

FEBRUARY 2018

GCU

MAGAZINE

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George N. Juba
President
CEO

Looking Back Moving Forward

The year 2017 was most historic for the GCU as we celebrated our 125th anniversary! Our thank you to each of the Lodges and District's that hosted events to honor the founders and the many individuals over the years that contributed to the financial and fraternal successes of our Society. On February 14th the GCU will be celebrating our 126th anniversary. It's hard to believe that another year has passed by so quickly.

In addition to the anniversary celebration, we have many financial and fraternal achievements in 2017 to be very proud of! We are in the process of completing our 2017 year-end financial statements. The GCU continues to experience excellent growth in assets and surplus along with record profitability. Assets through year end 2017 total \$ 1.712 billion representing a 10.5% annual growth while surplus now stands at \$134.8 million. Year-end profits after refunds to members and capital losses are projected at \$26.8 million, the main factor contributing to our surplus growth. A full detailed report of the GCU's year end 2017 financial statements will be presented by our Chief Financial Officer Tim Demetres in the April Annual Report issue of the *GCU Magazine*.

The GCU Board of Directors recently authorized Kroll Bond Rating Agency (KBRA) to conduct a review and analysis of the GCU's financial position and operations. We are pleased to announce that the Board has accepted the BBB+ insurance strength rating issued by KBRA. The GCU is certainly most proud of the KBRA's recognition of the many financial strengths noted in the release. We can also assure you that the Board of Directors and management are well aware of the manageable exposures noted and will continue to address and improve upon them. The GCU will consult with KBRA on an ongoing basis to further strengthen the financial position of the GCU and mitigate our exposures that will ultimately improve upon the rating. KBRA's complete report on GCU appears on our website: www.GCUusa.com. If you

would like a printed version, please call the GCU Call Center at 1-855-306-0607.

We are also pleased to announce that effective February 1st, the new issue rates on each of our fixed rate annuity products have increased in sync with the recent rise in Treasury Rates. Now would be an excellent opportunity for you to consider a new GCU annuity to add to your investment portfolio. Please visit the GCU's website – www.GCUusa.com – or contact our Call Center at 724-683-3931 or Toll Free at 855-306-0607, for additional information.

We are also in the process of updating each of our life insurance products to the new 2017 mortality tables. This will provide for lower premiums and allow the GCU to be more competitive within the life insurance markets. This transition is to be completed by the end of the first quarter of 2018. Additional information will be provided via the GCU's website and the April Annual Report issue of the *GCU Magazine*.

We have much to be proud of fraternally as well. Each of our bi-monthly GCU publications contain articles of the many charitable giving, fundraising and volunteer events our members participate in throughout the year. The GCU Staff is also to be commended for the various fundraising events held in support of the GCU's Cause of the Quarter and other charities. Our thank you to the Officers and Members of each of our Lodges and Districts for participating in and utilizing the various fraternal programs that provide additional funding and support for all of their various events sponsored throughout the year. Our appreciation to all the Lodge and District Officers for your efforts in organizing the many charitable events. My congratulations to all the new Lodge and District officers recently elected to serve. Please do not hesitate to contact our Fraternal/Communications Department for assistance.

The Hurricane Disaster Relief Special Matching Funds Program provided \$12,960.⁰⁰ to the Salvation Army and American Red Cross. This program was targeted to support the

flood victims of Texas, Florida and Puerto Rico. We thank all our members that contributed to the GCU Foundation in support of this program.

New programs for 2018 include the following:

Disaster Relief Pre-Approved Matching Funds;

Parish Expansion Matching Funds Program for Non-Byzantine Catholic Parishes;

Lodge Compliance Awards Program;

Fraternalist of the Year Program – New Guidelines.

Details of the above noted programs has been forwarded to our Lodge and District Presidents and Secretaries or you may contact our Fraternal/Communications Department directly for more information. The information is also available on the GCU website at: <https://gcuusa.com/pages/fraternal-tools>.

I will continue to meet and follow up with our Lodges and Districts regarding the Regional Lodge Concept. This past fall I presented this concept once again to Lodges based within the former District 1 and within District 4. I am pleased to report that each of the Lodges of the former District 1 have agreed to formulate Regional Lodges as seven Lodges will be combined into four Regional Lodges. I will be meeting the Lodge Officers and members of each of the Lodges to make this transition.

To further improve and enhance the governance practices of the GCU, the Board of Directors at its meeting on November 11, 2017, by unanimous vote, authorized that a referendum be conducted among all adult insurance (benefit)

members including annuitants of the GCU. The purpose of the referendum is to approve an amendment to the Bylaws whereby Title VII—Supreme Convention, is deleted.

The referendum letter recently mailed to each of the GCU's adult benefit (insurance members including annuitants) over eighteen years of age and older explains in detail the purpose of the amendment to the Bylaws. Please return your ballot which must be received or postmarked by March 12, 2018 for this most important vote. **This proposed amendment to the Bylaws is endorsed by your Board of Directors, Executive Officers and General Counsel, and has been reviewed by the Pennsylvania Insurance Department with no objection to its implementation.**

Even though Punxsutawney Phil recently predicted another six weeks of winter, which is not surprising based upon the weather we have had thus far here in Western Pennsylvania, six weeks does fly by! I look forward to the spring and to experience once again the incredible transformation of nature from its winter slumber to a most colorful and picturesque landscape!

In closing, we once again extend our appreciation to you for the business you have placed with our Society. Without you, GCU would not exist! Thank you!

Goodness Is Great!



Good Luck in Retirement

On Friday, January 26, 2017 the GCU staff and executive officers gathered at Seven Oaks Country Club to offer well wishes to two of our retiring employees. Virginia Locke, call center representative, retired after 16 years of service to GCU. The following week George Lopata, new business and underwriting director, retired after 44+ years of service to GCU. I would like to take this opportunity to personally thank them both for the contributions they made to GCU. We wish them health and happiness as they enter a new chapter of their lives.

George Juba | GCU President/CEO



Very Rev.
Richard I. Lambert
GCU Spiritual Advisor

A New Season

As I sit down to write my message, we are fast approaching the Holy Season of Great Lent. By the time you read this article, we will already have reached this time of fasting.

We enter the season of Great Lent with some beautiful and poetic prayers. From the Matins of Cheesefare Sunday, the day prior to the beginning of the season, we pray: *“The arena of virtues is now open! Let all who wish to begin training now enter! Prepare yourselves for the struggle of the Fast; those who strive valiantly will receive the crown! Let us put on the armor of the cross to combat the Enemy, taking faith as our unshakable rampart. Let us put on prayer as our breastplate, and charity as our helmet. As our sword, let us use fasting, for it cuts out all evil from our hearts. Those who do this shall truly receive*

the crown from the hands of Christ, the Almighty One on the day of judgment”. (Lenten Triodion)

Each and every one of us, no matter what our physical condition presently may be, has the opportunity of being an athlete in this spiritual sense. Each of us has the opportunity of using these 40 days wisely. Part of that time has already passed, but if we wish for the prize, we need to continue our training.

What might be the crown for which we train? The answer comes at the close of these days of fasting. At the Matins of Great and Holy Saturday we pray: *“The*

fall of Adam brought mortality to the human race and not to the divinity; and even though your flesh suffered in your earthly condition, You remained beyond all suffering in your divinity. In the tomb, You brought us back to immortality, and by your Resurrection, You reveal to us the fountain of immortal life.” (Lenten Triodion)

Our prayer for one another should be that this season of Great Lent aid us in being good athletes, and that the celebration of the Resurrection of Our Lord-Pascha, enable us to be joyful victors!

Each and every one of us, no matter what our physical condition presently may be, has the opportunity of being an athlete in this spiritual sense. Each of us has the opportunity of using these 40 days wisely.



Tim Demetres
Chief Financial Officer
CFO

GCU Credit Rating Announcement

GCU is pleased to announce that on January 19, 2018, Kroll Bond Rating Agency (KBRA) has assigned an insurance financial strength credit rating of **BBB+** with a **stable outlook**, for their first-time rating of GCU.

KBRA is a global full service rating agency whose mission is to set a standard of excellence and integrity. Established in 2010, KBRA set forth an effort to restore trust in credit ratings by creating new standards for assessing risk and by offering accurate and transparent ratings. KBRA provides market participants with an alternative solution by delivering timely and in-depth research across various sectors. KBRA has over 275 employees and offices across the United States, located in New York, Pennsylvania and Maryland, and has published over 9,000 ratings totaling \$775 billion. KBRA Europe's team in Dublin, Ireland looks forward to providing the same standard of excellence and integrity in European credit ratings. KBRA strives to provide the investment community with the products and tools needed to make informed investment decisions.

KBRA explained that the rating reflects GCU's solid balance sheet, stable membership base, net operating gains and favorable capital trends. GCU maintains its investment portfolio, in credit quality and duration, to deliver net investment income exceeding both fraternal and non-fraternal peer averages over the last five years. Special thanks to our growing membership, GCU continues to report solid revenue growth and consistent profitability across our annuity business, which has contributed to capital growth. GCU is also keenly focused on increasing life sales as a cornerstone of financial protection to current and future members.

Balancing these strengths is the susceptibility to spread compression in our annuity business and the lack of diversification in business mix as almost all GCU reserves are in



interest-sensitive annuity products.

Other challenges include increasing risk-based capital (RBC) and company action level (CAL) at or above the peer median of 427%. Further, GCU must focus on the succession of key management personnel ensuring that the insurance and fraternal knowledge is smoothly transitioned through current management to the future leaders of the organization.

The GCU will continue to consult with KBRA on an ongoing basis. This will allow us to further strengthen our financial position and mitigate our risks & challenges, which will ultimately improve upon the rating.

Please take the time to review KBRA's full report on our website: www.GCUusa.com. If you would like a printed version, please call the GCU Call Center at 1-855-306-0607.



Atty. John J. Urban

Lessons in the Law

Your Wish is Not a Command

Just because you make a statement about your wishes, doesn't make them come true.

I had a lady who wanted to disinherit three of her kids and leave everything to one daughter.

She didn't think the other kids would carry out her wishes, but felt that her one daughter, who is married, would divide everything up properly.

The problem with that mindset is that the daughter could die before the woman's wishes were carried out—and the daughter's husband would inherit everything. The decision about what to do with the woman's money would then fall to her son-in-law.

I asked her if she felt confident that her son-in-law would divide up the money and she had to admit that she did not.

That's why it's crucial to not only update your will, but also make clear your desires in writing. Telling someone what you want is not the same as having it clearly spelled out in a legally binding document. I have a lot of people who tell a friend or relative that they want this or that to happen when they die,

but without a will and powers of attorney, those friends and relatives have no say in what happens to you or your assets.

People transition in and out of our lives, so it's critical to make sure that your appointed executor is still living, or is still around. Additionally, an executor has to be qualified for the appointment or the court will assign someone else.

Periodic revisions to your will are the only way to make sure your wishes are granted and that the people you've asked to distribute your assets, can do just that, after you're gone.

