

WORLD

THE BYZANTINE CATHOLIC

THE OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER OF THE ARCHDIOCESE OF PITTSBURGH

VOL. 68 NO. 6 MAY 2023

INSIDE



"GOD'S VISION FOR MARRIAGE"

Seven couples attend Pre-Cana program sponsored by Office of Religious Education
Page 3



THE GIFT OF SPIRITUAL ILLUMINATION

Sister Barbara Jean Mibalchick, OSBM discusses the Healing of the Man Born Blind
Page 4



THE RADIANT RESURRECTION

Holy Week and Easter photos from parishes across the Archdiocese of Pittsburgh
Pages 5 to 10

Christ is Risen! Indeed He is Risen!

PARISHES ACROSS THE ARCHDIOCESE CELEBRATE THE RESURRECTION OF CHRIST



Faithful at parishes across the Archdiocese of Pittsburgh joined together to celebrate Holy Week and the Radiant Resurrection. Clockwise from top left: St. John Chrysostom Pittsburgh, Pa.; St. John the Baptist in Uniontown, Pa.; St. Gregory in Upper St. Clair, Pa. and St. Michael in Hermitage, Pa.

"Consider the Lilies of the Field"

18TH ANNUAL WOMEN'S DAY OF REFLECTION SET FOR MAY 13

The 18th annual Women's Day of Reflection will be held 9 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Saturday, May 13 at the Cathedral of St. John the Baptist, 210 Greentree Road, Munhall, Pa.

This year's theme is "Consider the Lilies of the Field." Presenters include:

- **Kat Doyle** has served as Director of Justice & Peace Ministries for the Archdiocese of Atlanta for 13 years. She will help us understand and appreciate Pope Francis' encyclical "Laudato Si, On Care for Our Common Home." Kat educates on, raises awareness of and advocates for, social justice issues including Care for Creation. In 2020, Kat was appointed as the U.S. representative for the Vatican's "Laudato Si," and Dioceses Working Group, where she interacts with a group of global experts who focus on creating an Action Platform easily accessible for parishes & dioceses worldwide.

She has a heart for sustainable living and embraces integral ecology, which hears the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor.

- **Dr. Sandra Collins, Ph.D.** has a doctorate in Religious Studies from the University of Pittsburgh, is Director of Information Services and a professor in the Sacred Scripture department at SS. Cyril & Methodius Seminary, and Adjunct Faculty at Carnegie Mellon University. She holds membership in the Association of Jewish Studies, American Academy of Religion, PA Library Association and the Catholic Library Association. Her presentation will acquaint us with plants and herbs in scripture and how they contribute to our health and total well being.

A stronger presence in Vocations ministry

THE ARCHDIOCESE'S FORMER SERRA CLUB REORGANIZED AS THE SOCIETY OF SAINTS CYRIL AND METHODIUS

By The Society of Saints Cyril and Methodius, Eastern Catholic Vocations

To create a stronger presence of laypersons in the Vocations Ministry of the Byzantine Catholic Church, Metropolitan Archbishop William C. Skurla recently sanctioned the reorganization of the Byzantine Catholic Serra Club of Pittsburgh to become the Society of Saints Cyril and Methodius (SSCM).

The mission of SSCM is to foster and promote religious vocations in the Byzantine Catholic Church of the USA. Members are dedicated to a ministry of prayer for vocations and affirmation and support to seminarians, deacon students,



Icon of Saints Cyril and Methodius

those in formation for religious life, and our clergy and religious.

The charter members of this Society are the former members of the Byzantine Catholic Serra

Club of Pittsburgh, established in 1960. As an affiliate of Serra International, founded by the Roman Catholic Church and having 1,100 clubs in 46 counties, Serra Club — Pittsburgh was the only Serra Club in the world comprised of Byzantine Catholics. Membership involved travel to the Pittsburgh area for meetings and events, which limited participation.

The reorganization opens membership opportunities to every Byzantine Catholic in all four Eparchies, with the goal of having one or more members from each of the parishes. Anyone anywhere can get involved in

Story continued on page 4

Story continued on page 3

WORLD

THE BYZANTINE CATHOLIC

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
Web site: 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

Calling all former Choir members

The Pittsburgh Byzantine Catholic Archeparchial Choir was formed in July 1998. If you attended a rehearsal, belonged to or sang with the PBCAC at any point during the near 25-year span between that first gathering and today, we would love to have you participate in our 25th Anniversary Celebration on Sunday, July 23 this summer!

Send us your current email address, phone number and home address, and we'll send you all the details.

Email choir@archpitt.org or send via postal mail to:

PBCAC, 66 Riverview Ave., Pittsburgh, PA 15214, Attn: Darlene Fejka.

Please respond to this "call-to-voice" by June 30. Let's celebrate!

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.

■ 7 p.m. Sunday, May 21 to after lunch Friday, May 26, **Directed Retreat**. Presenters: TBA. Offering: \$350. Registration due: May 15. ■

■ 7 p.m. Friday, June 23 to noon Sunday, June 25, **Young Adult Retreat**. Led by Sister Barbara Jean Milhalchick, OSBM and Young Adult Team. Offering: \$110. Registration due: June 16. ■

Iconography Workshop

Saint Andrew the Apostle, 235 Logan Road, Gibsonia, Pa. will sponsor an iconography workshop for adults of all levels of experience May 18 to 21.

You will write an icon of Christ the Teacher on a gesso covered board. Using a pre-prepared prototype, you will learn techniques for faces, garments, gilding and tooling.

The theology of iconography and specifically, Christ will also be presented.

The class will be Thursday and Friday 6-9:30 p.m., all day Saturday and Sunday, after liturgy until finishing.

You must be able to attend all days to have a completed icon. There will be the opportunity to attend Liturgy Sunday morning.

