

## INSIDE

### PRAYING FOR LOVE, INTERCESSION

Byzantine Catholics offer prayers at Vigil for Life in Washington, D.C.  
Page 3

### COMMITTED TO OUR BYZANTINE ROOTS

St. John the Baptist in Pittsburgh (South Side), Pa. celebrates 125 years  
Pages 7 to 8

### THE REWARD OF A PRIEST

Thoughts For Our Day  
By Archbishop David M. Petras  
Page 13

## The Great Fast begins

ST. ELIAS IN MUNHALL, PA. SERVES FAITHFUL ON FIRST FRIDAY OF LENT



The first week of the Great Fast also means the first week of Fish Fry Fridays at many parishes of the Archeparchy of Pittsburgh, including the Lenten Kitchen at St. Elias in Munhall, Pa. on Feb. 20.

## Blessed, buttered, busy

PIROHI WORKERS AT ASSUMPTION OF THE MOTHER OF GOD IN WEIRTON, W. VA.

By Mike Garan  
*Assumption of the Mother of God, Weirton, W. Va.*

Parishioners of St. Mary's Byzantine Catholic Church in Weirton, W.Va. gathered once again for their annual Lenten pirohi sale, continuing a long-standing tradition that brings the community together during the Great Fast season.

This year's effort, piloted by the church's Altar Society, included two separate sales to meet popular demand. The first took place on Feb. 14, when volunteers prepared and sold pirohi filled with potato and cheese, a classic favorite among parishioners and supporters.

A second sale followed on Feb.



26, featuring pirohi hand-made with sauerkraut as well as lekvar fillings.

From mixing dough and preparing

fillings to sealing and cooking hundreds of pirohi, parishioners of all ages worked side by side.

Even several students from Weirton Madonna High School joined in to give their "senior" partners a helping hand.

The sales not only provided a popular Lenten meal option, but also served as a meaningful time of fellowship and service.

Proceeds from the sales help support parish activities and ministries, while preserving a cherished cultural and faith-based tradition within the St. Mary's community.

The Altar Society this season also is honoring long-time

Story continued on page 6

## "Purists, Assimilators, and Adaptors: The Genius of the Greek Catholic Eparchy of Mukachevo"

BYZANTINE CATHOLIC SEMINARY OF SS. CYRIL AND METHODIUS 26TH ANNUAL LECTURE SET FOR MAY 12

By The Byzantine Catholic Seminary of SS. Cyril and Methodius

In honor of the 380th anniversary of the Union of Uzhhorod, our 26th annual academic lecture is to be delivered by Paul Robert Magocsi, PhD at 7 p.m. E.D.T. on Tuesday, May 12.

Dr. Magocsi's presentation will focus on how the Byzantine Ruthenian/Greek Catholic Church has been able to survive for nearly four centuries in the face of political, social, and cultural challenges placed before it by the different societies in which it has had to function in Europe and North America.

All are welcome to attend this lecture virtually via the Seminary website at [www.bcs.edu](http://www.bcs.edu).

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

Dr. Paul Robert Magocsi is professor of history and political science at the University of Toronto, where since 1980 he also holds the John Yaremko Chair of Ukrainian Studies.

He completed his education at

Story continued on page 4



Dr. Paul Robert Magocsi



UPS 081500  
ISSN 07442289

Official publication of the  
Byzantine Catholic  
Archeparchy of Pittsburgh

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

Published monthly (12 issues)  
plus two seasonal special issues

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

Archbishop William C. Skurla  
*President*

David Mayernik Jr.  
*Editor*

Sister Elaine Kisinko, OSBM  
*Copy Editor*

Daniel J. Johnson  
*Archeparchial Finance Officer*

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

Periodicals Postage PAID at Pittsburgh, PA

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

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

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



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

## MISSION

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

### Unshaken

## Online Bible Study for Young Women (18-39 y.o.)

6 Tuesdays at 6 PM EST via Zoom  
Beginning February 24, 2026  
Ending before Pascha!

Join the Bible Study based on the Walking with Purpose Young Adult Series! Connect with other women to experience authentic friendships, scripture-based discussions, and a welcoming online space where you can come as you are.

Unshaken is part two of the three-part young adult series "Opening Your Heart".

This Bible study invites young women to fill their spiritual toolbox with exactly what they need to grow stronger in their faith.

Register by February 18 via QR code or visit [archpitt.org](http://archpitt.org)

Within Unshaken, you will receive the following:

- Six lessons on Scripture readings
- Reflections and intentional prayer time
- Saint stories
- Space to set personal resolutions and goals
- Illustrated Bible verses for personal memorization
- Space for weekly prayer intentions

Participants will need to purchase their own study book, "Unshaken" - Opening Your Heart Young Adult Series - Part II, available at [www.walkingwithpurpose.com](http://www.walkingwithpurpose.com)

The Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministry  
The Byzantine Catholic Archeparchy of Pittsburgh

## YOUTH & YOUNG ADULT EVENTS 2026 & more to come

<b>FEB 7</b> SATURDAY / TEENS CALLED TO LOVE AND TO DANCE St. John Chrysostom Byzantine Catholic Church Pittsburgh, PA	<b>FEB &amp; MAR</b> TUESDAYS / YOUNG ADULTS GREAT FAST BIBLE STUDY 6:00 pm via Zoom	<b>APR 11</b> SATURDAY / TEENS & YOUNG ADULTS 2026 ARCHEPARCHIAL YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULT GATHERING With the metropolitan archbishop William Holy Trinity Byzantine Catholic Church, Sykesville, PA
<b>MAY 16</b> SATURDAY / TEENS 2026 SPRING BYZANTEEN HIKE Raccoon State Park, PA	<b>JUNE 8-20</b> 13 DAYS / YOUNG ADULTS MISSION TRIP TO ATHENS, GREECE Athens, Greece	<b>JULY 9-12</b> 4 DAYS / TEENS BYZANTEEN RALLY John Carroll University, Cleveland, OH Eparchy of Parma
<b>AUG 8</b> SATURDAY / TEENS 2026 BYZANTEEN SPLASH BASH & MORE AND BYZANTEEN RALLY REUNION St. Nicholas Chapel, Beaver & Seven Oaks Country Club Swimming Pool, PA	<b>SEP 12</b> SATURDAY / TEENS 2026 FALL BYZANTEEN HIKE & COOKOUT Riverview Park and the Chancery, Pittsburgh, PA	<b>OCT 3</b> SATURDAY / YOUNG ADULTS 2026 ARCHEPARCHIAL YOUNG ADULT PILGRIMAGE Basilica and Shrine of Our Lady of Lebanon, North Jackson, OH

The Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministry  
The Byzantine Catholic Archeparchy of Pittsburgh

[youth@archpitt.org](mailto:youth@archpitt.org)



**BYZANTINE DIVINE LITURGY**  
Sundays 9:00 a.m. • WEDO Radio • 810 AM  
Broadcast live from Holy Ghost Church, McKees Rocks  
OR via Internet: click "Listen Live" link at [www.holyghost-byzantinecatholic.org](http://www.holyghost-byzantinecatholic.org)

## BULLETIN BOARD

### Carpatho-Rusyn Society: Manifesting Carpatho-Rusyn Culture and History

The mission of the Carpatho-Rusyn Society is to preserve and perpetuate the distinct culture, history, language, and heritage of the Carpatho-Rusyn people.

