

<p><b>INSIDE</b></p>	<p><b>BYZANTEEN YOUTH RALLY 2024</b> Teens of the Archeparchy of Pittsburgh attend event in San Diego, Calif. Page 3</p>	<p><b>PILGRIMAGE 2024</b> Full schedule for the 90th annual Pilgrimage in Honor of Our Lady of Perpetual Help at Mount St. Macrina in Uniontown, Pa. Page 6</p>	<p><b>CELEBRATING 70 YEARS</b> St. Pius X in Pittsburgh (Carrick), Pa. marks milestone year Page 10</p>
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## Axios, Bishop Teodor of Mukachevo!

METROPOLITAN ARCHBISHOP WILLIAM C. SKURLA ATTENDS ORDINATION OF BISHOP TEODOR MATSAPULA OF THE EPARCHY OF MUKACHEVO, UKRAINE



Metropolitan Archbishop William C. Skurla was among the many bishops from around the world attending the episcopal ordination of Bishop Teodor Matsapula of the Eparchy of Mukachevo, Ukraine, the Mother Church of the Byzantine Ruthenian Catholic Church, July 16. Bishop Nil Luschak O.F.M. has been serving as the Apostolic Administrator of the Eparchy since shortly after the death of +Bishop Milan Sasik C.M. in 2020. The ordination took place in the Holy Cross Greek-Catholic Cathedral in Uzhhorod. According to the Mukachevo Greek Catholic Diocese web site, Bishop Teodor was born on August 21, 1981 in Krylos, Ivano-Frankivsk region. He was ordained a priest on Feb. 10, 2008. Since 2017, he had been a synchel for monastic affairs of the Mukachevo Greek Catholic Diocese. On May 8, 2024, Pope Francis appointed Theodore (Matsapula) as the ordinary bishop for the Mukachevo Greek Catholic Diocese.

## A journey to the altar of Christ fulfilled

FATHER TYLER WISNIEWSKI ORDAINED TO PRIESTHOOD AT ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST CATHEDRAL

By *The Byzantine Catholic World*

Father Tyler Wisniewski was ordained a priest of the Byzantine Catholic Archeparchy of Pittsburgh by Metropolitan Archbishop William C. Skurla June 23 at St. John the Baptist Cathedral in Munhall, Pa.

Concelebrants were Very Rev. Ronald Barusefski, rector of the Byzantine Catholic Seminary of SS. Cyril and Methodius in Pittsburgh, Pa.; Very Rev. Kevin Marks, Vocations Director and pastor of St. Michael in Hermitage, Pa. and St. Michael in Campbell, Ohio; Father Will Rupp, pastor of SS. Peter and Paul in Warren, Ohio; Father Oleh Seremchuk, pastor of St.



Metropolitan Archbishop William C. Skurla and Father Tyler Wisniewski

John the Baptist in Scottdale, Pa. and St. Nicholas in Perryopolis, Pa.; and Very Rev. John Basarab, pastor of Epiphany of Our Lord in Annandale, Va.

In his homily, Very Rev. John Basarab focused on Samuel

Chapters 2 and 4, in which Hannah and Elkanah bring their son, Samuel, to God at the sanctuary in Shiloh, where Samuel needed the discernment of Eli, the high priest, to recognize it was God calling him.

“Edward and Anita, you brought your son, Tyler, to God’s House — St. John the Baptist church in Scottdale. There, with the example of his parents and family, pastor and parishioners, he heard God calling him,” Father John said.

Father John said Father Tyler’s call “re-sounded” at Penn State campus ministry with Father Jim Ragan and Father Will Rupp,

Story continued on page 3

## “Theotokos: Our Rock, Our Refuge, Our Strength”

INVITATION TO 90TH ANNUAL PILGRIMAGE IN HONOR OF OUR LADY OF PERPETUAL HELP

By Sister Susan Sisko, OSBM  
Provincial, Sisters of St. Basil the Great  
Uniontown, Pa.

Dear Friends,

In thanksgiving to God, and with great enthusiasm and joy, we Sisters invite you to our 90th Annual Pilgrimage in honor of Our Lady of Perpetual Help.

For this 90th Pilgrimage, we chose the theme “Theotokos: Our Rock, Our Refuge and Our Strength: Celebrating 90 Years of Grace.” Indeed, Our Gracious Mother has been the Rock, Refuge, and Strength of our Province for 103 years and has been the very foundation upon which our Pilgrimage has been built these 90 years.

Mt. St. Macrina has received so many blessings throughout its history, and our Pilgrimage allows us to share these blessings with all of you, our faithful Pilgrims. Ninety years of prayer, 90 years of blessings, 90 years of relationships, 90 years of grace. It doesn’t get much better than this, and we know it.

Preparations are well underway as we attempt to keep the flowers watered amidst record-high temperatures, keeping up with weeding, grass cutting, weed whacking, touch-up painting, and endless minor (sometimes major) repairs and fixes. Yet our deadline is always the same, ‘ready or not’: Labor Day Weekend!

We hope and pray that you and your loved ones can join us this year. If travel or health concerns do not allow you to be physically present, we hope that you will join us via the Mt. Macrina app (available on the Apple app store or Google Play store) or via Facebook Live.

We are grateful to you for your

Story continued on page 6



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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.

## LETTER FROM THE ARCHBISHOP



# Assembly 2025 - Byzantine Catholic Metropolitan Church of Pittsburgh

July, 10, 2024

Preparations are underway for our Church - Bishops, Clergy, Monastics, Religious, and Laity - to come together in Assembly next year - from July 16-20, 2025. The gathering will convene at St. Mary Byzantine Catholic Church in Whiting, Indiana under the name and calling, "Come let us worship and bow before Christ"

Worship of the Lord includes our personal prayer and our liturgical prayer life. It is reflected in our relationships with each other and in the ways we live our faith as Byzantine Catholics of the Metropolitan Church of Pittsburgh.

The goal of the Assembly is to together discern ways to live our worship of Christ today in a real and practical manner while learning from the past and looking to the future. The Assembly will include formal presentations, interviews, panel discussion and round table exercises.

Special emphasis will be given to the distinctive contributions Byzantine Catholic have made to their Metropolitan Church.

The Assembly is a time to celebrate the unique contributions of each region and Eparchy while at the same time acknowledging the unity of the Byzantine Catholic Church in North America.

More information will appear in your parish bulletins and online at the Assembly website: [byzantineassembly.org](http://byzantineassembly.org)

Sincerely Yours in Christ,

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

## FROM THE OFFICE OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

# 2024 Bible Training Workshop

*"Happy the people who know you, Lord." (Psalm 89:16)*

*By The Office of Religious Education*

Step-by-step guidance to begin, organize and conduct Bible Study was given to 12 participants June 12 to 13. The workshop took place at SS Cyril and Methodius Seminary, sponsored by the Archeparchial Office of Religious Education. Two gifted presenters, Deacon John Harden, Director of Religious Education for the Eparchy of Parma; and Dr. Sandee Collins, Scripture Professor at the Byzantine Catholic Seminary, shared their expertise. Topics covered were:

- Catholic Bible Study: Fostering Parish Fellowship and Faith Enrichment
- Organizing a Bible Study: Getting started and Planning Your Study
- Leading a Bible Study: Keys to a Fruitful Small Group Experience
- Frequently Asked Questions About the Bible

Deacon John Harden reminded the participants that many of our prayers, especially the Divine Liturgy contain Sacred Scripture.