That's why it's crucial to not only update your will, but also make clear your desires in writing. Telling someone what you want is not the same as having it clearly spelled out in a legally binding document.

Blackhawk School District Rallies Around Friend & Classmate



Brooke Darno, Sydney Migliore, Bryan Culler, Mackenzie Crespo and Payton Stewart.

Day, held a Penny Drive, a Bake Sale, and were motivated by the opportunity to toss pies in the faces of their accommodating school teachers and administrators.

The Spirit Club, headed up by Bryan Culler, Mackenzie Crespo, Payton Stewart, Brooke Darno, Sydney Migliore and faculty advisor Kelli Ambler, were pleased to provide the Ochsenhirt family with a check for \$7,921.³⁴. Austin was in good spirits when students paid him a visit at the hospital to deliver the news. Prayers for Austin and his family are much needed and appreciated. GCU member and GoGive! sponsor Stacy Culler said, "It is amazing how the little "seed" from the GCU GoGive! program grew, not only in the form of money, but in the compassion and enthusiasm that blossomed in these young students. They all worked for a cause that touches their heart. Who knows what 'goodness' these teens will get into next!"

Stacy Culler

The entire community of Blackhawk School District rallied around their friend and classmate, Austin Ochsenhirt, when they learned that he needed to battle leukemia for the second time in his young life. The students in the Blackhawk Spirit Club, assisted by the GCU GoGive! Program, put together several exciting fundraising events to assist Austin and his family as he awaits a bone marrow transplant at Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh. Students purchased tickets for a Christmas Movie



West Mifflin Middle School Fundraiser

The Holiday Lights fundraiser was held on the evening of Thursday, December 7 at West Mifflin Middle School (Grades 4-8) in West Mifflin, PA. Beautifully lit Christmas trees, with varied themes and student made ornaments, lined the hallways. It was a very festive theme.

In conjunction with the event, the PTSA held a Chinese Auction fundraiser. Prizes included a Farberware 15 piece cookware set; a TGIFriday's gift card; a 21-inch piece of luggage on wheels; a popcorn & movie pass basket; a candy/sweets basket and a toy basket (which all the children loved).

Complimentary refreshments, photos

with Santa by Van Dyke Photography and a Santa Shop for gift purchases, were all features of the evening.

To maximize profit, the PTSA made a request to Kohl's Department Stores' Associates in Action program. The West Mifflin Kohl's Century III store sent five employees to volunteer for three hours

that evening. Their help was invaluable and much appreciated. The Kohl's corporation also donated \$500 to the PTSA.

The \$785 profit from the event will help other student activities planned throughout the school year.

Kim Kolesar

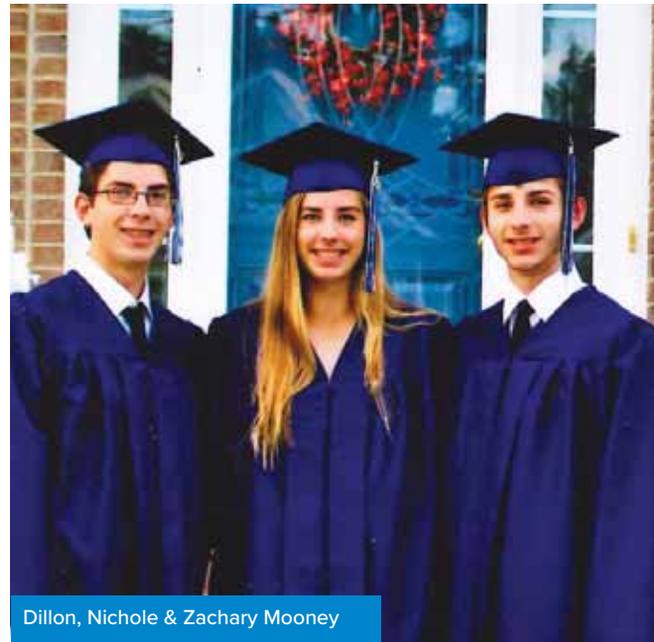


The Mooney Triplets Are Off To College

It only seems like yesterday that Nichole, Zachary and Dillon Mooney were getting baptized at St. Nicholas of Myra's church in Yonkers, NY. Here we are 17 years later and they are healthy, happy, productive young people and now in college.

Nichole is at NC Wesleyan College pursuing a degree in computer science. As well as getting her education she is a "Bishop" playing on their softball team. Zachary also attends NC Wesleyan College pursuing a degree in education. Dillon currently attends Wake Tech to begin his education in Criminal Justice and will transfer into NC Wesleyan next year. If all goes as planned the triplets will be graduating with their degrees together in 2021 from NC Wesleyan. All are members of Lodge 7 in Yonkers. May God watch over them, guide them and keep them. We are so proud of the children they were and the adults they are becoming. Thank you for all the years of prayers and good wishes for them.

Mary Valko | Lodge 7 Fraternal Director



Dillon, Nichole & Zachary Mooney

Maddy Gula Shows Kindness



Maddy Gula, Kaitlyn Beach and Owen Michael are shown with Pleasant Hills Police Department School Resource Officers.

Recently 4th grade students Maddy Gula, Kaitlyn Beach and Owen Michael were named McClellan Elementary School "SRO (School Resource Officer) Citizens of the Month." All three students have taken one of their fellow students with special needs under their wing. Helping with daily tasks, check in during transition time, making sure they feel welcomed & appreciated and generally treating the students with a level of acceptance & respect. They have been doing this since the beginning of the school year—and have done this without ever being asked! Through gracious donations from Vocelli Pizza of Pleasant Hills and Dunkin Donuts they received certificates for a free pizza and a DD gift card.

Maddy is the daughter of Patrick & Dyana Gula and a big sister to brother Jack. The Gula Family are all members of Lodge 255. Way to go Maddy!!

Judy Gula

Years of Service Recognized at GCU Home Office & Seven Oaks CC



GCU employees honored for service. From left: Chris Chamberlain (30 yrs.), Virginia Locke (15 yrs.), CFO Tim Demetres, Marilyn Dyrwal (30 yrs.), Rebecca Meyers (5 yrs.), Lisa Anderson (5 yrs.), Pam Prodonovich (5 yrs.), Tom Dowlin (5 yrs.) and President/CEO George Juba.



Seven Oaks CC employees honored: From left: Antoinette "Netty" McClain (5 yrs.), CFO Tim Demetres, Mike Lanave (30 yrs.), Estella "Bunnie" Carmichael (5 yrs.), Chris Juba (5 yrs.), Ellen Policastro (5 yrs.) and President/CEO George Juba.

Giving

St. Thomas the Apostle Church Parish Expansion

The Oktoberfest and Silent Auction at St. Thomas Byzantine Church in Gilbert, AZ has been ongoing for nearly 20 years. The purpose is for parishioners and friends to socialize, have fun eating delicious food, dancing, and to bid on wonderful donated items either from parishioners or local businesses. By doing this, we end up also educating others about our beautiful Byzantine Catholic community in Gilbert. It is also held to raise needed funds for St. Thomas Church and to benefit outreach in our community.

This year, we sold out of all of our 100 tickets for the first time ever and had to make extras, selling about 109 tickets total. The German food was delicious! We had an unusual number of great items to auction including gift certificates donated to us from regional restaurants and stores. One of our parishioners is an artist and she provided dinnerware she decorated with floral painting. We love her work! German music and American country music played in the background. All in all, we had a fun evening!

Joanie Mahar | Lodge 999 President



Judy Kotula, Martha Seech, Theresa Shuster, Rita Shuster and Betty Fecko.

Lodge 10 - St. Mary's Church Parish Expansion

GCU Lodge 10 sponsored a Parish Expansion Matching Funds project at St. Mary's Byzantine Catholic Church in Ambridge, PA, Father Mykhaylo Shkyndya is the pastor.

With a 50+ year history of pirohi sales, the church has established quite a following. Sales take place every Friday from September through May. Parishioners and volunteers from surrounding communities join together to prepare for the Friday sales-it is not simply a church project, but a community effort. Prior to the Friday sales, potatoes are peeled and mashed, onions are chopped and fried in butter, cottage cheese, lekvar and sauerkraut are prepared. On Friday the pirohi are freshly pinched, cooked, and prepared for sale. If you find yourself in the area of St. Mary Church on a sale Friday, please stop by and enjoy this 50 year tradition.

Kathy Kapaldo | Lodge 10 Secretary Treasurer



Amy Douglas, Gina Spickerman, Lisa Anderson and Ashley Guthridge loading up the toys to be delivered to the Salvation Army.

GCU Employees Assist Less Fortunate

The GCU Home Office, once again this year, assisted the local Salvation Army with their Treasures for Children program. The employees purchased gifts for 35 less fortunate children in the Beaver, PA area.

In addition the GCU matched \$10 per gift towards the GCU Cause of the Quarter—the Salvation Army Project Bundle-Up. Along with the employees donations from dress down Fridays and other fundraising efforts, the GCU presented a check for over \$1,000.00 to Project Bundle-Up.

District 4

Awards Banquet | District 4 recently marked GCU's quasiquintennial celebration, along with the District's 20th Anniversary Community Awards and Recognition Banquet. This day of celebration gave members, guests, and community organizations an opportunity to look back at GCU's history, but also a golden ticket to chart the path forward. Banquet Chairperson & Fraternal Director Connie Strittmatter remarked how proud members are of the rapid progress in the GCU and thankful for the revolutionary vision of our founders. The significance of this milestone was reflected in the large attendance.

President/CEO George Juba addressed the membership and guests with an historic presentation, as well as, excitement concerning

the possibilities on the horizon. The district is grateful for Mr. Juba's leadership as he continually strives to advance the GCU.

District 4 has seven lodges that encompass: Cambria, Clearfield, Indiana, Jefferson and Westmoreland counties in Pennsylvania. Because the district membership resides, works, and volunteers in this region, the district's objective has been to assist these communities to be solid and vibrant.

District 4 has been a front runner in the Community Initiative Program and has provided financial support to organizations for many years. The 12 organizations chosen to receive financial assistance encompass a broad spectrum of how the lives of people in need are changed. This



GCU National President/CEO George Juba with District 4 President John Katana.

year's list included: 5 public libraries, 3 hunger relief groups, a community educational advancement group, local law enforcement, a center for violence & crime and a free medical clinic

District 4 had four National Scholarship recipients: Sarah Wood, John Durica, Daniel Terek and Aaron Gulibon. For the 20th Anniversary, District 4 reached out to all previous scholarship awardees. They responded from across the nation and internationally with congratulatory messages. Many were not able to attend due to work schedules or geographic location. Those in attendance included Patrick Strittmatter, Michaela O'Toole, Michael Dautlick, Nicholas O'Toole, Amy Drotar and John Swinconis. District 4 boasts that our past recipients are trained individuals who developed the capacity and analytical skills that drive local economies, support civil society, teach children, lead effective governments, make important decisions and contribute positively to their communities, the country and the world.