For further information, call Marylyn Barone at 412-678-9453 or email her at mwbarone@comcast.net. ■

Helping Hands Day set for June 3



Helping Hands Day at Mount St. Macrina in Uniontown, Pa. will take place 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Saturday, June 3.

On this day, youth, faithful, GCU members and the many friends of the Sisters of St. Basil join together for a common cause — to prepare for the 89th Annual Pilgrimage which will be held Sept. 2 to 3.

The group will meet in the Trinity Center for coffee and donuts at 9:30 a.m. A brief prayer service will follow, and work will begin at 10 a.m.

Volunteers will help clear floral

gardens, shrines, urns, and other planting areas throughout the grounds, and then plant annuals. Other work centers will be the pavilions, which will be cleared of a winter's worth of leaves and other debris.

Bring lawn tools (including brooms, rakes, weed whackers, etc.) for outside work. Bring brooms, mops, dust pans, etc., for any indoor cleaning.

Lunch will be served. To register or for additional information, please call Sister Joanne at 724-438-4940 or GCU at 1-800-722-8644. ■

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 fall semester, application deadline is July 20.

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

- Chaplaincy
- Dogmatics
- Liturgy
- Sacred Scripture



www.bcs.edu

SEEKING THE FACE OF THE LORD

A RETREAT FOR YOUNG ADULTS FACING THE CHALLENGES OF BEING SPIRITUAL AND RELIGIOUS IN TODAY'S WORLD

7PM FRIDAY, JUNE 23 — NOON SUNDAY, JUNE 25

REGISTER BY JUNE 16!

LED BY SISTER BARBARA JEAN, OSBM AND HER INTREPID YOUNG ADULT TEAM!

MOUNT ST. MACRINA
HOUSE OF PRAYER
510 W. MAIN STREET
UNIONTOWN PA 15401

SCAN THE QR CODE TO REGISTER
OR CALL 724-438-7149
OR EMAIL [HPMSM@VERIZON.NET](mailto:hpmsm@verizon.net)
FOR MORE INFORMATION!

OFFERING: \$110.
SCHOLARSHIPS/SPONSORSHIPS AVAILABLE.

"YOUR FACE, O LORD, I SHALL SEEK!"

(Ps 26:8)



“God’s vision for marriage”

SEVEN COUPLES ATTEND PRE-CANA PROGRAM AT SEMINARY

By The Byzantine Catholic Office of Religious Education

The seven couples who participated in the 2023 Pre-Cana Program sponsored by the Office of Religious Education were reminded by all six presenters that God wants to be with them in every moment of their marriage.

In his presentation on “Communication, Forgiveness and Intimacy,” Father Thomas Dansak spoke about the various levels of intimacy and how one communicates the value placed on each other. He emphasized forgiveness is the most important word in the English language and the most powerful word in a marriage.

Three couples — Dr. Sandee and Mark Collins, Seminarian Joshua and Regina Johnson and Amanda and Chris Singel — shared their lived experience regarding finances, generosity in marriage and the elements of a healthy marriage.

Father Ron Barusefski presented

to the couples “God’s vision for marriage.” He spoke about how this vision will unfold in the years to come and can be summed up in three words, faithful, lifelong and life-giving.

The program concluded with a Power Point presentation by Father Robert Pipta on “The Crowning Ceremony.” He explained the ritual and symbolism of the ceremony, guiding the couples by referencing the booklet they received entitled, “Mystery of Crowning” published by the Byzantine Seminary Press.

A folder was given to each participant containing resource material on Fertility Awareness, Prayer, Family Systems and a Certificate of Attendance. The couples were from St. Gregory, Upper St. Clair; Holy Ghost, McKees Rocks; St. Michael, Hermitage; and St. Mary, Bradenville.

The 2024 Pre Cana Program is scheduled for March 2 and 9 at SS. Cyril and Methodius Seminary. ■



“Making the City a Church”

SEMINARY’S 23RD ANNUAL LECTURE SET FOR MAY 10

By The Byzantine Catholic Seminary of SS. Cyril and Methodius

The Byzantine Catholic Seminary in Pittsburgh, Pa. is pleased to announce its 23rd annual academic lecture to be delivered by Father John Baldovin, S.J. at 7 p.m. May 10.

This livestreamed lecture, entitled “Making the City a Church: Liturgical Processions in Constantinople from the Sixth to the Tenth Centuries,” is to study the mobile character of ancient Constantinopolitan Christian worship and the processions of Byzantine stational liturgy. This will shed light on the liturgy itself, popular piety, and the relation of liturgy to the surrounding culture.

All are welcome to attend this lecture virtually on Wednesday, May 10 at 7 p.m. via the Seminary website (www.bcs.edu).

The lecture can also be accessed live or at a later time from archives on the B.C.S. YouTube channel.

Father John F. Baldovin is Professor of Historical and Liturgical Theology at the Boston College School of Theology and Ministry. He is a priest of the USA-East Province of the Society of Jesus. He received his BA from the College of the Holy Cross, an MDiv from Weston School of Theology, and MA, MPhil, and PhD from Yale University.

Father Baldovin served on the advisory committee for the Bishops’ Committee on the Liturgy of the U.S.C.C.B. (1989-1993). He is past president of



Father John Baldovin, S.J.

the North American Academy of Liturgy as well as the international ecumenical Societas Liturgica. He is a member of the Board of Directors of the journal, Theological Studies, with his fields of expertise being history and theology of the liturgy, sacramental theology, and the theology of ministry. Among his numerous publications is The Urban Character of Christian Worship: The Origins, Development and Meaning of Stational Liturgy (Pontifical Institute of Oriental Studies, 1987).

