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Along for the ride

PARISHIONERS ENJOY HAY RIDE AT SS. PETER AND PAUL IN WARREN, OHIO



SS. Peter and Paul in Warren, Ohio held an October Fun Fest Oct. 27, featuring hayrides, pumpkin yard decorations, and bingo as a fundraiser for its upcoming 100th anniversary celebration. Father Miron Kerul'-Kmec is administrator. For more photos, see page 13.

Nuncio, USCCB president reflect on Eucharistic congress, synodality, duty to proclaim Gospel

By Laurretta Brown and Gretchen R. Crowe
OSV News

BALTIMORE — The public session of the fall plenary assembly of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops opened Nov. 12 with remarks from Archbishop Timothy P. Broglio of the U.S. Archdiocese for the Military Services, USCCB president, and Cardinal Christophe Pierre, the papal nuncio to the U.S.

In an address of a little less than 20 minutes, Cardinal Pierre spoke to the U.S. bishops about July's National Eucharistic Congress, the Synod on Synodality, which wrapped up at the end of October, and the upcoming Jubilee 2025 in

Rome — all through the lens of Pope Francis' new encyclical on the Sacred Heart of Jesus, "Dilexit Nos."

"At the very time when the universal synod was coming to its completion, and with a Jubilee Year about to begin, the pope has somewhat 'surprised' us by returning to a very basic element in the church's piety, something that might even seem too 'simple': devotion to the heart of Jesus," he said. "Isn't it interesting that, of all things, the pope would give us, precisely at this moment, an encyclical on the Sacred Heart? I think this is something worth paying attention to. What meaning are we to derive from this

call to return to the heart?"

The National Eucharistic Congress was "a religious experience of the saving love of Jesus" — "an experience that is not an end, but a beginning. When we encounter Christ's love in this way, we are compelled to share it with others. And this is what we are the shepherds of at this time in our country."

"We must help the church find the answers to the questions that were being asked at the conclusion of the Eucharistic congress: How do we move from personal encounter to mission? Where are the new directions

Story continued on page 7

"I open my heart to God's call"

REV. ARTUR BUBNEVYCH
APPOINTED SIXTH BISHOP OF THE EPARCHY OF PHOENIX

The Vatican announced Nov. 8 the appointment of Reverend Father Artur Bubnevych as Bishop of the Eparchy of the Holy Protection of Mary, Phoenix, Ariz.

Formerly a priest of the Eparchy of Mukachevo, presently he serves as pastor of Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish in Albuquerque, N.M.

The following is a letter by Bishop Kurt Burnette, Bishop of Passaic, Apostolic Administrator of the Eparchy of Phoenix, and Apostolic Administrator of the Exarchy of Toronto, announcing the appointment.

Glory to Jesus Christ!

To all the good people of the Eparchy of the Holy Protection of Mary in Phoenix, and to all Christians,

Today, the eighth day of November in the year of Our Lord 2024 on the Feast of St. Michael and all the Holy Incorporeal Powers, Our Holy Father Pope Francis, in the eleventh year of his pontificate, has chosen Artur

Story continued on page 3



Bishop-elect Artur Bubnevych



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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.

Cathedral of St. John the Baptist Schedule of Services - Christmas 2024

Very Reverend Andrew Deskevich, Rector



Tuesday, Dec. 24 Vigil, Feast of the Nativity of Our Lord Christmas Eve

9 a.m. Royal Hours
8 p.m. Vigil Liturgy

Wednesday, Dec. 25 Feast of the Nativity of Our Lord Christmas Day

9 a.m. Divine Liturgy

Cathedral of St. John the Baptist
210 Greentree Road | Munhall, Pa. 15120 | 412-461-0944

View services LIVE on the web at
www.stjohnsbyzantinecathedral.com

Christmas Craft/Bake Sale December 7 – 8, 2024

St. John Byzantine Catholic Church
201 E. Main St., Uniontown, PA

Sat. Dec 7th: 12 Noon - 4 PM

Sun. Dec 8th: 10AM - 1 PM

Upstairs Social Room

Crafts
Candy
Decorations
Raffles

Cookbooks
Baked Goods
Nativity Display

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Check parish website for any updates: www.stjohnbaptist-byzcatch-uniontown.org

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BULLETIN BOARD

Pre-Christmas Day of Prayer and Reflection

The Mon-Valley Deanery will host a Pre-Christmas day of prayer and reflection on Sunday, Dec. 1 at 2 p.m., at St. John the Baptist Byzantine Catholic Church, 185 E. Main Street in Uniontown, Pa.

The day will begin with the celebration of the Emmanuel Moleben with a reflection/homily offered by Father James Ragan.

There will be opportunities for confession and spiritual direction from priests of the Deanery.

Following the Moleben, a simple meal, consisting of soups and sandwiches will be served in the parish upstairs social room.

Call Father Kyprian Wojciechowski at 724-438-6027 with questions. All are welcome!

Upcoming events at the House of Prayer

The following events will take place at Mount St. Macrina House of Prayer, 510 W. Main St., Uniontown, Pa. To register for programs or more information, call 724-438-7149 or email hpmsm@verizon.net.

■ 9:30 a.m.-1 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 14, **Christmas Preparation Retreat**. Presenter is Father Stephen Wahal. Conference, reflections, prayer service, and the Sacrament of Reconciliation will be offered. Lunch included. Offering: \$45. Registration due: Dec. 9.

■ 1:30-4 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 29, **Christmas Season Open House**.

Carpathian Cookery cook book available

The Carpathian Cookery cook book, now in its 22nd printing, is available for purchase.

The 330-page cookbook includes sections on Christmas and Easter customs and recipes, traditional Rusyn and Slavic foods, and many other tried-and-true recipes of St. John's parishioners.

The cost of the cookbook is \$14 plus \$6 postage and handling (\$20). If ordering from Canada, send a \$36 U.S. Postal money order payable in U.S. dollars to reflect the difference in the exchange rate and postage cost.

To order please send a check or money order to: Ethnic Craft Club, St. John Byzantine Catholic Church, 201 E. Main St., Uniontown, PA. 15401, or call 724-438-1382 (M-F 9 a.m.-3 p.m. — leave message), for more information. You may contact us at: carpathiancookery@gmail.com.



Rev. Artur Bubnevych appointed sixth bishop of the Eparchy of Parma

Story continued from page 1

Olexandrovych Bubnevych as the Sixth Bishop of the Eparchy of the Holy Protection of Mary in Phoenix. In cooperation with the Apostolic Nuncio, Bishop Elect Artur has chosen to be Consecrated to the Order of the Episcopacy on Tuesday, January 28, 2025 at the Church of the Annunciation in Anaheim, California, the consecrators being the Metropolitan and the other two sitting bishops of our Metropolitan Church.

Bishop Elect Artur learned of his new office on the Feast Day of our Martyred Bishop Theodore Romzha, and he has chosen for his episcopal motto the motto of Theodore Romzha, "I will love you, O Lord, my strength. The Lord is my rock and my refuge." Psalm 18:1-2

Bishop Elect Artur has labored in the Vineyard of the Lord diligently since his ordination to the Subdiaconate in 1999, and he was Pastor of Our Lady of Perpetual Help Byzantine Catholic Church in Albuquerque, New Mexico since December 1, 2014. As our nation continues its slow march to the culture of death, Vladyka Artur is a shining knight in the battle to choose life

As a priest of the Eparchy myself, I am overjoyed by the

choice of the Holy Father, and I join the people of the Eparchy in promising prayers and every possible support to the new Shepherd.