The Society offers regular educational Zoom presentations, chat groups, in-person events in our chapters, genealogy help by professional Rusyn genealogists and scholarships to students.

Also offered is an online/mail-in Heritage Store with books and gift items. New is our first-ever activity book for children (and adults) to engage learning about the Carpatho-Rusyn Culture. We also carry three-bar cross candles.

Listen live on Sunday afternoons to Rusyn music on our Rusyn Heritage Program (also archived).

Check out the headings on our new website to find this information and more: <https://c-rs.org>.

Visit Facebook Carpatho-Rusyn Society, our strictly informational page, to learn about past and upcoming events. For more information contact Bonnie Burke at [bb@c-rs.org](mailto:bb@c-rs.org).

### "Carpathian Cookery" available for purchase

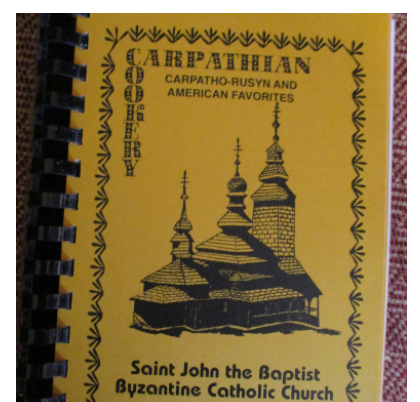
The Carpathian Cookery cookbook is available for purchase.

The 330-page cookbook has a new look and features a protective plastic cover. The book includes sections on Christmas and Easter customs and recipes, traditional Rusyn and Slavic foods, other ethnic dishes, 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, please send a \$36 (\$14 plus \$22).

To order, send a check or money order to: Ethnic Craft Club, St. John Byzantine Catholic Church, 201 E. Main Street, Uniontown, Pa. 15401, or call 724-438-1382 (M-F 9 a.m.- 3 p.m. - leave message). ■





# Praying for love, intercession

BYZANTINE CATHOLICS OFFER PRAYERS AT USCCB VIGIL FOR LIFE IN WASHINGTON, D.C.

*By Deacon Paul Boboige  
Coordinator, Pro-Life Office*

On the eve of the National March for Life in Washington, D.C. the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) and the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception hosted the National Prayer Vigil for Life.

The Byzantine Catholic Church of America fully participated under the leadership of Bishop Kurt Burnette of the Eparchy of Passaic and Pro-Life Director Father Tim Kennedy and with participation by the Archeparchy of Pittsburgh's Pro-Life Office coordinator Deacon Paul Boboige.

Our participation started with attendance at the Mass for Life in the Great Upper Church. A prayer vigil followed in the beautiful Crypt Church. The choir under the direction of Lector Jack Figel reverberated the walls with its beautiful singing.

The Compline began with the procession and Bishop Kurt chanted: "Blessed is the Kingdom of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, now and ever and forever!"

In his moving homily Father Vasyl Symyon spoke of his research on abortion in his homeland Ukraine, the shocking extent there and here in the United States, as those attending listened intently.

Other clergy in attendance were Father John Basarab; Father Jerome Wolbert, O.F.M.; Father Tim Kennedy; and Deacon Paul Boboige.

The Byzantines continued to be active the following morning with a Divine Liturgy in our beautiful Byzantine Chapel in the Basilica with Bishop Kurt as the main celebrant and homilist.

The staff of the Basilica was very gracious and made us feel very welcome, as they do year after year.

God blessed us with a beautiful two days and the snowstorm held off until early Saturday morning.

In due time God will answer our prayers with the change of hearts which will make moot national laws banning abortion, because people will turn from its violence to awesome respect for human life, born and unborn.

Until then let us continue to appeal to the Mother of us all for her powerful love and intercession.



**CLOCKWISE FROM TOP:** Bishop Kurt Burnette, Eparchy of Passaic (center) with concelebrants Deacon Paul Boboige, Father Tim Kennedy, Father Jerome Wolbert, O.F.M., Very Rev. John Basarab, and Father Vasyl Symyon at DL in Basilica Chapel; Father Vasyl Symyon delivers homily during Compline; Bishop Kurt presiding at Compline; and Father Jerome, Bishop Kurt, and Father Vasyl.



# FIRST ANNUAL PITTSBURGH PRO-LIFE MARCH AND RALLY

Join Us on Saturday, April 18 | 11 AM - 1 PM  
 Rally | 11 AM  
 March | 12 PM  
 Schenley Plaza, 4100 Forbes Ave, Pittsburgh, PA, 15260  
 Let's celebrate Life in the city of Pittsburgh



RSVP and details:  
[pittsburghprolifemarch.com](http://pittsburghprolifemarch.com)

Want to help support our March efforts? Consider donating!

Checks can be made out to "People Concerned for the Unborn Child" and sent to 3050 Pioneer Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA, 15226

Or an online donation can be made on our march website, scan the QR code below.

Scan the QR Code for RSVP and other details



### KEYNOTE SPEAKERS



**David Bereit**  
 Founder, 40 Days for Life



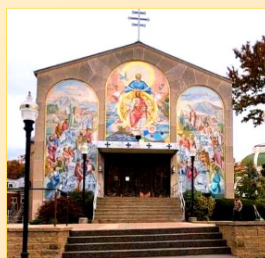
**Lydia Taylor Davis**  
 Spokesperson, Students for Life of America

**Holy Spirit Byzantine Catholic Church**  
 4815 Fifth Avenue, Pittsburgh

and the Archeparchy of Pittsburgh Pro-Life Office

Moleben (Prayer Service) for the Sacredness of Life and Supplication for the Victims of Abortion

Friday, April 17  
 at 6:30 pm



On the eve of the



<https://www.pittsburghprolifemarch.com/>

## Byzantine Catholic Seminary Annual Lecture

Story continued from page 1

Rutgers University (B.A. 1966; M.A. 1967), Princeton University (M.A. 1969; Ph.D. 1972), and Harvard University (Society of Fellows 1976).

He is a member of the Harvard University Society of Fellows (1976). Professor Magosci has taught at Harvard University, the Hebrew University in Jerusalem, Prešov University in Slovakia, and on five occasions was historian-in-residence at the Max Planck Institute for Social Anthropology in Halle, Germany. In 1996 he was appointed a permanent fellow of the Royal Society of Canada — Canadian Academies of Arts, Humanities, and Sciences, and has been awarded honorary degrees from Prešov University in Slovakia (doctor honoris causa, 2013) and from Kamianets-Podilskiy National University in Ukraine (pochesnyi profesor, 2015).