Founded in 1950, the Byzantine Catholic Seminary is a free-standing, English speaking theological seminary. The Seminary is authorized to grant the Master of Arts in Theology and Master of Divinity degrees by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and is accredited by the Association of Theological Schools. ■

“Consider the Lilies of the Field”

Story continued from page 3

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

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

Contact Sister Marion Dobos at 412-322-8773 or mdobos1@gmail.com for more information. Cost of \$40 includes lunch. No refunds. Pre-registration is required. Deadline is May 5.

If you wish to donate a basket for the Benefit Auction, please contact Marjorie Glaid at 412-835-3873.

A registration form is available at archpitt.org. ■

SCHEDULE

9 a.m.

Doors Open
Registration/Coffee

9:45 a.m.

Prayer/Welcome

10 a.m.

Living Laudato Si-Making a Choice to Care for our Common Home Part 1. Making Sustainable Choices
Kat Doyle

11 a.m.

Break

11:15 a.m.

Part 2. Taking Meaningful Action
Kat Doyle

Noon

Lunch and vendors

1 p.m.

Behold, It Was Good (Gen. 1:31)
Dr. Sandra Collins

1:30 p.m.

Process

2 p.m.

Benefit Auction for children and women in Ukraine

NEW
to you **SALE**

Rummage Sale
and Bake Sale

Friday, May 26
10 AM - 5 PM

Saturday, May 27
10 AM - 2 PM



Holy Trinity Church
472 Wall Ave., Wall, Pa. 15148

“Sing the Hymn of Victory!”

ARCHEPARCHIAL CHOIR PERFORMS AT HOLY SPIRIT IN PITTSBURGH, PA.



The Pittsburgh Byzantine Catholic Archeparchial Choir celebrated the glorious Resurrection of our Lord Sunday, April 16 as they presented "Sing the Hymn of Victory!" at Holy Spirit Byzantine Catholic Church in Pittsburgh's Oakland neighborhood. The event was sponsored by the Archeparchy's Campus Ministry program. The performance included many beloved and some seldom-heard Byzantine Ruthenian variations of the Paschal greeting "Christ is Risen! Christos Voskrese!" in English and Church Slavonic. Readings celebrating the joy of Pascha included several from the pen of the choir's founder, +Metropolitan Judson M. Procyk of blessed memory.

Society of Saints Cyril and Methodius organized

Story continued from page 1

Vocations Ministry thanks to internet communication by email, social media, and technology for online meetings, presentations, and gatherings.

As they have done in the past, SSCM charter members will continue to promote the Byzantine Catholic Seminary and monastic communities by conducting regular meetings and planning special events for social, educational, and spiritual enrichment. Charter members will support new members from outside the Pittsburgh area as regional groups begin to form in Vocations Ministry, vital to the life of our church.

More information will be

forthcoming to the parishes, or you may contact the SSCM president Diane Pochron

pochrond@pitt.edu or SSCM chaplain Father Valerian Michlik at stgregoryusc@aol.com. ■

Society of Saints Cyril and Methodius Charter Members

**St. John the Baptist Cathedral
Munhall, Pa.**
Diane Pochron, Patricia Bovee

Holy Trinity, Wall, Pa.
Sam and Marylyn Barone

**Holy Spirit
Pittsburgh (Oakland), Pa.**
David Zavasky

**Holy Ghost
McKees Rocks, Pa.**
Bill and Kathe Kress
Joyce and Jim Walsh

**St. Gregory
Upper St. Clair, Pa.**
Michael Pillar, John Tomko,
Dorothy Mayernik and Sylvia Bender

**St. John the Baptist
Scottsdale, Pa.**
Anita and Ed Wisniewski

**St. Mary
Ambridge, Pa.**
Deacon Thomas Klacik

**SS. Peter and Paul
Braddock, Pa.**
John Fisher, Arleen Jama,
Sue Kennedy and Richard Trankocy

**St. Pius X
Carrick, Pa.**
Gerry O'Connor and
Helenanne Hochendoner

REFLECTION FROM
MOUNT ST, MACRINA

The gift of spiritual illumination

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



This is a transcript of her May 25 2022 reflection. It can be viewed on the Facebook page of the Sisters of St. Basil the Great at <https://www.facebook.com/sistersofstbasil.uniontown>.

Christ is Risen!

As we move along now in this Paschal season, we come to the Sunday of the Healing of the Man Born Blind. Obviously, a symbol of baptism as we look at Jesus bring to light and to life his people.

In this story — the only one where Jesus heals somebody blind from birth — He is very quickly challenged because He has healed on the Sabbath yet again. The man who is healed is challenged and he says, "I don't know who it was who healed me."

Then he is questioned again and again. His parents are questioned. And Jesus finds him yet again and comes back and asks him: "Do you believe in the Son of Man?"

He says, "Well, who is He?"

And Jesus reveals Himself as Lord God and Savior and the man says, "I do believe."

For me, this is a Gospel of illumination — spiritual illumination. This man has begun a whole new life. Not just externally but because he accepted faith.

Spiritual illumination is offered to us all. Why do we want it? Because we grow in faith, in hope and in love.

In faith we are able to, indeed, center our lives on God and everything gets decided around that major decision. That's living in faith.

In hope, we trust more and more in God's promises to us; in God's faithfulness.

In the virtue of love we receive, we are strengthened for service. We are strengthened for seeing one another through the eyes of our loving Savior.

These are great values. Let us indeed seek the gift of spiritual illumination in this Holy Season.

Christ is Risen!
God bless you! ■

REPORT FROM THE OFFICE OF SAFE ENVIRONMENT

The policy of the Archeparchy of Pittsburgh is that background checks need to be renewed every five years.

Clergy, employees, catechists, and volunteers who had their clearances in 2018 are now due for renewal.

