under 12 years old. Take-out and extra desserts will be available. Sponsored by the Altar Society of St. John the Baptist. For more information, call 724-220-5062.

**ADULT EASTERN CHRISTIAN FORMATION CLASSES** — 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. 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)

**ST. STEPHEN 130TH ANNIVERSARY BOOK** — St. Stephen the Protomartyr Byzantine Catholic Church Leisenring Pennsylvania, A History in Celebration of the 130th Anniversary 1892-2022" may be purchased by sending a \$20 check or US Money Order per copy (made out to: "Theresa Karaffa/St. Stephen Book") St. Stephen Byzantine Catholic Church, Theresa Karaffa, P.O. Box 128, Leisenring, PA 15455. If ordering from Canada, please send a \$28 US Postal Money Order payable in US dollars to reflect the difference in exchange rate and postage costs. For more information or for an exact cost if ordering from elsewhere outside the United States, please email [ststephenbook@gmail.com](mailto:ststephenbook@gmail.com).

**EPIPHANY OF OUR LORD BYZANTINE CATHOLIC MISSION** — Serving suburban Washington, DC, northern Montgomery County and the city of Frederick, Md. Join us for Divine Liturgy: 5 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 3, 10 and 17 and 11 a.m. Sunday, Sept. 25; 9301 Warfield Road, Gaithersburg, Md. 20882. [www.eolmission.org](http://www.eolmission.org). Contact us at 703-573-3986

### DATES TO REMEMBER



**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 Mary

**SEPT. 11**  
Celebration of Marriage  
*St. Elias, Munhall, Pa.*

**SEPT. 14**  
Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross

**OCT. 2 to 6**  
Clergy Retreat

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



Official publication of the  
Byzantine Catholic  
Archeparchy of Pittsburgh

**Byzantine Catholic Press  
Associates**

66 Riverview Avenue  
Pittsburgh, PA 15214  
Tel: 412-231-4000  
Fax: 412-231-1697  
Email: [bcw@archpitt.org](mailto:bcw@archpitt.org)  
Website: [www.archpitt.org](http://www.archpitt.org)

**NEXT ISSUE:**  
**OCTOBER 2022**

**SUBMISSIONS  
DEADLINE:**  
**SEPTEMBER 19**