Dr. Magosci is interested in the history of nationalism, in particular among ethnic groups living in border areas. He has published in the fields of history, sociolinguistics, bibliography, cartography and immigration

studies.

The annual lecture series is sponsored by the Byzantine Catholic Seminary of SS. Cyril and Methodius in Pittsburgh, Pa., a community of mentors, teachers, and students living and working in an ecumenical environment of Christian unity, integrity, and missionary spirit.

Founded in 1950, the Byzantine Catholic Seminary of SS. Cyril and Methodius is a free-standing, English speaking theological seminary, welcoming all those seeking the knowledge possessed by the Eastern ecclesial traditions. We are authorized to grant graduate degrees by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and accredited by the Commission on Accrediting of the Association of Theological Schools.

We offer the following degree programs approved by the Commission on Accrediting: Master of Divinity; Master of Arts in Theology.

We operate as a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization incorporated in Pennsylvania, and are governed by a Board of Directors under the leadership of the Metropolitan Archbishop of Pittsburgh. ■



## 19<sup>th</sup> EGG

# EggSTRAVAGANZA

SUNDAY, MARCH 22, 2026  
 12:00 NOON – 4:00pm

St. John the Baptist Byzantine Catholic Church Social Hall

201 E. Main Street Uniontown, PA

For info call: 724-438-1382 (Leave message)  
[www.stjohnbaptist-byzcatch-uniontown.org](http://www.stjohnbaptist-byzcatch-uniontown.org)



"Experience the traditions"



- Egg artists will demonstrate, display and sell eggs
- Market place with pysanky supplies, Easter items, Easter crafts, basket covers and other ethnic items
- Children's activities including storytelling, making Easter eggs, other projects
- Display of Easter basket covers
- Lenten Lunch Menu available for purchase
- Hands-on workshop for those interested in learning to make pysanky
- Extensive Bake Sale Table
- Free Admission
- Handicapped accessible



Sponsored by Egg Artists, GCU of St. John's, St. John's Ethnic Craft Club



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

Degree options are offered both online and on campus.

Catholic • Ecumenical • Flexible  
 Affordable • Prestigious • Spiritually Enriching  
 Rooted in ancient Christianity

To begin M.A.T. program in upcoming summer semester, application deadline is April 20.

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

- Dogmatics
- Liturgy
- Sacred Scripture

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





**EARLY BIRD (BEFORE APRIL 1) & SIBLING DISCOUNT \$350**

**Registration Opens JANUARY 2026**

**“TAKE COURAGE! I HAVE OVERCOME THE WORLD.” JOHN 16:33**

**JULY 9-12 2026**

**FULL PRICE \$380 AFTER APRIL 1**

**JOHN CARROLL UNIVERSITY CLEVELAND OHIO**

The **Intereparchial Youth Commission** warmly invites all **TEENS (ages 13 through high school)** to join us at the **ByzanTEEN Rally 2026!**

**“Take Courage! I have overcome the world.” — John 16:33**

Get ready for four unforgettable days of faith, friends, and fun! The ByzanTEEN Rally will be held July 9–12, 2026, at **John Carroll University in Cleveland, Ohio** (Eparchy of Parma).

The rally is open to **participants who are 13 years old by the beginning of the Rally, through high school.**

**Registration Fee (includes all meals, housing, and programming):**

Early Bird (before April 1) and Sibling Discount: **\$350**  
After April 1 (full price): **\$380**

**Payments may be submitted ONLINE at the end of the sign-up form, or by CHECK** made payable to

“ByzanTEEN Rally 2026” and mailed to:

ByzanTEEN Youth Rally 2026  
Byzantine Catholic Archeparchy of Pittsburgh  
66 Riverview Ave  
Pittsburgh, PA 15214

**The registration deadline is Friday, May 15, 2026.**

**Question?** Email [byzanteenrally@gmail.com](mailto:byzanteenrally@gmail.com)

**Additional Information (more details to come):**

■ **University Website:** John Carroll University | John Carroll University

■ **Campus address:** 1 John Carroll Boulevard, University Heights, Ohio 44118

■ **Arrival & Registration:** Thursday, July 9, 3:00–4:30 PM (precise location TBA)

■ **Departure** from the ByzanTEEN Rally site: Sunday, July 12, after 11:00 AM

**REGISTRATION is OPEN NOW!** Want to sign up? Use the forms below:

**PARTICIPANTS**  
<https://form.jotform.com/YouthArchPitt/byzanteen-rally-2026-participant-fo>

**VOLUNTEERS/CHAPERONES:**  
<https://form.jotform.com/YouthArchPitt/byzanteen-rally-2026-volunteers-for>

**CLERGY/RELIGIOUS:**  
<https://form.jotform.com/YouthArchPitt/byzanteen-rally-2026-clergy-and-rel>  
We can't wait to celebrate, connect, and grow with you at ByzanTEEN Rally 2026!

**Would you like to support ByzanTEEN Rally financially? Use this form:** <https://archpitt.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/11/Donation-form-ByzanTEEN-RALLY-2026-Archeparchy-of-Pittsburgh.pdf> ■

REFLECTION FROM MOUNT ST. MACRINA

## Bring every need to the Holy Cross

By Sister Barbara Jean Mihalchick, OSBM



Sister Barbara Jean Mihalchick posts videos of her reflections each week on the Facebook page of the Sisters of St. Basil the Great at <https://www.facebook.com/sistersofstbasil.uniontown>.

This is a transcript of her March 21, 2025 reflection.

Glory to Jesus Christ!

We come now to the precious week of the Holy Cross of Our Lord God and Savior, Jesus Christ.

This week in our Lenten journey is meant to strengthen us and renew our trust in our life of grace by remembering the all-powerful moment as the Lord of Glory offers Himself totally.

It is this sacrifice that matters to all the world, to all of history, to every life. Every person created participated in this victorious moment.

It is the moment of the greatest victory and the source of all the graces that have ever worked and lived and happened in the people of God in the world.

In the times we live in, then, let us be encouraged to bring every need to this Holy Cross.

In our minds, in our prayers, in our sacrifices, in every act of trust – come to the foot of the Cross. God's power is here.

One remembrance in the Triodion, our prayer book for the Great Fast:

*“Oh, Lord, you assisted David in battle to overcome the godless ones with the weapon of your cross.*

*Help us to drive back our enemies. Show us your love, as you did before, so the people might know in truth that you are our God and that our victory comes from You.*

*Your Mother intercedes unceasingly that we may be granted Your great mercy.”*

Our Holy Mother prays for us that we could open our hearts to these graces of mercy and that we would be faithful to trusting in the victories of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

God bless you. ■

## Pittsburgh Protopresbytery Penitential Vespers

### The Sundays of the Great Fast 2026

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES AT 4 P.M.