Get your forms for renewal on the Archeparchy website www.archpitt.org or call Sister Joanne Lickvar, OSBM, Safe Environment Coordinator, at 724-438-8644.

Thank you for your cooperation!

Safe Environment "Hotline" Phone Numbers

Archeparchy of Pittsburgh Confidential Hotline: 412-231-4000, ext. 22

National Child Abuse Hotline: 1-800-422-4453

Louisiana Child Abuse/Neglect Hotline: 1-855-452-5437

Ohio Child Abuse/Neglect Hotline: 1-855-642-4453

Oklahoma Child Abuse/Neglect Hotline: 1-800-522-3511

Pennsylvania Child Abuse/Neglect Hotline: 1-800-932-0313

Tennessee Child Abuse/Neglect Hotline: 1-877-237-0004

Texas Child Abuse/Neglect Hotline: 1-800-252-5400

West Virginia Child Abuse/Neglect Hotline: 1-800-352-6513

PARISH NEWS

MAY 2023

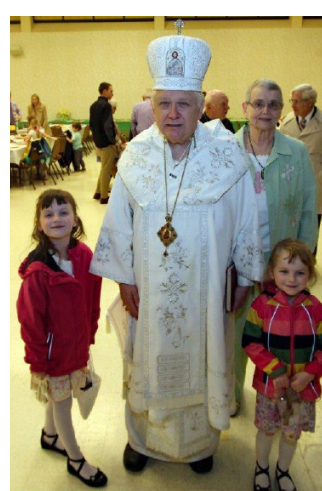
PAGE 5



The Radiant Resurrection

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST CATHEDRAL IN MUNHALL, PA.

Metropolitan Archbishop William C. Skurla, Very Rev. Andrew Deskevich and Father Thomas Dansak celebrated the Paschal Divine Liturgy at St. John the Baptist Cathedral in Munhall, Pa. ■



Photos by Nick Havrilla Sr.

ST. GREGORY IN UPPER ST. CLAIR, PA.

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

Christ is Risen! Indeed He is Risen!

As we celebrate the Resurrection of Lord Jesus Christ, we celebrate that wonderful knowledge of His glory: Christ is in our midst, and He always shall be.

Let us sing that beautiful hymn that "Christ is Risen! Christos Voskrese!" and may our joy be so immense and the love that we share so complete that each and every person and all of creation will hear our hymn and know that Truly He is Risen! Wishing you a Blessed Pascha! ■



ST. ELIAS IN MUNHALL, PA.

Father Vitalii Stashkevych, pastor of St. Elias in Munhall, Pa.; and Father Robert Pipta, Rector of the Byzantine

Catholic Seminary of SS. Cyril and Methodius in Pittsburgh, Pa., celebrated the Paschal Divine Liturgy at St. Elias. ■



NATIVITY OF THE MOTHER OF GOD IN DUBOIS, PA.

Father Vasyl Banyk blessed Easter baskets at Nativity of the Mother of God in DuBois,

Pa. and the Knights of Columbus sponsored an Easter egg hunt. ■



ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST IN UNIONTOWN, PA.

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

Services were well-attended during Holy Week and provided solemn experiences leading up to the joyful feast of the Resurrection.

ECF students received miniature paskas and food items similar to those blessed in a traditional Paschal basket. The beautiful weather allowed for processions

around the church on Great and Holy Friday and Saturday.

Many were excited to have their beautifully adorned baskets blessed after both the Saturday Resurrection Matins and the Sunday Divine Liturgy. Father Vasyl Symyon enthusiastically blessed all in attendance with a good dousing of holy water amidst the shouts of "Christ is Risen!" and "Christos Voskrese!" ■





ST. JOHN CHRYSOSTOM IN PITTSBURGH, PA.

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

St. John Chrysostom church in Pittsburgh, Pa. like most other Byzantine Churches, has a long history of celebrating the Resurrection of our Lord with the Blessing of Easter Baskets

following Resurrection Matins on Holy Saturday. Once again, many parishioners stayed after Basket Blessing for a social and to break the Fast with a taste of kolbasa, hrudka, paska, and a few other favorites. ■



George Fechko, Irina and Viktor Eggenberger and Michael Sopira.

Cathy Silvestri and Cantor Kevin Beres with guests.

SS. PETER AND PAUL IN WARREN, OHIO

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

Father Will Rupp incensed and blessed Easter Baskets that some of our parishioners brought to

share with others in the Social Hall after Liturgies.

Christ is Risen! Indeed He is Risen! ■



ASCENSION OF OUR LORD IN CLAIRTON, PA.

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

On Saturday evening, Father Ivan Mina blessed baskets with the assistance of altar servers Nicholas Tomkowicz and William Kerr. ■



ST. NICHOLAS IN PERRYOPOLIS, PA.

Father Oleh Seremchuk blessed Easter baskets at St. Nicholas in Perryopolis, Pa. ■



HOLY GHOST IN MCKEES ROCKS, PA.

Father Frank Firko celebrated Paschal services and blessed Easter baskets at Holy Ghost in McKees Rocks, Pa. ■



ST. NICHOLAS IN GREENSBURG, PA.

By John Gomolak
St. Nicholas, Greensburg, Pa.

Following a procession on Good Friday, the Holy Shroud was placed in the tomb. Then on Holy Saturday, Resurrection services were held and the Holy Shroud was placed on the altar.

On Easter Sunday, our parishioners rejoiced in singing "Christ is Risen!"

The following Sunday we celebrated St. Thomas Sunday. After the blessing of the Paska bread in church, the people proceeded to the church hall.

After a blessing by Father Regis Dusecina, a hot lunch was enjoyed by all. Christ is Risen! ■



ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST IN UNIONTOWN, PA.

Egg Eggstravaganza

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

The 16th Egg Eggstravaganza, held March 26, brought much “egg-citement” to St. John the Baptist in Uniontown, Pa.