"Our faith, our community, our Church, our Liturgy are all established on the text of the Scriptures, of the Bible" (*Time for*



*the Lord to Act*, Archpriest David M. Petras).

Dr. Collins emphasized a quote from Pope Francis: "Our aim is not to understand every little detail of a text: our most important goal is to discover its principal message" (*The Joy of the Gospel*).

Participants in the workshop belong to the following parishes: St. John, Scottdale, Pa.; St. Mary, Bradenville, Pa.; SS. Cyril & Methodius, Girard, Pa.; St. Andrew, Gibsonia, Pa.; St. John the Baptist, Pittsburgh, Pa. We especially welcomed three

participants from the Eparchy of Parma.

The Archeparchial Office of Religious Education would like to thank the pastors who supported this program. In addition to the education received, new friendships were formed as well as collaboration with another eparchy.

When thinking about Sacred Scripture, let us always keep in mind: "In prayer we address God and in Holy Scripture God speaks to us" (*Christ Our Pascha #684*). ■

# A journey to the altar of Christ fulfilled

FATHER TYLER WISNIEWSKI ORDAINED TO PRIESTHOOD AT ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST CATHEDRAL IN MUNHALL, PA.



*Story continued from page 1*

at Epiphany of our Lord in Annandale, Va.; and at SS. Peter and Paul in Portage, Pa. with Very Rev. Jim Spontak.

“This call continued to be heard at our magnificent seminary,” he said.

“Archbishop William has declared it as a call, a vocation, from God, and has called Deacon Tyler to ordination today.”

Father John said the Gospel for the fifth Sunday after Pentecost, Matthew 8:28-9:1, tells of two men who confront Jesus about discipleship but they both leave when Jesus informs them of the physical hardships of the call.

“There are two parts to a call from Jesus: physical and spiritual. When St. John Chrysostom preached about the call of the Rich Young Man, he said the physical demands of a vocation are hard, but the spiritual demand is even more demanding,” he said.

“But with God's grace, and the man co-operating with God, it is



Photos by Nick Havrilla Sr.

# Faith and Fun Day

ALTAR SERVERS OF THE ARCHDIOCESE OF PITTSBURGH ENJOY A PIRATES VICTORY, A VISIT TO THE NATIONAL AVIARY

By David Mayernik Jr.  
Editor

Father Kevin Marks told altar servers gathered for this year's "Faith and Fun Day" that they are "the light of Jesus Christ" and should bring their light everywhere they go: to school, their home and the playground.

Oh, and one more venue. "Take that light to PNC Park," he said.

The altar servers brought enough positivity to the July 8 afternoon game at PNC Park to ensure an 8-2 victory by the Pittsburgh Pirates over the New York Mets.

The game was highlighted by home runs courtesy of Oneil Cruz and Joshua Palacios.

The day also included a visit to the National Aviary on Pittsburgh's North Side and dinner and games at Dave and Buster's in the North Hills.

It was the 15th annual "Faith and Fun Day" for altar servers of the Byzantine Catholic Archdiocese of Pittsburgh. More than 30 youth attended the day's festivities.

"What a great milestone it is," Father Kevin said.

The day began with the Divine Liturgy at Holy Ghost in McKees Rocks, Pa. Metropolitan Archbishop William C. Skurla celebrated the liturgy with Very Rev. Andrew Deskevich, Protosyncellus and rector of St. John the Baptist Cathedral in Munhall, Pa.; Very Rev. Frank Firko, pastor at Holy Ghost in McKees Rocks and Holy Ghost in Pittsburgh; Father Will Rupp; Father Brian Norrell, pastor of Assumption of the Mother of God in Weiron, W. Va. and St. John the Baptist in Avella, Pa.; Father Michael Kunitz, pastor of St. Pius X and Holy Spirit, both in Pittsburgh; and Father Ivan Rusyn, pastor of SS. Peter and Paul in Jerome, Pa. and St. Mary in Windber, Pa.

"It's nice to come together at least once a year. It's nice to meet new friends and it's nice to know there's more of us," Father Kevin said in his homily.

He also asked them to think about what makes someone their best friend.

"Jesus' friendship continues to grow within you every time you serve. Jesus' friendship is forever...May you always continue to desire that service in your church," he said.

"You as an altar server are the light of Jesus Christ." ■



Photos by David Mayernik Jr.



# ByzanTeen Youth Rally 2024

TEENS WHO ATTENDED THE EVENT IN SAN DIEGO, CALIF. SHARE THEIR EXPERIENCES

*By Gretchen Bartz  
St. Gregory, Upper St. Clair, Pa.*

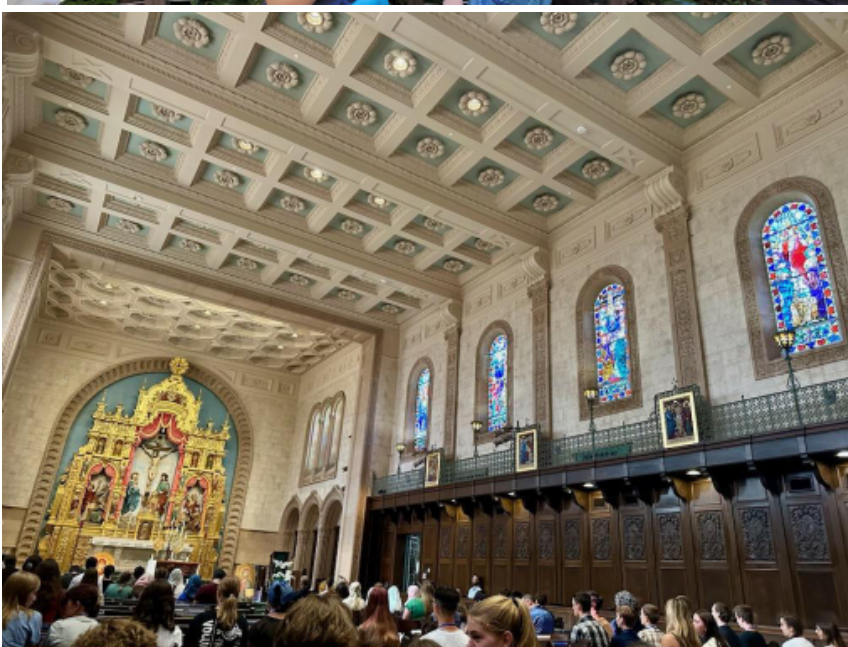
From June 27 to June 30, I and nine other teens from our parish had the opportunity to attend the ByzanTeen Youth Rally in San Diego, Calif. We arrived at the airport on Thursday and then went to visit the famous San Diego Zoo. I particularly enjoyed seeing a binturong (also known as a bearcat), a tiger, and some hippos. During the rally, we celebrated Matins each morning and a Vigil Divine Liturgy for both the Feast of Saints Peter and Paul and the Sixth Sunday after Pentecost.