Thanks to those who attended. District 4 hopes that this celebration will continue to echo in your lives.

Connie Strittmatter | Fraternal Director

UPCOMING DISTRICT 4 EVENT

Junior Bowling Tournament

Saturday, April 14, 2018

1 PM

Richland Lanes, 1140 Frances Street, Johnstown, PA

Contact Paul Yackulich Jr. at 814-241-6244 for details.

District 5

UPCOMING DISTRICT 5 EVENTS

Junior Bowling Tournament

Binghamton, NY Area

TBD

Laurel Bowl, 137 Laurel Avenue, Binghamton, NY 13905

Contact Bob Sufлита at 607-754-1501.

Wilkes-Barre/Scranton, PA Area

TBD

Stanton Lanes, 470 Stanton Street, Wilkes-Barre, PA 18702

Contact Ed Keil at 570-824-1264

Wilkes-Barre Penguins Hockey Game

Saturday, April 7

\$7 Members

\$17 Non-Members

Penguins vs. Binghamton Devils

Besides the game ticket, you will receive a Penguins hat, a value meal coupon (usually McDonalds) and a hot dog, chips and soda at the game.

Mohegan Sun Arena, Wilkes-Barre Township, PA

Contact Ed Keil by March 1 at 570-824-1264.

Adopt-A-Highway (Weather Permitting)

Saturday, April 14

8:30 AM

Volunteers always welcome.

Contact Ed Dolinish at 570-562-2678.

District 7

Pilgrims Visit Fatima and Lourdes | On November 1, 2017 the Rev. Charles M. Yastishock hosted a pilgrimage to Spain, France and Portugal with Fatima and Lourdes, as the highlights. There were 52 pilgrims in all, 14 GCU members-seven from GCU District 7. The group arrived in Lisbon, Portugal and then traveled to the village of Fatima. The pilgrims celebrated the 100th Anniversary of the apparitions of the Blessed Mother.

The trip continued to Coimbra, Spain, the site of the Monastery of St. Clare. Stops in Alba de Tormes, Spain to see the relics of St. Theresa and the walled city of Avila, Spain, the birthplace of St. Theresa, the founder of the Order of the Carmelites, followed.

In France, a visit to the Shrine of Lourdes, was a must. The Virgin Mary appeared there to a shepherd girl, Bernadette, eighteen times.



The group in front of the village of Fatima.

The pilgrimage ended in Barcelona, Spain with a viewing of the magnificent La Sagrada Familia Church designed by Antoni Gaudi. The building of this church began in 1882, with construction continuing to this day. The trip left all with a wonderful sense of faith and thankful for such an awesome experience.

Mary K. Bannworth | President

District 11



In the village of Pocs-pronounced “poch” in northeastern Hungary, an icon of the Mother of God miraculously wept for a month in 1696 before being transferred to Vienna. The replica icon that was sent back to the church in Pocs also wept several times, both in 1715 and in 1905.

Replica of Miraculous Weeping Icon of Máriapócs | District 11 and Lodge 860 were pleased to co-sponsor an inspirational weekend of events in December. The replica of a very special centuries-old icon was hosted at St. Nicholas Church in Clinton Township, MI.

The original Hungarian icon of the Theotokos (Mother of God) and Christ, known as the icon of Máriapócs, wept miraculously on more than one occasion, around the turn of the 18th century in a village called Pocs. St. Nicholas Parish welcomed the replica into the church with a Divine Liturgy on Friday evening, December 8 (the Feast of the Maternity of the Holy Anna).

District 11 and Lodge 860 helped the parish host the church’s day of reflection on Saturday, December 9, which began with a continental breakfast and Third Hour Matins. Guest speaker Father Michael Lee then gave a talk on the icon and how it can help one prepare for the coming Feast of the Nativity. Marian hymns were sung in the church by the parish choir, followed by an Akathist to the Mother of God. Lunch was provided, after which Father Lee’s presentation

continued. In the late afternoon, time was provided for reflection and confessions prior to the Divine Liturgy at 4 P.M.

On Sunday, December 10, the Eparchy of Parma’s new Apostolic Administrator, Bishop Milan Lach, celebrated a Hierarchical Divine Liturgy in the church. Immediately following, the parish, assisted again by the GCU members, served a dinner during which Father Lee summarized his presentations of the previous day.

The event was well attended and all were inspired by the special icon and the weekend of worship, singing, reflection and fellowship. For those who may have missed any or all of the weekend’s events, the parish has provided audio and video recordings on their website, stnicksdetroit.com, and Facebook page.

Val Marszalec | Fraternal & Publicity Director

District 15



Volunteers at Playitforward Pittsburgh are Tim Seech, Tim Seech, Roxann Savka, Laura Seech, John P. Harbist and Elizabeth Harbist.

Holiday Happenings | District 15 members and friends enjoyed the Thanksgiving weekend with a trip to Pittsburgh's Benedum to see Motown the Musical. It did not disappoint! Everyone loved the show.

District 15 members volunteered at Playitforward Pittsburgh on December 16 at the David L. Lawrence Convention Center. Volunteers assisted families in choosing Christmas gifts for their children. All gently used toys and books were donated for those less fortunate. Thanks to those who volunteered their time and talents.

District 15 members and friends were in the Holiday Spirit at the River City Brass Christmas Brasstacular at Lincoln Park Center in Midland, PA on Thursday, December 21. It was a wonderful way to relax before Christmas.

An after Christmas Party was held on Sunday, January 14 at the Main Event in Robinson, PA. In addition to bowling and various video games, the kids enjoyed lunch and received a gift card from the district.

Elizabeth Harbist | President



A few of the kids who enjoyed the After Christmas Party at The Main Event.

UPCOMING DISTRICT 15 EVENTS

Junior Bowling Tournament

Sunday, March 4, 2018

12:30 PM - Pizza Lunch with Bowling at 1 PM

Center Lanes, 3084 Brodhead Road, Aliquippa, PA

Contact Bill Uram at 724-287-0689 for details.

Adult No-Tap Bowling

Saturday, March 17

3 PM - Bowling

5:30 PM - Dinner at Seven Oaks

Center Lanes, 3084 Brodhead Road, Aliquippa, PA

Contact Bill Uram at 724-287-0689 for details.

Founders' Day & Senior Award Presentations

Sunday, March 18

1 PM

Seven Oaks Country Club

132 Lisbon Road, Beaver, PA 15009

Contact Diane Ketterer at 412-818-9375 for reservations.

Rock & Roll Doo Wop Vol.15

Saturday, April 28

7 PM

\$35 per ticket for GCU Member

\$50 per ticket for Non-Member

Seats - Floor in Section 2; Row U; Seats 3-12

Limited number of tickets are available.

Capitol Theater

1015 Main Street, Wheeling, WV 26003

Contact Elizabeth Harbist at 412-913-1446 for reservations.

Lodge News

Lodge 7

YONKERS, NY

Donation

Lodge 7 recently donated \$1,500.00 to St. Nicholas of Myra Church in White Plains, NY. The money will be used for a salt spreader for the church's truck to facilitate snow removal on the parish property.

Debbie McDonnell | Secretary-Treasurer



Secretary-Treasurer Debbie McDonnell, St. Nicholas of Myra Church Pastor Fr. Igor Vorontsov, President Karen Valko and St. Nicholas of Myra Church Trustee Michael Sivulich.



Mary Elizabeth Olack, Michael Olack, Mary Dickey, Gretchen David and Dorothy Peterson. Photo by Kathy Kapaldo

Lodge 10

ALIQUIPPA, PA

Haluski Sale

GCU Lodge 10 held a haluski fundraising sale for St. George Byzantine Catholic Church in Aliquippa on Friday, December 15, 2017. The day before, Lodge 10 members Mary Olack, Mike Olack, Dorothy Peterson, Mary Dicky and Kathy Kapaldo prepared the cabbage and dumplings for the haluski sale. They were helped by church members Frank Hersh and Gretchen David. On Friday, the haluski was cooked, packaged and sold to members of the lodge, church and community. A special thanks to Greg Slatniske for taking orders and delivering them to residents in West Aliquippa.

Kathy Kapaldo | President

Lodge 15

TRENTON, NJ

Belated Blessed, Healthy and Happy New Year!

Past Scholarship Recipients

Congratulations to Emily Torres on her article “Pierogies, Bones and Vampires,” a very interesting and informative article recently published in the *GCU Magazine*. Emily and her family are all members of Lodge 15. She is the daughter of Juan & Mary Jacko Torres and a parishioner of Assumption of the Virgin Mary Byzantine Catholic Church in Trenton where Fr. Edward Cimbala is the administrator and Fr. Yuriy Oros is parochial vicar. Certainly looking forward to reading more articles from our scholarship recipients. These articles keep us “older folks” informed with the younger generation.



Fr. Edward Cimbala, Treasurer Thomas Petty presenting a Matching Funds check to Fr. Yuriy Oros, parochial vicar and Fraternal Director Marcy Embley.



Lodge 15 members attending reception for Fr. Yuriy Oros and his family.

Welcome Fr. Yuriy Oros

Welcome to Fr. Yuriy Oros, parochial vicar of Assumption Church in Trenton, his wife Katerina and daughter Margarita. Fr. Yuriy is from the town of Tyachiv in the Transcarpathian region of the Ukraine. He was ordained a priest in August 2013 by Bishop Milan (Eparchy of Mukachevo). After serving there for several years, he was released from all duties within that Eparchy in August 2017 and transferred to the Eparchy of Passaic in NJ.

Matching Funds Check Presented

The Lodge 15 Matching Fund project for 2017 was a success! A check in the amount of \$1,300.00 was presented to Fr. Yuriy Oros toward the purchase of a pair of “Kissing Icons” for our church. More on this in the April issue.

Calendar of Events

There are several projects in the works for 2018. First, will be a Matching Funds project-bus trip to the Sands Casino in Bethlehem, PA after Easter and another includes a night at the Trenton Thunder baseball game. Look for more information on these two events in upcoming issues.

The Lodge 15 meeting schedule for 2018—First quarter was held Sunday, January 28; second quarter Sunday, April 29; third quarter Sunday, September 9 and Annual Meeting Sunday, November 4, 2018.

Meetings are held on Sundays following the Divine Liturgy at Assumption of the Virgin Mary Byzantine Catholic Church at the corner of Grand & Malone Streets in Trenton, NJ. The meetings are in the parish social center at the corner of Adeline & Beatty Streets A cordial welcome to all members and friends. Refreshments will be served. Happy Valentine’s Day!

Marcy Embley | Fraternal Director

Lodge 17

OLD FORGE, PA

Food Drive & Used Eye Glass Collection

Lodge 17 conducted a food drive and a used eyeglasses collection during the month of November at St. Nicholas Church in Old Forge, PA, St. Mary Church in Taylor, PA, St. Michael Church in Pittston, PA and St. Nicholas Church in Swoyersville, PA. The food was distributed to—The Greater Pittston Food Bank in Pittston and St. Michael Orthodox Church Food Pantry in Old Forge. St. Michael Food Pantry is relatively new and helps fill a great need in the communities of Old Forge,

Taylor and Duryea. Thank you to all those who generously donated.