The day started with a Divine Liturgy at which Metropolitan William C. Skurla concelebrated with Father Vasyl Symyon. The event attracted many people from far and wide.

Some of the highlights of the day included the beautiful displays of the egg artists, children’s activities, hands-on pysanky workshop, basket covers and craft sale, raffles, and delicious baked goods and Lenten foods.

Overall, the day was a great success and filled with family fun. It was an “egg-cellent” way to share our beautiful Easter traditions with the public. ■



ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST IN NORTHERN CAMBRIA, PA.

Baskets of fun

By Sandy Ferrance
St. John the Baptist, Northern Cambria, Pa.

St. John the Baptist in Northern Cambria, Pa. held its Spring Basket Auction on April 15 and 16.

The auction will help defray the expenses for the repair and painting of the windows at the church.

We had a lot of help this year and everyone had fun during the event. ■



Sharing our traditions

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

On Thursday, March 30, Father Vasyl Symyon gave an enlightening talk about Ukraine to the Ladies of Charity from the local Roman Catholic churches. He explained and answered questions about the current situation there.

Bonnie Balas discussed our traditional customs of making pysanky and preparing for the feast of the Resurrection.

The Ladies of Charity donated \$850 to the Ukrainian refugee fund through Sister Ruth Plante, OSBM. ■



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

After the Divine Liturgy on Thomas Sunday, children of St. John the Baptist parish

participated in an Easter egg hunt on the church grounds.

Families and spectators gathered to cheer them on. One lucky child also found the golden prize which contained a special prize. ■



SS. PETER AND PAUL IN ERIE, PA.

Journey with Jesus

By Richard Vasil
SS. Peter and Paul, Erie, Pa.

ECF students at SS. Peter and Paul in Erie, Pa. journeyed with Jesus through the Great Fast and are rejoicing at His Holy Resurrection.

They completed Bible meditations and daily prayers, performed

random acts of kindness, and sent Paschal greetings to the parish shut-ins.

They also designed their own icon — Jesus Knocking at the Door of Their Hearts.

On Palm Sunday the icons were blessed by pastor Father John Mihalco. ■





Great and Holy Friday

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST CATHEDRAL IN MUNHALL, PA.

Metropolitan Archbishop William C. Skurla and Very Rev. Andrew Deskevich celebrated Entombment Vespers on Great and Holy Friday at St. John the Baptist Cathedral in Munhall, Pa. ■



Photos by Nick Havrilla Sr.

ASCENSION OF OUR LORD IN CLAIRTON, PA.

Children prepare for the Good Friday procession at Ascension of Our Lord in Clairton, Pa. Father Ivan Mina is pastor. ■



ST. ELIAS IN MUNHALL, PA.



Father Vitalii Stashkevych is pastor.

HOLY GHOST IN MCKEES ROCKS, PA.



Father Frank Firko is pastor.

NATIVITY OF THE MOTHER OF GOD IN DUBOIS, PA.

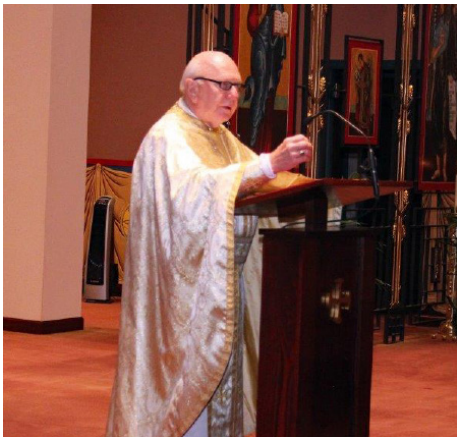


Father Vasyl Banyk is pastor.

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST CATHEDRAL IN MUNHALL, PA.

Great and Holy Thursday

Metropolitan Archbishop William Skurla and Very Rev. Andrew Deskevich celebrated the Vesper Liturgy of Our Holy Father Basil the Great with the Blessing of Chrism and the Washing of the Feet on Great and Holy Thursday at St. John the Baptist Cathedral in Munhall, Pa. ■



Father Tom Dansak



Photos by Nick Havrilla Sr.

ST. GREGORY IN UPPER ST. CLAIR, PA.

St. Thomas Sunday

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

On Thomas Sunday, April 16, we were truly blessed with beautiful weather for this year's Easter egg hunt.

At the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy the children enjoyed racing on the parish grounds

looking and filling their bags with those hidden eggs.

Afterward, we continued in our Church hall with our Thomas Sunday Potluck luncheon which was enjoyed by all.

As we continue the Paschalia-Easter season we look forward to the upcoming events that bring us together as a parish family. ■



Works of mercy

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

On Great and Holy Tuesday, April 4, St. Gregory's faithful departed on a mission to deliver needed items to support the good works of Intersection, located in McKeesport, Pa.

Throughout the Great Fast, St. Gregory's parishioners participated in this Lenten

Outreach collecting cereal, cleaning products, and monetary donations to support the Sisters of Mercy as they continue to serve individuals and families in the spirit of compassionate service.

Our Lenten outreach was a great success, and we thank all who participated.

May Our Lord reward you for your kindness and generosity! ■





ST. STEPHEN IN LEISENRING, PA.

Happy birthday, Father Jerry!

By Bob Gillingham
St. Stephen, Leisenring, Pa.

The parishioners of St. Stephen in Leisenring, Pa. met after the Divine Liturgy on Thomas Sunday to celebrate the birthday of its pastoral administrator Father Jerry Botsko.

Parishioners enjoyed honoring Father Jerry by singing the "Happy Birthday" song and partaking in a generous helping of Father's large chocolate and vanilla sheet cake.