"Remember your leaders who spoke the word of God to you. Consider the outcome of their way of life and imitate their faith. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever... Obey those who rule over you, and be submissive, for they watch out for your souls, as those who must give an account. Let them do so with joy and not with grief, for that would be unprofitable for you.

"Now may the God of peace who brought up our Lord Jesus from the dead, that great Shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, make you complete in every good work to do His will, working in you what is well pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen."

Hebrews 13:7-8, 1, 20-21

May the Lord God grant to his high-priestly servant Artur Olexandrovych peace, health, and happiness for many blessed years! Mnohaja I blahaja l'ita!

Most Rev. Kurt Burnette
Bishop of Passaic
Apostolic Administrator of the
Eparchy of Phoenix
Apostolic Administrator of the
Exarchy of Toronto

Biography of Bishop-elect Artur Bubnevych

Bishop-elect Artur was born on June 22, 1975, in the village of Perechyn in the Transcarpathian Oblast of Soviet Ukraine, in what was then the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics. The region is the site of the Eparchy of Mukachevo, the oldest Byzantine-Ruthenian Catholic eparchy. Due to the oppression of our Church under communist rule, he was secretly baptized at home by the Byzantine Catholic priest Andrey Gleba on July 7, 1975. He speaks his native Ruthenian language as well as English, German, Latvian, Russian, and Ukrainian.

In June 1994, he graduated from the Vinogradov Polytechnical College, and then entered the Seminary of Blessed Theodore Romzha in August of that year. The Eparchy sent him to Austria where he learned English at the Language Catechetical Institute in 1995, and in 1996 he entered the International Theological Institute for studies on Marriage and Family for the Master of Theology. He graduated from the Seminary in 1998 and in December he was ordained to the order of Subdiaconate by Bishop Ioann Semediy. He had entered the Licentiate program at the same institute and graduated from there with his License in Theology in 2001. He then worked for the Diocese of Liepaja in Latvia until 2005.

Bishop-elect Artur worked for the Eparchy of Mukachevo, serving as the Project Secretary with Bishop Milan Šašik, CM, 2006-2013. In

addition, to his work at the chancery of the Eparchy of Mukachevo, he served as a teacher of English at the Seminary, and in 2006-2011 he served as the main cantor at his home parish of Saint Nicholas in Perechyn.

In 2013, he made the decision to apply to come to America as a missionary for the Byzantine Catholic Church, and worked in the Eparchy of Phoenix from September 2013 to March 2014 as a Subdeacon and parish office assistant at St Stephen Cathedral in Phoenix. In 2014 Bishop Gerald Dino ordained Bishop-elect Artur on March 9 to the Order of Diaconate and on September 14 to the Order of Priesthood; both ordinations were celebrated at St. Stephen's Cathedral. Bishop Gerald assigned him as the Pastor of Our Lady of Perpetual Help in Albuquerque, starting on January 9, 2015.

In addition to his pastoral work, the bishop-elect has served on these commissions:

The Intereparchial Commission of Youth and Young Adults (May 2018); Vocation's Board (January 2023); Eparchial Pension Committee (May 2023); and Intereparchial Commission on Sacred Liturgy (Sept 2023).

Besides his priestly ministry, Bishop-elect Artur enjoys the sports of downhill skiing and mountain biking along with camping. ■

Statement of Bishop-Elect Artur Bubnevych



Christ is among us!

By the grace of God and with deep feeling of unworthiness, but with a joyful heart and in utter thankfulness I say YES to the appointment of His Holiness Pope Francis to serve the clergy and the faithful of the Holy Protection of Mary Byzantine Catholic Eparchy of Phoenix as their sixth bishop.

The Eparchy was founded in 1981 as the Eparchy of Van Nuys, which was based in Los Angeles, California. Since 1995 the offices have been in Phoenix, Arizona. This westernmost eparchy of our Metropolitan Province has vibrant parishes, missions, and outreaches from New Mexico to Alaska and Hawaii, with energetic laypeople who make many sacrifices to be able to grow in faith as Byzantine Catholics. The eparchy is known for its attachment to traditional liturgical life and to innovations in evangelization and organization; its embrace of different cultures and languages; its service to others; and its young population in thirteen states.

As the sixth bishop, I pledge to continue to improve the good work of my predecessors by sowing seeds of the Gospel in every kind of soil alongside the clergy of the Eparchy of Phoenix, through my prayer, fasting, and penance with its religious and dedicated service to its laity. I will aspire to be a builder of a synodal and missionary Church and with enthusiasm to commit myself to reach this goal by actively listening to the Holy Spirit and do this in a spirit of sharing and fraternity with eparchial clergy and my brother bishops. I hope to be a listening bishop and a missionary of synodality according to the mandate of the Holy Father Pope Francis given to me at the World gathering of the Parish Priests for the Synod in April-May of this year.

I would like to convey my most sincere gratitude:

To Pope Francis for his trust and confidence in me.

To Bishop Gerald Dino of blessed memory for ordaining me to the order of priesthood and giving me my very first assignment and believing in me.

To His grace Metropolitan William Skurla, Bishop Kurt Burnette, Bishop Robert Pipta, and Bishop John Pazak for their example of leadership, support, and guidance.

To the eparchial clergy and religious with whom I served for the past 10 years.

I am thrilled to serve you now as your Bishop with trust and respect.

It is very hard to part from my dearly beloved parish family of Our Lady of Perpetual Help in Albuquerque. What a joy it has been serving you as your pastor. It has been a time of learning and growth for me. I have truly fallen in love with you and I will miss you all very much!

I am forever grateful to Father Chris Zegger, my spiritual mentor and "a man after God's own heart." Thank you for being there for me in both joys and sorrows. I thank my parents for the gift of life and my grandparents for the gift of faith.

I thank Almighty God for calling me to the priesthood.

As I start this new adventure in the name of the Lord and under the Protection of the Most Holy Theotokos and our bishop-martyr Blessed Theodore Romzha, I open my heart to God's call "to put out into the deep" and I sing with King David, "I will love you O Lord, my strength; the Lord is my rock and my refuge."

Please, pray for me that I be a prudent and faithful steward of the flock entrusted to me by proclaiming the truth of the Catholic Church with love, preserving the Apostolic faith with the authority of the Risen Christ, and be the stronghold of unity and peace by serving the Eucharist and other sacraments.

■

Journey toward the priesthood

THREE SEMINARIANS RECEIVE ORDERS AT HOLY GHOST IN MCKEES ROCKS, PA.



By The Byzantine Catholic Seminary of SS. Cyril and Methodius

On Sunday, Sept. 22, at Holy Ghost Byzantine Catholic Church in McKees Rocks, Pa., three seminarians from the Byzantine Catholic Seminary of SS. Cyril and Methodius received orders from the hands of Metropolitan Archbishop William C. Skurla.

Subdeacon Luke Iyengar, a lifelong member of Holy Ghost, was ordained to the diaconate; and Nicholas Krivacs and Mark Le Roy were ordained to the minor orders of Reader and Subdiaconate.

My God grant them peace, health, and happiness as they continue their journey towards the priesthood! ■



Mark LeRoy, Subdeacon Luke Iyengar, and Nicholas Krivacs



ETERNAL MEMORY DANIEL J. EVANS

Daniel J. Evans (Pap Dan), 74, of North Huntingdon, died Saturday, Oct. 26 at UPMC Shadyside Hospital, Pittsburgh, Pa.