The rally also had three keynote speakers: Father Christopher Zugger from Our Lady of Perpetual Help in Albuquerque, N.M.; Mother Iliana from Christ the Bridegroom Monastery in Burton, Ohio; and Catholic apologist Trent Horn. Father Zugger spoke on Bishops who helped to keep the faith alive in the Soviet Union, Mother Iliana described how God loves us despite the many times we fall short, and Trent Horn described his conversion to Catholicism and defending the Faith.

During the afternoons, there were multiple activities available to participants, including sports, games, and learning how to tie a chotki (prayer rope). I chose to learn how to tie a chotki, since I had wanted to learn for some time. On Friday, the rally partnered with Rise Against Hunger, an organization that helps get pre-packaged meals to people in need, and we prepared about 16,000 meals. To close out the day on Saturday, we had a dance. I would like to thank everyone who made the trip to San Diego for St. Gregory's ByzanTeens possible and hope all of these donors have many happy and blessed years ahead of them. ■



Tom Rubish (left) and Olivia Leasure (above) participate in the service project to feed the hungry.



*By Tommy Rubish  
Holy Ghost, McKees Rocks, Pa.*

I was extremely excited to travel to California for the first time. I have never been so far away from home before. We flew out of Pittsburgh at 5 a.m. on Thursday morning, and there were other rally participants from Sykesville and Upper St. Clair on my flight.

Once we landed in San Diego, we headed to my dad's cousin's restaurant, Phil's BBQ, to eat lunch. We then arrived and checked in at the beautiful campus of the University of San Diego.

Our schedule was really busy, and I loved every minute of it. We attended many church services, vespers, matins, liturgies, compline, and confession.

One of my favorite activities was a session where we could ask a priest, bishop, or nun anything. The panel gave many insightful and funny answers to our questions.

The most moving session was the packaging of 16,000 meals for the needy. I was glad I could make a difference in the lives of the less fortunate.

I also enjoyed the sports activities and the dance on Saturday night. I got to meet many new friends. I did not realize there were other Byzantine Catholic teens like me in Albuquerque, Spokane, Los Angeles, and Texas, to name a few places I met others from.

It was a wonderful experience, and I was sad to see it end on Sunday. ■



Subdeacon Luke Iyengar, chaperones Paul Rubish and Dana Leasure and teens Tom Rubish and Olivia Leasure of Holy Ghost in McKees Rocks, Pa. attended the ByzanTEEN Rally in San Diego, Calif. June 26 to 28.

They participated in a service project, conferences, games, crafts, confessions, Matins, Vespers, Compline and Divine Liturgy.



# The tradition of Pilgrimage

90TH ANNUAL PILGRIMAGE IN HONOR OF OUR LADY OF PERPETUAL HELP SET FOR AUG. 30 TO SEPT. 2

Story continued from page 1

participation in our history, and we know that you share in our joy as we celebrate our 90th Pilgrimage. May Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Our Rock, Our Refuge, and Our Strength continue to guide and protect you and all those you love.

Gratefully in the Lord,

**Sr. Susan Sisko, OSBM**  
**Provincial**



This year, the Sisters of St. Basil the Great celebrate the 90th 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, hopes, sorrows, and joys into her hands. The Icon of Our Lady of Perpetual Help holds a central place throughout the pilgrimage. It is carried in procession with love and devotion to each liturgical service and placed



before the altar so all may venerate this Beloved Icon of Our Mother of Perpetual Help. For those who embark on this journey, the pilgrimage is not just an event, but a deeply personal and integral part of their spiritual lives. It caters to their diverse spiritual needs, offering not only the Divine Liturgy and other liturgical services, but also the profound blessings of the Mystery of Reconciliation and the Anointing of the Sick, which are cherished by all.

The Sisters of St. Basil extend a heartfelt invitation to all, inviting them to join in honoring the Mother of God under the title of Our Lady of Perpetual Help. Together, they eagerly await to welcome all to her Shrine on Mount St. Macrina, a place of solace and spiritual rejuvenation. ■

### 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 90th 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.

## Pilgrimage 2024 Reunion

by Sister Elaine Kisinko, OSBM  
Secretary to the Archbishop



Reunions are quite common: family reunions, high school class reunions, unexpected meetings with someone from

one's past, college homecoming weekends and so on. When we gather at the Shrine of Our Lady of Perpetual Help at Mt. St. Macrina over the Labor Day weekend this year for the 90th Pilgrimage, it can be said that this, too, is a time of reunion.

On the obvious level, many of the people who have come have not seen each other since the last Pilgrimage. For them it is a time of renewing a friendship or of deepening an acquaintance, a sharing of the happenings in their lives since they last met. In the very early days of the Pilgrimage, many Pilgrims were immigrants not so long removed from their European homes. For them it truly was a reunion with family members who had settled in different, even distant, parts of America. Tears and emotion often were the norm as they prepared to board their buses to return home knowing they would not see each other until the next Pilgrimage.

Today, when technology can keep us together in close contact, there is still the joy and excitement of once again actually spending time with those who are usually only with us at this special event, our Pilgrimage

Of course, by our prayer and our presence, we can become more reunited, too, with Our Lord and His Mother in a deeper way. Receiving the mysteries of Reconciliation and the Eucharist, participating in the prayer of the Divine Liturgies and other services, spending time in private prayer, visiting the Shrine and the other shrines, and even holding a candle while walking in procession or by watching it go by can strengthen and help us to grow in our relationships with them.

Every Pilgrimage is a special event with unique blessings. That this Pilgrimage this year is the 90th one gives us consideration of the number beyond counting of everyone, Bishops, Priests, Deacons, Religious, Laity who over that span of time walked these grounds, prayed, sang, and were blessed to be there united and reunited with each other just as we will be. Please come to share the blessings that you and your presence bring. ■

## PILGRIMAGE 2024 SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

### Friday, August 30

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

### Saturday, August 31

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

### OPENING OF PILGRIMAGE

**9 a.m. GROUNDBREAKING CEREMONY** for the new Monastery Building

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

**10:15 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.**  
**AKATHIST** 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** at Lourdes Tent

**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 1

**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 at 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**  
at Lourdes tent

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

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

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

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

### CLOSING OF THE PILGRIMAGE

Following the Candlelight Procession:

**TEEN SOCIAL**  
Prayer Garden Area

**YOUNG ADULT GATHERING**  
at Lourdes Tent

**INPUT SESSION**  
Seminarians (Followed by a social)

### Monday, September 2

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



# Basilian Sisters celebrate Jubilarians

THREE SISTERS OF ST. BASIL THE GREAT CELEBRATE 75 YEARS OF THE RELIGIOUS LIFE

*By The Sisters of St. Basil the Great  
Uniontown, Pa.*

This year, the Sisters of St. Basil had a signature celebration on Pentecost Sunday, joyfully commemorating the 75th Jubilee of Sister Theodosia Alishofski, Sister Theresa Bavol, and Sister Petronilla Puhak.