A total of 76 pairs of used eyeglasses were donated to the Old Forge Lions Club through Lions Chairperson Walter Ermolovich. The glasses are refurbished and distributed in underdeveloped areas.

A special collection was made for the Mother-Infant Program at St. Joseph's Center in Scranton, PA. Baby food, diapers, wipes, baby shampoo, lotion, baby wash and clothing were collected.

These collections were used as the Lodge 17 Community Matching Funds projects for the Catherine McAuley Center in Scranton, PA—a safe haven for homeless women and children; the



Gina Keil with the food collected for the needy.

Gabriel House—a transitional house for homeless women and young children in Pittston and the Gabriel Shelter—an adolescent residential facility providing a safe and stable living environment in Pittston, while a plan is developed for the youth's future living arrangements.



The children with St. Nicholas and Fr. Eduard.

St. Nicholas Celebration

The annual St. Nicholas Feast Day celebration was held on Sunday, December 3, 2017 at St. Nicholas Social Center, Old Forge. St. Nicholas Church members and guests from St. Mary Church in Taylor attended. All enjoyed a catered luncheon, a visit from St. Nicholas, and a basket fundraiser. The children were entertained with games and songs.

GCU Lodge 17 members assisted with the event. Thanks goes out to Morgan Fuller who was a good sport, by wearing a cone shaped hat and a reindeer antlers hat for the ring toss children's games. Thanks to the GCU Home Office for the chocolate candies, coloring books & crayons, back packs and the grant for this event.

UPCOMING LODGE 17 EVENTS

Social Following Lenten Vespers

Sunday, February 25 at 3 PM

St. Nicholas Byzantine Church, Old Forge, PA

Sunday, March 11 at 3 PM

St. Mary's Byzantine Church, Taylor, PA

Annual Ham Bingo

Sunday, March 18 at 1 PM

Besides bingo, there will be basket fundraisers, a bake sale and food for sale.

St. Nicholas Church, 140 Church Street, Old Forge, PA 18518

Contact Ed Keil at 570-824-1264



Olga Korpita, Marion Savinelli and Pat Oliver presenting the Turkey Bingo Matching Funds check to Fr. Eduard Shestak.

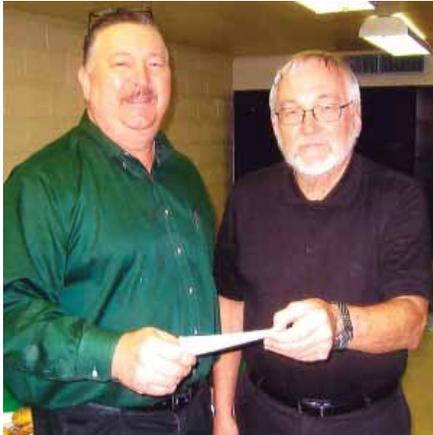
Appreciation & Recognition Luncheon

Lodge 17 held its Appreciation Luncheon and Recognition Awards Ceremony on December 9, 2017 at Agolino's Restaurant, West Pittston, PA. The luncheon was held for lodge members who helped with various projects throughout the year.

This was the third year for the Recognition Awards. The recipients will have their names engraved on a plaque that hangs in St. Nicholas Social Center, Old Forge. The recipients being recognized for their service to the lodge include: Ed Dolinish Sr., Henry Lesneski, Ann Marie Mandichak and George Mandichak.

Thanks to the GCU Home Office for the adult coloring books, chocolate candies, pocket calendars, and especially the grant.

Ed Keil | Secretary-Treasurer



Lodge 20 President Steve Bachovin presenting check to Father Ed Higgins.

Lodge 20

PHILADELPHIA, PA

Breakfast with St. Nicholas

On Sunday, December 3, 2017, Lodge 20 hosted “Breakfast with St. Nicholas” at Holy Trinity Byzantine Catholic Church. The children were thrilled to have a chance to sit with St. Nicholas and receive some goodies. Lodge President Steve Bachovin presented Father Edward Higgins a check for \$3,075.⁰⁰ from the years fundraising efforts, which included Matching Funds of \$1,500.⁰⁰ from the GCU Home Office. It was a blessed occasion for all in attendance.

Lisa Mersiowsky

Lodge 28

SOUTHSIDE-PITTSBURGH, PA

Holiday Social

On Saturday, December 23, 2017, St. John the Baptist Church Southside-Pittsburgh, held a Sunday-anticipated Liturgy. Keeping with the holiday spirit, GCU Lodge 28 decided to hold a holiday social afterward. Light luncheon fare, along with many homemade Christmas cookies, adorned the buffet table.

Attendees were given a ticket and when their number was called were able to choose from a variety of door prizes. In addition, the Home Office provided adult coloring books—several people commented that they were going home to color that evening.

Even though it’s a busy time of year, everyone enjoyed taking time out to socialize with fellow church and lodge members.

Kim Kolesar | Secretary-Treasurer



One of the families who enjoyed the Holiday Social.

Lodge 47

BINGHAMTON, NY

Annual Nut Roll Sale

The “Buzz from Binghamton” is that as soon as the November Election Day Pie & Bake Sale wrapped up, Lodge 47 members began work preparing for the annual Nut Roll Sale. There were over 800 nut, lekvar, apricot, and poppy seed rolls baked on November 29 and 30. People rave that they are the best “buchta” in town.

Angel Tree Project

Robert J. & Dottie Bakalar chaired this annual charitable event. A Christmas tree photo was hung on the vestibule bulletin board at Holy Spirit Byzantine Catholic Church and “decorated” with 25 Christmas Angels. The angels had the age of a boy or a girl to buy a Christmas present for. Lodge 47 members and parishioners of Holy Spirit, selected an angel, and then went out and bought a gift for that child. The 25 gifts were subsequently collected on Sunday, December 10, 2017 at the church’s St. Nicholas Dinner-Party and delivered to the Binghamton, NY Salvation Army for distribution to needy children in the local area. The Salvation Army representatives who accepted the gifts for distribution were very appreciative. The hope is that all the kids that received these gifts enjoyed them on Christmas morning.

St. Nicholas Dinner Party

Holy Spirit Church in Binghamton celebrates the St. Nicholas Holy Day each year with a formal dinner at the Parish Center. On Sunday, December 10, 2017, over 90 parishioners and Lodge 47 family members gathered together for the event.

Preceding dinner, the talented students in the parish ECF classes, put on a Christmas play about the birth of the Baby Jesus. Musical instrument solos and choral singing of Christmas Carols were featured. At the conclusion of the play, attendees welcomed St. Nicholas for a visit. Thank you to the GCU Home Office for supplying coloring books, crayons, and candy to St. Nick for the kids. A \$200.00 Fellowship Grant also helped defray part of the dinner expenses. The GCU truly exemplifies St. Nicholas’ spirit of giving.



Angel Tree gifts.

Christmas Caroling

The Holy Spirit Byzantine Catholic Church Choir, composed of many GCU Lodge 47 members, was one of three local choirs that assembled together at the Vestal Nursing Home. The choirs sang Christmas Carols to the shut-ins living at the facility located in a suburb of Binghamton. Many traditional English Christmas Carols were sung, as well as some Slavonic Christmas Carols. At the end of the afternoon a local clergyman, Father Jim Dutko, gave an inspirational talk to the shut-ins about the Joy of Christmas—even if they happen to be celebrating the holiday in a nursing home.

On Monday, December 18, 2017, ten Lodge 47 choir members, along with choir members from St. Mary’s Russian Orthodox Church and St. Michael’s Orthodox Church, participated in a “community project.” This combined choir group performed English & Slavonic Christmas Carols at the conclusion of a goodwill, community dinner hosted by St. Michael’s Orthodox Church. A free dinner was served to everyone who attended, in the “true spirit of giving,” that the Christmas Season inspires. Caroling took place on the front steps of the altar. It was heart-warming to see people from all different walks of life, assorted ethnic backgrounds and varied ages get together to honor the birth of the Jesus. Community Fellowship was indeed on display that evening. In the complicated day and age in which we live, this fellowship is something people never get enough of.

A heartfelt thanks to all the parishioners, volunteers, Lodge 47 members, family and friends for their hard work and devotion to the parish and lodge. A sincere thank you to everyone at the GCU Home Office. The financial and other assistance they provide helps the lodge’s projects attain even greater success. May God Bless You!

Robert Sufliita | President

Robert C. Bakalar | Vice-President

Daria Shierly | Secretary-Treasurer



Choir singing carols at St. Michael’s Church.

Lodge 52

BETHEL PARK, PA

Taste of Heaven Cookie Sale

The annual “Taste of Heaven” Cookie Sale at St. Gregory Church in Upper St. Clair, PA, took place in early December. Lodge 52 members are always there to pitch-in and assist with this event. The church is blessed with many good cookie makers and even more blessed to have people who look forward to buying the cookies each year. Customers began to line up at 7 AM and the doors opened at 8 AM. The cookies were totally sold out by 10 AM. So many people ask for the recipes, that a “Taste of Heaven” Cookie & Treats Cookbook is now available. It features 108 recipes for cookies, treats and ethnic favorites. To order a copy, send a check for \$15 (includes postage) made payable to St. Gregory Church and mail to St. Gregory, 2005 Mohawk Road, Upper St. Clair, PA 15241. Please remember to include a return address for shipping. For more information, call the rectory at 412-835-7800.

Profits from this year’s sale totaled \$3,118.⁰⁰.



Those who volunteered at the Taste of Heaven cookie sale.

Outreach to Homeless Men

During the Advent journey to Bethlehem, Lodge 52 sponsored a collection of items needed by St. Joseph House of Hospitality in Pittsburgh’s Hill District. Part of Catholic Charities, St. Joseph’s is a sixty-bed single room occupancy facility for men ages fifty and over who are homeless or are at risk for homelessness.

To bring greater understanding about the lives of these men, parishioners gathered following the Liturgy on December 10 for a presentation by Alexis Weber, RN, MSN. Alexis recently retired as director of the School of Nursing at UPMC Mercy. She has volunteered at St. Joseph’s every week for the past 24 years providing health assessments, blood pressure monitoring, and care for those with diabetes, cardiac and respiratory problems.

Alexis’ talk, “God’s Call to Volunteer Changed My Life,” highlighted both the blessings of volunteering and the plight of those she called “the forgotten ones.” Parishioners responded generously to her inspiring message and reminder to give back to everyone in need.

Rosemary Tomko | Publicity Director

Lodge 53

WILKES BARRE, PA

Halloween Party

Lodge 53 sponsored a Halloween party with 40 children in attendance. The lodge would like to thank the Home Office for the grant to help with the expenses.

Giving Tree

A Giving Tree was sponsored at St. Mary Church in Wilkes-Barre to benefit Catholic Social Services of Wilkes-Barre. Parishioners purchased gifts to help 20 children with an average gift amount of \$20.⁰⁰. Total donations for the Giving Tree were over \$400.⁰⁰.