Born on June 30, 1950, in Braddock, Pa., he was the son of John and Helen (Mihalov) Evans.

Dan was a faithful member of SS. Peter and Paul Byzantine Catholic Church, Duquesne, Pa., where he followed in the footsteps of his father and served as a cantor his entire adult life.

He graduated with a bachelor's from Duquesne University where he met his wife, Susanne (Gillam) and quickly started his family. He then worked his entire career for U.S. Steel Corp., over 35 years, starting in the mills and working his way to Director of IT and

Infrastructure.

In retirement he enjoyed golfing with friends, his support groups, serving his church, time with family, and watching the Pirates, Steelers, and Penguins.

Pap Dan will be remembered among other things as a lover of buying Christmas presents, thrilled with finding a bargain, as a loyal friend, a dedicated father and grandfather, a committed volunteer and respecter of a good prank.

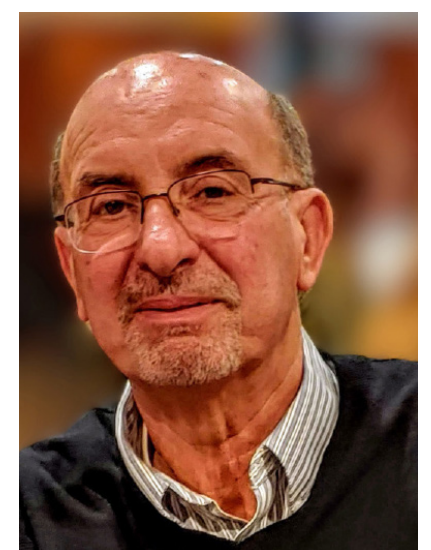
In addition to his parents, he is preceded in death by his long-time partner Elaine M. Baker. He is survived by his three children, Jennifer M. Magee (Shawn), Gregory D. Evans (Sarah), and Nicholas J. Evans; his beloved grandchildren Emma-Kate

Magee, Anna Magee, and Theodore Evans; his two sisters, Pamela A. Donkin (Wayne) and Patricia M. Weidman (Dennis), plus nieces and nephews and great niece and nephew.

Family and friends were received on Friday, Nov. 1 in the William S. Skovranko Memorial Home, Inc. Richford and Commonwealth Avenue, Duquesne, Pa.

A blessing in the Memorial Home on Saturday, Nov. 2, was followed by Liturgy of Christian Burial at 10 a.m. in SS Peter & Paul Church with Father Christiaan Kappes celebrant.

The family suggests Memorial Contributions in Honor of Cantor Daniel Evans, be made to SS Peter and Paul Church, Duquesne.



Daniel J. Evans

In blessed repose, grant O Lord eternal rest to your departed servant Daniel and remember him forever! ■



THE PITTSBURGH BYZANTINE CATHOLIC ARCHEPARCHIAL CHOIR

Honoring our Heavenly Mother

By Darlene Fejka
Director, The Pittsburgh Byzantine
Catholic Archeparchial Choir

The Pittsburgh Byzantine Catholic Archeparchial Choir (PBCAC) presented a loving tribute in honor of the Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary with their first-ever “Maryfest,” on Sunday Oct. 20.

With its splendid icon of Mary filling the sanctuary, the resonant worship space of St. Elias Church in Munhall, Pa. provided a fitting venue for the mid-afternoon presentation, which included hymns to the Mother of God from both Eastern and Western traditions.

The 24 members of the PBCAC were joined by special guest soloist, native Pittsburgher and cantor Mr. Joe Schubert, whose heartfelt rendering of Schubert’s “Ave Maria” was an inspirational highlight of the program. Mr. Schubert “cantors around the Diocese of Pittsburgh” and dutifully adds that “I go where the Spirit calls me.” PBCAC Director Darlene Fejka interjects that “we are certainly blessed and happy that the Spirit called Joe to join us for Maryfest!”

Other selections offered by the PBCAC were “Bohorodice D’ivo” and “Immaculate Mary,” sung in both English and Church Slavonic, and the sublime “Let Us All Say,” from the Ukrainian Catholic tradition.

There were segments of the program dedicated to readings and reminiscences of the influence of Mary upon the lives of two choir members — soprano Mary Ann Kostrubanic (whose personal story was featured in the October 2024 issue of *The BCW*) and alto Cristina Calise O’Brien, whose life has been guided by the Theotokos, especially in her volunteer work as a board member of Bethany Christian Services of Western Pa. Director Fejka also pointed out that eight choir members — Mary Uhall, Marlene Uhall, Mary Smaligo, Mary Ann Kostrubanic, Marylyn Barone, Mary Cvejkus, Mary Caryl Planiczki and Mary Ellen Dudick — all carry the name of Mary every day of their lives.

PBCAC bass member Rev. Father James Ragan — who serves the faithful of St. Nicholas Church in Brownsville and St. Mary Church in New Salem, both in Pennsylvania — offered a stirring reading of St. John’s account of the Wedding at Cana, in which Mary instructs the servants to “Do whatever he tells you.” Those timely words ring true in our lives of servitude as well, and delivered a suitable close to the Maryfest program, which then concluded with the audience joining in singing “Radusja, Carice,” the first



song which the PBCAC sung together back in July 1998 at their first rehearsal.

Following the program, a reception was held in the St. Elias Social Hall. A “Pumpkin Spice” theme was enjoyed by patrons of the event, who along with filling their dishes with pumpkin pie, pumpkin bread and pumpkin cookies provided by members of the choir, also dished out abundant accolades to choir members for their tender and evocative choral renditions.

The PBCAC extends thanks to all who sacrificed a beautiful Sunday afternoon to be present at St. Elias Church in honor of Mary, the Mother of God, both in-person and via live streaming.

Grateful thanks also to St. Elias pastor Father Vitalii Stashkevych and members of the church social hall crew under the guidance of Patti Monahan, for their preparation work and gracious hospitality. ■



Guest soloist Joe Schubert with PBCAC director Darlene Fejka and members of the Choir.



Judy Gula (PBCAC alto), Cathy Silvestri, Mary Ann Emery, Father Jim Ragan (PBCAC bass) and Gerri Manko.

Choir presents 2024 Christmas program “Joyfully We Sing!” to fill St. Elias Church Sunday Dec. 22

The PBCAC (Pittsburgh Byzantine Catholic Archeparchial Choir) invites faithful, friends and family to experience the joy and splendor of the Nativity season on Sunday Dec. 22 as they present “Joyfully We Sing!” a choral showcase of beloved music of the Holy Birth of our Lord.

The program will begin at 2 p.m. at St. Elias Byzantine Catholic Church, 4200 Homestead-Duquesne Road in Munhall, Pa.

The event title will echo throughout the presentation, which features many familiar hymns and carols from the Byzantine Ruthenian tradition as well as several American/English favorites. “Joyfully We Sing” is a relatively new carol, created in 2023 in an “American Byzantine” style especially for the PBCAC by the group’s longtime director, Darlene Fejka.

Immediately following the program, the PBCAC, along with St. Elias Church and pastor Father Vitalii Stashkevych, welcome all in attendance to gather in the parish social hall for the Choir’s signature “Cookie Reception” featuring holiday goodies and refreshments.