Father Jerry, originally from

Donora, Pa., is proud to point out that he is the twin brother of +Sister Mary Ann Botsko (1955-2020), a Sister Servant of Mary Immaculate who was in the religious life for 39 years.

In addition to St. Stephen, Father Jerry also serves as Chaplain for the Order of Sisters of St. Basil the Great at Mount St. Macrina in Uniontown. Pa.

Congratulations, Father Jerry! May you have many more years!



Keeping Holy Week sacred

By Bob Gillingham
St. Stephen, Leisenring, Pa.

One feature of keeping Holy Week sacred at St. Stephen in Leisenring, Pa. is the centrality of the tomb of the buried, then risen, Christ. The photo below shows the current representation of the tomb in St. Stephen Church. Having held the shroud after Good Friday services, it is filled on Easter morning, not with the shroud, but with flowers offering the sweet aroma of the Risen Christ.

The two other pictures show events of Good Friday from pre-1950 dates. One illustrates the physical tomb at that time with the shroud laid in it. The other illustrates the closed tomb of the

buried Jesus.

If anyone is interested in more photographs of the Byzantine religious heritage as done at St. Stephen, you may be interested in ordering the book "St. Stephen the Protomartyr Byzantine Catholic Church Leisenring Pennsylvania, A History in Celebration of the 130th Anniversary 1892-2022."

The book consists of 196 pages buttressed by 85 photographs. The cost of the book is \$20 and includes shipping and handling. Please send a check or money order made to Teresa Karaffa and mail to St. Stephen Byzantine Catholic Church, P.O. Box 128, Leisenring Pa 15525. All proceeds benefit St. Stephen Church. ■



SS. PETER AND PAUL IN WARREN, OHIO

Blessing of baskets for homebound

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

Father Will Rupp blessed Easter Baskets for our homebound.

Each basket contained a paska, palms and pussywillows, a chocolate Byzantine cross, a plant, and an Easter card that the Parish Guild arranged.

They were delivered to our parishioners who are homebound or in nursing homes.

Thanks to all of the parishioners who helped out with this worthy cause! ■



Easter baking

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

What would Easter be without some Kolachi or Paska on your table? The Parish Guild had the solution!

A variety of Kolachi were baked (nut, apricot, apricot-nut, cranberry-nut, and poppyseed) on

March 23 and 24. The following week on March 30 and 31, Paskas were baked.

The Kolachi and Paskas were available to purchase after each Liturgy until all were sold.

Thanks to everyone who volunteered their time and talent to make this Parish Guild event a success! ■



Father Will Rupp and Tom Sarsany



Betty Zombar, Estelle Liming, Mary Anne Karchut, and Stephanie Enasko



Debbie and Rick Taylor



John Mosko

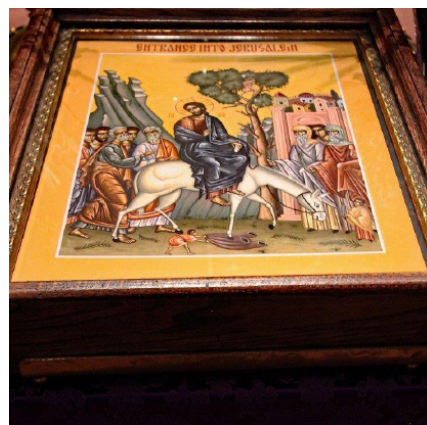


Celebrating Palm Sunday

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST CATHEDRAL IN MUNHALL, PA.

Metropolitan Archbishop William Skurla celebrated the Palm Sunday Divine Liturgy April 2 at St. John the Baptist Cathedral in Munhall, Pa.

At the conclusion of the Liturgy, Archbishop William blessed palms and pussy willow branches which were given to the attending faithful. ■



ST. JOHN CHRYSOSTOM IN PITTSBURGH, PA.

Welcome, Violet June!

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

St. John Chrysostom Church in Pittsburgh, Pa. celebrated a very special Palm Sunday when Violet June Wiesemann received the Mysteries of Initiation during Divine Liturgy.

Violet is the infant daughter of Michael and Stephanie Wiesemann. Her godparents are Thomas and Yolanda Sutyak, who are also her great-grandparents!

Following Divine Liturgy parishioners and guests enjoyed refreshments in the social hall, including a cake in Violet's honor.



What a lovely way to celebrate Palm Sunday, April 2, 2023! ■



Easter egg hunt

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

Following Divine Liturgy on Palm Sunday, the children of St. John Chrysostom Church in Pittsburgh, Pa. enjoyed some pre-Easter festivities.

Our GCU Parish Coordinator, John Niskach, with help from his wife Patty and daughter, Melanie Basl, planned an Easter egg hunt,

cookie decorating, and a visit from the Easter Bunny.

The many children in attendance had a great time searching for the eggs inside the social hall, vestibule and outside the church.

Many thanks to John, Patty and Melanie for continuing this special tradition for our children! ■





ASCENSION OF OUR LORD IN CLAIRTON, PA.

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

Father Ivan Mina blessed the palms and pussy willows on Palm Sunday at Ascension of Our Lord Church in Clairton, Pa.

Altar servers were Nicholas Tomkowicz, William Kerr and

Christopher Dufalla
After Liturgy, an Easter egg hunt for the children was held at the hall. The children were anxious to find hidden colored eggs with the help of the Easter Bunny.

Afterward, everyone gathered at the rectory for a light lunch. ■



ST. MICHAEL IN HERMITAGE, PA.



Father Kevin Marks is pastor.

ST. GREGORY IN UPPER ST. CLAIR, PA.

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

Beautiful weather was enjoyed by all at St. Gregory's as we celebrated the triumphant entry of Our Lord into Jerusalem-Palm Sunday. At the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy, the faithful received blessed palm and willow branches.

