

WORLD

THE BYZANTINE CATHOLIC

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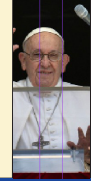
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"Faith and Fun Day"

ALTAR SERVERS CHEER ON PITTSBURGH PIRATES AT 14TH ANNUAL EVENT



Altar servers gathered July 18 for the 14th annual "Faith and Fun Day." The day ended with a trip to PNC Park in Pittsburgh, Pa., where the Pittsburgh Pirates faced the Cleveland Guardians. For more photos, see page 7.

By David Mayerik Jr.
Editor

When Father Ron Barusefski was 12 years old, he chanted the Epistle reading in his church for the very first time.

The thought crossed his mind: "I'm doing something similar to what the priest is doing."

Father Ron, now Director of Human Formation at the Byzantine Catholic Seminary of SS. Cyril and Methodius in Pittsburgh, Pa., told altar servers gathered for this year's 14th annual "Faith and Fun Day" another thought also began to become clear.

"This is something I can see myself doing in the future."

Father Ron provided a tour of the Seminary July 18 and altar servers also enjoyed hitting golf balls at Topgolf in Bridgeville, Pa. They ended the day at PNC Park,

where the Pittsburgh Pirates lost to the Cleveland Guardians, 10-1.

Father Ron told altar servers they must continue to pray to hear where God is calling them in the future — perhaps even one day studying to be a deacon or priest at the Seminary.

"We have to be faithful in our prayer life."

He pointed out the Seminary was dedicated in 1951 after Church leaders knew it would be nearly impossible to send students to Europe to study following World Wars I and II.

"If we did not have this Seminary, our Church would look very different," he said.

Father Kevin Marks, organizer of the event and pastor of St. Michael in Campbell, Ohio and St. Michael in Hermitage, Pa., delivered the homily during Divine Liturgy at Holy Ghost in McKees Rocks, Pa.

to begin the day.

He told altar servers to "shine Jesus' light" in both happy and sad times.

"It's a message that's important for all of us," he said.

"You are at the altar and very close to the Light Itself."

The Liturgy was celebrated by Archbishop William Skurla, Very Rev. Andrew Deskevich, Father Kevin, Father Frank Firko and Father Michael Kunitz.

Father Kevin, who serves as the Archeparchy of Pittsburgh's Vocations Director, said a special celebration will be planned for next year's milestone 15th "Faith and Fun Day."

He told students to remember their service at the altar wherever they go.

"You are important to your parish, your priest and Archbishop William." ■

The blessing of Pilgrimage

89TH PILGRIMAGE TO BE HELD SEPT. 1 TO 4 AT MOUNT ST. MACRINA

By Sister Elaine Kisinko, OSBM
Secretary to the Archbishop

As we approach the time of the 89th Pilgrimage to the Shrine of Our Lady of Perpetual Help at Mount St. Macrina in Uniontown, Pa., preparations there intensify. This biggest and oldest Pilgrimage of its kind of our Church in America continues to be a phenomenon of God's grace.

Blessings beyond counting abound here. It is a few days for spiritual refreshment — a time away from the cares, concerns and responsibilities which can crowd our daily lives. We have an opportunity to pray, either privately or with others at the soul-stirring liturgical services. The blessing to receive the mysteries of Eucharist and Reconciliation awaits us.

As we appreciate the exceptional beauty of Our Lady in her Shrine indoors, we also enjoy the outdoor natural loveliness: the grounds, the flowers, the trees of Mount St. Macrina. With the gift of His Mother to us, and with the wonder of this part of our world surrounding us, we gratefully acknowledge the blessings from Our Heavenly Father that are ours.

The perspective that Pilgrimage brings can be an awareness of our Church. With the Pilgrims coming from near and far, we can realize that along with our beloved parish churches, we are blessed to belong to the Archeparchy, an Eparchy or an Exarchate (Toronto, Canada), which together comprise the Byzantine Catholic (Ruthenian) Metropolitan Church of Pittsburgh.

The blessing of gathering with

Story continued on page 5

WORLD

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66 Riverview Avenue
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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

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MISSION

The mission of *The Byzantine Catholic World* is to spread the Gospel message in the rich tradition of the Byzantine Catholic Church; to encourage faithful to reflect the image of Christ in everyday activities of life; to offer spiritual formation through changing times; and to celebrate community among Byzantine Catholics in the Archeparchy of Pittsburgh, throughout the Metropolitan Church in America, and around the world.



BULLETIN BOARD

Pilgrimage Preparation Day set for Aug. 19

Pilgrimage Preparation Day will be held 9:30 a.m. on Saturday, Aug. 19 at Mount St. Macrina in Uniontown, Pa. The Sisters of St. Basil the

Great need volunteers to help with the final preparations of the grounds for the Sept. 1 to 5 Pilgrimage.

Volunteers are asked to bring brooms, weed whackers, blowers, weeding tools, rakes, and clippers.

Lunch will be provided. For further information or to register, please call Sister Joanne at 724-438-8644.

The rain date is Saturday, Aug. 26. ■



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Join us in our mission to foster and promote religious vocations in the Byzantine Catholic Church of the USA

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TEXT MESSAGES

The simple life in Lofoten, Norway

by David Mayernik Jr.
Editor



Sometimes I get caught in a Henry David Thoreau frame of mind and think about the simple life.

These thoughts mostly come after battling traffic on my way to the Chancery on Pittsburgh's North Side each morning.

Besides Thoreau, who famously retreated to Walden Pond in Concord, Mass. for more than two years in 1845 because he "wished to live deliberately," my mind also immediately wanders to the lives Simon Peter and Andrew experienced as fishermen on the Sea of Galilee.

Of course, this was before they were called by Jesus to be "fishers of men" in Mark 1:16-18.

It may be difficult to believe but these simple types of lives still exist in the 21st Century.

I was listening to the "Conan O'Brien Needs a Fan" podcast in which each week the host talks to fans who live somewhere else in the world, anywhere from Ireland to Japan.

His guest was Kai, a self-described "run-of-the-mill" fish farmer from Lofoten, Norway.

Every day, Kai travels out on the rolling waves in a catamaran and tends to his 10 installations which house 500,000 salmon.

"What kind of life is that?" Conan asks him.

"It's amazing," Kai said.

"When I picture my life, if I get to stay within this field of work, I'm going to die a happy man because it's such a 'free' type of job, you know? We're going out on a boat, doing our thing...it's the ocean breeze, the weather...at the end of the day, when we come in, we can put a good, honest day's work behind us."

It was somewhat startling to hear Kai talk about the relative simplicity of his life in 2023.

"You must feel, in those moments, like you're really living life," Conan tells him.

"It's an unmatched feeling. You have the vast, open oceans, you have the climate we have here – it's windy, it's cold – you feel like you're really doing something that has been in Norwegian traditions for ages."

I'm glad Kai found fulfillment in the waters off the shore of Norway.

I'll keep searching for bliss on the West End Bridge. ■



“I perceive the Holy Spirit calling me”

BYZANTINE CATHOLIC SEMINARY SCHOOL OF DIACONATE STUDIES WELCOMES NEW CLASS

By John “Randy” Tomko
St. Michael, Hermitage, Pa.

As a current first year student in the School of Diaconate Studies of the Byzantine Catholic Seminary in Pittsburgh, I have begun a four-year program of formation and discernment for the Diaconate in the Byzantine-Ruthenian Catholic Church.

A two-week intensive course of study which began on June 18 is followed by home distance learning through further reading and the submission of written assignments over the course of the following year.

The curriculum is focused on the educational component of formation, while the spiritual and pastoral components are primarily accomplished within the candidate’s home parish under the guidance of his pastor or another selected mentor.