PLEASE NOTE – there is NO Steelers game on Sunday Dec. 22, so “come on down” and spend an hour or two with the Archeparchial Choir and be immersed in the glorious songs of the Holy Season. All are warmly welcome!

The PBCAC celebrated 26 years of “heavenly harmony” in July 2024. Rehearsals are held on select Tuesdays throughout the year at St. Elias Church under the direction of Darlene Fejka.

Christmas
2024

with the
Archeparchial Choir

“Joyfully We Sing!”

Sunday, December 22
2:00 p.m.

St. Elias Byzantine Church
4200 Homestead-Duquesne Road
Munhall, PA 15120

A choral program featuring beautiful and beloved Christmas hymns and carols from Byzantine and Western traditions

Hospitality reception with refreshments and treats in St. Elias social hall following the program

All are welcome!
No admission charge.
Lots of free, level parking.

REFLECTION FROM MOUNT ST. MACRINA

The Gift of Fortitude

By Sister Barbara Jean Mihalchick, OSBM
Sisters of St. Basil the Great



This is a transcript of her July 21, 2024 reflection. It can be viewed on the Facebook page of the Sisters of St. Basil the Great at <https://www.facebook.com/sistersofstbasil.uniontown>.

Glory to Jesus Christ!

As we continue looking at the Gifts of the Holy Spirit, I want to work with one that I think shows us just how practical spirituality is.

When I talk about the Gift of Fortitude, the way we might say it in modern lingo is it's the gift that helps us to "hang in there." That's what it's for, and worth praying for.

It's the gift that makes it possible, by God's grace, to "hang in there" when things are

tough; when we are challenged about living God's ways, putting God's values on things above and beyond all else.

Fortitude is the characteristic of saints. But it's the characteristic that helps us in daily living, as well.

As we trust in these Gifts of the Holy Spirit, we will face challenges with a different attitude. We will not fear them; we will pray for the strength of fortitude – and we will hopefully take on the attitude that is like "muscle development." If you had to be in therapy for an injury, therapy would have you use that muscle, test it a little bit at a time and the next time a little more and the next time a little more.

That's a good symbol of growing in faith, hope, and love; growing in virtues, growing in the gifts of the Holy Spirit. Taking on, by God's grace and the Gift of Fortitude, greater challenges.

Instead of becoming angry that things are not going my way, we take them on with that desire and hope and confidence in the Holy Spirit that I can become stronger by using God's grace to face the challenge and to be more positive. Or to face the challenge and absolutely not put any energy into anger, frustration, retaliation, or things like that.

I think of the great example of Mother Teresa in our times, who extended her ministries to many countries, to the poorest of the poor, the places where there are so few resources, and so forth. It took a great deal of fortitude on her part to "hang in there" and make this happen in precious and beautiful ways.

May we pray for this Gift of Fortitude in times especially that we feel are tough for us and trust in God's grace to bring us through.

God bless you. ■

TEXT MESSAGES

Rerunning on empty

by David Mayernik Jr.
Editor



Sometimes it feels as if my life is a rerun.

For better or worse, I enjoy living in the past

— especially when it comes to television.

I'd rather watch any sitcom or drama from the 1960s to 1980s than anything presently on what passes for network television. The nightly offerings are mostly game shows, anyhow.

I can quote verbatim episodes of my favorite sitcom of all-time, the 1970s' "The Bob Newhart Show," and my brother and I used to compete at guessing which episode of "The Brady Bunch" we were about to view. It usually took no more than three seconds since we'd seen every episode 100 times before we reached the age of 10.

I've always gravitated toward shows that featured writers. I wanted to work side-by-side with Rob Petrie (Dick Van Dyke), Buddy Sorrell (Morey Amsterdam) and Sally Rogers (Rose Marie) writing for "The Alan Brady Show" on "The Dick Van Dyke Show." I wanted to run my own newspaper like John "John-Boy" Walton Jr. (Richard Thomas) did with *The Blue Ridge Chronicle* on "The Waltons." In the past few years, I've watched nearly all episodes of "Lou Grant," set in the newsroom of the fictional Los Angeles Tribune.

I'm always interested in the depiction of clergy and Sisters during those years, such as Father John Mulcahy (William Christopher) on "M*A*S*H."

I've never been intensely interested in television westerns but recently I became engrossed in an episode of "Gunsmoke" titled "Ladies from St. Louis."

It told the story of five nuns who are saved by a bank robber (Claude Akins) and then try to convince the injured thief to turn himself in to Marshal Matt Dillon (James Arness).

The Sisters are reluctant to turn the man in themselves, instead relying on a Higher Power to convince the man to see the light.

In the end, he does turn himself in on his own accord.

Festus (Ken Curtis) then expresses the final word on how he feels about these Sisters and what he views as their unorthodox methods. The sentiment could certainly apply to any Sisters, for that matter.

"It had to figure, it just had to figure," he tells Matt Dillon.

"You can't beat them, Marshal. It's impossible." ■

Deanery Pasta Dinner

ANNUAL EVENT AT ST. ELIAS IN MUNHALL, PA. BENEFITS PRIESTS' PENSION FUND

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

The priests of the Pittsburgh Deanery cooked and served a fine Italian pasta dinner at St. Elias in Munhall, Pa. on Nov. 10.

The food was delicious and the fellowship delightful. The proceeds from the free will offering and raffle will benefit the priests' pension fund.

Thanks to all who cooked, served, and attended! ■



Father Frank Firko, Father Vitalii Stashkevych, Very Reverend Vasyl Polyak, Father Michael Kunitz and Deacon Luke Iyengar.





Nuncio, USCCB president reflect on Eucharistic congress, synodality, duty to proclaim Gospel

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that the Spirit is leading us in our evangelization? What new avenues do we need to open in the life of the church?" he asked. "After all, a broad Eucharistic revival can only occur if we are able to live the Eucharist in all its dimensions: not only by gathering to adore, but also by going out on mission, so that Christ can encounter others."

Cardinal Pierre acknowledged that "several years into our synodal journey as a church, some are still asking, 'What is synodality?'" He suggested that the "language of devotion to the Sacred Heart" can help people better understand the term.

"The synodal church is a gathering of people who have come into relationship with the heart of Christ, and who are journeying together in order to share that relationship with others."

Saying that the synod was never about "completing a to-do list" or "certain outcomes," he said instead it is "about inviting more participation in the church's missionary discernment; while at the same time, deepening our shared participation with the Lord."

Because of this, the success of the synod should not be judged by what decisions were made, but by "the way in which conversations are happening at various levels in the church."

"For those who feel disappointed about the church's synodal process to this point — either for what it has been or for what it hasn't been — I would share the encouragement that I think Pope Francis is offering us through this encyclical," he said. "Essentially the pope is saying to us: Look deeper for what synodality is about. Look to the heart: your own heart, the heart of Christ, and the heart of the other person. From there, we can embark on a shared mission as church."

Finally, the cardinal addressed the Jubilee Year in Rome, saying that it is "exactly what our world and our country need right now, but which no secular power or political solution could ever achieve."

"We can all see the fragmentation in the human community, especially during these seasons of heightened political activity. And if we look within, we can see the fragmentation in ourselves," he said, adding that Pope Francis explains in his encyclical "how the human heart is capable of 'uniting the fragments.'"