Like many who came before them, Sister Theodosia, Sister Theresa, and Sister Petronilla served as teachers in the parish schools for most of their lives in the community.

## Sister Theodosia Alishofski, OSBM

Sister Theodosia came to the community from St. Mary's in Freeland, Pennsylvania. For over 50 years, she was a teacher and principal in many schools staffed by the Sisters of St. Basil. Because of her many years in ministry, many of those to whom she ministered continue to keep in touch with her. She responds faithfully to those who do.

A talented artist, Sister Theodosia studied iconography, and several of the icons she created adorn the monastery chapel and corridors. Sister Theodosia most recently served in parish ministry in Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania, and surrounding parishes. While visiting the sick was the primary focus of this ministry, Sister was also involved in catechetical ministry in the parish.

## ETERNAL MEMORY

### SISTER THEODOSIA (MARY) ALISHOFSKI

Less than two short months after celebrating her Diamond Jubilee of religious life, Sister Theodosia (Mary) Alishofski entered eternity to celebrate her new life in the Kingdom. Sister had been a resident at Mt. Macrina Manor since 2021. Very early in the morning on July 10, 2024, it was from there that the Lord called her to Himself.

Sister Theodosia was born in Freeland, PA, the daughter of the late William and Mary (Condrick) Alishofski. She entered the community from St. Mary's Byzantine Catholic Church in Freeland, PA, on September 13, 1949, and made her Final Profession of Vows on August 29, 1954.

In active educational ministry from 1951 through 2005, Sister was a teacher and principal in parish schools in Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Ohio, and Connecticut. When St. Mary's School in Wilkes-Barre closed, she stayed on to serve in parish ministry and in catechesis.

## Sister Theresa Bavol, OSBM

Sister Theresa entered the community from St. Mary's in Trenton, New Jersey. She also was in the teaching ministry in the parish schools of the Metropolia for over fifty years, mostly teaching the primary and lower elementary grades. She also served in parish ministry in her home parish of St. Mary's and at St. Therese in St. Petersburg, FL. Sister Theresa also brought her artistic talents to bear in teaching art to her students in Florida. Her unique gifts are always in demand for community celebrations.

Upon arrival at the Monastery, Sr. Theresa quickly used her talents and presence to serve the residents of Mount Macrina Manor through Pastoral Ministry.

## Sister Petronilla Puhak, OSBM

Sister Petronilla entered the community from St. John's in Hazleton, Pa. Like those of her group, she was also engaged in the teaching ministry for almost 50 years. Sister Petronilla was especially gifted in teaching in the primary grades, and this age group was the focus of her ministry for most of her teaching experience.

After retiring from teaching, Sister offered her time and energy to those at the opposite end of the age spectrum, the infirm and elderly at Mt. Macrina Manor. In the pastoral ministry department, her thoughtfulness and gentle

Sister Theodosia was a gifted artist, and her earlier works were scenes of nature. As time passed, Sister became interested in iconography, and she pursued this calling by attending icon workshops and retreats during the summer. Her icons of the Feasts of the Liturgical Year adorn the walls on the way to the Chapel. In addition, a large icon of the Holy Trinity is fixed on the back wall of the Monastery Chapel. Thus, Sister's talents continue to bless us.

While a resident at Mt. Macrina Manor, Sister Theodosia was faithful in keeping in touch by mail or phone with family, relatives, former students, and friends. With over sixty years of contact in her ministry, this was no little feat. It brought her as much joy to share this ministry with so many.

Sister Theodosia was preceded in death by her parents and her brothers Joseph, William, and Msgr. Nicholas. In addition to the members of her community, she is survived by several nieces,



The Sisters of St. Basil the Great in Uniontown, Pa. honored three Sisters who are celebrating 75 years of religious life on May 19, Pentecost Sunday. Pictured with Metropolitan Archbishop William C. Skurla are Sister Petronilla, Sister Theresa and Sister Theodosia.

spirit brought light and joy to those she served.

Each of the Sisters has brought a diversity of gifts and talents to the Province and enriched it in her own unique way. May God grant each of them many more spiritually fruitful years in His service.

Metropolitan Archbishop William Skurla celebrated the Divine Liturgy and joined the community at a festive dinner. Sister Susan Sisko, Provincial, congratulated and thanked the Sisters for their many years of service and dedication. ■



Sister Theodosia (Mary) Alishofski

nephews, and cousins.

The Funeral Divine Liturgy was celebrated by Very Rev. Andrew Deskevich, Protosyncellus, and Rev. Jerome G. Botsko, Monastery Chaplain, on Monday, July 15. Interment followed in the Dormition Section of Mt. Macrina Cemetery.

In blessed repose, grant O Lord, eternal rest to your departed servant Sister Theodosia and remember her forever! ■



## OFFICIAL APPOINTMENTS BY METROPOLITAN ARCHBISHOP WILLIAM

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

**Effective Wednesday, July 31, 2024**

**Monsignor Raymond A. Balta** relieved as pastor of Saint Mary Church, Johnstown, Pennsylvania, and retired from active ministry.

**Father Regis J. Dusecina** relieved as pastor of Saint Nicholas Church, Greensburg and Administrator of Saint Mary Church, Hannastown, both in Pennsylvania, and retired from active ministry.

**Effective Thursday, August 1, 2024**

**Father Timothy Fariss** appointed administrator of St. Mary Church, Johnstown.

**Father Vasyi Banyk** at his own request relieved as pastor of Holy Trinity Church, Sykesville and administrator of the Nativity of the Mother of God Church, Du Bois, and appointed pastor of Saint Nicholas Church, Greensburg and Administrator of Saint Mary Church, Hannastown, all in Pennsylvania.

**Father Nathaniel Tapsak** appointed administrator of both Holy Trinity Church, Sykesville and Nativity of the Mother of God Church, Du Bois.

**Father Christopher Burke** relieved as pastor St. Nicholas Church, Brownsville and administrator, St. Mary Church, New Salem, both in Pennsylvania and appointed to assist Reverend Father Ivan Mina at Holy Ascension Church, Clairton, Pa. with residence at St Nicholas rectory in Perryopolis, Pa.

**Father James A. Ragan** relieved as priest for the Liturgical Services and Spiritual Welfare and Concerns of St. John Church, Hawk Run, Dormition Church, Clarence, the mission at State College, and ministry to the Byzantine Catholic students at Penn State, all in Pennsylvania, and appointed administrator of both St. Nicholas Church, Brownsville and St. Mary Church, New Salem,

**Father William Rupp** relieved as administrator of Sts. Peter and Paul Church, Warren Ohio and appointed priest for the Liturgical Services and Spiritual Welfare and Concerns of St. John Church, Hawk Run, Dormition Church, Clarence, the mission at State College, and ministry to the Byzantine Catholic students at Penn State, all in Pennsylvania,

**Father Miron Kerul'-Kmec Jr.** relieved as administrator of St. John Chrysostom and Saint John the Baptist Churches, both in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, and appointed administrator of Sts. Peter and Paul Church, Warren, Ohio.