The Protopresbytery of the City of Pittsburgh of our Byzantine Catholic Archeparchy will hold its annual cycle of the Order of Vespers on Sunday evenings during the Great Fast from Feb. 22 to March 22.

Every Sunday afternoon during the Great Fast, clergy and laity from all over the Deanery come together in a different parish to participate in the sacrament of Reconciliation at 3:30 p.m. and to pray the Vespers at 4 p.m.

Each Vespers is followed by a social hour focused on a meager meal of fast-friendly meatless soup. This is a wonderful opportunity for prayer, penance, self-denial, fellowship, and to gather with fellow travelers in the Great Fast, spiritually preparing us on our way to receive the Lord in the Feast of Feasts, Great and Holy Pascha on April 5.

Please consult the schedule below if you or someone you know would like to attend:

SUNDAY, MARCH 8

**Holy Ghost Church**

225 Olivia St., McKees Rocks, Pa. 15136

Homilist: Father Vitalii Stashkevych

SUNDAY, MARCH 15

**SS. Peter and Paul Church**

431 George St., Braddock, Pa. 15104

Homilist: Very Rev. Frank Firko

SUNDAY, MARCH 22

**St. Pius X Church**

2336 Brownsville Road, Pittsburgh, Pa. 15210

Homilist: Father Valerian Michlik



# Blessed, buttered, busy

PIROHI WORKERS AT ASSUMPTION OF THE MOTHER OF GOD IN WEIRTON, W. VA.

Story continued from page 1

volunteer John Lesho (see photo at right), whose decades of service include countless hours in the kitchen. There, he is famous for helping boil and butter pirohi while performing kitchen duties during nut roll and paska sales, too.

Known for his friendly demeanor and infectious smile, John never has met a stranger and has made countless friends throughout his lifetime of service. Now in his early 80s, he shows no signs of slowing down.

“We love having John in the kitchen,” Michelle Guglielmo, Altar Society president, said.

“He is a charming and energetic person dedicated to his faith, family and community.”

In addition, John is well-known for his commitment to his family and his successful career at Weirton Steel, as well as his many contributions to Weirton Madonna High School. In 2024, he was inducted into the school’s Hall of Fame, which honors individuals whose achievements and commitment have made a lasting impact on the institution.

Recognized in the category of Coaching Excellence, John mentored student-athletes for 52 years in various capacities including those in football, track and boys basketball at Madonna; T-ball and Little League; and parochial grade school basketball.

He helped them not only develop their athletic skills but also encouraged them to learn and display discipline, responsibility and strong character.

A 1959 graduate of Madonna, John also is a recipient of the school’s “Juiceman Award,” an honor recognizing dedication, service and commitment to the school and its programs.

The award is presented annually to an individual who exemplifies the spirit of hard work and selfless contribution. He was recognized for his involvement and positive impact, earning praise from peers and the Madonna community alike.

With his steel mill and coaching days behind him, John devotes his time to his wife Marianne (aka “Babe”), their three children and their five grandchildren.

And, of course, to his wonderful St. Mary’s family! Mnohaja l’ita, John! ■



**BUTTER UP!** John Lesho displays another batch of pirohi he’s just finished dousing with butter — fresh from the kitchen and ready to be packed and sold.



## Upcoming events at the House of Prayer at Trinity Center



The following events will take place at Mount St. Macrina, 510 W. Main St., Uniontown, Pa.

Events now take place in the Trinity Center, the former Servants’ Quarters and Stables of the J.V. Thompson Estate.

To register for programs or more information, call 724-438-7149 or email [hpmsm@verizon.net](mailto:hpmsm@verizon.net).

■ **Spiritual Reading Series: *The Forgotten Desert Mothers*:** 10:30 a.m.-noon March 4, 11, 18, 25. Presenter is Sister Barbara Jean Mihalchick, OSBM. Offering: \$20 per session. Online: \$15 per session.

■ **Lenten Retreat Morning:** 9:15 a.m.-1 p.m. Saturday, March 7. Presenter is Rev. Kevin Marks. Includes: Conference, Reflection Time, Sacrament of reconciliation, Prayer Service, and Lunch. Materials provided. Offering: \$45. Registration due: March 2.

■ **Pascha Bread Making Retreat:** 9:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Monday, March 23. Presenter is Sister Carol Petrasovich, OSBM. Space limited. Offering: \$35. Registration due: March 16.

■ **Morning Retreat:** 10 a.m.-1:15 p.m. Saturday, March 28. Presenter is Andy Cannizzaro. A presentation drawing upon Catholic Social Teaching, the Gospel of Life, and how we can honor human dignity. Includes: Conference, Discussion, Lunch, and Music by Carolyn Cannizzaro. Offering: \$45. Registration due: March 23.

■ **Centering Art Workshop:** 9:45 a.m.- 1 p.m. Saturday, April 25. Presenter is artist Nancy McChesney, MA. using simple components of movement, meditative imaging, and watercolor. Materials provided. Includes lunch. Offering: \$45. Registration due: April 17.

■ **Icon Writing Retreat:** 4 p.m. Friday, May 15 to 3 p.m. Sunday, May 17. Led by Marylyn Barone. Icon of St. Photina, the Samaritan Woman. Materials, meals, and overnight accommodations provided. Space limited. Commuters welcome. Offering: \$425. Commuters: \$375. Registration due: May 8. ■



## Committed to our Byzantine roots

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST IN PITTSBURGH (SOUTH SIDE), PA. CELEBRATES 125 YEARS

*By Beverly Rebovich  
St. John the Baptist,  
Pittsburgh (South Side), Pa.*

2025 marked the 125th anniversary of St. John the Baptist Byzantine Catholic Church in Pittsburgh (South Side), Pa.

This special occasion was celebrated on Oct. 26, 2025. The day's event began at 3 p.m. with parishioners Barbara and Beverley Rebovich presenting Archbishop William C. Skurla with the symbols of hospitality: bread, salt, and key.

This was followed by a Hierarchical Divine Liturgy. Concelebrants included the Very Rev. Andrew Deskevich, current pastor Father Tyler Wisniewski, Father Robert Oravetz, Father Valerian Michlik, Very Rev. Ronald Barusefski, and Very Rev. Frank Firko.

We were blessed to have several clergy present. We were especially pleased to host our former pastors, Monsignor Alexis Mihalik, Father Miron Kerul'-Kmec, and parish vocation, Father Robert Oravetz.

Many of our seminarians helped serve and cantor at the liturgy. At the conclusion of the liturgy, Archbishop William blessed new tetrapod icons of St. John the Baptist for the parish.

It was wonderful to see so many parishioners, past and present, and their families. This outpouring of love and support for our parish reinforces the strong commitment to our Byzantine roots.

From our humble beginnings in 1891, parishioners met at a residence near 10th and Sarah Streets to worship. In 1901, the parish purchased St. Casimir's Lithuanian Roman Catholic Church at 613 E. Carson St. That was our parish home until 1958.