Following Cardinal Pierre's remarks, Archbishop Broglio began his presidential address with a reference to the Book of Maccabees, recalling "the fidelity of the chosen people in a time of oppression, forced assimilation and rule by a foreign power." This fidelity, he said, was "sufficient to ensure a temporary victory over the oppressors, but more importantly the preservation and handing on of the Jewish faith to the next generations right up to our time."

Praising the "moment of unity and celebration" of Christ's real presence at the Eucharistic congress, he noted that the revival "continues now in its phase of mission" to "help the faithful discover or deepen its meaning, and to prolong the positive effects of the first two years of the Eucharistic revival."

Following the U.S. presidential election, he reflected on the way in which bishops can serve as examples and speak the truth amid division in society.

"As the successors of the Apostles and vicars of Christ in our dioceses, we never backpedal or renounce the clear teaching of the Gospel," he said. "We proclaim it in and out of season."

"We must insist on the dignity of the human person from womb to tomb, be unstinting in our commitment, as I said yesterday, to see Christ in those who are most in need, to defend and lift up the poor, to combat the evil of racism and to encourage immigration reform, while we continue to care for those in need who cross our borders," he continued. "We certainly do not encourage illegal immigration, but we will all have to stand before the throne of grace and hear the Lord ask us if we saw him in the hungry, thirsty, naked, homeless, stranger, or sick and responded to his needs."

He added that there is a need to "encourage people to work together, to listen to each other, and in disagreement never to forget that the other is created in the image and likeness of God and is, therefore, worthy of respect."

"Christians should be catalysts for a more humane and worthy approach to daily life," he emphasized. "Nothing is truly ordinary, because it is open to be touched by divine grace."

The bishops were gathering in Baltimore Nov. 11 to 14 for their 2024 fall plenary assembly. ■

Lauretta Brown is culture editor for OSV News. Gretchen R. Crowe is editor-in-chief for OSV News.

Pope warns of risk of becoming a 'static' Church after the close of the Synod



Pope Francis prays before the Chair of St. Peter, placed in front of the main altar of St. Peter's Basilica, after the closing Mass of the Synod of Bishops on synodality at the Vatican Oct. 27. Catholic News Service photo/Vatican Media.

By Justin McLellan
OSV News

VATICAN CITY — Three years after he invited Catholics around the world to walk together in faith on a synodal journey, Pope Francis said the Church cannot risk becoming "static" but must continue as a "missionary Church that walks with its Lord through the streets of the world."

"In the face of the questions of the women and men of today, the challenges of our time, the urgencies of evangelization and the many wounds that afflict humanity, sisters and brothers, we cannot sit still," the pope said in his homily during the closing Mass of the Synod of Bishops in St. Peter's Basilica on Oct. 27.

"A seated Church that, almost without realizing it, withdraws from life and puts itself on the margins of reality, is a Church that risks remaining blind and accommodating itself in its own discomfort," he said.

Pope Francis delivered his homily sitting in front of the 17th-century baldachin — the basilica's newly restored gilded bronze baldachin, which had been covered in scaffolding since February from restoration work.

Cardinal Mario Grech, secretary general of the Synod of Bishops, was the principal celebrant at the altar under the baldachin.

The day before, the pope received the final document approved by the more than 350 members of the synod. The document called for greater participation of lay men and women at all levels of ecclesial life, including parishes, dioceses and seminaries.

Pope Francis told the synodal assembly on Oct. 26 that he did not plan to publish an apostolic exhortation after the synod because of the "very concrete indications" of the synod's final document, which he ordered to be published.

In his homily, the pope asked the Church not to remain in a state of "blindness" to the problems of the Church and the world, a blindness that can take the form of embracing worldliness, prioritizing comfort or having a closed heart.

The Church must listen to men and women "who wish to discover the joy of the Gospel," he said, but also to those who "have drifted away" from the faith and to the "silent cry of those who are indifferent," as well as to the poor, marginalized and desperate.

"We do not need a paralyzed and indifferent Church," he said, "but a Church that takes up the cry of the world and — I want to say, perhaps some will be scandalized — a Church that gets its hands dirty to serve the Lord." Reflecting on the reading of the day from the Gospel of St. Mark in which a blind man hears Jesus pass by, asks him to be healed, recovers his sight and then follows him, the Pope stressed that following God on the synodal path means cultivating the ability to hear the Lord pass by and the confidence to follow in his footsteps.

"The Lord is followed along the way, we do not follow him from the closure of our comforts, we do not follow him from the labyrinth of our ideas," he said. "And let us always remember: not to walk on our own or according to the criteria of the world, but to walk on the road, together, behind Him and to walk with Him."

At the end of the Mass, four Vatican workers brought the Chair of St. Peter to the basilica and placed it before the main altar. The chair — temporarily removed for restoration from a sculpture behind the basilica's high altar — is believed to have traditionally belonged to St. Peter, the first pope.

In his wheelchair, the pope sat in front of the chair to pray at the end of Mass.

In his homily he had said: "This is the chair of love, it is the chair of unity, it is the chair of mercy, according to that command that Jesus gave to the Apostle Peter, not to dominate others, but to serve them in charity."

After Mass, the Pope prayed the Angelus with visitors in St. Peter's Square. Speaking about the end of the Synod of Bishops, the Pope asked people to pray "that everything we have done in this month may go forward for the good of the Church." ■

ST. MARY IN MONESSEN, PA.

“75 and Simply Blessed”

By Ruth Hanchin
St. Mary, Monessen, Pa.

On Tuesday, Oct. 1, members of St. Mary's Ladies Guild in Monessen, Pa. celebrated their 75th anniversary. It was also a Holy Day for Byzantine Catholics, the Protection of the Mother of God.

The Rosary was recited for the deceased and living members of the Ladies Guild. At 11 a.m., Father Stephen Wahal, administrator and Spiritual Director for the Ladies Guild, celebrated the Divine Liturgy.

A beautiful vase of white carnations, purple liatris, and purple daises were arranged by Alverna Zolock, Treasurer, and placed by the Icon of the Blessed Mother (Theotokos).

Charles Zubritsky served as cantor and was assisted by Deacon John Hanchin and Mark Kallok.

Following the Divine Liturgy, a group photo was taken by Frances Emery. Clergy and members proceeded to Caparello's Italian Ristorante in Uniontown, Pa. for lunch. After lunch, president Margaret Krolik served cookies to everyone for dessert. The cookies were decorated with blue and white icing which read: “75 and Simply Blessed.” Margaret also gave everyone a small card which read: “Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation and be constant in prayer” (Romans 12:12).

Missing from the photo below are Vice President Dorothy Stefan, who recently moved to Virginia; and Kay Zebula, Culinary. (Editor's note: Aggie Popovich, who served for 30-plus years as Guild president, passed away Nov. 6 at 104 years old.)

The theme for the 75th anniversary was “Remember the

Past, Celebrate the Present and Grow the Future.”

Deacon John Hanchin talked about the meaning of the Feast of the Protection of the Mother of God. He showed the icon which is in the Byzantine Chapel at the shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C.

The Feast of the Protection or the Patronage of the Mother of God is celebrated by the faithful of the Byzantine Rite on Oct. 1. It commemorates the miraculous intercession of the Mother of God to save the city of Constantinople, the capital of the Byzantine Empire, at which time Mary appeared to the praying faithful in the church of Vlacherna and joined them in prayer for the deliverance of the city. As a sign of her protection, she covered all present with her mantle. Inspired by her motherly concern, the people received new hope and courage and the city was saved.