We also had the blessing of beautiful prayer blankets created by our St. Gregory's Women of Faith. This year they will be given to the Young Women's Breast Cancer Awareness Foundation.

Following the Divine Liturgy, we continued with our popular Easter Kielbasa Sale. Our St. Gregory's kielbasa has for many years been a popular food item for many households in the

greater Pittsburgh area.
In our Church Hall all was ready for this year's Easter Workshop. All our children had the opportunity to decorate Easter eggs, create Easter baskets, and enjoy other Easter crafts.

We are also grateful to the members of our St. Gregory's Bethany Ministry for preparing the Easter gift bags for our homebound parishioners. During Holy Week, our Bethany Ministry members will visit our homebound parishioners to deliver these gifts to them.

This was a very busy, yet eventful Palm Sunday in our parish family, learning and passing on Easter traditions to our parish children that are the future of St. Gregory. ■



ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST IN UNIONTOWN, PA.

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

There was no time to "fool" around on April 1 at St. John the Baptist in Uniontown, Pa.

More than 70 Easter breads

were baked for the annual Paska sale. Parishioners also decorated the church and prepared over 400 palms and pussy willows to be distributed on Palm Sunday. ■



ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST IN SCOTTDALE, PA.

Baking for Easter

The members of St. John the Baptist in Scottsdale, Pa. made paska bread for Easter.

Helping were: Gloria Copeland, Barb Zaksek, Anita

Wisniewski, Betty Sapole, Cindy Hribal, Catherine Catalina, Mary Ann Zozula, Steve Matsey, Kathy Onusko, Terry and Janice Frederick, and Jane Bricker. ■



SS. PETER AND PAUL IN PATTON, PA.

On a roll

Parishioners of SS. Peter and Paul in Patton, Pa. came together to make nut and poppy seed rolls for Easter. Father Roman Andriitso is pastor. ■



ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST CATHEDRAL IN MUNHALL, PA.

“Kathedral Kitchen Krew”

Very Rev. Andrew Deskevich and faithful at St. John the Baptist Cathedral in Munhall, Pa. prepared and baked Easter Paskas last month. ■



Photos by Nick Havrilla Sr.



THOUGHTS FOR OUR DAY

By Archpriest David M. Petras


BAPTISM: A LIFETIME PROJECT



Sometimes baptism feels like a one-time event, an initiation that is celebrated and finished. It is true that in faith, the decision we make in baptism to renounce evil and commit ourselves to Christ is a definitive choice that we cannot turn back on. Once we are baptized, we cannot ever be re-baptized. Baptism is an action of God and therefore must be effective and cannot lose its divine power. God adopts us as his child and cannot go back on his word. The grace of God is real and it cannot be recalled. Baptism, then, is never repeated. At the same time, however, it is a decision that we make over and over again, and that is renewed every time we receive Holy Communion, “for the forgiveness of sins and life everlasting” (Communion formula, Byzantine Liturgy). It is a life-time project, as St. Nicholas Cabasilas described, “The life in Christ originates in this life and arises from it. It is perfected, however, in the life to come, when we shall have reached that last day. It cannot attain perfection in human souls in this life” (The Life in Christ, 1, § 1). While we have made a commitment to God, we are human and sometimes fail in our promises. Scripture warns us, “it would have been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness than after knowing it to turn back from the holy commandment handed down to them” (2 Peter 2:21). If we fail after baptism, however, there is another road

to repentance that God makes possible for us.

We live out our baptism throughout our whole lives. Today, when someone is baptized, the rite itself is all done on one day. This has not always been the case. To indicate that it was a continuing reality, when someone was baptized, there were associated rituals both before



We live out our baptism throughout our whole lives.

and after the actual baptism in water. Before baptism, for adults, there was a catechumenate, which means a period of learning. It was more than just an intellectual process, but a period of training in Christian love, prayer and ascetical discipline. For children, there were rites of naming and churching. After baptism, for seven days one would wear white clothing to signify the purity of faith. Since adult baptisms were especially prescribed for Pascha (Easter, the Feast of our Lord's Resurrection) the week after is still called “Bright Week,” for the brilliance of the new garments. The Trisagion hymn in the Liturgy hinted at this by quoting St. Paul's Letter to the Galatians 3:7: “All you who have been baptized into Christ have been clothed with Christ.” Baptism is the beginning of the new, eternal life, from the

Epistle read at the Paschal Vigil Liturgy and at every baptismal Liturgy, “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 6:4).

On the eighth day, there were also supplementary rites that are still present in the liturgical books, though they are not generally celebrated anymore, or, if they are, on the days of baptism itself. The newly-baptized Christian kept the chrism for eight days, and then they were washed. In our modern times, of course, one is washed or washes every day, so that this period no longer has a meaning. When the person was washed, the new Christian was first sprinkled with water, and the priest said, “You are justified. You are illumined. You are sanctified. You are washed in the Name of our Lord Jesus Christ, and by the Spirit of our God.” Then they were washed, as the priest said, “You are baptized. You are illumined. You are anointed with chrism. You are sanctified. You are washed in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.” These words are an elaboration of 1 Corinthians 6:11: “now you have had yourselves washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and in the Spirit of our God.” These words are a proclamation of the new reality that we have become, and is always present: “You are.” It is as St. Paul wrote: “So whoever is in Christ is a new creation: the old things have passed away; behold, new things have come” (2 Corinthians 5:17).