We then moved to our current location at 1720 Jane St. The first liturgy was celebrated on Christmas Eve 1958.

The interior of the church is adorned with a modified version of the original icon screen and a crystal chandelier. It remains the only non-electric chandelier still in use in the Metropolia. Another unique feature of our church is the "Church Unity" ceiling mural. It was painted by Stephen Juharos

*Story continued from page 8*





Story continued from page 7

of Sedona, Ariz., in 1966. It was inspired by the Second Vatican Council's emphasis on Church Unity.

Following the liturgy, we traveled to Cefalo's Event Hall in Carnegie. There we enjoyed a cocktail hour followed by a delicious banquet buffet dinner.

We were very honored to have Father Robert Oravetz and Father Tyler Wisniewski speak about our church and its rich history.

The entire day was perfect from beginning to end. We were blessed with beautiful weather and are so grateful to everyone who assisted in bringing this event to fruition.

We are especially grateful to Father Tyler, who spearheaded this celebration and ensured its success.

In closing, we thank everyone who attended or who could not attend but supported us. Special thanks to Father Elias Rafaj who was assigned to our parish in 1999. He brought new life to our parish family, organized our 100th anniversary, and led the renovation of the church interior.

We also remember our deceased members and clergy, especially +Monsignor Ernest Dunda, +Monsignor Raymond Balta, and +Rev. Father Thomas Schaefer who were so important in our spiritual formation. May God grant them eternal rest. May God grant our parishioners many blessed years. ■



Photos by Jerry Wutkowski



ST. JOSEPH IN TORONTO, OHIO

# Paska and Potica Sale

The Protection of the Most Holy Theotokos Guild of St Joseph Byzantine Catholic Church in Toronto, Ohio will be sponsoring their annual Paska and Potica Sale.

We will be taking orders from through March 31. The potica are \$15 each and selections of fillings are: plain walnut, walnut with raisin, poppyseed or apricot.

The paska comes in large which are \$20 each or small at \$10 each. The selection are plain or with golden raisins. ■



# Celebrating Theophany

By Nancy Doerr  
St. Joseph, Toronto, Ohio

St. Joseph Byzantine Catholic Church in Toronto, Ohio held a Valentine Pre-Lenten covered dish social after the Divine

Liturgy on Saturday, Feb. 14.

Parishioners gathered in our social hall where they could share a meal and good company before preparing for the Great Lent. A good time and good food was shared by all. ■



ST. GEORGE IN ALIQUIPPA, PA.

# Trivial pursuit

By Jackie Pinchot  
St. George, Aliquippa, Pa.

St. George in Aliquippa, Pa. hosted an adult trivia night in the newly renovated area of the social hall on Friday, Jan. 16.

The evening began with Great Vespers for St. Anthony the Great at 6 p.m. followed by a great team trivia event and snacks in the social hall.

Seven teams battled through four rounds of questions as Holden Marks served as the

master of ceremonies.

Father Anthony Costantino served as the scorekeeper while the St. George Men's Guild served beverages and snacks.

The prizes for the winning team were gift certificates to the St. George Church Store and a dozen pirohi, donated by the St. George Ladies Guild.

Follow the St. George Facebook page (Saint George Byzantine Catholic Church in Aliquippa, Pa.) for upcoming events. ■



ST. ELIAS IN MUNHALL, PA.

# Feast of the Encounter

St. Elias in Munhall, Pa. celebrated liturgy for the Feast of the Encounter.

Father Vitalii Stashkevych blessed candles for parishioners to take home, as is traditional for this feast day. ■



# Preparing for the Great Fast

It was a busy time following the Sunday, Feb. 15 Divine Liturgy at St. Elias in Munhall, Pa., as a Donut Sunday Social for the day before the Great Fast took place.

Then, there was a meeting of all those working the Famous St. Elias Fish Fry which starts on Friday!

There was also another day of pirohi making to make sure there are enough of these delicious dumplings! ■



St Elias Church:  
4200 Homestead-Duquesne Rd  
Munhall, PA 15120

**Mark your calendar:**

- Friday February 20<sup>th</sup>
- Friday February 27<sup>th</sup>
- Friday March 6<sup>th</sup>
- Friday March 13<sup>th</sup>
- Friday March 20<sup>th</sup>
- Friday March 27<sup>th</sup>

FROM  
11:30 AM TO 6:00 PM



**Fish sandwich \* Fish dinners  
Shrimp dinners \* Halusky  
Pirohi \* Csoroge \* Baked goods**



FOR PRE-ORDERS  
412-461-1712

**TAKE OUT & DINE-IN**

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST CATHEDRAL IN MUNHALL, PA.

# Sunday of Forgiveness

Very Rev. Andrew Deskevitch celebrated Vespers on the Sunday of Forgiveness (Cheesefare Sunday) on Feb. 15 at the St. John the Baptist Cathedral in Munhall,

Pa. A Lenten meal followed the service in the lower level of the church ■



Photos by Nick Havrilla Sr.

SS. PETER AND PAUL IN TARENTUM, PA.

# Feast of the Encounter

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

Each year, the Church celebrates the Feast of the Encounter of Our Lord, known in the Western tradition as the Presentation of the Lord. While both names refer to the same Gospel event, the Eastern Christian tradition highlights a profound spiritual insight: this Feast is not only about what Mary and Joseph do for the Child Jesus, but about what God Himself does for humanity.

In the Gospel, Mary and Joseph bring the infant Jesus to the Temple in Jerusalem to fulfill the Law. This action — often emphasized in the word “presentation” — shows the faithfulness and obedience of His

parents. Yet the Feast of the Encounter draws our attention even deeper. It reminds us that although Jesus appears as a helpless child, He is already fully God, acting freely and powerfully.

In this moment, God Himself comes to meet His people.

This encounter is embodied most clearly in the figure of Simeon. The Gospel describes him as a righteous and devout man who had spent his life waiting for the consolation of Israel. When he takes the Child into his arms, Simeon recognizes what others do not: this infant is the long-awaited Savior, the Light revealed to the nations. His words, “Now You may dismiss Your servant in peace,” are not words of resignation, but of fulfillment. Having met Christ, Simeon lacks nothing more.

This moment offers a special blessing and encouragement for all faithful people — especially those striving to live holy and noble lives. Simeon teaches us that holiness is not measured by public recognition or dramatic accomplishments, but by patient

faithfulness and openness to God’s promises. His encounter with Christ crowns a lifetime of quiet trust.

The words “Now You may dismiss...” have also become deeply rooted in the prayer life of the Church. Known as the Canticle of Simeon, they are prayed regularly during Vespers, the evening prayer of the Church. At SS. Peter and Paul in Tarentum, Pa. this ancient hymn reminds us that every Sunday celebration begins already on Saturday evening, when the Church gathers to give thanks and to prepare spiritually for the Lord’s Day. By encouraging participation in Vespers, the Feast of the Encounter gently invites the faithful to rediscover the richness of this traditional rhythm of prayer.