I applied to the Archbishop to be accepted as a deacon student because I perceive the Holy Spirit calling me to serve God in the Order of Deacon. With the support of my wife, Patty, and aided by my parish priest and a few close friends, I decided that I should discern this.



My two weeks at the Seminary have been a challenge academically; however, living the Christian life is also a challenging endeavor.

Currently, there are 15 deacon students representing all four eparchies of the Byzantine-Ruthenian Church in the U.S. We have bonded during the first two-week session at B.C.S. since we have the common goal of

serving the Church.

During the day we are involved in liturgical services, classroom work, and communal meals as a group. These have afforded us the opportunity to become better acquainted with each other while simultaneously allowing us, as a group, to better emulate the image and likeness of Christ.

These weeks have been both informative and transformative in

giving each of us the opportunity to further grow and discern our vocation.

Our hope is to develop into better Byzantine Catholics and to serve the Body of Christ within our own parishes as a Deacon.

We ask for prayers during our formation and discernment so that we can be transformed into living icons of that to which God is calling us. ■

REFLECTION FROM MOUNT ST, MACRINA

The First Commandment invites us to a deep trust in the living God

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



This is a transcript of her July 1, 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>.

www.facebook.com/sistersofstbasil.uniontown.

“I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage. You shall have no other gods before Me”

Exodus 20:2-3

Glory to Jesus Christ!

Some of us probably got our imagery about the giving of the Commandments from the movie, “The Ten Commandments.” Powerful God on the mountain coming down to speak to Moses and to tell him to take these rules, so to speak, to the people.

Well, you may not be able to realize how much this is an invitation to the Covenant, to the deepest possible relationship, in this case, between God and humankind.

In fact, the imagery of a father and mother talking with their children might be a better framework for us to think about. “This is how life is going to be in our household” and in all these circumstances it clarifies Who is the living God. God is trying to make that clear, as parents would do in family relationships. Who is the authority or the first deciders, so to speak.

In this Covenant, in the Book of Deuteronomy it says: “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength.” That’s an invitation to faith, to hope, to love, to worship, to obedience, and to cooperation.

What does it mean? It means adoring the living God. God is the special one and worthy of adoration and worship, of our belief, of our trust.

It means that we would make promises to be faithful back to this God, Who is promising faithfulness to us. By promising we are accepting what blessings God gives us and expecting more and offering our gratitude. So it’s a living, loving relationship.

There are ways, as with all of

the Commandments, that we can falter against this or outright sin. For instance, to seek other powers that ignore the living God or turn against the living God in any way; treating something else other than God as more important as a guide in our lives, as a help in our lives, as an authority in our lives.

What is that false worship? Things like using various means to try to know the future that isn’t clear to us right now. Some people try to contact the dead. They’re guided by superstitions or magic or sorcery, idolatry. They seek divination; that’s been a part of history over time. Astrology and omens and clairvoyance and palm

readers. Horoscopes, mediums; all of those kinds of things are ways of trying to circumvent the living God and not live in that faith and hope.

The First Commandment really invites us to a deep trust in the living God and a response; the response of faith, of hope, of love. When we do, it changes us. It makes us to be blessing, realizing our own blessings. And, as we mature in this, also to be blessing to others. In this way we are helping to raise others up in faith and hope and love. It’s a clear way to offer worship to the living God, in gratitude.

God bless you. ■

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Footsteps on our spiritual journey



The journey of a thousand miles begins with the first steps.’ How often have we heard that phrase, or one similar? Or we’ll often hear, just take ‘one step at a time.’

Whether the journey begins with the first enthusiastic steps we take as a baby, or those first steps we take

after rehabbing from surgery, each of those steps plays a crucial role in our development and formation.

The footsteps we take on our spiritual journey are at the very heart of who we are as pilgrims here on earth. We can all point to key moments in our lives that shaped and formed us in a way that set us on a path in one direction or another. These footsteps formed and continue to form and direct us.

Our 89th Annual Pilgrimage to the Shrine of Our Lady of Perpetual Help is upon us! With enthusiasm and joy, the Sisters of St. Basil welcome all of our pilgrims to Mt. St. Macrina, to once again take those sacred pilgrimage footsteps that help nourish and support us throughout the year.

Mt. St. Macrina awaits your presence and is eager to support those treasured steps you take on this annual pilgrimage journey. All of us who live and work at the Mount are joyfully awaiting your prayers, presence, and friendship.

The Sisters of St. Basil the Great hope and pray that your travels to and from Mt. St. Macrina are safe and blessed. We pray every step you take nourishes you spiritually, refreshes your spirit, and uplifts your heart as you make plans to attend this 89th Annual Pilgrimage. We’ll be waiting.

May Our Mother of Perpetual Help walk with you every step of the journey.

In the love of the Lord Jesus,

*Sr. Susan Sisko, OSBM
Provincial
Sisters of St. Basil the Great
Mount St. Macrina
Uniontown, Pa.*

The Tradition of Pilgrimage



This year, the Sisters of St. Basil the Great celebrate the 89th Annual Pilgrimage in honor of Our Lady of Perpetual Help. Since 1934, her Shrine at Mount St. Macrina has been a favored destination for the thousands of pilgrims who come to venerate her icon. Praying before this sacred image, they place all their needs, their hopes, their sorrows and their joys into her hands.

Throughout the entire pilgrimage, the Icon of Our Lady of Perpetual Help holds a central place. It is carried in procession with love and devotion to each liturgical service. There it is placed before the altar, so that all may venerate this Beloved Icon of Our Mother of Perpetual Help.

For those who come, pilgrimage is an integral part of their lives, providing for their diverse spiritual needs. Besides the Divine Liturgy and other liturgical services, the Mystery of Reconciliation and the Anointing of the Sick are treasured blessings for all.

The Sisters of St. Basil invite everyone to join them in honoring the Mother of God under the title of Theotokos: Loving Protectress of All. With them, she waits to welcome all to her Shrine on Mount St. Macrina. ■





89th Pilgrimage to Mount St. Macrina to be held Sept. 1 to 4

Story continued from page 1

our Archbishop, Bishops, Clergy, Religious, Seminarians, Cantors, and each other can never be minimized. Here together we meet, pray, sing, talk, share, renew acquaintances and make new friends.

Another grace that endures is the memory of Pilgrimages past. Perhaps we hold dear and picture a loved one who came with us and who is no longer here. Maybe we remember fondly the days when we could participate differently — when walking up the hill was not a chore or what it meant to circle the paths in the candlelight processions.

We are thankful for the blessing of our Archbishop, Bishops and Priests — without whom there would be no Pilgrimage; the blessing of our deacons, seminarians, and cantors; the blessing of the Sisters who joyfully welcome you; the blessing



Scene from Pilgrimage 2022

of their staff and volunteers who graciously worked very hard to get ready for your coming, and who give their hours and effort during the Pilgrimage and afterward; the blessing of those who sacrifice time and travel to be here; the blessing of those who

come every year or when they can; the blessing of first time Pilgrims; the blessing of parents who bring their families; the blessing of those who come alone; the blessing of babies and young children; the blessing of teens and youth, the blessing of the aged and those of

all ages: Great Blessings All!