**Father Tyler Wisniewski** appointed administrator of St. John Chrysostom and Saint John the Baptist Churches, both in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

ST. PIUS X IN PITTSBURGH (CARRICK), PA.

## Celebrating 70 years

By Gerry Rhoads O'Connor  
St. Pius X, Pittsburgh (Carrick), Pa.

Bishop Daniel Ivancho's June 17, 1954 Episcopal Proclamation to form a new parish resulted in the Byzantine Catholic Exarchate of Pittsburgh's purchase of the John M. Phillips mansion and five acres of property on Brownsville Road (Central South Hills ) in the Carrick section of Pittsburgh, Pa.

That began the mission of St. Pius X Byzantine Catholic Church of the Central South Hills 70 years ago.

Current members and friends of the parish celebrated with a Divine Liturgy celebrated by Metropolitan Archbishop William C. Skurla assisted by our administrator, Father Michael D. Kunitz. The Divine Liturgy offered in memory of those deceased pioneers, clergy, and current parishioners and friends of the parish began with the traditional welcome of Bread and Salt presented to the Archbishop by Bob and Norma Langol. Serving at the altar were parishioner John Hochendoner and friend of the parish, Eugene Yeo and his son Denis. Singing the responses were parishioners and cantor Gerry Rhoads O'Connor with Skip Martin and Helenanne Hochendoner.

In his remarks Archbishop William expressed his pleasure at being with the parishioners of St. Pius X to celebrate this milestone year and encouraged them to continue to grow the parish.

A dinner followed in the church's auditorium where parishioners and friends could reminisce over 70 years of pictures and share their stories of the earlier days of the church.



Father Michael D. Kunitz; Ann Danchenka, 100-year old Founder of St. Pius; and Metropolitan Archbishop William C. Skurla.



Bob and Norma Langol greeting the Archbishop with the traditional bread and salt.

Gerry Rhoads O'Connor introduced each individual present to the Archbishop by explaining to him how each parishioner and friend contributed their talents, time and prayers to continue the mission of St. Pius X. Ann Danchenka (100 years young) was the oldest founding member present!

Everyone was sent home with a souvenir Basil plant as a wish of good fortune.

Thanks to the GCU and the efforts of Basil Wahal, the parishioners and friends will also be sent a copy of the 40th Anniversary Book which includes an extensive history of the church. God Grant Us Many Years! ■



Eugene Yeo with his son Denis (friends of the parish), Metropolitan Archbishop William C. Skurla, Father Michael Kunitz, and John Hochendoner.

ST. STEPHEN THE PROTOMARTYR IN LEISENRING, PA.

## Blessing of new vestments

By Bob Gillingham  
St. Stephen the Protomartyr, Leisenring, Pa.

Following the Divine Liturgy on Sunday, June 30, Father Jerome Botsko blessed a new set of needed vestments at St. Stephen the Protomartyr in Leisenring, Pa. The Sisters of St. Basil at Mt. Saint Macrina, Uniontown, have gifted the vestments to Father Jerry, who is their chaplain at the Mount, and also to St. Stephen's, where he is the administrator.

When asked by the Sisters at Mount Macrina, Father Jerry stated the need for a new complete set of white vestments to be worn for special Holy Days and other significant liturgical occasions. Some will remember when the Sisters of St. Basil contributed their God-given talents to making the beautiful, and much desired, complete sets of vestments for all liturgical functions. However, this is no more and is unfortunately a loss brought about by our times. So the Sisters at Mount St. Macrina ordered the vestments from The Sisters of St. Basil in Slovakia, where their Basilian Order originated and where all manner of liturgical vestments are still made by the Basilian Sisters.

Sister Klara from one of the four existing Basilian convents was given the project and made



the vestments. They include a Sticharion, a basic white robe worn over other vestments; Epimanikia or cuffs worn over the Sticharion; Epitrachelion, the stole worn around the neck symbolizing the authority and responsibility of the priesthood; Cincture or Poyas, a cloth belt worn over the Epitrachelion to hold it in place; and the Phelonian, or Phelon, the cape that is often circular, reaches to the ankles, and is the outer garment worn during liturgical services.

Interestingly, Sister Jana, one of the nuns of the Order of St. Basil the Great in Slovakia, hand-delivered the completed vestments from their origin in the Basilian convent in Slovakia directly to Mount St. Macrina in Uniontown, Pa.

The above photo shows the vestments laid out for the blessing by Father Jerry. ■

ASCENSION OF OUR LORD IN CLAIRTON, PA.

## Celebrating Father's Day

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

Ascension of Our Lord Parish in Clairton, Pa. celebrated Father's Day, greeting all of the dads and pinning them with white carnations to acknowledge

their special day.

Father Ivan Mina had those present come forward for a special blessing after Liturgy, and he recognized those dads who are deceased. ■





ST. JOHN CHRYSOSTOM IN PITTSBURGH, PA.

# Welcome, Father Tim!

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

The Parish Family of St. John Chrysostom in Greenfield welcomed newly ordained Father Tim Fariss on Sunday, July 7.

Father Tim concelebrated Divine Liturgy with Father Miron Kerul'-Kmec with Father Tim offering the homily.

Father Tim was ordained on April 7, 2024, and as of this writing, he is eagerly anticipating his first parochial assignment from Metropolitan Archbishop William C. Skurla.

It was truly a joyous occasion for Father Tim, Father Miron, and



the parishioners.

May God grant Father Tim many happy, healthy and blessed years! ■



ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST IN PITTSBURGH, PA.

# A gift of vestments

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

Father Miron Kerul'-Kmec blessed two sets of red and two sets of gold altar server vestments before Divine Liturgy on Sunday, June 30 at St. John the Baptist Church in Pittsburgh, Pa.

The vestments were gifts from Andrew and Elizabeth Prizzi and their sons, Luke and Basil.

Andrew is the church cantor; Luke and Basil are altar servers.

Father Miron and the parishioners of St. John the Baptist are grateful to the Prizzi Family for their generosity and service to their church.

May God grant the Prizzi Family and the Parish Family of St. John the Baptist many happy, healthy and blessed years! ■



Father Miron Kerul'-Kmec with altar server Basil Prizzi

# Ho-ho-hoagies here!

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

On a rather warm Saturday morning in June a team of parishioners from St. John Chrysostom Church in Pittsburgh, Pa. gathered to build hoagies in the church hall.

The fundraiser, led by sisters Joyce Cortopassi and Barbara Hill, was quite successful.

Every parishioner helped by buying, selling and/or building the hoagies, including our pastor, Father Miron Kerul'-Kmec.

Italian, baked ham or turkey hoagies were offered. DeCarlo's Market in Elizabeth, Pa. provided all the delicious meats, cheeses and breads for the project.

Proceeds raised will help to cover the summer energy bills. And it's been a hot one so far! ■



SS. PETER AND PAUL IN WARREN, OHIO

# SS. Peter and Paul Feast Day

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

The Feast of Saints Peter and Paul was celebrated with Vespers and Divine Liturgy on June 28 and Festal Matins on June 29.

A buffet dinner at DiVieste's Banquet Center in honor of our

patron saints, Peter and Paul, was held on June 30.