Another powerful element of



this feast is the blessing of candles, a custom that reaches back many centuries. Candles symbolize Christ as the true Light of the world — the One who enlightens our minds, warms our hearts, and sanctifies our souls. The blessing and distribution of candles at the conclusion of the

celebration is not merely symbolic; it carries a clear message. Christ’s light is not meant to remain only within church walls, but to be carried into our homes and daily lives.

By taking these blessed candles home, families are encouraged to strengthen their “domestic churches,” gathering for prayer, especially during moments of joy, struggle, or uncertainty. In this way, the Feast of the Encounter continues beyond a single day, shaping the spiritual life of households and the wider parish community.

At SS. Peter and Paul this feast reminds us that every liturgy is an encounter — between heaven and earth, between God and His people.

Like Simeon, we are invited to recognize Christ when He comes to us, to welcome His light, and to live in the peace that only such a meeting can bring. ■



ASSUMPTION OF THE MOTHER OF GOD IN WEIRTON, W.VA.

# Faith, Fašiangy, friends!

By Michelle Guglielmo and Faye Hvizdzak  
Assumption of the Mother of God, Weirton, W. Va.

St. Mary's Church in Weirton, W.Va., and its parishioners gathered joyfully on Meatfare Sunday to celebrate Fašiangy, a pre-Lenten party and luncheon.

This beloved tradition offers the community an opportunity to come together for one final full meal — complete with meats, side dishes and desserts — before entering the Great Fast, a period of more intense prayer, fasting and spiritual preparation leading up to Pascha and the celebration of the Resurrection.

Following the Divine Liturgy, parishioners and guests enjoyed a delicious meal prepared by Altar Society members, who once again did a fantastic job providing food and hospitality for all. Their hard work and generosity helped create a warm, welcoming atmosphere that reflected the spirit of the day. This year's Fašiangy also coincided with "Bring a Friend" Sunday, an invitation for parishioners to welcome a family member, friend or neighbor — regardless of religious background — to celebrate the Byzantine Catholic Divine Liturgy together.

Guests had the opportunity to experience the richness of the Byzantine tradition through its prayers, hymns and Scripture readings, which make the liturgy so distinctive and prayerful.

Father Luke Iyengar spoke about the importance of the day, noting that it highlights the communal nature of faith.

"When we gather to worship and to share a meal, we are reminded that our faith is not lived in isolation," Father Luke said.

"These moments bring us together in unity with Christ and His Church, strengthening our bonds with one another."

He added that welcoming guests is also an opportunity for evangelization.

"You never know," he said, "if one of these friends may be inspired to join us again — or even become part of our parish family."

Fašiangy served not only as a joyful celebration, but also as a meaningful transition into the Great Fast, reminding all in attendance that the journey toward Pascha is best undertaken together, as a community rooted in faith, fellowship and love. ■



ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST IN UNIONTOWN, PA.

# January birthday recognition

January birthday celebrants were recognized with a light meal and refreshments on Saturday, Jan. 17 after the evening Divine Liturgy at St. John the Baptist in

Uniontown, Pa.

St. John Social Ministry group offered pizza, snacks, and a delicious homemade birthday cake. ■



SS. CYRIL AND METHODIUS IN GIRARD, PA.

# 48th annual Pro-Life Breakfast

By Vic Wheeler  
SS. Cyril and Methodius, Girard, Pa.

The 48th annual Pro-Life Breakfast was held at the Bayfront Convention Center in Erie, Pa. on Jan. 17. SS. Cyril and Methodius in Girard, Pa., served by Father John J. Mihalco, sponsored a table.

The guest speaker was Lydia Taylor Davis, the National Spokesperson for Students for Life in America. her mission is like the late Charlie Kirk's. She travels across the country visiting college campuses. She is a young and passionate speaker in the defense for life.

The list of political speakers was very impressive with several solid pro-life individuals.

The first was Jondavid "JD" Longo, mayor of Slippery Rock, Pa., followed by State Rep. Brad Roae (6th Legislative District).

Next, U.S. Rep. Mike Kelly (16th Congressional District).

Finally, there was a video presentation from U.S. Sen. David McCormick. His presentation left no doubt about his strong commitment to defend all issues for the value of life!

All speakers resonated with their strong support for the value of life.

Rep. Kelly has been a regular speaker over the years and a very passionate supporter for the defense of Pro-Life issues.

He concluded his presentation with a very common-sense analysis for the defense of protecting life.

He stated that since we are celebrating the 250th anniversary of our nation, Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness are very important! Because you cannot enjoy Liberty or Happiness without Life!

There were about 550 individuals who attended this year's breakfast. Tim Broderick, spokesperson for People for Life in Erie, did a fantastic job in the planning of this year's event.

The line-up of speakers and all the year-long coordinating work of activities and rallies speak well of Tim's dedication and professional attention to details.

Anyone interested in attending next year's event is encouraged to call Tim at People for Life in Erie and join in any event. ■



**BYZANTINE DIVINE LITURGY**

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

**OR via Internet: click "Listen Live" link at**  
[www.holyghost-byzantinecatholic.org](http://www.holyghost-byzantinecatholic.org)



ST. GREGORY IN UPPER ST. CLAIR, PA.

# Valentine's Day celebration

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

Sunday, Feb. 8 was a busy day at St. Gregory in Upper St. Clair, Pa.

At the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy, our dear parishioner Mr. John Tomko was honored on his 90th birthday by our parish family. We offer our best wishes and sincere thanks to Mr. Tomko for his many years of love, service, and dedication to our Byzantine Catholic Archeparchy of Pittsburgh and to our St. Gregory's parish family. Mnohaja Lita!

In anticipation of St. Valentine's Day our church hall was decorated and ready for this year's St. Valentine Party. In the

beginning of our celebration, our ECF Teacher Mrs. Dawn Mostowy shared with us the life of this famous Third Century priest-martyr Valentine.

Afterwards, our ECF students were ready to make St. Valentine crafts, and Valentine jewelry. The photo booth was a big hit and enjoyed by all. We also worked on St. Valentine cards for all our retired priests, religious, and homebound parishioners.

Our St. Gregory's Men's Club also gathered in the parish library to discuss and review this past year and map out the New Year ahead. It was truly a beautiful Sunday for our parish family as we honored the patron saint of love. ■



# Comedy Night 2026

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

All was ready for this year's Comedy Night 2026. Parishioners and friends of St. Gregory's packed the church hall for this pre-Lenten event that has been a great success for the past 16 years.

The evening opened with David Kaye, Pittsburgh's King of Comedy and a good friend of St. Gregory's.

We all enjoyed Sean Collier and Michael Harrison, comedians who were both hilarious with

their clean humor and made it a perfect funny fundraiser for our parish family.