When you come to the Pilgrimage, you will receive many blessings. But please remember, you too are a blessing to be shared. We await your coming, your presence, and the blessings you bring. ■

PILGRIMAGE 2023 SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Friday, September 1

6:30 p.m.
COMPLINE and BLESSING OF WATER at Lourdes

Saturday, September 2

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

OPENING OF PILGRIMAGE

9:30 a.m.
THIRD HOUR at Shrine Altar

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

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

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

1 p.m.
MOLEBEN at Shrine Altar

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

ORIENTATION for TEENS at Prayer Garden

MYSTERY OF ANOINTING at Shrine Altar

YOUNG ADULT PILGRIMAGE (Location TBD)

3 p.m.
TEEN PILGRIMAGE at Prayer Garden

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

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

Parastas/Procession to Shrine Altar

Teen Social

Sunday, September 3

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

7:30 a.m.
MATINS at Shrine Altar

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

9 a.m.
DIVINE LITURGY – Slavonic Shrine Altar

11 a.m.
DIVINE LITURGY at Vocations Shrine Altar

Noon – 5 p.m.
MYSTERY OF RECONCILIATION (Confessions) at House of Prayer Patio

1 p.m.
CHILDREN'S PROCESSION with Special Blessing for Youth & Young Adults – from House of Prayer to the Shrine Altar

2 p.m.
ENRICHMENT SESSION at Trinity Center

BEREAVEMENT SESSION at Mausoleum

CHILDREN'S PILGRIMAGE at Children's Tent

TEEN PILGRIMAGE at Prayer Garden

YOUNG ADULT PILGRIMAGE (Location TBD)

2 p.m.
MYSTERY OF ANOINTING at Shrine Altar

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

4 p.m.
DIVINE LITURGY at Shrine Altar
Words of Gratitude: Sister Susan Sisko, O.S.B.M.

7 p.m.
CANDLELIGHT PROCESSION (Beginning and ending at the House of Prayer)

CLOSING OF THE PILGRIMAGE

Following the Candlelight Procession:

TEEN SOCIAL
Prayer Garden Area

YOUNG ADULT SOCIAL
Trinity Center

INPUT SESSION
Seminarians (Followed by a social)

Monday, September 4

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



NOTES:

■ Please note: Curfew is 11 p.m.

■ Although casual attire is acceptable, Pilgrims are asked to be mindful of the religious nature of services and activities and to dress appropriately. Thank you!

■ In order to provide and maintain a safe environment for children and youth attending the 89th annual Pilgrimage, a vital set of guidelines has been established regarding minors under the age of 18 who come to the Pilgrimage unaccompanied by a parent(s). Prior to Pilgrimage, parents must have completed and submitted two forms on behalf of each minor participating in supervised Pilgrimage activities: These forms, posted on our website, are: (1) Parental Consent and Waiver Liability Form and (2) Medical Matters Form. Completed forms may be dropped off at the Welcome Desk in front of the House of Prayer.

Forms, further guidelines and information may also be obtained at the Information Desk in the House of Prayer.

25 years of Choir memories

MEMBERS OF THE PITTSBURGH BYZANTINE CATHOLIC ARCHDIOCESE CHORAL SOCIETY RECALL YEARS OF SINGING A JOYFUL SONG

The Pittsburgh Byzantine Catholic Archdiocesan Choir celebrated its 25th anniversary on July 23 — 25 years after the choir's first official formation meeting and rehearsal on July 7, 1998.

The Byzantine Catholic World asked members to recount some of their most memorable times over the many years of singing a joyful song.

Not many things last for 25 years these days, so I'm fortunate to have had such a run with the PBCAC as director, taskmaster, mother hen, eccentric friend, partner in worship and many other descriptive titles with this most wonderful group of dedicated, fun-loving, talented, faithful human beings. We have shared many joys, many sorrows, have endured dilemmas and reveled in successes over these 25 glorious albeit challenging years as musical ambassadors of our faith.

As demanding as the business of singing four-part harmonies can be, I've always strived to maintain a lighthearted yet stimulating approach to our work. We've made many memories and lasting friendships along the way and have enjoyed each other's company throughout the usual trials and tribulations which choir life can present, especially in the realm of Eastern Catholicism.

Among my most cherished memories — and there are many — I recall:

- Seeing a sea of humanity at the first-ever rehearsal in July 1998 and the rush of wonderment as to "now where do we go from here!?"
- Being gifted with two sets of beautiful choir robes.
- Performing at Pittsburgh's Heinz Hall for the annual "Christmas Festival" and having to be split between the stage and down below in the front row audience section in the early years because we had upwards of 80 members and were restricted to placing a maximum of 60 on the stage.
- Recording our first (and only) CD of Christmas hymns and carols
- Bus trips anywhere, especially to the Maronites' National Shrine of Our Lady of Lebanon in Ohio.
- Tearing my rotator cuff directing in the choir loft at St. Elias Church in Munhall as we led responses for the Celebration of Marriage divine liturgy — in the course of a sweeping cutoff during Rimsky-Korsakov's "Our Father."
- Having the honor and privilege of singing for



The Pittsburgh Byzantine Catholic Archeparchial Choir prepares for a performance at Heinz Hall in 2008.

enthronements, ordinations, clergy and members' funerals, weddings, and many other Archeparchial liturgical celebrations.

- Singing the Star-Spangled Banner for two Pittsburgh Pirates games at PNC Park.
- Performing liturgical and folk melodies at the Pittsburgh Folk Festival.
- Christmas gatherings (being overwhelmed with so many special gifts!) and "Fun Nites."
- Providing peaceful inspiration at the annual Our Lady of Perpetual Help Pilgrimage with Marian hymns at the Grotto and responses for the Parastas at Mt. Macrina Cemetery.

Finally — I recall with great fondness and joy the indelible memory of our beloved founder +Metropolitan Judson Procyk, as he processed to exit the Cathedral on many liturgical occasions and paused for a moment to look up at the choir in the loft, flash his ever-present smile and give us his heartfelt "thumbs-up" of approval. We sincerely hope that his vision will continue to be fulfilled and carry on for many more years in health and happiness. Mnohaja i blahaja l'ita, PBCAC!

Darlene Fejka
Director, Pittsburgh Byzantine Catholic Archeparchial Choir



I joined the choir 25 years ago when the idea of a "people's" choir was a dream of Archbishop Judson of blessed memory. I didn't know anyone from the other parishes, but I just enjoyed singing! And sing we did....many times in a language I did not know or understand, but grew to love for its beauty. Many times I stopped Darlene and asked her to go over the Slavonic words again because the Hungarian girl in the choir needed help! But the beauty of the classical and parochial arrangements won my heart. And helped me when I went to my village in Hungary thinking I would hear an all-Hungarian liturgy, but walked into a big event at the church with the choir singing in Slavonic! My relatives were amazed when I just started singing along!

The greatest event we did every year was a program at Heinz Hall at Christmas. Many Christian choirs participated. All the choirs learned the same pieces which we sung together, then each choir sang a piece from their own tradition to tell the story of Christ's birth.

But the true heart of the choir is the people in it. We have been through many happy events.. and sad ones, too. We have applauded each other, and dried each other's tears. Because of my choir friendships, I started

traveling the world. I went to the Holy Land with some, then Poland, Slovakia and Ukraine with another. I even took a cruise to Cuba with some members. Who would have thought that a small group of people meeting in a church basement would lead to this.

I think I speak for the entire choir when I quote the psalm we hear many times in our churches. "I will sing to the Lord all my life. I will sing praise to my God as long as I live!"

Mary Caryl Planiczki
St. Elias, Munhall, Pa.
Choir member for 25 years



Twenty-five years is a long time, and those years hold a lot of beautiful memories. So many things come into my mind from the first rehearsal when we sang "Radusja, Carice" to the more recent Paschal Program at St. Nicholas in Greensburg where we sang to a wonderful group of parishioners and friends.

Some of my favorite venues include singing with many Pittsburgh church choirs at Heinz Hall, singing the National Anthem at the ball park, the folk festivals, the church and wedding anniversary celebrations, ordinations, Shrine of Our Lady of Lebanon, and our, always fun, choir parties.