The “veil” which Mary holds in her hands is a symbol of her loving care and protection. Graces, illustrated by rays of light, are shown as coming from God above and flowing through Mary's hands to her spiritual children.

Door prizes for the afternoon were won by Father Stephen, Debbie Anderson, and Jean Guthrie.

On this special Feast Day, Deacon John gave spiritual gifts to all present: Icons of the Blessed Mother and Christ the Teacher.

Before the afternoon came to a close, President Margaret Krolik announced the Guild Christmas Dinner will be held on Sunday, Jan. 5 at Rodney's Restaurant in Irwin, Pa. More details will be given at a later date. Guests are welcome. ■



Father Stephen Wahal, Spiritual Director of the Ladies Guild; Jean Guthrie; Secretary Ruth Hanchin; President Margaret Krolik; Debbie Anderson; Deacon John Hanchin; Joyce Seman; and Treasurer Alvera Zolock.

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST IN SCOTTTDALE, PA.

Holiday preparations

The ladies and gentlemen at St. John the Baptist in Scottdale, Pa. have started making pirohi for the holiday season. ■



Cindy Hribal, Marie Catalina, Alan Hribal, and Barb Zaksek. In background is Dolly Litman.



Jane Bricker, Dolly Litman, Cindy Hribal and Terry Frederick.



ABOVE: Cindy Hribal, Terry Frederick and Dennis Kostelich.

RIGHT: Catherine Catalina, Father Oleh Seremchuk's mother-in-law Maryanna, Margie Edwards and Barb Zaksek.

Not pictured are John and Kathy Onusko and Andy Lipko.





ST. GREGORY IN UPPER ST. CLAIR, PA.

Trunk or Treat

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

Following the Divine Liturgy on Sunday, Oct. 27, youngsters at St. Gregory in Upper St. Clair, Pa. were looking forward to this year's Trunk or Treat.

Blessed with wonderful weather

we continued in our parking lot where our parishioners were waiting by their decorated trunks to give out candy and treats.

We continued in our Church hall with fun games and enjoyed all the wonderful treats.

We thank all who helped prepare this fun event. ■



Honoring our Veterans

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

In anticipation of Veterans Day, the weekend of Nov. 9 to 10 for St. Gregory's was dedicated to our Veterans and Military Personnel.

At the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy, prayerful supplications were offered for all living and departed men and women who have served and continue to serve our nation under God. ■



Fall Harvest Dinner Line Dance

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

On Saturday evening, Nov. 2, our church hall started filling up for this year's Fall Harvest Dinner Line Dance.

The evening began with a delicious BBQ Dinner Buffet, which was enjoyed by all. Towards the end of the dinner the drawing for the Steeler Football Tickets

and Tailgate Raffle took place. Congrats to our winners Mark and Kristie Hast.

Afterwards our parishioners/dance instructors Stratton and Jonathan DeWitt were ready to lead our parishioners and friends in traditional line dancing.

We all enjoyed a wonderful evening and look forward to more events that bring us together. ■



ST. GREGORY IN UPPER ST. CLAIR, PA.

Outpouring of love

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

Sunday, Nov. 17, was a busy day at St. Gregory. At the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy, we witnessed our 3rd and 4th grade ECF students receive their Bibles as part of their studies of Holy Scripture.

Afterwards, we gathered in our church hall for a parish breakfast to help Kimberly Snow, the daughter of our Father Deacon

Michael and Lorri George in her battle against cancer.

A huge thank you to our parishioners who helped organize this breakfast, and to all who participated in this event.

The outpour of love, kindness, and generosity was truly remarkable. The support of all is greatly appreciated in helping Kim, Jordan, and their family during this truly difficult time. May Our Lord bless you all! ■



ST. ELIAS IN MUNHALL, PA.

Off and running

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

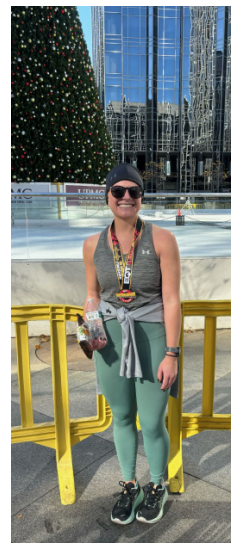
St. Elias parishioners did a great job running in local races!

Danielle and Anthony DeProspero

completed the Columbus Half-Marathon.

Jackie Kutzfara completed the Pittsburgh EQT 10-Miler Race.

Congratulations to all! ■



Welcome to the family

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

St. Elias in Munhall, Pa. welcomed into our parish family Violet Christine, who received the Holy Mysteries of Christian Initiation on Sunday, Nov 10.

May God grant his servant, Violet Christine, her parents, godparents, brother Thomas, and all her family many happy and blessed years! ■



Halloween fellowship

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

St. Elias pirohi workers enjoyed Halloween fellowship and food before getting down to the job of pinching those delicious

dumplings.

Refreshments and lunch are always served to these hard-working and dedicated parishioners. Thank you for all you do! ■





ST. JOHN CHRYSOSTOM IN PITTSBURGH, PA.

Here we go, Steelers!

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

St. John Chrysostom's 21st annual Steelers Tailgate was a success all around!

The Steelers pulled out a 28-27 win over the Washington Commanders in a nail-biting last quarter. The social hall was full of Steelers fans who enjoyed great food, including homemade pirohi.

That's right, we added homemade potato-cheese pirohi to this year's menu, and they were delicious.

We welcomed several seminarians and a few young men in town for the "Come and See" weekend at our seminary. They stayed for lunch, but they had to

hurry back to the seminary for their afternoon program. Father Tyler Wisniewski's family joined the fun this year, too.

The basket raffles and the beer pyramid were fabulous. Several guests went home with prizes, including our youngest guests because our raffle committee made sure to have door prizes just for children!

Thank you to everyone who supported the 2024 Tailgate Party, including the GCU Home Office and Basil Wahal's team for helping us with printing materials and tickets. We also received matching funds.

I got a feelin' Pittsburgh's going to the Super Bowl! ■



Bill Sacco and Butch Bittner



Baptized in Christ!

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

Joseph John Lawrence Rodrigues received the Mysteries of Initiation during Divine Liturgy at St. John Chrysostom Church in Pittsburgh, Pa. on Sunday, Oct. 20.

Born Aug. 30, Joseph is the son of Matthew and Monica Rodrigues and the brother Anna, Nicholas, Elizabeth and Maryann. His godparents are Kevin and Rachel McGuire.

Joseph is the first baby baptized by Father Tyler Wisniewski!

Following Divine Liturgy, the Rodrigues Family invited all parishioners and guests to celebrate with them at a luncheon held in Joseph's honor in the



social hall.

May God grant his newly baptized servant, Joseph, many happy, healthy and blessed years! ■

ST. MICHAEL IN HERMITAGE, PA.

Voting bake sale

By Bill Dzurickio
St. Michael, Hermitage, Pa.

The St. Michael Byzantine Catholic Church Social Center in Hermitage, Pa. was a voting site on Tuesday, Nov. 5.

As the sun rose above the church, parishioners were busy setting up a Bake Sale for the voters. With a steady voter turnout, all of the delicious goodies were gone by the

end of the day!

Special thank you to Donna Volsko, Very Rev. Father Kevin Marks, and all of our wonderful parishioners who baked cakes, cookies, and cheesecakes, and even prepared frozen soups and chili.