As part of this evening a birthday cake was presented to our parishioner John Tomko who just celebrated his 90th birthday.

The evening concluded announcing the winners of our various raffles. A big thank you to all our dedicated parishioners and patrons of this pre-Lenten event. ■





ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST IN UNIONTOWN, PA.

All stories by Julia Pillar and Bonnie Balas

# St. Nicholas Celebration

A morning Divine Liturgy was held to celebrate St. Nicholas Day.

A newly-acquired St. Nicholas processional banner was blessed prior to the Liturgy and was displayed in the church, which

added to the meaning of the Feast Day.

At the Saturday evening Liturgy, a new set of white vestments were blessed which were donated in memory of Helen Ponzurick. ■



# St. Nicholas Children's Party

The ECF children, parents, and staff, along with Father Kyprian Wojciechowski and wife, Emily, enjoyed a Chick-fil-A meal with St. Nicholas, portrayed by parishioner Dennis Schifko.

Dr. Matthew Miner, cantor, led

traditional carols with all.

As a service project, children, parents, and ECF staff joined together to make stand-up Christmas cards for the parish homebound. ■



# Christmas Craft, Bake Sale

The annual Christmas Craft and Bake Sale took place on the weekend of Dec. 6 to 7.

Many raffle prizes, along with delicious baked items and long rolls donated by parishioners were available, as well as Christmas crafts made by St. John Ethnic Craft Club.

Mark Jesko set up a Nativity

display in memory of the late Robert Morgan, who initiated the project.

In addition to a demonstration of pysanky-style tree ornaments by Mark Jesko, Julie Pillar displayed her Szopka, a Polish-style nativity which she made to recognize her Polish Heritage. ■



# Giving to the community

The Thanksgiving Food Drive yielded many non-perishable items, as well as monetary donations which were given to the Uniontown City Mission.

Toys were also collected to give

to children in the City Mission shelters for Christmas.

In addition, an Angel Tree Project provided over 70 gifts to needy children through the Salvation Army. ■



ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST IN UNIONTOWN, PA.

All stories by Julia Pillar and Bonnie Balas

# Decorating the Church

The ECF children, teachers, and parents helped to decorate the trees in the church with handmade icon ornaments on Dec. 21.

On Dec. 23, volunteer

parishioners and Father Kyprian Wojciechowski uniquely arranged poinsettias, garlands, and wreaths to accompany the large Nativity Icon. ■



# December birthday recognition

On Dec. 20, after the Saturday evening Divine Liturgy, the December Birthday Social was held.

St. John Social Ministry Group

provided croissant sandwiches, salads, snacks, and a cake.

The Christmas Basket Raffle was awarded to parishioner Michael Patishnock. ■



# Christ is born! Glorify Him!

On Christmas Eve night, Father Kyprian Wojciechowski celebrated Great Compline with Divine Liturgy.

On Christmas morning, a Divine Liturgy was celebrated. It was wonderful to hear our beautiful traditional carols sung in English and Slavonic, led by

cantors Matthew Miner, Steve Petruska, and David Vensko.

A special thank you to Uniontown Home Depot, Uniontown Lowe's, Patricia Bandish and all those who donated towards the poinsettias and other decorations. ■



# Celebrating Theophany

The Great Blessing of Holy Water took place at the morning Divine Liturgy on Jan. 6.

As Father Kyprian Wojciechowski circled the church to bless it, he also sprinkled those in attendance with Holy Water.

Afterwards, parishioners remained to get a drink of holy water served by Father Kyprian.

After hearing the account of Theophany in ECF class, the students reenacted the baptism of Jesus in the Jordan. ■





## THOUGHTS FOR OUR DAY

By Archpriest David M. Petras

### THE REWARD OF A PRIEST



At the end of the second prayer for the ordination to the presbyterate, there is an invocation (Greek, *epiclesis*) specifically for the man being ordained. The bishop prays, "In your great goodness, grant that he may receive the reward of good stewardship in his order, when he will meet the second coming of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ, your only-begotten Son." A petition of this kind ends all the sacramental ordinations. For the deacon, the bishop prays, "Grant that he, being free from all sin, may stand blamelessly before you and receive the unfailing reward of your promise." and for the bishop, the petition is, "may he stand unashamed before your throne and receive the great reward which you have prepared for those who struggle for the preaching of your Gospel." This is a recognition of our humanity, and of the fact that by being ordained and receiving the gift of the Holy Spirit, one does not cease to be a human being who depends on God for "all generous giving and every perfect gift" (James 1:17).

Receiving the gift of the Holy Spirit in ordination, being enabled to serve among the people of God, is a kind of stewardship, of taking care of those entrusted to his ministry. No one can do this by their own power, but only by the grace of God. It requires the gift of integrity, which is being honest to the truth, and of being open and humble for the kingdom of God to work in the human reality. As every baptized human person, the priest also must be willing to accept the will of God for his life

and for the lives of the people. Therefore, we all pray daily more than once, "Our Father in heaven, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven." This alone is integrity.

The priest, of course, is not a priest because of own merits, but because he shares in the priesthood of Christ. The Lord describes his own priesthood, "A thief comes only to steal and slaughter and destroy; I came so that they might have life and have it more abundantly. I am the good shepherd. A good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep" (John 10:10-11). The priest is a steward

**The reality is that the priest must imitate Christ, since he shares in his priesthood. He must be willing to give his life for the people given to his care.**

and shepherd of God's grace in two ways, first, in the sacramental mysteries celebrated for the people, by enabling the presence of God and of his power among them. Second, as the shepherd guides his sheep, the priest must be a model of Christian life and a facilitator of God's will in the community of faith.

Jesus knew that the image of "shepherd" as a description of the faith leaders of the people is

found in the prophets Isaiah and Jeremiah. Isaiah says, "Like a shepherd [the Lord God] feeds his flock; in his arms he gathers the lambs, carrying them in his bosom, leading the ewes with care" (Isaiah 40:11). The authorities should imitate God, but Jesus also knows, as Isaiah said, they can go bad: "All the sentinels of Israel are blind .... Shepherds who have no understanding; all have turned their own way, each one covetous for gain" (Isaiah 56:10-11).

Jeremiah is even more graphic on how the shepherds (leaders) can fail: "Woe to the shepherds who destroy and scatter the flock of my pasture .... Therefore, thus says the Lord, the God of Israel, against the shepherds who shepherd my people: You have scattered my sheep and driven them away. You have not cared for them, but I will take care to punish your evil deeds" (Jeremiah 23:1-2). That is why the prayer of ordination asks that the priest may be a good steward in his order, that he might imitate the good shepherd and not bring judgment on himself.