Choir arrangements are always in the back of my mind. There is nothing like singing/humming "The Troparian of the Holy Cross" (Processional) at Hierarchical Liturgies. When we sang Bortniansky's "Blessed Be the Name of the Lord/Budi Imja," Archbishop Judson (of Blessed Memory) would look up at the choir, smile, and give us a "thumbs up" as he processed out of the Cathedral. That was all the thanks we needed! Rimsky-Korsakov's "Our Father" is another favorite.

On another note, through these 25 years the PBCAC has sung for many ordinations, weddings, anniversaries, civic events, and too many funerals. We have become family! We remember those whom we have lost, cherish those who are with us, and leave a legacy for those who will come after us. We are dedicated to the choir and continue to sing our praises to our God!

One of my favorite memories of Darlene and our choir is when she would lead informal singing of folk songs at social gatherings after events. Darlene and Jack Paloka would often lead "Jesce-Vypije," the "Glyg, Glyg, Glyg" version of "Mnohaja l'ita." It was a lot of fun to see the Archbishop and other clergy join in the singing. This and other folk songs



The Pittsburgh Byzantine Catholic Archeparchial Choir performs at PNC Park in Pittsburgh, Pa. in 2007.

Story continued on page 7



Story continued from page 6

like “Chevena Ruza Trojaka” bring back memories of my family singing these beloved songs.

Mary Ellen Dudick
SS. Peter and Paul,
Tarentum, Pa.
Choir member for 25 years



Music has always been a part of my life. So, when an article in the BCW was looking for members to form a choir, I joined, and the past 25 years have been a wonderful experience.

Our first Liturgical function was singing at the Pittsburgh Convention Center in observance of the 75th anniversary of the Byzantine — Ruthenian Metropolitan Church of Pittsburgh. Since then, some of the choir activities have been singing the liturgical responses for ordination ceremonies, 100th anniversaries of churches, annual wedding jubilarian celebrations, Divine Liturgy at Our Lady of Lebanon Shrine in Ohio, and have participated in the annual Christian Associates Christmas program which was held at Heinz Hall.

Having participated in these choir activities and more have been a musical learning experience thanks to our directress, Darlene Fejka. She truly is a dedicated and talented blessing that makes singing fun.

Barbara Sowko
Saint John The Baptist
Cathedral, Munhall, Pa.
Choir member for 25 years



I have many good memories from the many places where the Choir has sung over these 25 years. However, one of my best memories is from the first rehearsal in Greenfield.

I am in the choir because my father sang in the choir at the Cathedral. He was joined in the choir with his three sisters. When Archbishop Judson put out the call for the start of the new choir for the Eparchy, I knew it was now my turn to sing as those before me had done.

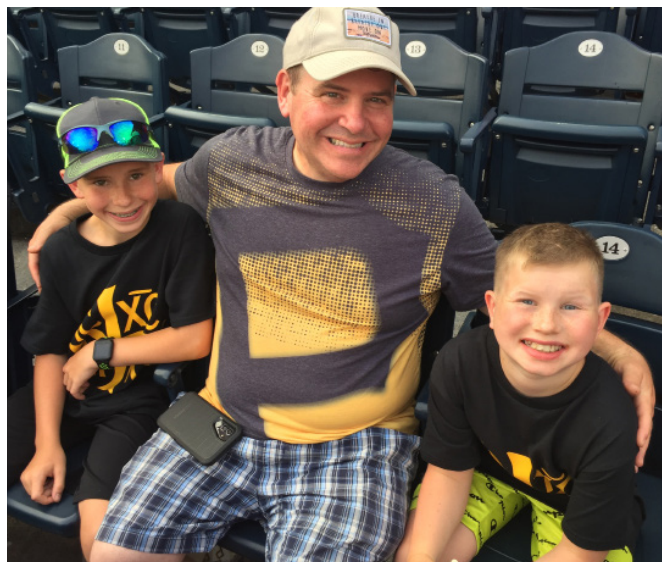
I had a rather unique relationship with the Archbishop. While he was the rector of the Cathedral he introduced me to my wife Susan. He later married us.

With that background my memory is walking into the hall at Immaculate Conception in Greenfield for the first rehearsal. Archbishop Judson saw me and gave me a nod. Which I have always interpreted as him saying “Hello Dave. I expected you here.”

David J. Pcsolar
St. Stephen
North Huntingdon, Pa.
Choir member for 25 years

“Faith and Fun Day”

This year’s “Faith and Fun Day” was held July 18, as altars servers of the Archeparchy of Pittsburgh enjoyed a tour of the Byzantine Catholic Seminary of SS. Cyril and Methodius in Pittsburgh, Pa., hitting golf balls at Topgolf in Bridgeville, Pa., and cheering on the Pittsburgh Pirates at PNC Park. For a story, see Page 1.



Photos by David Mayernik Jr.

ST. ELIAS IN MUNHALL, PA.

Parish picnic fun

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

St. Elias in Munhall, Pa. held a parish picnic and fun day on Sunday, July 16 after liturgy.

The church provided the main

dishes and parishioners brought the sides and desserts. Great food, fun and fellowship!

Thank you to the GCU for also providing support for this wonderful event. ■



Hungarian heritage

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

On July 13, St. Elias welcomed Protosyncellus Seszták István and his family from Hungary. St. Elias was founded by

Hungarian immigrants and much of the architecture and iconography reflects that heritage.

We hope they enjoyed their visit and pray for their safe travels. ■



Welcoming diaconate students

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

St. Elias was pleased to welcome Father Robert Pipta and the deacon students from

the Seminary to liturgy on June 18.

May God bless them as they continue their studies. God grant them many years and success in their endeavors! ■



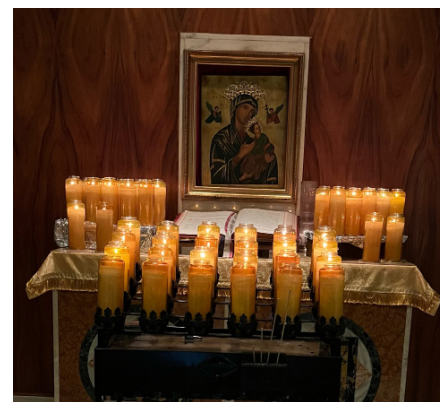
Honoring our fathers

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

St. Elias in Munhall honored our living fathers and deceased fathers on Father's Day at Divine

Liturgy.

Candles were lit in the chapel and the church. And our sweetest fathers were treated to sweets after Liturgy. ■





ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST IN SCOTTTDALE, PA.

Welcoming Deacon Tyler

Deacon Tyler Wisniewski, son of Ed and Anita Wisniewski, concelebrated the Divine Liturgy with Father Oleh Seremchuk last month at his home parish of St. John the Baptist in Scottdale, Pa.

A reception was held with many parishioners attending. ■



Fun in the sun

St. John the Baptist in Scottdale, Pa. held their annual parish picnic last month. The Service Award was presented to Tom and Charlotte Korba (pictured below left with Father Oleh Seremchuk). ■



Steve Matsey, Alan Hrial and Mike Marcej on grill duty.

ASCENSION OF OUR LORD IN CLAIRTON, PA.