Annual “300 Club” Dinner

Members of Lodge 53 participated in the Annual “300 Club” dinner held at St. Mary’s Social Hall. The food was catered by Ellissi’s Catering. Everyone enjoyed the food and there were many lucky winners at the end of the night.

John Marko | Vice President



Lucky winners being picked at the “300 Club” dinner.

Lodge 62

PUNXSUTAWNEY, PA

St. Nicholas Pizza Party

Approximately 60 parishioners along with the ECF students, enjoyed a pizza party following Liturgy on Sunday, December 10, 2017. St. Nicholas was present to distribute gifts to the children. Thank you to the GCU Home Office for the grant to assist with the party.

Elaine Koromaus | Secretary-Treasurer



Children with St. Nicholas.



St. Nicholas with the children.

Lodge 69

POTTSTOWN, PA

St. Nicholas Celebration

The Lodge 69 annual St. Nicholas Day celebration was held on Sunday, December 3, 2017. Parishioners from St. John the Baptist Church shared a covered dish luncheon.

The children of the parish put on a Christmas play, sang carols and enjoyed a visit from St. Nicholas.

Nancy Harding | Secretary

UPCOMING LODGE 69 EVENTS

Children's Easter Egg Hunt

Sunday, March 25

Following the 8 AM Liturgy

St. John the Baptist School
30 Cherry Street
Pottstown, PA 19464

Contact Nancy Harding at 610-326-2309.

Second Quarter Meeting

Saturday, April 21

Following the 4 PM Liturgy

St. John the Baptist Church Hall
30 Cherry Street
Pottstown, PA 19464

Contact Nancy Harding at 610-326-2309.

Lodge 77

LORAIN, OH

Casino Bus Trip

Lodge 77 sponsored a Casino Bus Trip on Sunday, November 12, 2017 to Presque Isle Downs and Casino in Erie, PA. A group of about 54 parishioners and friends took part in a fun filled day of travel, gambling and comradery. The beautiful weather allowed for safe travel. On the way to the casino everyone enjoyed complimentary baked goods while partaking in the fundraising activities and guessing games on the bus. After spending approximately 5 hours at the casino, the group ventured home, but the entertainment continued. Everyone's favorite the "Horse Race Game" was played, door prizes were given out and gift bags full of goodies were distributed!

Profits from this event helped to fund the annual St. Nicholas Day Dinner, as well as several community donations. Participants enjoyed a great time at what hopefully will become an annual event.



Check presentation to Fr. Nicholas Rachford.

St. Nicholas Day Dinner

On Sunday, December 3, St. Nicholas Parish celebrated their annual St. Nicholas Day dinner. About 125 parishioners gathered for dinner, caroling and a visit from St. Nicholas. Lodge 77 provided gifts and goody bags for the children, some of which was supplied by the Home Office. The lodge officers gave out door prizes—beautiful mini icons, to a few lucky attendees. A Matching Funds check was presented to Father Nicholas Rachford, to benefit the parish. It was a wonderful start to the holiday season!

Kathy Knick | President

Lodge 81

UNIONTOWN, PA

Holiday Spirit

Lodge 81's involvement in church and community activities kept members in the holiday spirit. During the "season of giving," Lodge 81 made donations to St. John Parish, the Sisters of St. Basil at Mount Macrina and "Sparkle"—the local Salvation Army collection for the needy. Gerry Dorobish diligently helped at the Mount Macrina Religious Gift Shop selling and wrapping gifts. Bonnie Balas volunteered at a community Christmas Day dinner which provided meals for the needy.



Bonnie Balas serving at community Christmas Day dinner.



Lodge 81 members with St. Nicholas.

St. Nicholas Visit

On Sunday, December 2, a special program arranged by Marcia Harrer, Gerry Dorobish and Bonnie Balas showed the true meaning of St. Nicholas to the children of the parish. The program included a video, a related craft activity (icon ornament), a snack and a visit from St. Nicholas. Stephen Petruska helped to vest St. Nicholas (portrayed by Rich Mattie), who presented the children with gold coins, a holy card and Christmas well wishes.

Community Christmas Program

Lodge 81, with the assistance of a Fraternal Grant from the GCU Home Office, sponsored a Christmas Event at the Uniontown Public Library on Saturday, December 16. The well-attended event began with a performance of "The Christmas Mouse" by the Stage Right Players. The children enjoyed a hands-on craft activity, a visit with Santa Claus, a free book and a treat bag which included a coloring book, crayons, and goodies donated by the GCU Home Office. Gerry Dorobish, Marcia Harrer, James Mihalko, Stephen Petruska and Bonnie Balas were on hand to help at this wonderful holiday event.



Marcia Harrer and Gerry Dorobish help with crafts at the Library program.

Singing for the Sisters

On Sunday, December 17, catechists and Lodge 81 officers James Mihalko, Bonnie Balas, Gerry Dorobish and Marcia Harrer escorted their ECF classes to the Mount Macrina Monastery to sing Christmas carols for the Sisters of St. Basil. The parish children had been practicing for months under the direction of Paul Mihalko. After the performance, Marcia presented Sister Ruth Plante with a monetary donation from the ECF families. This was followed by the children and their parents visiting with the Sisters and enjoying refreshments in the monastery dining room.

Bonnie Balas | Vice President & Publicity Director

Christmas Craft/Bake Sale

The annual Christmas Craft/Bake Sale event was Saturday & Sunday, December 2-3. Marcia Harrer, Theresa Petruska, Janet Gaydos, Helen Ponzurick and Bonnie Balas all assisted to make this a successful fundraiser for St. John Church.



ECF students who sang at the Monastery.

UPCOMING LODGE 81 EVENT

13th Egg EGGstravaganza

Sunday, March 18

12 NOON - 5 PM

St. John the Baptist Church Social Hall
201 E. Main Street
Uniontown, PA 15401

Call 724-208-6771 (M-F 6-8 PM)

More information appears on page 40

Lodge 92

JESSUP, PA

St. Nicholas Children's Party

On December 3rd Lodge 92 held its annual St. Nicholas Children's Party at Holy Ghost Hall in Jessup, PA. The party was attended by over 200 guests. The children's choir of LaSalle Academy entertained the crowd with a concert of holiday carols and a special appearance was made by St. Nicholas who handed out gold chocolate coins to all in attendance.

Donations Made

Each year GCU Lodge 92 tries to make the holidays a little better for needy families in the Jessup area. This year, with the help of two Lodge 92 elves, several local families receive assistance. Lodge member Amy Borick, a guidance counselor at the Valley View School, purchased \$150.00 in uniform items from Augelli Printing LLC to be donated to the Valley View school district's Giving Tree.

A donation of \$50.00 was made to a needy family through Spiritrust Hospice by Joyce Wizda. In addition, there were



Lodge 92 members assisting with Operation Noel.

\$200.00 in cash and gifts donated to a needy hospice family. Joyce is a social worker for the Spiritrust Hospice. Due to HIPPA laws we are not permitted to know the family name however, when Joyce made her report she said, "they cried."

Ethnic Dinner

Lodge 92's held its 15th annual Ethnic Dinner on Sunday, February 11 at the Holy Ghost Hall in Jessup. A full report will appear in the April issue.

Mark Barkowski | Publicity

Michaela Mancak | Secretary Treasurer

Lodge 93

NORTHERN CAMBRIA, PA

Donation to St. Anne Church

Lodge 93 made a monetary donation to St. Anne Byzantine Catholic Church, Clymer, PA during their St. Nicholas Celebration. This donation will help defray some of the costs due to a flood in the social hall. Fr. William Lascelles is pastor.

Matching Funds Donation

Lodge 93 members John Katana and Walter Rogal presented a Matching Funds donation to Fr. Vasil Polyak, pastor of St. John Byzantine Catholic Church.

Traditional Christmas Eve Supper

Lodge 93 sponsored a recognition dinner and helped support a traditional Christmas Eve supper, along with a gift exchange, for all parishioners and lodge members of St. John Byzantine Church. Fr. Vasil celebrated Divine Liturgy followed by the Christmas and Recognition program in the social hall. Everyone enjoyed the traditional supper and the variety of gifts during the gift exchange. The evening concluded with Fr. Vasil directing the singing of Christmas Carols.

Thanks to the GCU Home Office for the Fraternal Grants, Matching Funds and give-a-way items.

John J. Katana | Secretary



Parish and lodge members at the Recognition Dinner.



Bill Uram Jr., Janet Uram, Deacon Paul Simko and Janet Stetzer who presented the matching funds check from the hoagie sale.

Lodge 109

LYNDORA, PA

Matching Funds Check Presented

Following the St. Nicholas celebration on December 3, 2017, proceeds from Lodge 109's Matching Funds hoagie sale project were presented to church administrator Deacon Paul Simko, by the lodge officers.

Visit from St. Nicholas

On December 3, 2017, Saint Nicholas made an early stop at St. John the Baptist Byzantine Catholic Church in Lyndora.

The appearance of St. Nicholas followed a tureen luncheon sponsored by GCU Lodge 109 which was attended by 50 adults and 10 children. The lodge provided the chicken meal and beverages. Attendees brought the rolls, tureens and desserts.

Many thanks to the GCU Home Office for the coloring books, crayons, chocolates and lip balms. Bags of chocolate coins were provided by Helen Meaders who accompanied St. Nicholas in visiting with the children.

At the conclusion of the festivities, door prizes of potted poinsettias were given away.

Janet Uram | Secretary Treasurer



St. Nicholas (Rick Reeder) and Helen Meaders visit with the parish and lodge children.

Lodge 151

NEW YORK, NY

St. Nicholas Luncheon

St. Andrew Byzantine Church in Westbury, NY held its annual St. Nicholas luncheon on December 2. Parishioners and GCU members donated 5 huge boxes of toys that were donated to the US Marine Corps Toys for Tots campaign. Two US Marines attended the luncheon and picked up the toys. They were very appreciative and surprised to see all the toys that were given by a small parish. Sister Catarina and Sister Juliana from the Missionary Sisters of St. Benedict and friends of Fr. Nick Daddona, attended the luncheon. The children were very happy to receive goodies when St. Nicholas visited.

Annual Meeting

Lodge 151 held its Annual Meeting in November. All officers were re-elected. We are very delighted that Father Nicholas Daddona, administrator of St. Andrew's Church, became our new chaplain.

Maureen Daddona gave an enlightening power point presentation on Sacred Symbols and how they connect us to God. Theresa Hutnik crocheted cases for candy canes and gave them out to all the members at the meeting. A special thank you to Maureen and Theresa.

Lodge 151 Treasurer Chris Hulak, her brother James and Ann Kandrato partnered in a life changing mission with the St. Francis House and the St. Clare House in Greenpoint-Brooklyn, NY. Young men and women who have fallen on difficult times are welcomed and helped to achieve a life of



US Marines, Fr. Nick Daddona and Sisters Catarina & Juliana with the children.

dignity, purpose and a sustaining livelihood. Joe Campo, the director of the St. Francis House, sends out a thank you to Emily Panchuk for her warm handmade hats and all of the lodge's ongoing donations.