On the same day, the newly-baptized was also tonsured, their hair was cut by removing a lock from the front and the back and both sides in the form of a cross. This also signified that we now live in Christ, and that we have morally died to the values of the world and to worldly vanity. Father Alexander Schmemmann wrote: “Tonsure has always been one of the fundamental religious rites: the symbol of obedience and sacrifice there exists a “mystery of hair” as one of the fundamental means of self expression, self-affirmation, and identity.” Tonsure today is still done for when someone enters either into a life of service as a sub-deacon, deacon or priest, where it signifies the renunciation of self for service to the people of God. Tonsure is also done when someone enters the monastic state, as a sign of laying down one's life for the struggle for service and perfection in Christ. For this reason, tonsure was at least at one time also done for anyone who became a Christian. It is a powerful sign that our lives have no meaning except in Christ. That is why we read St. Paul's Letter to the Romans at baptism, “We know that our old self was crucified with him” (that is, in whatever ways we sacrifice our own desires for Christ) “so that our sinful body might be done away with, that we might no longer be in slavery to sin

If, then, we have died with Christ”, (spiritually) “we believe that we shall also live with him” (Romans 6:6.8). The Christian therefore joyfully proclaims, “Christ is risen!” for we now share in his 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.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



LITURGICAL SCHEDULE AT THE SEMINARY

"COME, LET US SING JOYFULLY TO THE LORD"



Join the Seminarians of Byzantine Catholic Seminary at 3605 Perrysville Ave., Pittsburgh, Pa., for Liturgical Prayer. Visitors are welcome at the Seminary chapel. Enter through the chapel door that faces Perrysville Avenue. It's recommended visitors call 412-321-8383 in advance. Seminary, go to www.bcs.edu.

Schedule of Services for May

MON 1	8 a.m. Akathist to Christ, Light in the Darkness (R)
TUE 2	7 a.m. Divine Liturgy (M)
WED 3	7 a.m. Divine Liturgy (R)
THU 4	7 a.m. Akathist to Holy Communion (R)
SAT 6	8 a.m. First Hour (R)
SUN 7	9 a.m. Divine Liturgy (R)
MON 8	8 a.m. Third Hour (R)
WED 10	7 a.m. Divine Liturgy (R)

(M) Melkite tradition

(R) Ruthenian tradition

AROUND THE
ARCHEPARCHY

CRAFT/VENDOR SHOW — 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Saturday, May 6, St. Pius X, 2336 Brownsville Road, Pittsburgh (Carrick), Pa. There will be a Chinese auction and bake sale. Food will be available. For more information, call the church at 412-881-8344.

THE RESURRECTION OF A NATION: CARPATHO-RUSYN TRADITIONS LIVED TODAY — Following the 10:30 a.m. Divine Liturgy (approximately 11:45 a.m.), Sunday, May 7, St. John Chrysostom, 506 Saline St., Pittsburgh, Pa. Please join us for a special screening of the documentary "The Resurrection of a Nation" followed by a discussion with the co-producers John Righetti and Maria Silvestri. The documentary "The Resurrection of a Nation" explores the assertion and reclamation of Carpatho-Rusyn ethnic identity after the fall of communism in Central and Eastern Europe in 1989 and examines how it has affected Carpatho-Rusyn communities both in Europe and the United States. As we work hard to maintain our Carpatho-Rusyn cultural traditions and pass them down to younger generations, this documentary film highlights the ways in which Carpatho-Rusyn culture has been maintained and celebrated. St. John Chrysostom parish has a long history of serving the Carpatho-Rusyn community in Pittsburgh, and we welcome other Pittsburgh-area parishes to join us. No charge. The film is about 1 hour and 20 minutes, and a light lunch will be served. Please RSVP by leaving a message at 412-525-7050 to ensure that we have enough seating and refreshments for all attendees.

BREADED CHICKEN DINNER — 3-6 p.m. Saturday, May 20; 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Sunday, May 21; St. John the Baptist Cathedral, 210 Greentree Road, Munhall, Pa. Take-out only breaded chicken dinner Price is \$12 per dinner, which includes: breaded chicken breast, stuffing, veggie, roll and butter. Pre-orders will be guaranteed. To pre-order, call 412-461-0944. In addition we will be selling quarts of haluski, quarts of soup, our kolache, and various baked goods.

CALENDAR PARTY — 1-4 p.m. Sunday, May 21, Holy Trinity, 217 Fourth St., Conemaugh, Pa. Sponsored by the St. Ann's Guild of Holy Trinity. Tickets are \$15 and seats are limited to 96. Anyone interested should contact Georgia Lehman at gilehman56@gmail.com or 814-242-2083.

ICONOGRAPHY WORKSHOP — Saint Andrew the Apostle, 235 Logan Road, Gibsonia, Pa. will sponsor an iconography workshop for adults of all levels of experience May 18 to 21. You will write an icon of Christ the Teacher on a gesso covered board. Using a pre-prepared prototype, you will learn techniques for faces, garments, gilding and tooling. The theology of iconography and specifically, Christ will also be presented. The class will be Thursday and Friday 6-9:30 p.m., all day Saturday and Sunday, after liturgy until finishing. You must be able to attend all days to have a completed icon. There will be the opportunity to attend Liturgy Sunday morning. For further information, call Marylyn Barone at 412-678-9453 or email her at mwbarone@comcast.net. ■

DATES TO REMEMBER



MAY 10

23rd Annual SS. Cyril and Methodius Seminary Lecture
Livestreamed only (see Page 3)

MAY 13

18th Annual Women's Day of Reflection
St. John the Baptist Cathedral, Munhall, Pa.

MAY 14

Mother's Day

MAY 18

Feast of the Ascension of our Lord
Chancery closed

MAY 23

Clergy Day
St. John the Baptist Cathedral, Munhall, Pa.

MAY 28

Pentecost Sunday

MAY 29

Memorial Day
Chancery closed

See more upcoming events at www.archpitt.org

WORLD
THE BYZANTINE CATHOLIC

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
Website: www.archpitt.org

NEXT ISSUE:
JUNE 2023

**SUBMISSIONS
DEADLINE:**
MAY 18