Celebrating Father's Day

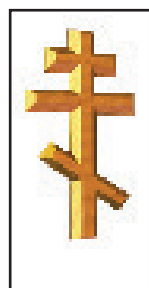
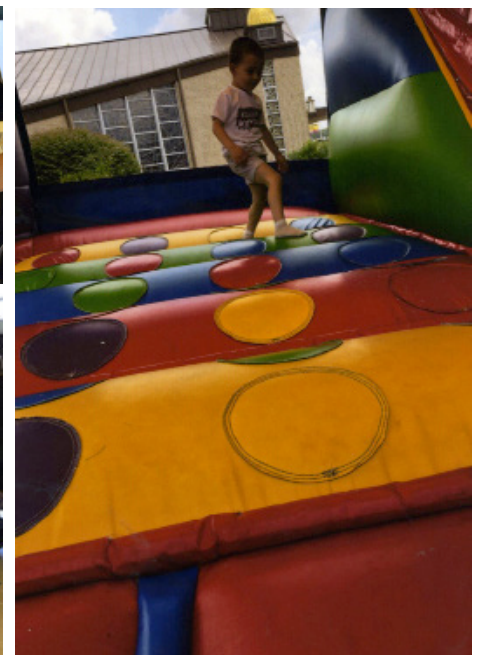
By Trish Roberts
Ascension of Our Lord, Clairton, Pa.

On Father's Day the dads attending Liturgy at Ascension Byzantine Church in Clairton, Pa. were recognized with carnations and cupcakes.

It seems the cupcakes were a big hit according to the responses we

got handing them out!

Father Ivan Mina gave a special blessing acknowledging all of the dads. A few of the men congregated outside the church after Liturgy for a quick chat before heading home to enjoy their treats and spend the day with their families. ■



BYZANTINE DIVINE LITURGY

Sundays 9:00 a.m. • WEDO Radio • 810 AM
Broadcast live from Holy Ghost Church, McKees Rocks

OR via Internet: click "Listen Live" link at
www.holyghost-byzantinecatholic.org

ST. GREGORY IN UPPER ST. CLAIR, PA.

Vacation Church School

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

Vacation Church School 2023 opened its doors on Monday, June 19 at St. Gregory in Upper St. Clair, Pa. As part of the curriculum, each day the children are presented with the life of the Saint of the Day.

This year we are following the program "Behold the Light!" that focuses on the Feasts of the life and Ministry of Christ.

On the first day, we focused on the Nativity of the Lord and during the day the children enjoyed hymns and original songs, crafts, and classroom lessons all related to this major feast day of our Holy Church.

On the second day, we learned about the Hodegetria Icon of the Theotokos which is honored on this day. This icon of the Mother of God is historically the first icon of the Church, painted by the Holy Evangelist Luke. At the end of the morning prayer service, we had a surprise visitor:

Eddie! Eddie is a therapy dog that works at Children's, Magee, and Canonsburg Hospitals. The rest of the day was dedicated to the Feast of the Encounter of Our Lord and Theophany.

The third day of our Vacation Church School 2023 was dedicated to Mount Tabor and the Transfiguration of our Lord.

The final day began with the Prayer of the Third Hour. The Saint of the Day was St. Thomas More who's life and martyrdom is remembered on this day in the Western Church

Afterward, we were ready for our field trip to the Pennsylvania Trolley Museum (PTM) in Washington, Pa.

A sincere thanks to our ECF parents and children for participating in this program, and a huge thank you to our dedicated teachers and volunteers for making this all possible! May our Lord grant you all many happy and blessed years! ■



Generous donation

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

Following the Divine Liturgy on Sunday, July 9th, parishioners Dorothy Mayernik, Michael Pillar, and John Tomko of the GCU - Pittsburgh South Regional Lodge presented a check in the amount of \$1939.68 to our parish family.

This generous donation is part of the 2023 Matching Funds Program. The Parish Expansion aspect of the GCU Matching Funds Program is intended to assist Byzantine Catholic parishes in fundraising efforts planned to benefit the parish as a physical entity, its parishioners, its purpose, and/or its affiliated support groups.



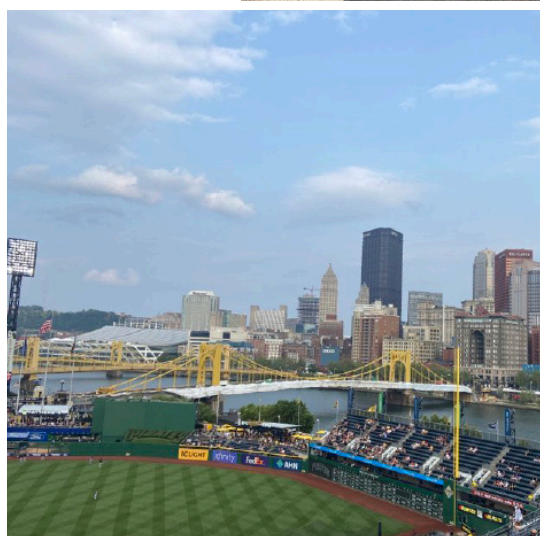
As a community of faithful we express our sincere thanks to the GCU for their constant support of our parish family. ■

Take me out to the ball game

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

On a beautiful Tuesday evening, July 18, St. Gregory's parishioners

enjoyed a wonderful evening at PNC Park. Even though the Pittsburgh Pirates did not do well, we still had a great time! ■





SS. PETER AND PAUL IN BRADDOCK, PA.

Annual Feast Day Picnic

*By Arleen Jama
SS. Peter and Paul, Braddock, Pa.*

SS. Peter and Paul in Braddock, Pa. celebrated their Annual Feast Day Picnic on Sunday, June 25.

Thank you to GCU for their help in the festivities.

Parishioners enjoyed the delicious food along with welcoming our new parishioners and visitors that joined us.

A sincere thanks to all that helped out and participated in this great annual event. ■



ST. MICHAEL IN CAMPBELL, OHIO

Vacation Bible School

St. Michael in Campbell, Ohio held its "Stellar" Vacation Bible School the week of July 10.

The theme of the week was to

"Shine Jesus' light" in both happy and sad times.

Father Kevin Marks is pastor. ■



ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST IN UNIONTOWN, PA.

Celebrating Father's Day

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

On June 18th, St. John the Baptist parish recognized all fathers with a brunch provided by the Social Ministry group and women of the church.

Centerpieces filled with dad-themed treats were awarded as

door prizes. All men received a small toolkit key chain as a favor as well.

Parishioners celebrating a birthday in June were also recognized at the brunch.

About 60 parishioners attended this event.

Father Vasyl Symyon is pastor. ■



Feast Day Dinner

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

In recognition of the Nativity of St. John the Baptist, a Feast Day dinner was held on June 25.

Parishioners brought in their favorite dishes to share with one another. The main courses were provided by the

parish and were prepared by the Social Ministry group.

The make-your-own-sundae bar was a big hit for dessert.

The outdoor shine honoring St. John the Baptist was also updated with new plants and flowers for the Feast Day. ■



Independence Day

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

Preceding the Divine Liturgy on July 4th, the local Knights of Columbus led the rosary for our

nation.

The singing of patriotic songs followed the service.

God bless America! ■



Wednesday Walk

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

Fayette Living Well Coalition sponsors a bi-weekly fitness walk called "Get Moving Fayette."

These walks take place at local points of interest in the county. The July 12 walk was held at Mount St. Macrina.

While strolling the serene grounds, Sister Barbara Jean Mihalchick, OSBM, related

the unique history of the buildings and grounds to the 60 participants, which included several parishioners of St. John the Baptist in Uniontown, Pa. and St. Nicholas in Brownsville, Pa. Her informative talk sparked interest to the local walkers who also wanted to further their knowledge of Mount St. Macrina and our Byzantine Catholic Rite.

Many were enlightened by her presentation. ■



July birthday recognition

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

Parishioners who celebrate July birthdays were recognized on Sunday July 16 after the Divine Liturgy. A cake and light refreshments were provided by St. John Social Ministry. Father Vasyl Symyon led the singing of "God Grant Them Many Years" and "Happy Birthday." ■





News from the Vatican

Pope appoints 21 Cardinals

By Carol Glatz
Catholic News Service

VATICANCITY—Pope Francis has named 21 new cardinals, including U.S. Archbishop Robert F. Prevost, who took over as head of the Dicastery for Bishops in April, and French Archbishop Christophe Pierre, apostolic nuncio to the United States.