Lodge 151 Notes

GCU member Barbara Kovalcik has been in the hospital and rehab. We wish her a speedy recovery.

Lodge 151 offers its condolences to the family of Peter Gnall. He was cantor at St. Andrew's Church for many years before moving and becoming cantor at St. Nicholas Church in Pocono Summit, PA. He will be sadly missed by his family and friends. Eternal Memory.

Marge Pajer Russell | President

UPCOMING LODGE 151 EVENT

Luncheon & Show "Funny Girl"

Wednesday, April 25

Cost is \$46

Westbury Manor
1100 Jericho Turnpike
Westbury, NY 11590

Contact Marge Russell at 516-307-1016.



Lodge members at the annual meeting.

Lodge 164

YOUNGSTOWN, OH

St. Nicholas Celebration

Lodge 164 held its St. Nicholas Dinner on Sunday, December 3, 2017 at St. Mary's Social Center. A hot buffet and assorted desserts were enjoyed by the attendees. The party started and ended with the hymn to St. Nicholas led by Fr. Lambert and Fr. David Shortt. GCU giveaways and edible door prizes were a special treat for everyone.

New Auditor

At the first quarter lodge meeting on January, 14, 2018, Fr. Richard Lambert administered the Oath of Office to new Auditor Karen Muransky.

Dr. Tom Sopkovich | President



Auditor Karen Muransky after Fr. Richard Lambert administered the Oath of Office.



Treasurer Sharon MacDonald presenting \$150.00 Christmas donation to Fr. Richard Lambert with President Dr. Tom Sopkovich.

UPCOMING LODGE 164 EVENTS

Lenten Soup & Sandwich Fundraiser

Each Wednesday during Lent

Starting February, 14

Served after Presanctified Gifts

St. Mary's Assumption Social Center

Youngstown Area Jr. Bowling Tournament

Sunday, March 18

Sign-in at 12:30 PM Bowling at 1 PM

Camelot Lanes, Boardman, OH

Contact Elaine Chachko at 330-755-6243

Second Quarter Meeting

Sunday, April 8

Following Liturgy

St. Mary's Assumption Social Center

Mother's Day Bingo

Sunday, May 13

5:30 PM Bingo Sheet Sales Begin

6:45 PM Bingo

St. Mary's Assumption Social Center



Lodge 255 children enjoy visiting with Santa at the Kid's Christmas Party.

Lodge 255

GREENFIELD-PITTSBURGH, PA

Lodge Christmas Parties

The adult Christmas party was held on Friday, December 1, 2017 at Grandview Country Club in North Braddock, PA. Adult members enjoyed an evening of clever games, good company, food and drinks, while enjoying the beautiful view. Thanks to Kitty Cherevka and John & Pat Niskach for organizing the event.

The kid's Christmas Party was held the next day on Saturday, December 2 at St. John Chrysostom Church hall. Jen Gula organized a wonderful event filled with Christmas crafts, gifts and a visit from Santa. Be on the lookout for details on the lodge's new 2018 kid's event, an Easter Egg Hunt in March!

Melanie Basl | Publicity Director

UPCOMING LODGE 255 EVENTS

Lodge Meeting

Sunday, April 8

Following 10:30 AM Liturgy

St. John Chrysostom Church
506 Saline Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15207

Mystery Dinner for Adults

Saturday, April 14

St. John Chrysostom Church
506 Saline Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15207

Contact Patty Niskach at 412-521-3963.

Details will be emailed to members in February.

Junior Bowling Tournament for Pittsburgh Area Lodges

Date Will Be Announced

Playmor Bowl
5840 Buttermilk Hollow Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15207

Contact John Miller at 412-576-4328



Members at the Adult Christmas Party.

Lodge 268

MINGO JUNCTION, OH

Helping Those in Need

Lodge 268 held a bakeless bake sale to buy gifts for 28 children from the Mingo Food Bank. Each child received a top, a pair of pants, a sweat shirt and socks. A special **Thank You** to GCU members Jenny Burrier and Carla Gasser for doing all the shopping. The lodge was also able to help a couple of families pay some bills. We were thanked with many tears of appreciation.

Lodge 268 also assisted the newly-formed Poverty Committee at Hills Elementary School. This committee provides needy families with nutritious food that can be taken home to feed children on non-school days. Lodge 268 members were very generous and thanks to the GCU Matching Funds program, the lodge was able to help so many this year.

Annual Christmas Party

Sunday, December 17, was the Lodge 268 annual Christmas Party. A delicious buffet meal followed Divine Liturgy. A special thank you to Suzanne & Bill Albaugh, Cathy Risdon and Jeannie Roberts for all their hard work. Father John Kapitan asked trivia questions and prizes were given out. Christine Peterson and Jeannie Roberts led Christmas Carols and Santa visited with treat bags for the children. Everyone enjoyed the afternoon. A big thank you to the GCU for the Fraternal Grant that helped fund the event.

Carla Gasser | President



Carla & Sara Gasser delivering gifts to the Mingo Food Bank.



Lodge members with Santa.



The horse drawn wagon with St. Nicholas and the children.

Lodge 271

ORLAND PARK, IL

Christmas on the Prairie 2017

Annunciation Byzantine Catholic Church in Homer Glen, IL held its 4th annual "Christmas on the Prairie" event on Saturday, December 2. Catherine Baranko, coordinator and youth leader, said the outdoor event is designed to teach about St. Nicholas, the patron saint of children, and to showcase "the man behind the myth."

The event included music, crafts, baked goods, education and evangelization. Children had plenty of activities including: stations where the youth group performed skits about St. Nicholas, an icon craft and a candle-making area. It all culminated with the appearance of St. Nicholas himself. The children also enjoyed rides on his horse drawn wagon while a choir of teenagers sang carols.

Bishop Milan was here to welcome and celebrate St. Nicholas' arrival.

The event was free to all visitors. Rev. Thomas Loya, pastor at Annunciation, commented "(The event) is about who we are. St. Nicholas is part of the riches of our church." Father Loya added the church wishes to spread the message of charity and share the spirit of St. Nicholas, the patron saint of the Byzantine Catholic Church, with the community.

Lodge 271 has been a main sponsor since the event's beginning in 2014. Lodge members volunteer in preparation and during the day's activities.

Vicki Blidy | Vice President



Lodge members work together to decorate the Church.

Church Decorating

This year, the children of the parish were invited to the Christmas decorating day at the church and hall on Saturday, December 2. During November, parishioners were invited to donate an ornament that would be used every year on the church Christmas trees. The children were excited to hang their own ornaments and enjoyed helping with all the decorating. After their hard work, the Ladies Guild provided a pizza lunch for all who volunteered.



The children with St. Nicholas.

Lodge 288

CLAIRTON, PA

Food Drive

Lodge 288 held a food drive in December for the local food bank. Donations were delivered on a cold icy morning. Volunteers at the food bank helped unload the car and expressed their gratefulness for the much needed donations. A matching funds check will be delivered to them in February for their next event.

St. Nicholas Breakfast

The annual St. Nicholas breakfast was held on Sunday, December 10. Volunteers from Lodge 288, the Ladies Guild and Holy Name Society helped with set-up, cooking and providing gifts for St. Nicholas to present to the children. A program in church included singing, gifts for shut-ins and the Jesse Tree.

Lodge 288 took photos from of all these events and put together a photo album for Father Mina as a gift, since he wasn't able to be with us this year.

Trish Roberts | President



Church presentation on St. Nicholas Day.

Lodge 302

BRECKSVILLE, OH

Holiday Cheer

The annual St. Nicholas pot luck and children's Christmas party was held on Sunday, December 3, 2017 at St. Joseph's Byzantine Church in Brecksville. Lodge 302 and the Home Office donated items for the children's gift bags. This is always a fun and well attended event for both children and adults, awaiting the arrival of St. Nicholas. Thank you to Diana Simpson, our Christmas Elf!

Holiday Matching Funds

Lodge 302 held a Holiday Fundraiser on December 17 with proceeds and Matching Funds from the Home Office totaling \$1,496.00 to benefit St. Joseph's Capital Improvement Fund. The lucky winners were John Szapansky-\$500.00, John Sexton-\$250.00 and Diana Simpson-\$100.00. Lodge 302 thanks all volunteers officers and members who sold tickets to make this a successful fundraising event.



Fr. Bruce Riebe, Judy Weitzel and Jean Karaffa pick winners.



Anne Doane



John Pashal

95+ Members

Anne Doane, long time St. Joe's parishioner and Lodge 302 member, celebrated her 98th birthday on January 20, 2018. Anne is doing well and living in her residence at St. Luke's in Canton, OH. She says "hi" to everyone at St. Joseph and hopes to be able to visit in the future. God grant her many years!

John Pashal, 96 years old, is a member of St. Mary Byzantine Church in Cleveland, OH and a long-time member of Lodge 302. There are four generations of GCU members in the Pashal family including daughter, Georgiann Harris; granddaughter, Pamela Harris and great-grandson, Anthony John Harris.

Game Night 2018

Game Night will be held on Saturday, March 10 (adults only) at St. Joseph's Activity Center. Doors open at 5:30 PM. GCU members/friends are asked to bring their favorite games and a favorite appetizer or dessert. Refreshments will be provided. Come and enjoy a night of camaraderie and fun.

Don't forget to "Like" us at www.facebook.com/GCU_Lodge302 and view more photos and event information.

Diane Richey | Publicity Director



Children excited to see St. Nicholas.

UPCOMING LODGE 302 EVENTS

Annual Adult Game Night

Saturday, March 10 at 5:30 PM

St. Joseph's Activity Center, Brecksville, OH

Easter Egg Hunt

Sunday, March 25 at 12 NOON

St. Joseph's Church Hall, Brecksville, OH

Second Quarter Meeting

Sunday, April 29

Following 10:30 AM Liturgy

St. Joseph's Church, Brecksville, OH

Memorial Day Service

Sunday, May 27

Following 10:30 AM Liturgy

St. Joseph's Church, Brecksville, OH



Santa with 10 week old Stephen Weston.

Lodge 316

PHILLIPSBURG, NJ

Christmas Activities

SS. Peter & Paul Byzantine Church and Lodge 316 hosted the annual St. Nicholas Breakfast on December 10, following the 8 AM Liturgy. A large number of parishioners and members joined the festivities, including 19 children. This year's youngest child was 10-week old Stephen Weston. Cantor Andy Horun and lodge member Nick Kavcsak sang the "Hymn to St. Nicholas," just as he arrived. The children were very excited to meet St. Nicholas and receive the gifts he brought for them. After he left, everyone sang Christmas carols and soon they were surprised by the arrival of Santa Claus! Santa visited with each child, listening to their Christmas wishes and presenting them with a special gift.