We look forward to continuing our Voting Bake Sale in the future to provide our Hermitage community with a positive and welcoming location! ■



John Schaner, Betty Simko, Mary Ann Polochak, Mary Ann Bajorek, and Bob Polochak.



Spaghetti dinner fundraisers

ASCENSION OF OUR LORD IN CLAIRTON, PA.

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

A spaghetti dinner fundraiser was held at Ascension Byzantine Church in Clairton, Pa. on Oct. 20 to raise money for building repairs.

In addition to a homemade dinner, patrons had opportunities to win baskets of gifts, an overnight stay

with breakfast at the Marriott in Cranberry, and a potted mum filled with gift cards.

A bake sale of homemade cakes and cookies was very popular and sold out.

The Altar Society cookbooks were available for purchase and visitors who were interested in learning the history of our church were invited to attend a tour. ■



LuAnn Sowko, Bill and Karen Kerr



Father Ivan Mina and Father Christopher Burke



Carol Hoffman and granddaughter



Marge Dutchko, Mary Lou Kozloski, Donna Dutchko



Rich and Terry Peterman manage the dessert table.



Yvonne Opalenik



Helen Patrick, Helen Plavchak, Diane Doyle, Carol and friend



ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST IN SCOTTDALE, PA.

The Altar Society of St. John the Baptist Byzantine Catholic Church in Scottdale, Pa. held a Spaghetti Dinner on Oct. 20.

The event included a basket raffle and bake sale. We had our most successful year yet. ■



ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST IN LYNDORA, PA.

Polka party

St. John the Baptist Byzantine Catholic Church in Lyndora, Pa. recently held their annual polka party. ■



Dressed for success

St. John the Baptist Byzantine Catholic Church in Lyndora, Pa. had a Halloween party for the children of the parish. The GCU provided the candy. ■





INFANT JESUS OF PRAGUE IN BOARDMAN, OHIO

Enjoying the season

The ECF students and children of Infant Jesus of Prague and St. Nicholas churches enjoyed this fall season.

They spent a Sunday afternoon at Molnar Farms with a hayride, corn maze and pumpkin patch.

The annual Trunk & Treat was held on Sunday, Oct. 27 when the parishioners decorated the trunks of their cars and passed out treats to the children.



Parishioners and the children all had a wonderful time! ■



SS. PETER AND PAUL IN WARREN, OHIO

October Fun Fest

On a beautiful fall day after Liturgy on Oct. 27, an October Fun Fest was held as a fundraiser for our upcoming 100th anniversary celebration.

The event included kielbasa sandwiches, hot dogs, pierogi, cabbage and noodles, beverages,

and a variety of desserts.

It was a fun-filled afternoon with a 50/50 Raffle, a Pumpkin Yard Decoration with Lottery Scratch-offs Raffle, Quarter Bingo, and the Dice Wheel. To top off the day, hayrides were available and enjoyed by many! ■



Mary Anne Karchut and Father Simeon



Father Miron Kerul'-Kmec and family



Lisa Mosko and Stephanie Sudik



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

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www.holyghost-byzantinecatholic.org

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST IN UNIONTOWN, PA.

Carpatho-Rusyn Festival

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

On Oct. 27, the 42nd Annual Carpatho-Rusyn Festival was held at St. John the Baptist in Uniontown, Pa.

Some of the highlights of the day included delicious ethnic food and baked goods, Rusyn music played by Sokyra, a

children's activity, displays and demonstrations which focused on Rusyn culture, ethnic crafts, and numerous raffle items.

Father Kyprian Wojciechowski led a tour of the church and explained the Liturgical aspects of the Byzantine Rite. The enthusiastic crowd enjoyed the day. ■



Polish Fest

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

On Nov. 10, Mark Jesko and Bonnie Balas represented the Lemko Rusyns at the 42nd anniversary Polish Fest in the commons of the Cathedral of Learning at the University of Pittsburgh.

In spite of the rain, the event was well-attended. Mark demonstrated various egg-decorating techniques, while Bonnie demonstrated embroidery. Church cookbooks,



embroidered basket covers, icon ornaments, and nut rolls were available for purchase. ■



Honoring our Veterans

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

Following the Veterans Day weekend Liturgies, Father Kyprian Wojciechowski invited all veterans in attendance to come

forward for a special blessing.

The parishioners of St. John the Baptist would like to thank all veterans for their service to our country. ■





THOUGHTS FOR OUR DAY

By Archpriest David M. Petras

THE DYNAMICS OF MARRIAGE



Our faith is that marriage is a sacramental mystery of the Church. In the theology of both the Eastern and Western Churches, marriage has been recognized as one of the seven sacraments. This comes certainly from St. Paul's description in the Letter to the Ephesians, where he compares God's love for his people to the love of marriage, "For this reason a man shall leave his father and his mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh." This is a great mystery, but I speak in reference to Christ and the church" (5:31-32). The whole history of our salvation by God's love has been described as a wedding, "For the wedding day of the Lamb has come, his bride has made herself ready" (Revelation 19:7). Marriage is a sacrament then because it is not only the individual human love of one man and one woman, but a true reflection of God's infinite and eternal love he has for his creation.

Sometimes we speak about marriage only as the ritual ceremony that marks this union. More often than not, the wedding ceremony is a big event in the couple's life: the rite in Church, the reception that follows, the wedding garments, the speeches and dances, the food and drink are the host of traditions that surround the occasion. However, marriage is, of course, more than the events of that one day. It is a relationship that is to last for the rest of the couple's life. In the rite itself, the priest prays, "Grant to your servants (here they are mentioned by 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," and "Join them in oneness of mind, crown them in love, unite them in one flesh, give them fruit of the womb and the enjoyment of good children." Due to human weakness, however, not all are able to make that life-time commitment. In America, 43 percent of first marriages end in divorce, and the most common

What we see in St. Paul's letter is a comparison between God's love and the love in marriage. No human being can love another with the love that God has for his people.

reason for failure is infidelity. The average length of these failed marriages is eight years. The divorce rate of second and third marriages is even greater. The challenge to us today, as has always been the case in the Church, is how to make marriage an enduring reality in the lives of people called to this commitment. We start by looking at St. Paul's Letter to the Ephesians, chapter 5, which is the Epistle usually read at the marriage liturgy. Here St. Paul gives the instruction, "Be subordinate to one another out of reverence for Christ. Wives should be subordinate to their husbands as to the Lord. For the husband is head of his wife just as Christ is head of the church, he himself the savior of the body" (vv. 21-23). He then adds, addressing the man, "Husbands, love your

wives, even as Christ loved the church and handed himself over for her" (v. 25). This passage is controversial in the present culture, because it seems to affirm the subordination of the woman to the man. Some continue to maintain subordination as a practice, while others say that society now recognizes a greater equality. We should, however, be aware of two realities: 1) the truth that the advice of St. Paul does come from a society and culture of many centuries ago, and 2) this advice must be seen in the whole context of the Gospel of our Lord.

One of the most important teachings of our Lord was the importance of service to one another. Jesus was quite clear that we are not to be tyrants. This was his teaching to James and John, "You know that those who are recognized as rulers over the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones make their authority over them felt. But it shall not be so among you. Rather, whoever wishes to be great among you will be your servant; whoever wishes to be first among you will be the slave of all" (Mark 10:42-45). This certainly applies to the marriage community as well, and in this St. Paul teaches clearly: "Be subordinate to one another out of reverence for Christ" (Ephesians 5:21). Clearly, he was not preaching slavery of the wife to the husband, but mutual love and respect. While the character of some men makes them act like tyrants, there are also women who accept this passage and still dominate their husbands. This does not lead to happiness in marriage.