The pope announced the names after praying the Angelus with the faithful in St. Peter's Square on July 9, and said he would formally name them at a special consistory at the Vatican on Sept. 30.

Cardinal-designate Prevost expressed surprise and joy at learning of the announcement, he said in an interview with Vatican News on July 10.

"I was certainly happy at the recognition of the mission entrusted to me — which is something very beautiful — and at the same time I thought with reverence and holy fear: I hope to be able to respond to what the Pope asks of me. It's a huge responsibility, like when he called me to Rome as prefect," he said in Italian.

"I see it as the continuation of a mission that the pope has decided to entrust to me," he added.

Speaking in English, Cardinal Designate Prevost said it is no coincidence that Pope Francis scheduled the consistory before the start of the synod's first general assembly on synodality, saying he is firmly convinced that "all of us are called to walk together."

The new cardinals represent more than a dozen countries on five continents. Three of the new cardinals are current Vatican officials, three are current or retired apostolic nuncios, 13 are current or retired heads of archdioceses around the world, one is rector major of the Salesians and another is a 96-year-old confessor from Buenos Aires. Six belong to religious orders; Two of them are Jesuits.

Following a papal custom, among the new cardinals were three ecclesiastics — two archbishops and a Capuchin Franciscan priest — over the age of 80, whom Pope Francis said he wanted to honor because they were particularly deserving for "their service to the Church." Being over 80 years old, they are not eligible to vote in a conclave.

After the new cardinals are installed at the end of September, there will be 137 potential voters and the total membership of the College of Cardinals is expected to be 243.

The appointment of Cardinal-

designate Prevost brings the number of U.S. cardinals to 18; After the consistory, the American contingent will have 11 possible papal electors.

The September ceremony will mark the ninth time Pope Francis has created cardinals since his election to the papacy in March 2013. After the ceremony of September 30, it will have created a total of 131 new cardinals in that College of Cardinals, which would represent about 54% of the total of the college and 72% of the potential electors.

With the addition of six new cardinals under the age of 60, the average age of cardinal electors will be reduced by one year, from 72 years and 8 months to 71 years and 6 months. Cardinal-designate Alves Aguiar of Lisbon, 49, will be only six months older than the youngest elector, Cardinal Giorgio Marengo of Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, 49.

Cardinal designate Prevost, 67, was born in Chicago and was bishop of Chiclayo, Peru, for more than eight years before being appointed to head the Vatican body charged with recommending to the pope candidates for bishopship in many of the world's Latin-rite dioceses. The recommendations of the dicastery are usually approved by the Pope. Archbishop Prevost has been a member of the dicastery since November 2020.

He also oversees the Pontifical Commission for Latin America, created in 1958 by Pope Pius XII to study the Church in Latin America, where nearly 40% of the world's Catholics reside.

The cardinal-designate holds a bachelor's degree from Villanova University, Pennsylvania, and the Catholic Theological Union of Chicago, and a doctorate from St. Thomas Aquinas Pontifical University in Rome. An Augustinian friar, he joined the Augustinian mission in Peru in 1985 and worked in the country until 1999, when he was elected head of the Augustinian province of Chicago. From 2001 to 2013 he was Prior General of the Order worldwide.

In 2014, Pope Francis appointed him bishop of Chiclayo, in northern Peru, and the pope also asked him to be apostolic administrator of Callao, Peru, from April 2020 to May 2021. The pope then named him successor to Canadian Cardinal Marc Ouellet, who is retiring, as prefect of the Dicastery for Bishops in early 2023.

Cardinal-designate Pierre, 77,



Pope Francis greets the faithful gathered in St. Peter's Square at the Vatican after praying the Angelus July 9, 2023. The pope also named 21 new cardinals, including U.S.-born Archbishop Robert F. Prevost, prefect of the Dicastery for Bishops, and French Archbishop Christophe Pierre, the apostolic nuncio to the United States. (CNS photo/Vatican Media)

was born in Rennes, France. Ordained a priest in 1970, he was apostolic nuncio to Haiti, Uganda and Mexico until Pope Francis appointed him nuncio to the United States in 2016.

Archbishop Timothy P. Broglio of the U.S. Military Services and president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops offered his congratulations and prayers to the new cardinals on behalf of the U.S. bishops July 9.

"Please join me in praying for Cardinal-designate Prevost and Cardinal-designate Pierre as they continue their lives of service to the universal Church," Archbishop Broglio said. "For the Church in the United States, his ministry has been a true blessing. Our episcopal conference rejoices in this sign of recognition for these distinguished ecclesiastics."

Before reading out the 21 names, Pope Francis told the roughly 15,000 people in St. Peter's Square that the diversity of the new cardinals "expresses the universality of the Church, which continues to proclaim God's merciful love to all the peoples of the Earth."

The order in which cardinals are announced determines their seniority in the College of Cardinals, which has little practical effect except in liturgical processions. ■

This is the list of new cardinals:

- **U.S. Archbishop Robert F. Prevost**, prefect of the Dicastery for Bishops, 67.
- **Italian Archbishop Claudio Gugerotti**, prefect of the Dicastery for the Oriental Churches, 67.
- The **Argentine archbishop of La Plata, Victor Manuel Fernandez**, incoming prefect of the Dicastery for

the Doctrine of the Faith. He will turn 61 on July 18.

— **Swiss Archbishop Emil Paul Tscherrig**, apostolic nuncio to Argentina, 76.

— **French Archbishop Christophe Pierre**, apostolic nuncio to the United States, 77.

— **Italian Archbishop Pierbattista Pizzaballa**, Latin patriarch of Jerusalem, 58.

— The **South African Archbishop of Cape Town, Stephen Brislin**, 66.

— The **Argentine archbishop of Córdoba, Angel Sixto Rossi**, 64. He is a member of the Society of Jesus.

— The **Colombian archbishop of Bogotá, Luis José Rueda Aparicio**, 61.

— **Polish Archbishop of Łódź, Grzegorz Rys**, 59.

— **South Sudanese Archbishop Stephen Ameyu Martin Mulla of Juba**, 59.

— The **Spanish archbishop of Madrid, Jose Cobo Cano**, 57.

— **Tanzanian Archbishop Protase Rugambwa**, coadjutor archbishop of Tabora, 63.

— **Malaysian Bishop Sebastian Francis of Penang**, Malaysia, 71.

— **Bishop Stephen Chow Sau-yan of Hong Kong**, 63. Born in Hong Kong, he is a member of the Society of Jesus.

— **Bishop François-Xavier Bustillo** of Ajaccio, Corsica, France, 54. Born in Spain, he is a member of the Conventual Franciscans.

— **Auxiliary Bishop Américo Alves Aguiar** of Lisbon, 49.

- **Salesian Father Angel Fernandez Artime**, born in Spain, rector major of the Salesians, 62 years old.

The new members of the College of Cardinals who are over 80 years old are:

— **Italian Archbishop Agostino Marchetto**, retired papal nuncio and respected historian of the Second Vatican Council, 82.

— **Retired Archbishop Diego Rafael Padrón Sánchez** of Cumaná, 84, of Venezuela.

- **Capuchin Father Luis Pascual Dri**, confessor at the Shrine of Our Lady of Pompeii, Buenos Aires, 94 years old.



THOUGHTS FOR OUR DAY

By Archpriest David M. Petras

THE CONFESSION OF SINS



In the sacramental mystery of penance, we confess our sins to a priest, called the confessor.