Father Will Rupp gave the blessing and a delicious meal was enjoyed by all.

It was a wonderful day to socialize with fellow parishioners. ■



ST. MICHAEL IN HERMITAGE, PA.

## A successful venture

By William Dzuricko  
St. Michael, Hermitage, Pa.

We recently presented our GCU Matching Funds check to St. Michael Church in Hermitage, Pa.

The funds matched our very successful Lenten Ethnic Food Sale where parishioners made several different types of pirohi,

quarts of halushki, and baked goods.

In addition to the six altar servers, from left to right (below) are: Alyssa Vasil, Joan Walker, Lucy Mallick, Deacon candidate Randy Tomko, Very Rev. Kevin Marks, and Byzantine Parish Coordinator Bill Dzuricko. Photo taken by Michael J Vasil. ■



## Saluting the fathers

By William Dzuricko  
St. Michael, Hermitage, Pa.

Following the 9 a.m. Divine Liturgy, parishioners of St. Michael Church in Hermitage, Pa. were treated to coffee,

juice, cake and fellowship to celebrate Father's Day!

Special thanks to Bob and Mary Ann Polochak for organizing the weekly "Sunday Socials" in the church kitchenette area. ■



## Helping hands

By William Dzuricko  
St. Michael, Hermitage, Pa.

Special thank you to parishioners Jimmy Stemock, Rich Will, Dan Tomko, Jeff Volsko, Bill Dzuricko, and Randy Tomko for lending their "helping hands" to the St. Michael Church grounds.

Trees and shrubs were trimmed, weeds were pulled and sprayed,

and bags of mulch were spread to improve the appearance of our beautiful church in Hermitage, Pa.

Thank you also to all of the members of our "SMART" team who have helped to cover the cost of purchasing the mulch and asphalt patch. This project is always ongoing! ■



## Celebrating Flag Day

By William Dzuricko  
St. Michael, Hermitage, Pa.

St. Michael Church in Hermitage, Pa. held their Flag Day celebration June 30.

Very Rev. Kevin Marks blessed the flags during the 9 a.m. Divine Liturgy and Parish Coordinator Bill Dzuricko organized the ceremony.

A moment of silence was held for the deceased members of the parish and the GCU. After the new flags were raised, with the help of veteran Norbert Vasil and Deacon Candidate Randy Tomko, all present joined in the Pledge of Allegiance and the singing of "The Star Splangled Banner."

Randy then read "I Am Your

Flag" and Bill briefly talked about the Iwo Jima Statue and the World Trade Center attacks.

Everyone prayed the "Invocation to Our Guardian Angels" and sang the songs, "This is My Country" and "You're a Grand Old Flag."

Joan Walker shared a moving, personal story of how important patriotic songs were to her family as she was growing up.

The celebration closed with several "thank you's" and a rousing rendition of "God Bless America".

Special thank you to Mary Dzurichko and Holy Spirit Church in Oakland (Pittsburgh) for donating this year's American Flag and to our local GCU members for purchasing and donating the Vatican Flag. ■



Photos by Michael J. Vasil and Alyssa Vasil



SS. PETER AND PAUL IN BRADDOCK, PA.

# Legacy of devotion

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

SS. Peter and Paul in Braddock, Pa. enjoyed a wonderful musical offering on Sunday, June 9.

Our cantor, Myron Drabik, was joined by his sister, Diane Popp, and Mike Fedor. Both Myron and Diane are continuing a family

tradition, as their father, Mike, was our cantor previously.

Interestingly, Mike Fedor's great-grandfather, Michael Lengyel, also served as our cantor before Myron's father.

What a beautiful legacy of music and devotion! ■



# An uplifting experience

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

Father Vitalii Stashkevych keeps trying to tell the "guys" that this isn't the way to get to heaven, but they just won't listen!

Our faithful volunteers spent the day changing the lights they could reach. They did a great job, even with some lively debates on

the best methods. But really, boys will be boys—or should I say, men will be men. It's hard to resist the excitement of using the lift!

Thanks to everyone for their hard work and great humor. The church is now brighter, and so are our spirits! ■



# Annual Feast Day picnic

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

On a blistering Sunday, June 30, SS. Peter and Paul Church in Braddock, Pa. hosted its Annual Feast Day picnic. Despite the scorching heat, the event was a joyous occasion, warmly embraced by parishioners, family, and friends.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to Father Ron Barusefski for

conducting a beautiful liturgy. Although our church lacks air conditioning, everyone persevered, demonstrating that our community's faith and fellowship can withstand even the hottest of days!

The picnic was a vibrant celebration of our community, featuring delicious food, laughter, and treasured memories. ■



ST. STEPHEN IN NORTH HUNTINGDON PA.

# Celebrating Mother's Day

By Connie Smith  
St. Stephen, North Huntingdon, Pa.

On Mother's Day weekend, May 11 to 12, Father Vasyl Yakubych honored the women of St. Stephen Byzantine Catholic Church in North Huntingdon, Pa.

Following the Divine Liturgy, Father Vasyl presented each lady with a "Madonna and Child" holy card and a pink carnation.

On Sunday morning after the Divine Liturgy, a coffee and cake social was held in the church hall.

This was a great opportunity for the parish family to come together and socialize with their fellow parishioners.

In the photo above, altar server



Cameron Polczynski assists Father Vasyl in the distribution of carnations. Cameron is the grandson of Adrienne Frishof (at left). At right is Marion Barry. ■



Altar server Cameron Polczynski with his family: Jodi Polczynski (mother), Cameron Polczynski, Father Vasyl Yakubych, Adrienne Frishof (grandmother), and Michael Polczynski (father).

# Celebrating Father's Day

By Connie Smith  
St. Stephen, North Huntingdon, Pa.

On Father's Day weekend, June 15 to 16, Father Vasyl Yakubych honored the men of Saint Stephen in North Huntingdon, Pa.

Following the Divine Liturgy, Father Vasyl presented each man with a "Saint Joseph the Worker"

holy card.

May God grant all of the men of Saint Stephen's Church many blessed and happy years. And, to our loved ones who celebrated a Happy Heavenly Father's Day, may God grant them blessed repose and eternal memory. ■



Altar server Cameron Polczynski (left) assists Father Vasyl Yakubych with the distribution of the "Saint Joseph the Worker" holy cards. Father Vasyl presents Larry Sabol with his holy card.

ST. ELIAS IN MUNHALL, PA.

# Congratulations, Danielle!

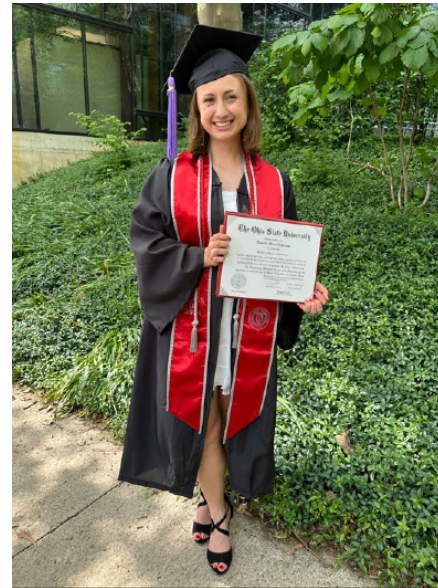
By Mary Caryl Planiczki  
St. Elias, Munhall, Pa.