What we see in St. Paul's letter is a comparison between God's love and the love in marriage. No human being can love another with the love that God has

for his people. Marriage can succeed only with God's help, by the power of his grace which he offers to creatures made in his image. Marriage is a blessing for the couple if it is lived on the model of our Lord and his people, the Church. The wife respects her husband, who loves her in the way of Christ. St. Paul explains, "Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ loved the church and handed himself over for her" (Ephesians 5:25) and "husbands should love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself" (v. 28). If the husband has a selfish love, rooted in his own ego, and not like Jesus' love, then the wife is under no obligation to serve him. The teacher of Origen, an early Father of the Church, wrote that "a husband's trustworthiness, reliability, self control and love of others that are to characterize a Christian's relations with outsiders are also to be exhibited to his wife" (David W. T. Brattston). In our days, the passage on love found in St. Paul's first letter to the Corinthians is sometimes chosen, "Love is patient, love is kind. It is not jealous, love is not pompous, it is not inflated, it is not rude, it does not seek its own interests, it is not quick tempered, it does not brood over injury, it does not rejoice over wrongdoing but rejoices with the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things" (1 Corinthians 13:4-7). Though St. Paul meant this for the love all Christians should have for one another and not only for marriages, it is also good advice for making marriage work. ■



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



LITURGICAL SCHEDULE AT THE SEMINARY

"COME, LET US SING JOYFULLY TO THE LORD"



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

Schedule of Services for December

MON 2	8 a.m. First Royal Hour of Nativity [LS]
TUE 3	7 a.m. Third Royal Hour of Nativity
THU 5	5 p.m. Great Vespers with Litija
FRI 6	8 a.m. Divine Liturgy
SAT 7	5 p.m. Great Vespers (Litija optional)
SUN 8	8 a.m. Festal Matins with Divine Liturgy
MON 9	8 a.m. Sixth Royal Hour of Nativity [LS]
TUE 10	8 a.m. Divine Liturgy (Those in Illness and Departed with Panachida)
THU 12	7 a.m. Akathist to Theotokos of Guadalupe
SAT 14	9 a.m. Ninth Royal Hour of Nativity 5 p.m. Great Vespers (Litija optional)
SUN 15	9 a.m. Divine Liturgy

(LS) Livestream

AROUND THE ARCHEPARCHY



2024 CHOIR CHRISTMAS PROGRAM — The Pittsburgh Byzantine Catholic Archeparchial Choir (PBCAC) will present their 2024 Christmas Program on Sunday, Dec. 22 at 2 p.m. Festive Cookie Reception will follow the presentation, which will take place at St. Elias Byzantine Catholic Church and Social Hall, 4200 Homestead-Duquesne Road, Munhall, Pa. See page 5.

PIROHI SALE — St. John the Baptist, 201 E. Main Street, Uniontown, Pa. is resuming pirohi sales for take-out only. Potato/Cheese or Sauerkraut; and can be cooked or frozen at \$10 per dozen. To order, call 724-434-5355 (this number only) Monday to Wednesday beginning at 9 a.m. (unless limit is reached prior to that time). Specify type(s), number of dozens ordering, and leave name, phone number, and time of pick-up which will be Friday 9 a.m. to noon in back of school building in upper parking lot.

Events at St. Gregory, 2005 Mohawk Road, Upper St. Clair, Pa. [Facebook.com/stgregoryusc](https://www.facebook.com/stgregoryusc) or call 412-835-7800.

■ **"TASTE OF HEAVEN" COOKIE SALE** — 9 a.m.-noon. Saturday, Dec. 7. Purchase a container and walk along the tables selecting your favorites from a large assortment of homemade cookies and holiday treats. Additional nut horns, apricot horns, and other specialty cookies available pre-packaged. Come early for the best selection. For more information, call the Parish Office 412-835-7800

■ **CHRISTMAS KOLBASSI** — Order your kolbasi now for Christmas. St. Gregory of Nazianzus is taking orders for kolbasi to be ready for pickup on Dec. 13, 14, and 15. A donation of \$18 for a 2 lbs. 10 oz. package. Payments can be made in cash, check, or credit card at pick-up or orders can be pre-paid online. The pickup times will be provided on our website and Facebook page.

HOLY GHOST PIROHI — Holy Ghost Church, 225 Olivia St., McKees Rocks, Pa. is extending their pre-Christmas pirohi sales this year. Sale dates are Dec. 6, 13, 20. Prices are the same as last year: \$12/dozen, Potato with cheese and \$13/dozen, Kraut or Farmers' Cheese. All orders must be placed between 9 a.m. and 12 noon on the Wednesday prior to the sale date. Call the Pirohi Kitchen at (412) 331-5155. We were "Best in the Burgh" two years in a row at Kennywood's Pierogi Fest! Come on down to "the Bottoms!"

CHRISTMAS CRAFT/BAKE SALE — Noon-4 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 7, 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 8, St. John the Baptist, 201 E. Main St., Uniontown, Pa. Decorations, wood crafted items, folk crafts, religious articles, parish cookbooks (Carpathian Cookery), imported items, homemade candy, various baked goods (long rolls, cookies, breads, etc.), and many other articles that would make fine Christmas gifts or holiday decorations. Raffle prizes available. No admission fee. Handicapped accessible. Parking in lot behind school. For information call: 724-438-1382 M-F between 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Leave message.

SUPER BINGO — Noon-4 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 14, St. Pius X, 2336 Brownsville Road, Pittsburgh, Pa. Admission: \$30. 20 Regular games: \$100. 4 Specials: \$250. \$500 Jackpot (sold separately). Refreshments/Basket raffle. Door prizes. For ticket information, call church at 412-881-8344.

PRE-HOLIDAY DINNER AND BAKE SALE — Noon (following 11 a.m. Divine Liturgy, Sunday, Dec. 15, St. Mary Assumption Byzantine Catholic Church, 40 Church St., New Salem, Pa. The dinner will feature breaded chicken, holubki (cabbage rolls), penne pasta, garden salad, parsley potatoes, roll, drinks, and a variety of desserts. Cost: \$20 per person. Eat in or take-out. A number of various themed baskets will be raffled. For information or to purchase tickets in advance, call John at 412-491-9705. Deadline to order tickets: Sunday, Dec. 8.

DATES TO REMEMBER



DEC. 8
St. Nicholas Celebration
St. John the Baptist Cathedral, Munhall, Pa.

DEC. 6
Feast of Our Holy Father Nicholas of Myra

DEC. 8
Feast of the Maternity of Holy Anna

DEC. 22
Pittsburgh Byzantine Catholic Archeparchial Choir presents "Joyfully We Sing!"
2 p.m., St. Elias, Munhall, Pa.

DEC. 25
Feast of the Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ
Chancery closed

DEC. 26
Feast of the Synaxis of the Holy Theotokos

DEC. 27
Feast of the Holy Protomartyr Stephen

DEC. 31
Vigil of the Feast of the Circumcision of our Lord
Vigil of the Feast of St. Basil the Great
New Year's Eve

See more upcoming events at www.archpitt.org

WORLD
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CHRISTMAS 2024**

**SUBMISSIONS
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DECEMBER 16**