He hears what we say, imposes a penance of words or deeds to be done, and then says a prayer for the forgiveness of our sins. In this article, I wish to discuss the nature of the sins we confess. Here I must explain what the law of the Catholic Church is in regard to the confession of sins, and so must wander a little from the practice of the Orthodox. Both Churches, of course, believe the same basic reality: that confession is for sins committed after baptism, and that the absolution prayer of the priest imparts the grace of God for the forgiveness of sins. The sacramental mystery of reconciliation (penance, confession) is for the restoration to fidelity of those who had failed in some way to keep the baptismal promise to reject sin, evil works, and the “evil one”. It is a return to the “holy Church,” and therefore the sins had to be submitted to ministers of the Church, though confession is in reality made to God, who through the sacramental mysteries is our Lord and Redeemer.

In ancient times, the rite of confession-reconciliation was a public acts, like baptism. A person, after manifesting their repentance, was restored to Communion in the Church after the laying on of hands in forgiveness. The public nature of this sacramental mystery was eventually modified into a more private form modeled on the practice of repentance as practiced in monasteries. The Orthodox

Church did not develop universal laws regulating its frequency and scope. However, because Holy Communion became less frequent among the people, the principle that confession should be done before every reception of Communion came into play. This also happened in both the Eastern and Western Catholic Churches. However, the Catholic


The basic moral principle is that we must confess according to our conscience.

Church did create laws governing confession which respected its nature as the renewal of baptismal faith and also its new form based on monastic practices. The Lateran Council in the year 1215, Canon 21, stated: “All the faithful of either sex, after they have reached the age of discernment, should individually confess all their sins in a faithful manner to their own priest at least once a year.” This law, as formulated, obliges confession for serious sins: “After having reached the age of discretion, each member of the faithful is obliged to confess faithfully his or her grave sins at least once a year” (Canon 989).

The faithful, then, are obliged to confess their grave sins at least once a year. Grave sins are what is called in Catholic moral theology, “mortal sins,” that is “sins leading to moral death, from the Latin word, “mortalis.”

Canon 988 specifies that only mortal sins must be confessed, though the confession of lesser, venial sins is recommended. The Catechism then defines mortal sin: “Mortal sin is sin whose object is grave matter and which is committed with full knowledge and deliberate consent” (§ 1857). Venial sin, which does not need to be confessed, is defined: “when, in a less serious matter, [one] does not observe the standard prescribed by the moral law, or when [one] disobeys the moral law in a grave matter, but without full knowledge or without complete consent” (§ 1862). Mortal sin, therefore, may be described as a deliberate choice to turn away from God’s law in such a way as to violate our baptismal promise to commit ourselves to Christ. Venial sins are those acts of human weakness that arise from our imperfection. The book of Proverbs says, “Though the just fall seven times, they rise again, but the wicked stumble from only one mishap” (Proverbs 24:16). According to Catholic law, one cannot be obliged to confess venial sins, and while their confession is recommended for the sake of spiritual guidance, how often one must confess is not legislated except for mortal sins. In the Eastern Catholic Canon Law, the rule about confession once a year is not prescribed, but it is recommended that one confess during liturgical penitential seasons, and grave sins as soon as possible.

People often want clarity on what a mortal sin is. Sometimes what happens is that the personal dimension of sin, knowledge and deliberation, the process that happens in our souls when we turn from God, is not understood or taken into consideration. The

sin is the actual act that we do. We want to define the act and have it clearly labeled as mortal or venial. Once when I spoke about the nature of sin, a man asked me how many cigarettes could he smoke a day before it became a mortal sin. Another person broke her leg and was hospitalized on Sunday, yet still felt she committed a mortal sin because the action of going to church was not done, even though what is impossible cannot be a sin. The problem is that one may not have a strong interior and spiritual life.

The basic moral principle is that we must confess according to our conscience. A priest once instructed me, “You know when you have committed a mortal sin.” I do not think we can escape our consciences. Yet, we do try to excuse ourselves, and perhaps succeed on some level, because we may have a fear of our own weakness. Our efforts are never completely successful. St. John wrote, “If we say, ‘We are without sin,’ we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we acknowledge our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive our sins and cleanse us from every wrongdoing” (1 John 1:8-9). The reality is that all sin is pride, and only through humility, the recognition that we all fail in some way, can we escape the consequences of sin. This is true, even if our sins are not mortal. St. James thus instructs us, “confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed” (James 5:16). This must not be done in a legalistic and scrupulous manner, but in confidence in God’s love, for he “wills everyone to be saved and to come to knowledge of the truth” (1 Timothy 2:4). ■



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>



METROPOLITAN ASSEMBLY

NOVEMBER 2 - 5, 2023

**LIVING OUR FAITH
Moving Forward
Appreciating Our Past**

Art | History | Presentations | Prayer | Dancing

A gathering for all Byzantine Catholic faithful to learn about their past and plan for growth in the future.

Metropolitan Archbishop William C. Skurla and the Council of Hierarchs of the Byzantine Catholic Metropolitan Church of Pittsburgh will be hosting the third Assembly of our Church on Thursday, Nov. 2 to Sunday, Nov. 5, 2023, at St. Mary Byzantine Catholic Church, Hillsborough, N.J. The Assembly's theme is "Living

Our Faith: Moving Forward, Appreciating Our Past."

The Assembly will consist of two tracks. A clergy track will be presented on Thursday and Friday, Nov. 2 and 3. A laity track will occur from Friday to Sunday, Nov. 3 to 5. This gathering aims to increase the appreciation of the Byzantine Ruthenian Church's history (both in the "Old Country" and the United States)

and Byzantine Ruthenian art and culture. The second goal of the assembly is to learn about the best practices occurring in our parishes today, which are contributing to the growth of our communities, with the hope that the attendees will incorporate this information into their parish activities. A third goal is to develop concrete steps to ensure the future and growth of our Church. The synodal meetings

revealed these three topics to be the most important to those participating.

The cultural aspect of the Assembly will consist of presentations by Dr. Paul Magocsi on the history of the founders of the Byzantine Catholic Church in America. His influential book, "Our People: Carpatho-Rusyns

Story continued on page 16

Schedule



Speakers and Topics

Schedule and speakers subject to change

Thursday, November 2, 2023	
9:30 AM-Noon	Clergy Day Registration Vendors Throughout Assembly
Noon	Lunch
1:30 PM to 6:00 PM	Welcome and Presentations
6:00 PM to 8:00 PM	Dinner
8:00 PM	Presentation
9:00 PM	Compline
9:30 PM to 10:30 PM	Social
Friday, November 3, 2023	
Clergy Days Continue	
8:00 AM	Morning Prayer
8:30 AM to 9:15 AM	Continental Breakfast
9:30 AM to Noon	Presentations
10:00 AM to Noon	Laity Registration
Noon to 1:30 PM	Lunch
Clergy and Laity	
1:30 PM to 7:00 PM	Presentations to Clergy and Laity
7:30 PM to 9:45 PM	Dinner and Keynote
10:00 PM	Compline
Saturday, November 4, 2023	
Clergy and Laity	
8:00 AM	Morning Prayer
8:30 AM to 9:15 AM	Continental Breakfast
9:30 AM to Noon	Presentations
Noon to 1:30 PM	Lunch
1:30 PM to 5:30 PM	Presentations
6:00 PM	Vespers
7:00 PM to 11:00 PM	Gala Dinner & Dancing to the Music of Pajtaši
Sunday, November 5	
8:30 AM	Divine Liturgy
10:00 AM	Breakfast Buffet
11:00 AM to 1:30 PM	Final Presentation, What's Next?, Wrap-up, and Farewell