Many photos were taken to remember the fun-filled day and everyone enjoyed a delicious breakfast. The holiday season was off to a great start. Thanks to the GCU Home Office for their assistance to make this event special for all.

Shut-In Visits

Later in December, Lodge 316 members Ann Wilkins, Bill Kravchak and Kathleen Meddaugh visited homebound members of the lodge and church. Each person received a beautiful poinsettia plant and a tray of delicious cookies

baked by Ann Wilkins. Each visit was special and everyone enjoyed the chance to catch up on news and to reminisce. These visits are always a special part of the Christmas season!

Kathleen Meddaugh | Secretary Treasurer

Lodge 336

EUCLID, OH

Bake Sale

Lodge 336 held several fund raisers to benefit St. Stephen's parish. The lodge sponsored a bake sale coordinated by Treasurer Irene Chinchar. There were also gift basket & gift card prizes donated by lodge and parish members for several other fundraisers. A special thank you to everyone one who helped make the events a success. The net profit of \$1,024.⁵⁰, enabled the lodge to reach its total Parish Matching Funds goal of \$1,500.⁰⁰ for the 2017 fraternal year.

St. Nicholas Family Event

St. Stephen Church held a family St. Nicholas party, featuring a taco dinner, that was put together by Lodge 336 and St. Stephen's youth group. Attendees played the Holy Family Christmas game created by Fr. Michael Lee and his family. Of course, St. Nicholas came to visit and passed out candy to all of the children (goodies were sponsored by Lodge 336). The lodge also made a donation to St. Stephen's Parish.

Donation to Braeview Manor Nursing Home

Braeview Manor Care & Rehabilitation Center in Euclid was in need of a new popcorn machine for the residents. A collection was taken up in Lodge 336. The members' donations and the lodge's \$50.⁰⁰, allowed the lodge to purchase a new machine and to present it to the home in December.

Patricia Comai | President



A volunteer from the Euclid Hunger Center picking up Lodge 336 donations.

Holiday Food Drive & Coffee Social

A Holiday Food Drive was held by Lodge 336 from November 19 through December 17. The food collected was donated to the Euclid Hunger Center. On December 17 a coffee social hosted by Lodge 336 was held marking the end of our food drive and the close of our events for 2017.



Children with St. Nicholas.

Lodge 340

RAHWAY, NJ

ECF Christmas Activities

The Christmas season was brought in with a beautiful Christmas skit at St. Thomas the Apostle Church's St. Nicholas Dinner, on Sunday, Dec. 3, 2017. The production was put together by ECF Activities Director Diana Faricelli. The children had fun telling us why it is "Nice to be Nice."

Two weeks later, on Sunday, December 17, 2017 the ECF program had their annual Christmas Party. The children learned the meaning of the Nativity Icon. Students then enjoyed a French toast stick and fruit breakfast. Patricia Bubniak, the ECF coordinator, always makes sure things run smoothly. Each child received a GCU goody bag with a coloring book and crayons from the Home Office, as well as a Nativity snow globe from Lodge 340. These activities were sponsored in part by a grant from the Home Office. What a meaningful way to start the Christmas season. St. Thomas the Apostle Church is served by Right Rev. Archpriest James Hayer.

Mary K. Bannworth | President



A few of the ECF students at the Christmas events.



Ham & Halupki Dinner

Lodge 351 President Theresa Frederick and Secretary Monica Kowalski presented Father Jerome Botsko with the proceeds from the Matching Funds Ham & Halupki Dinner held on October 22, 2017. Lodge 351 also delivered the food collected during the food drive, to the local Indiana, PA Food Bank.

Lodge 351

INDIANA, PA

Run Ranger Run - The Gallant Few

The lodge will again sponsor Staff Sergeant Christopher Little in the Run Ranger Run fundraiser. He will be organizing the event to be completed during the month of February at Camp Pendleton, CA. Individuals can donate under his name during the month of February. This is a special event for him this year as he sustained serious injury from a motorcycle accident last April, and he will be participating after a long period of recovery and physical therapy. The proceeds from this event will benefit veterans and their families. Information is available on the following website for a more detailed description of the organization's mission www.runrangerrun. Sergeant Little's team name is USMC Leadfoot. Lodge 351 supports the efforts of this organization and will receive Matching Funds.

Indiana County Decathlon

Plans are being made to again help with the February through June Indiana County Decathlon. A variety of walking, biking and fitness events will be taking place beginning with the kick-off "Chili Walk" that was held on Saturday, February 10 and "A Trip through the Past" in Ernest, PA on April 7 at 10 AM at McMillan Park. Additional information about the events can be found on the Indiana County webpage: visitindianacountypa.org. Everyone is welcome to join in the activities.

Patty Yamrick | Publicity Director



Sergeant Christopher Little with his family during a homecoming.

Lodge 360

CAMPBELL, OH

Holiday Love, Joy & Giving

The Nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ is one of the happiest times of the year. Spending time with family and friends is always special. Lodge 360 wanted to make sure to spread some love and sense of fraternalism to the members of St. Michael's Parish in Campbell. Lodge 360 partnered with the Infant Guild and provided poinsettias while Bernie Kovach and Patty Gomori spread Christmas joy to all the parish sick and shut-ins.

The children of the parish spent a part of the summer in Vacation Bible School and carried all that they learned into a beautiful presentation in which they adorned a **Jesse Tree** with illustrated ornaments that



Children put on Jesse Tree presentation.

represented the people, prophesies, and events leading up to the birth of Jesus. Lodge 360 was blessed to be a sponsor of both of these Christmas expressions of love and joy.

Lisa Kinnick Romito | Secretary Treasurer



Health Fair volunteers.

Lodge 386

CARRICK-PITTSBURGH, PA

Health Fair

On November 18, 2017, Lodge 386 of St. Pius X Church in Carrick & UPMC co-sponsored a health fair for the surrounding community.

Unfortunately, the weather did not cooperate as we dealt with a deluge of rain. Those who did attend, were screened for blood pressure, blood glucose levels, cholesterol levels and ask the expert question & answers.

Attendees were also given pill boxes, sun screen packets, water bottles and other health related items supplied by the GCU Home Office & UPMC.

We would like to thank the volunteers from UPMC for their expertise and the GCU for the funding of this event!

Beth Gulyasy | Secretary Treasurer

Lodge 390

MCKEES ROCKS, PA

St. Nicholas Day Celebration

On Sunday, December 3, GCU Lodge 390 sponsored the annual Holy Ghost Parish St. Nicholas Day celebration. This annual event features a short performance by students in Holy Ghost's ECF program and a party with gifts for the students and a visit from St. Nicholas. The celebration highlights the role of St. Nicholas as the patron of the Byzantine Catholic Church and GCU. It provides the opportunity to remind each generation that there is a real Saint behind the tradition of Santa Claus.

This year's program featured a choral program with traditional Rusyn and English Christmas carols. The program ended with the singing of the hymn to St. Nicholas to mark



Children with St. Nicholas.

his arrival in the hall. St. Nicholas came with presents for all ages and took time for photos. The event included a pizza social along with pot luck food and goodies brought by those participating.

Steve Puluka | Secretary Treasurer



Dave Rager & Pastor Robert Westrick from the Interfaith Community Food Pantry.



Jerry Nedrich (right) presenting Pastor Robert Westrick & Dave Rager with a \$200.00 check for the Interfaith Community Food Pantry.

Lodge 401

NANTY GLO, PA

Food Pantry Donation

On November 7, 2017 Mr. Dave Rager and Pastor Robert Westrick, members of the Interfaith Community Food Pantry, stopped at St. Nicholas Byzantine Catholic Church to collect the 17 bags of donated groceries. The donations were made by members of the parish for the annual GCU Lodge 401 food drive event. The groceries were sorted and distributed for the Thanksgiving holiday.

While they were there, Jerry Nedrich also presented them with a \$200.00 check for the Pantry from GCU Lodge 401.

Gene Ostinowsky | Vice President

Lodge 442

BOARDMAN, OH

Children's Christmas Party

The children's Christmas party was held, Sunday December 10, 2017 following the Divine Liturgy. A light lunch, favors, presents and pictures with St. Nicholas were enjoyed by the kids. The adults attending enjoyed socializing during the event. Special thanks to Sharon Mulichak who volunteered to shop, Paul Kasper, Mary Beth Hayer, Cathy Kollar and Karen Kollar.

Annual Christmas Bake Sale

The annual Christmas Bake Sale was held Saturday, December 16 and Sunday, December 17, 2017 following Liturgy. Lodge 442 teamed up with the church Altar and Rosary Society to co-sponsor the event. The Lodge 442 share of the proceeds is a Community Matching Funds Project benefitting the Rescue Mission of the Mahoning Valley. Special thanks to the Mary & Jerry Novak Family and Mary Sosnowski for baking kolachi, Ken Litwin for set up and all who worked, baked and made purchases at the sale.

Elaine Chachko | Activity Director/Treasurer



Lodge 442 families pose with St. Nicholas during the children's party.

UPCOMING LODGE 442 EVENTS

Annual Children's Easter Candy Day

Palm Sunday, March 25

Following the 9 AM Liturgy

Children ages 14 and under are invited.

Sign-up sheets will be located in the vestibule.

Infant Jesus of Prague Church
7754 South Avenue Ext.
Boardman, OH 44512

Coffee & Donut Social & Second Quarter Meeting

Sunday, April 15

Following the 9 AM Liturgy

All parishioners, friends and family are invited.

Infant Jesus of Prague Church
7754 South Avenue Ext.
Boardman, OH 44512

Greater Hazleton Regional Lodge

HAZLETON, PA

The doldrums of winter are upon us. Snow, freezing rain, sleet and high velocity winds, but the days are now starting to get longer and brighter—a good sign that the next season is not too far away.

Warm Heart, Cold Hands Clothing Drive

During the late autumn, St. Mary & St. John Churches in Hazleton, PA and SS. Peter & Paul Church in Beaver Meadows, PA held a Warm Heart-Cold Hands Clothing Drive. All the donations were presented to Catholic Social Services.

St. Nicholas Dinner

Sunday, December 3, 2017 was the Greater Hazleton Regional Lodge (GHRL) annual St. Nicholas Dinner at Capriotti's Palazzo in McAdoo, PA.

Over 100 guests attended the dinner and a special visit was made by St. Nicholas (Deacon Larry) and his assistant elf (Thomas Betterly). Gold chocolate coins were given out to all in attendance. The GHRL scholar winners were honored and all parishes of the lodge received a monetary donation for Christmas.

We had an assortment of over 55 tricky trays, had a grand prize drawing for a \$50 Lottery Calendar and a share the wealth fundraiser.

Thanks to the Home Office for the Fraternal Grant, the assortment of give-a-ways and the children's gifts. All children also received a gift card from McDonalds from the lodge.

Mark your calendar and plan to join us next year on Sunday, December 2, 2018.