We can ask at this point, "How can the priest fail?" The reality is that the priest must imitate Christ, since he shares in his priesthood. He must be willing to give his life for the people given to his care. At the very least, he must be aware that his position is not transactional. It is not for personal gain in return for a sacrifice. He is not a tyrant, but a servant. (This is true for all Christians to a degree.) Priests, however, are human and do fall to temptation. Some make the priesthood an office for their own glory. Some foster a personal cult for their own glory and gratification. Some steal from the funds that are given for their

management. Finally, the Church today has been severely damaged by priests who have used their vocation to seduce even children for their pleasure. This has been a factor in why some people may lose trust in the Church. However, the Lord promised that his Church will always be there as the place of God's presence. We must remain faithful, and pray always for good priests to serve the people. In the same passage where Jeremiah prophesied that there would be bad shepherds, he also recalled God's promise, "I will raise up shepherds for them who will shepherd them so that they need no longer fear or be terrified; none shall be missing" (Jeremiah 23:4).

A wise man once observed that men have basically four vocations, first, as stewards of the world in which we live, managing it to produce the goods that we may lead a good life; second, of leadership, so that we can organize human society in support of one another; third, as scientists, to unlock knowledge of the good gifts entrusted to us by God; fourth, as priests, to bring God and his people together in a holy union. This must be done in family and fellowship. If we concentrate too much on the material world, we can lose sight of the spiritual reality that surrounds us. It is the noble task of the priest to have a vision for God's people, and, so the Prayer of Ordination said by the bishop proclaims, "[Master], make this man worthy, whom you have been pleased for me to ordain, to receive the great grace of your Holy Spirit in a blameless life and unshaken faith, and to be a perfect servant pleasing you in every way." ■

## 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**  
McKee 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](http://www.facebook.com/st.michaelbyz.campbell)

**St. Elias**  
Munball, Pa.  
[www.facebook.com/StEliasByzantineCatholicChurch/](http://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. Mary**  
Bradenville, Pa.  
Go to Youtube.com and type in "St. Mary's Byzantine Media"



## AROUND THE ARCHEPARCHY



**ST. ELIAS LENTEN KITCHEN** — 11:30 a.m.-6 p.m. Fridays during the Great Fast. Save the Date for the St. Elias Lenten Kitchen! As we eagerly approach the season of Lent, mark your calendars for a delightful journey of flavors at St. Elias Lenten Kitchen! Starting Feb. 20 and continuing every Friday (excluding Great Friday), indulge in a culinary experience that transcends taste and tradition. For your convenience, we are accepting pre-orders between 10 a.m. and noon. Dial 412-461-1712 to secure your delicious Lenten feast. Credit and debit cards are gladly accepted! Don't forget to check our Facebook page regularly for updates and the unveiling of our full menu. We promise a variety of delectable options to satisfy every palate. Let St. Elias Lenten Kitchen be your go-to destination for Fridays filled with savory delights. We look forward to sharing this Lenten season with you and creating memorable moments around the table. See ad on page 9.

**ST. JOHN CHRYSOSTOM EASTER PASCHA SALE** — St. John Chrysostom, 506 Saline St., Pittsburgh (Greenfield), Pa. Delicious and traditional Pascha Bread made with the Church Babas' recipe. Round or loaf style: \$10 each. Deadline to order: March 22. Pick-up: Saturday March 28 (11:30 a.m.- 4 p.m.) or Palm Sunday, March 29 (11:30 a.m.- 1:30 p.m.). To order call Kevin 412-480-5295 or email: kevin@kberes.com.

**ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST PIROHI SALE** — St. John the Baptist Byzantine Catholic Church, 201 E. Main Street, Uniontown, Pa. is having pirohi sale for take- out only. Available are Potato/Cheese, Sauerkraut (cooked or frozen), or Prune (lekvar - frozen only); at \$11 per dozen. Orders may be placed by calling 724-434-5355 Mondays to Wednesdays for Friday pick-up. Specify type(s), number of dozens, and leave name, phone number, and time of pick up which will be Friday 9 a.m. to noon in church parking lot in back of school.

**ST. PIUS X LENTEN PIEROGI SALE** — Noon-4 p.m. Feb. 20, 27 and March 6, 13, 20, 27, St. Pius X, 2336 Brownsville Road, Carrick, Pa. Pierogi will be sold frozen and cooked. Prices per dozen: potato cheese, \$13 cooked and \$11 frozen; cottage cheese, \$16 cooked and \$15 frozen; sauerkraut, \$14 cooked and \$12 frozen; sweet cabbage, \$10 frozen; and lekvar, \$16 frozen.

**HOLY GHOST PIROHI** — Holy Ghost Church in McKees Rocks will be selling our award-winning pirohi for six weeks prior to Palm Sunday this year. Sale dates are Feb. 20, 27 and March 6, 13, 20 and 27. Prices are the same as last year – but may be subject to change: Potato with cheese, \$12 per dozen; and Kraut or Farmers' Cheese, \$13 per dozen. New this year: Jalapeño, \$15 per dozen. Check weekly by phone for availability. To guarantee availability (especially for Kraut and Jalapeño), orders should be placed between 9 a.m. and noon on 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"!

**PASKA AND POTICA SALE** — The Protection of the Most Holy Theotokos Guild of St Joseph Byzantine Catholic Church in Toronto, Ohio will be sponsoring their annual Paska and Potica Sale. We will be taking orders from February 16, 2026 to March 31, 2026. The potica are \$15.00 each, selections of fillings are plain walnut, walnut with raisin, poppyseed or apricot. The paska comes in large which are \$20.00 each or small at \$10.00 each. The selection are plain or with golden raisins.

**19th EGG EGGSTRAVAGANZA**—Noon-4 p.m. Sunday, March 22, St. John Byzantine Catholic Church Social Hall, 201 E. Main St., Uniontown, Pa. Egg artists display, demonstrate, and sell decorated eggs, Easter items (embroidered basket covers, lamb butter molds, decorated candles), parish cookbook, and crafts for purchase, children's Easter theme activities, explanation of traditional Easter foods for basket blessing, Lenten lunch menu, baked goods (including long rolls and more), workshop on making pysanky, raffles and basket raffles, and more. Free admission. Handicapped accessible. For info: call 724-438-1382 (Leave message.) Check parish website for any updates: <http://www.stjohnbaptist-byzocath-uniontown.org/>.

### DATES TO REMEMBER



#### MARCH 7

Pre-Cana 2026  
Byzantine Catholic Seminary of SS. Cyril and Methodius  
*Pittsburgh, Pa.*

#### MARCH 8

Third Sunday of the Great Fast  
Veneration of the Holy Cross

Daylight Savings Time begins  
*Turn clocks forward one hour at 2 a.m.*

#### MARCH 20

First day of Spring

#### MARCH 29

Palm Sunday — Entrance of our Lord into Jerusalem

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

**WORLD**  
THE BYZANTINE CATHOLIC

Official publication of the  
Byzantine Catholic  
Archeparchy of Pittsburgh

**Byzantine Catholic Press  
Associates**

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

**NEXT ISSUE:**  
**APRIL 2026**

**SUBMISSIONS  
DEADLINE:**  
**MARCH 17**