- Fr. Edward Cimbala** - "We Knew not Whether We Were in Heaven or on Earth" Young Adults and Their Motives for Joining the Byzantine Catholic Church: A Case Study of St. Mary's Byzantine Catholic Church in New York City - St. Mary Byzantine Catholic Church, New York, NY
- Timothy Kearns** - *From Light to Light: A Theological Cosmology for Our Times and a Renewed Christian Life* - St. Nicholas Byzantine Catholic Church - Danbury, Connecticut
- Adam Kemner** - *Small But Mighty: Why Small Parish Size is the Byzantine Catholic Church's Biggest Potential Way Forward* - Iowa Outreach, Muscatine IA
- Fr. Thomas Loya** - *A Blueprint for the Growth of the Byzantine Catholic Church in America* - Annunciation Byzantine Catholic Church, Homer Glenn, IL
- Dorothy Mayernik** - *Bethany Ministry: Caring for the Sick, Homebound, and Grieving in the Parish Family* - St. Gregory of Nazianzus Byzantine Catholic Church - Upper Saint Clair, PA
- Dn. Jeffrey Mierzewski** - *All Creation Should Sing: What Our Chant Teaches Us and What Our Church Singing Can Offer to a Fractured and Anxious World* - Metropolitan Cantor Institute, Pittsburgh, PA
- Fr. Thomas Shubeck and Br. Simeon, CFR** - *Poustinia: The New Evangelization in the Light of the Byzantine East, a new and evolving outreach to young adults of Theosis in Action* - St. Nicholas Church, Dunellen, NJ; St. George Church, Linden, NJ, and College Seminary of the Immaculate Conception, Seton Hall University.
- Fr. Andrew Summerson** - *What's a Byzantine Catholic Culture* - St. Mary Byzantine Catholic Church - Whiting, IN
- Lynn Wardach** - *Introducing ByzIMoms and ByziKids* - St. Mary Byzantine Catholic Church - Taylor, PA
- Rev. Paul R. Varchola West** - *You Will Know Them by Their Fruits: Rooting Parishes in the Fertile Soil of the Divine Office* - Our Lady of Perpetual Help Byzantine Catholic Church - Levittown, PA
- Phil Yevics** - *Antinomial Expectations of Presbyteral Ministry: How to Please ALL Your Parishioners... NOT!* - St. John Byzantine Catholic Church - Scranton, PA
- Seminarians** of the Byzantine Catholic Seminary of Saints Cyril and Methodius, Pittsburgh, PA



Special Guests

Cardinal Timothy Dolan, Archbishop of New York, will offer the keynote address at the opening dinner on Friday evening.

Bishop Nil Lushchak, O.F.M., Apostolic Administrator of the Eparchy of Mukachevo, the Mother Church of the Byzantine Ruthenian Metropolitan Church of Pittsburgh.

Dr. Paul Magocsi - The cultural aspect of the Assembly will be addressed by Dr. Paul Magocsi, focusing on the history of the founders of the Byzantine Catholic Church in America. His influential book, *Our People: Carpatho-Rusyns and Their Descendants in North America*, has just been released in a new and expanded edition. Dr. Magocsi will also present on the art and culture of this community. His book on the artists of the Transcarpathian School will be published shortly.

Fr. Christopher Zugger - Fr. Christopher Zugger will explore the history of the foundation of the Byzantine Catholic Church in America. Next year marks the 100th anniversary of the arrival of Basil Takach, the first bishop of the Byzantine Ruthenian Catholic Church in America. Fr. Zugger is the author of *The Forgotten: Catholics of the Soviet Empire from Lenin through Stalin* and *Finding a Hidden Church*. His third book, which focuses on the history of the Byzantine Ruthenian Church from its founding to the present, will be released in November.

Registration Now Open!



Registration deadline is
October 1, 2023

Get in touch

Fr. Edward Cimbala @ 212-677-0516
Fr. Yuriy Oros @ 609-394-5004

Email: byzantineassembly2023@gmail.com
Website: byzantineassembly2023.org



Accommodations
Hilton Garden Inn Bridgewater
500 Promenade Boulevard
Bridgewater, New Jersey 08807

Location
St. Mary Byzantine Catholic Church
1900 Brooks Boulevard,
Hillsborough, NJ, 08844






METROPOLITAN ASSEMBLY
Art | History | Presentations | Prayer | Dancing
NOVEMBER 2 - 5, 2023

**LIVING OUR FAITH
Moving Forward
Appreciating Our Past**

- \$250 per person
- \$400 per family
- Young Adult (18-35)*
*registration underwritten by The Maria Theresa Foundation



St. Mary Byzantine Catholic Church, Hillsborough, NJ

Assembly Coordinators
Fr. Edward Cimbala 212-677-0516 | Fr. Yuriy Oros 609-394-5004
Email: byzantineassembly2023@gmail.com | Web: byzantineassembly2023.org

AROUND THE ARCHEPARCHY



PARISH FLEA MARKET — 8 a.m.-3 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 5, St. Gregory, 2005 Mohawk Road, Upper St. Clair, Pa. Kitchen, household, and home décor items, jewelry, toys and more. Leftover sale 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 6. For information, call 412-835-7800

FREE SUMMER CONCERT — 3-4:30 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 13, St. John the Baptist Cathedral, 210 Greentree Road, Munhall, Pa. St. John the Baptist Cathedral and The East Winds Symphonic Band invite you to come out and enjoy a free concert in the parking lot of St. John the Baptist Cathedral. To see more about the band's summer programs visit ewsb.org/program.

STUFFED CABBAGE DINNER — 3-6 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 9; 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 10; 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.

Assembly 2023

Story continued from page 15

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Cardinal Timothy Dolan will offer the keynote address at the opening dinner on Friday evening. As music and dancing play a significant part in the cultural heritage of Carpatho-Rusyns,

attendees will have an opportunity to enjoy music, food, and fellowship at a gala Saturday evening. Pajtáši – a noted Rusyn/Slovak Band, will be the musical entertainment, and the dinner menu will feature a variety of ethnic foods.

Registrations may be made through the Assembly website or by mail. The fee includes meals, breaks, presentations, materials, and the gala on Saturday evening. The Assembly cost is \$250 for individuals and \$400 for couples. The Maria Theresa Foundation will underwrite the registration fees of individuals and couples between the ages of 18 and 35.

Special rates for hotel accommodations have been arranged at the Hilton Garden Inn in Bridgewater, N.J. The reservation link and hotel information may be found on the Assembly Website. The hotel is a 15-minute drive to St. Mary's in Hillsborough. ■

For more information, contact the Assembly coordinators, Father Ed Cimbala, at 212-677-0516 or Father Yuriy Oros at 609-394-5004. The assembly website is byzantineassembly2023.org, and the email is byzantineassembly2023@gmail.com.

DATES TO REMEMBER



AUG. 6

Feast of the Transfiguration of Our Lord

AUG. 15

Feast of the Dormition of the Theotokos

AUG. 20

Ordination of Reader Nathan Tapsak to Sub-Diaconate and Diaconate
Holy Ghost, McKees Rocks, Pa.

AUG. 27

Ordination of Reader John Welch to Sub-Diaconate and Diaconate
SS. Peter and Paul, Warren, Ohio

AUG. 29

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

SEPT. 1 to 4

89th annual Pilgrimage in honor of Our Lady of Perpetual Help
Mount St. Macrina, Uniontown, Pa.

See more upcoming events at www.archpitt.org

THE BYZANTINE CATHOLIC WORLD

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66 Riverview Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15214
Tel: 412-231-4000
Fax: 412-231-1697
Email: bcw@archpitt.org
Website: www.archpitt.org

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DEADLINE:**
AUGUST 18