Danielle Marie DeProspero graduated Magna Cum Laude from The Ohio State University in May with a B.S. in Architecture.

A parishioner of St. Elias in Munhall, Pa. she is the daughter of Margaret and Tony DeProspero and the niece of Father Stephen Wahal.

She will return to the Knowlton School of Architecture in the fall to pursue a Masters of Architecture degree.

May God grant her many years and success in her future studies and endeavors! ■



Danielle Marie DeProspero

# Pirohi on the way!

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

The St. Elias pirohi workers were busy preparing for a sale at the West Homestead Community Day on Aug. 10 at Calhoun Field! Hope to see you then! ■





ST. GREGORY IN UPPER ST. CLAIR, PA.

# Vacation Church School 2024

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

On Monday morning, June 17th, all was ready for Vacation Church School 2024 at St. Gregory Byzantine Catholic Church in Upper St. Clair, Pa.

As part of the program, each day the children are presented with the life of the Saint of the Day.

This year we are following the program "Going for the Gold!" that focuses on the Feasts of the Triumph of Christ and His Church.

On Monday, we focused on Palm Sunday - Entry of the Lord into Jerusalem. As part of the curriculum the children enjoyed hymns and original songs, crafts, and classroom lessons all related to this major feast day of our Holy Church.

Tuesday was dedicated to two major feast days: Feast of the Ascension of Our Lord and Pentecost Sunday - The Descent of the Holy Spirit. In the life of the Church, Pentecost Sunday celebrates the coming of the Holy Spirit, and also celebrates the full revelation of the divine Trinity, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. The "Green Holy Day" as we call Pentecost Sunday is also a celebration of our membership in the Church.

Wednesday began with the Prayer of the Third Hour followed by the "Saint of the Day," the holy Apostle Jude, the brother of the Lord. Afterwards our classes focused on the Exaltation of the Holy Cross. This particular feast day has a special significance for our parish family since it was on September 14, 1986, that our holy church was consecrated by Metropolitan Archbishop Stephen Kocisko and Bishop John Bilock.

The final day of our Vacation Church School began with the Prayer of the Third Hour. Afterwards, we were ready for our field trip to the Linden Creek Dairy Farm in Canonsburg, Pa. This farm has been owned and operated by the Martin family since 1929.

Our day concluded with great food and fellowship at Grande Restaurant in McMurray, 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! ■



ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST IN UNIONTOWN, PA.

# Feast Day of St. John the Baptist

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

On June 29, the annual Feast Day dinner was held at St. John the Baptist in Uniontown, Pa. after the Saturday evening Liturgy.

Father David Bosnich returned to concelebrate Liturgy with Father Kyprian Wojciechowski.

Father Aaron Sandbothe, pastor

at our neighboring parish of St. George Maronite Catholic Church, also attended the dinner.

After partaking in the delicious covered dishes brought in by the parishioners, everyone was welcome to the ice cream sundae bar for dessert.

High School graduates Jeremy Harim, Shane Layton, and Nicholas Torbich were also recognized that evening. ■



# Lending a hand, shovel

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

Several parishioners and friends of St. John the Baptist in Uniontown, Pa. have been working hard throughout the

summer to keep the grounds beautiful at Mount St. Macrina for the upcoming Pilgrimage.

Recently, the Prayer Garden was cleaned and weeded. The second Helping Hands Day will be held on Saturday, Aug. 17 at 9 a.m. ■



ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST IN SCOTTTDALE, PA.

# Congratulations, Father Tyler!

A reception was held for Father Tyler Wisniewski after he celebrated his first Divine Liturgy at his home parish, St.

John the Baptist in Scottsdale, Pa. He is the son of Ed and Anita Wisniewski. ■



# Fun in the sun

The annual church picnic was held last month at St. John the Baptist in Scottsdale, Pa.

Victor and Dolly Litman, who

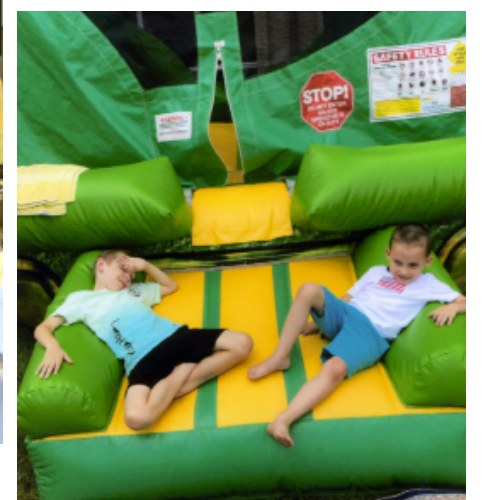
received the annual Service Award, are with Father Oleh Seremchuk (below left). ■



The grill masters are Mike Marcej and Alan Hribal.



Charlotte Korbe, Barb Zaksek, Betty Sapolo, Catherine Catalina and Kathy Onusko set up the hot dishes.



Harrison Myers and Mark Seremchuk



## THOUGHTS FOR OUR DAY

By Archpriest David M. Petras

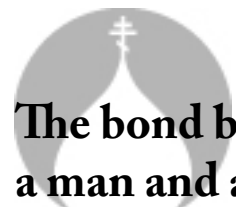
### WHAT GOD HAS JOINED TOGETHER



In the Gospel of St. Matthew, Jesus teaches about marriage in very clear words, “from the beginning the Creator ‘made them male and female’ and said, ‘For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh. So they are no longer two, but one flesh. Therefore, what God has joined together, no human being must separate’” (Matthew 19:4-6). Our Lord, of course, knew the Scriptures, and his words expand on the story of creation found in the most holy book of Genesis: “Let us make human beings in our image, after our likeness .... God created mankind in his image; in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them. God blessed them and God said to them: Be fertile and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it” (Genesis 1:26-28). and later adds, “That is why a man leaves his father and mother and clings to his wife, and the two of them become one body” (Genesis 2:24). From this we see in faith that marriage is essential to the human race, it is part of the charter of its creation.

The bond between a man and a woman in marriage is for the sake of the human race. A mature, stable and loving relationship enables the couple to participate with God in the work of creation, bringing new life into the world and raising children in a healthy family. As this is the chief goal of marriage, the Church teaches us that matrimony is a loving union of one man and one woman. It is to last for the lifetime of the parties and is broken only by

the death of one of the pair. At the rite of marriage, therefore, the Church prays for a long life for the spouses, “grant to your servants (Name) and (Name) a peaceful life and length of days, chastity, love for one another in the bond of peace, a long-lived posterity, happiness in their children, and the unfading crown of glory. Make them worthy to



### The bond between a man and a woman in marriage is for the sake of the human race.

see their children's children.” It is sad when one of the partners dies early. For the sake of the welfare of the remaining partner and for possible aid in raising children, a second marriage may be permitted, though the ideal is that there is a permanent bond of love between one man and one woman.

St. Paul raises the love of marriage into a new context. It is a form and analogy for the love of God and His people, the Church. The Epistle to the Ephesians, therefore, is read at the wedding, “the husband is head of his wife just as Christ is head of the church, he himself the savior of the body. As the church is subordinate to Christ, so wives should be subordinate to their husbands in everything. Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ loved the church and handed himself over for her to sanctify her, cleansing her by the bath of water with the word ...

For no one hates his own flesh but rather nourishes and cherishes it, even as Christ does the church .... This is a great mystery, but I speak in reference to Christ and the church. In any case, each one of you should love his wife as himself, and the wife should respect her husband” (Ephesians 5:23-26.29.32-33). While much is made of the “subordination” of women, this must be understood only through the comparison of the Christ and his Church, and that there exists a mutual love that is the mark of our faith in the loving God of mercy and compassion.

This is the ideal to which the married couple is called by God. We must also face the fact, however, that many times we are unable to achieve the ideal in our human weakness. If the marriage commitment fails, it may become necessary for the man and woman to separate. The Church, while encouraging faithfulness in marriage, is aware of this, and permits separation. The question is: what is the status of a failed marriage? Both the Orthodox and the Catholic Churches have different ways of confronting this reality. The North American Catholic-Orthodox Theological Consultation recognized this is a statement of Feb. 29, 2024: “Although our churches affirm a common teaching on the lifelong nature of marriage, there is fundamental disagreement between us regarding remarriage” (The Pastoral Care of Mixed Marriages: Neither Yours Nor Mine—But Ours, II, 3).

The Catholic Church has an absolute prohibition against divorce and remarriage. A couple may obtain a civil divorce for separation for the sake of domestic peace, but neither party

may re-marry since the union still stands on the basis of Mark 10:9: “what God has joined together, no human being must separate.” However, a second marriage with another partner may be permitted if the couple obtains a Church annulment, which can be granted only if it is proved that there was an essential defect in the marriage from the very beginning. Very often this is the determination that the parties did not have sufficient maturity to make that true commitment required by our human nature.

The Orthodox Church recognizes the problem that people may not be able to live up to the ideal. The statement of the Theological Consultation explains, “Orthodox theological texts contain affirmations that the marriage is lifelong. Nevertheless, exceptions can be made to this moral norm in the canonical life of the Orthodox Church, grounded in a pastoral recognition of the factors of frailty and error that too often characterize human life and that can result in the spiritual death of a marriage.” The real difference between the two approaches is that the Catholics hold that the failed marriage must have a substantial flaw from the beginning, while the Orthodox say that a marriage may suffer a spiritual death. In actual practice, the same reasons for the failure of a marriage may be recognized by both the Catholic and Orthodox Churches. Both have the same faith that marriage is a divine reality that must be fostered in a life of faith, and both recognize that human beings may fail in their commitments, but may judge failure by different standards. ■

## PARISH LITURGIES BROADCAST VIA INTERNET

Here is the most current list of parishes broadcasting Sunday Divine Liturgies and other services to the Faithful via their websites and social media sites such as Facebook.

For changes or to be listed, send information to [bcw@archpitt.org](mailto:bcw@archpitt.org).

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**St. Gregory  
Byzantine  
Catholic Church**

**Summer  
Flea Market**

**Saturday, August 3, 2024**

**8 AM - 1 PM**

**"Leftover" Sale**

**Sunday, August 4**

**11 AM - 1 PM**

St. Gregory's annual summer Flea Market welcomes all to browse the aisles filled with useful and decorative items.

- Kitchen items
- Sports equipment
- Jewelry
- Purses
- Luggage
- Small furniture
- Household items
- Home decor
- Linens
- Tools
- Holiday items
- Puzzles, Games & Toys
- Baby items and other treasures.



In addition to Cash, Credit/Debit Cards; Apple, Google & Samsung Pay will be accepted.

**St. Gregory Church Hall**  
2005 Mohawk Road  
Upper St. Clair, PA 15241  
[stgregoryusc.org](http://stgregoryusc.org)

**Benefits:**  
**Women of Faith Parish Programs**

**AROUND THE  
ARCHEPARCHY**



**PARISH FLEA MARKET** — 8 a.m.-1 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 3 St. Gregory, 2005 Mohawk Road, Upper St. Clair (Brookside Farms), Pa. Kitchen, household, and home décor items, jewelry, toys and more. Leftover sale 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 4. For information, call 412-835-7800.

**FLEA MARKET** — 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 24, Holy Spirit Church Oakland, 4815 Fifth Ave., Pittsburgh, Pa. Lots of great items for the home, kitchens, workshops, dorms and apartments will be at bargain prices. Lunch and snack foods will also be available.

**NIGHT AT THE RACES** — Saturday, Sept. 7, St. John Chrysostom Church Hall, 506 Saline St., Pittsburgh, Pa. Admission: \$20 per person includes food, non-alcoholic drinks and snacks. BYOB. Dinner at 6 p.m. Races begin at 7 p.m. Buy a Horse: \$10 each. Payout to owner: \$25. 50/50; Basket Raffle and Door Prizes. Contact Bev Rebovich at 412-431-1116 to purchase a Horse and a Ticket. Benefits St. John the Baptist Church.

**ART, WINE & WORDS** — 3-6 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 13, Holy Spirit Oakland, 4815 Fifth Ave., Pittsburgh, Pa. Art Auction, Poetry Read and Basket Raffle. Tickets: \$20 in advance, \$25 at the Door.

**ICONOGRAPHY WORKSHOP** — Marylyn Barone will conduct an iconography workshop for adults at all levels of experience. This workshop is October 10-13 at Resurrection Byzantine Catholic Church in Monroeville, Pa. You will write an icon of Saint Francis of Assisi. The classes will be Thursday evening, Friday evening, all day Saturday and Sunday, noon until finishing. You must be able to attend all four days to have a completed icon. The cost of \$145 will cover all supplies: All icons will be on an 8 x 10 gesso-covered board. Using a pre-prepared prototype, you will learn techniques for faces, garments, 23 karat gold gilding and background. The theology of iconography and specifically the two icons will also be presented. There will be the opportunity to attend services. Snacks as well as coffee and tea will be provided on all days. A deposit of \$25 is required and the class will be limited to 15 people. For further information, call Marylyn Barone at 412-678-9453 or email her at [mwbarone@comcast.net](mailto:mwbarone@comcast.net).

**SAVE THE DATE** — Annual Steelers Tailgate Party, Nov. 10, St. John Chrysostom, 506 Saline St., Pittsburgh, Pa.

**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  
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**DATES TO  
REMEMBER**



**AUG. 6**  
Feast of the Transfiguration of Our Lord

**AUG. 15**  
Feast of the Dormition of the Theotokos

**AUG. 30 to SEPT. 2**  
90th annual Pilgrimage in honor of  
Our Lady of Perpetual Help  
*The Sisters of St. Basil the Great*  
*Mount St. Macrina, Uniontown, Pa.*

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

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