GHRL Bowling League

The GCUer's bowling league would like to congratulate team Dollars (Mary Lou Junas, Judy & Al Kringer) for winning the 1st half championship. There are no 300 games so far this year, but Agnes Rohrbach accomplished an almost impossible feat (making the big 4 split). Only 2 league members have ever accomplished this, the other is Coleen Dubitsky.

Sometimes, due to circumstances beyond our control, dates and activities are subject to change. If you are ever in doubt about an event or meeting, please give Agnes a call at 570-454-4869 or if you are computer savvy, check out the GCU website for updates.

Till next time, take care and may God Bless.

Agnes Rohrbach | Secretary & Activities Director



Clothing Drive volunteers. From left: Walter Wenner, Rick Hoppey, Cathie Cramond, Marge Hoppey, Rev. Jerome Wolbert, OFM, GCU National Director Dorothy Ann Foran, Anna Mae Gomal, Ann Marie Barna, Agnes Rohrbach, Deacon Larry Foran, Mari Sue Rayno and Mike Komishock.

UPCOMING GHRL EVENTS

Junior Bowling Tournament

**Sunday, March 18
1 PM**

Bowl-Arena, 190 Susquehanna Blvd., West Hazleton, PA

Blind Doubles No-Tap Tournament

**Saturday, April 14
Time to be announced**

Bowl-Arena, 190 Susquehanna Blvd., West Hazleton, PA

Hollywood Casino Bus Trip

Sunday, April 15

Contact Agnes at 570-454-4869

Second Quarter Meeting

**Sunday, May 6
1 PM**

St. John the Baptist Byzantine Catholic Church
5 East 20th Street, Hazleton, PA

Spring Helping Hands Day at Holy Annunciation Monastery

**Saturday, June 2
9 AM**

Sugarloaf, PA

Sight & Sound Bus Trip to See "Jesus"

Saturday, August 18

Lancaster Sight and Sound
300 Hartman Bridge Road, Ronks, PA 17572
Transportation, Show and Dinner

Contact Agnes Rohrbach at 570-454-4869

There are a few tickets still available.

Lodge 625

CONEMAUGH, PA

St. Nicholas Party

On Wednesday, December 6, following Divine Liturgy for the St. Nicholas feast day, Lodge 625 sponsored its annual St. Nicholas pizza/salad event. Members & guests were treated to food and fellowship.

Christmas Eve Social

On Sunday, December 24, following the Christmas Divine Liturgy, the lodge sponsored its annual Christmas Eve social. Those who attended shared in light refreshments provided by the lodge.

Lodge 625 Community Donations

During the annual meeting in November, members voted to donate the \$3,000.00 raised at the Music Festival and the Community Matching Funds to 15 different area non-profits. Recipients included: Johnstown Area Heritage Association, West End Food Pantry, Walnut Grove Food Pantry, Park Avenue Food Pantry, Habitat for Hounds, Cambria County Humane Society, Best of Friends, Johnstown Free Medical Clinic, SVDP Johnstown Soup Kitchen, Cambria County Back Pack for Kids, Conemaugh Valley Feed our Little Jays Back Pack program, Conemaugh Fire Company, Windber Hospice, the Serra Club and the Sister Servants of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. President Paul Yackulich Jr. and Secretary-Treasurer Georgia Lehman made visits to the organizations during the month of December to deliver the donations.

Join the Lodge 625 Email List

Members of Lodge 625 who would like to be added to the Lodge 625 email list are asked to send an email to the lodge email to: gculodge625@yahoo.com.

Georgia Lehman | Secretary-Treasurer



Dylan Lehman enjoying Christmas Eve refreshments.

UPCOMING LODGE 625 EVENTS

Spaghetti Dinner

Sunday, February 18
11 AM - 2 PM

Holy Trinity Church Hall, Conemaugh, PA

First Quarter Meeting

Sunday, March 11
Following Divine Liturgy (approx. 10:15 AM)

Holy Trinity Church Hall, Conemaugh, PA

Easter Party

Sunday, March 18
Following Divine Liturgy

For children 12 and under

Holy Trinity Church Hall, Conemaugh, PA

District 4 Jr. Bowling Tournament

Saturday, April 14
1 PM

Richland Lanes, 1140 Frances Street, Johnstown, PA

Lodge Bowling Party

Sunday, April 29
Time to be announced

Richland Lanes, 1140 Frances Street, Johnstown, PA



Donna Curtis, Marianne Spanko and Diane Keytack from Feed our Little Jays program with Lodge 625 President Paul Yackulich.



President Paul Yackulich, Rosalie Danchanko from Johnstown Free Medical Clinic and Lodge 625 Secretary-Treasurer Georgia Lehman.

More from Lodge 644

BARBERTON/AKRON, OH

Salvation Army Kettle & Donations

On Saturday, December 2, 2017, GCU Lodge 644 staffed a Salvation Army kettle at Chapel Hill Mall from 10 AM to 5 PM. The volunteers enjoyed serving and their happy attitude resulted in a collection of \$147.⁵⁶. Lodge 644 has conducted this fundraiser for many years and it has always been successful.

A second annual fundraiser for the Salvation Army and Good Samaritan Hunger Center was also a great success. With Matching Funds the lodge was able to present a total of \$3,230.⁰⁰ to these groups. Needless to say, these organizations provide much needed help in the community.

Recognition Dinner

The annual Recognition Dinner was held on Saturday, December 9 at Bricco Prime Restaurant. Getting together for fine food and conversation along with pastor, Rev. Miron Kerul'-Kmec and his wife Marcela, made it an enjoyable afternoon.



Dennis & Barbara Bowsheer staffing the kettle.



Marsha Ambrose (left) presents check to Holly Brunswick at Robinson School.

Robinson Elementary School Donation

Sometime ago Lodge 644 conducted a food collection for the Summit County Food Bank with help from the students at Robinson Elementary School. Though many of the students at the school are in need they, along with their teachers, still continue to hold this food drive. Lodge 644 member Marsha Ambrose, a custodian at the school, keeps us apprised of their endeavors. To offer some support, Lodge 644 presented the school with a \$200.⁰⁰ donation. The money was used for much needed musical instrument repair and program needs. School music director Holly Brunswick has provided the school with numerous music programs. Students may otherwise have not experienced these programs due to limited funding. It is encouraging to see this support given to young students.

John Keblesh | Publicity

Lodge 665

LINDEN, NJ

Year End Wrap Up

In July, Lodge 665 helped St. Elias Byzantine Church with their Day Festival. The net profit from that event was \$4,453.⁰⁰, thanks to the hard work and culinary skills of lodge members and parishioners. A basket fundraiser was held on Sunday, November 19, partnering with St. Ann's Altar Society. The profit from that event was \$319.⁰⁰. To finish up the year, a St. Nicholas Brunch and fundraiser was held on Sunday, December 10. All those in attendance enjoyed good food and a visit from St. Nicholas.

Michael A. Geles | Secretary Treasurer



Visiting with St. Nicholas.



The arrival of St. Nicholas.

Lodge 860

DETROIT, MI

Children's Christmas Party

Children of the ECF (Eastern Christian Formation) catechism program at St. Nicholas Church in Clinton Township, MI, held the annual Christmas play and pizza party event on Sunday, December 17, 2017. The event was subsidized by Lodge 860. The children attend weekly catechism lessons on Sundays between the morning Liturgies at the church. Each year before Christmas, parents, parishioners and guests are invited to enjoy a pizza luncheon with the children. Immediately following, the children perform in a brief Christmas play, sing carols and a hymn to St. Nicholas which prompts a visit and gifts from the Benevolent Bishop to the children's delight!

Annual Christmas Potluck Dinner

The Carpatho-Rusyn Cultural Society of Michigan held its Annual Christmas Potluck Dinner, subsidized by Lodge 860. The event was held on January 6, 2018 at St. Nicholas Church in Clinton Township, MI.

At the end of the 4 PM Divine Liturgy with Vespers in the church, a Panachida was held for the deceased members of the society.

Immediately following in the parish social hall, appetizers and beverages were served and the Beskidy Folk Ensemble began performing traditional Rusyn music. They continued to play while guests enjoyed a bountiful ethnic potluck of kolbasi, holupki, kolachi and plenty of other food & desserts!

Following the musical performances, the Ensemble led the crowd in singing "Mnohaja Lita" and "Ja Rusyn Byl" (the national anthem of Carpatho-Rusyns).

Val Marszalec | Fraternal & Publicity Director



The Beskidy Folk Ensemble entertained guests at the Annual Christmas Potluck Dinner.

Lodge 945 Goings On

DUNMORE, PA

Now that the holiday season is past and a new year has been rung in, let's recap what's been "Going On" in Lodge 945. In the December *GCU Magazine*, the Lodge 945 events held in November and December were highlighted. Please check out Lodge News on the GCU website for a pictorial report of these events. Thanks to all the lodge members and the parishioners of St. Michael the Archangel Byzantine Church in Dunmore, PA for their generous and continual support of the lodge's functions.



Director of the Keystone Rescue John Gleason accepting \$1,932.⁰⁰ monetary donation from Lodge 945 Secretary Sharon Kofel.



Volunteers accepting Christmas gifts from Secretary Sharon Kofel for the Gino Merli Veterans Center.

Angel Tree Project

The annual Angel Tree Project was once again a success with gifts provided to more than 50 residents of the Gino Merli Veterans Home. Thank you to all the lodge members and parishioners of St. Michael the Archangel Byzantine Church in Dunmore for the generosity. A big thank you to the Home Office for making a grant available to purchase gifts and supplies. Deloris, social director at the center, shared how much they depend on organizations, like GCU, to spread cheer at Christmas time. She stressed her gratitude on behalf of the center. This was the lodge's fourth year donating to the center and eighth year sponsoring the Angel Tree Project.

Lodge 945 wishes everyone a Happy Valentine's Day and hopes that you will be spending it with loved ones. Keep in mind that the occasion falls on the first Wednesday of the Great Fast. Good excuse for a scrumptious seafood dinner on your menu. Stay safe and enjoy the next couple of winter months in anticipation of Spring.

Please refer to the GCU website and GCU Lodge 945 Facebook page for any lodge updates and announcements. Inquiries may also be emailed to: GCUlodge945@gmail.com.

Elsie Kolcun | Fraternal & Publicity Director

UPCOMING LODGE 945 EVENT

First Quarter Meeting

Sunday, March 11

Immediately following the 9 AM Divine Liturgy

Light refreshments will be served.
No reservations needed.

Members are encouraged to attend with new ideas for social events and fundraisers.

St. Michael's Church
511 East Drinker Street
Dunmore, PA 18512



Children and adults with St. Nicholas.



Lodge 999

PHOENIX, AZ

St. Nicholas Dinner

Lodge 999 held their annual St. Nicholas Dinner at St. Stephen Byzantine Pro-Cathedral on December 9, 2017. A sit-down meal, including the traditional chocolate fountain & festive decorations were enjoyed by all. The kids put on a program featuring Christmas carols and the Hymn to St. Nicholas which prompted him to visit. After his arrival he listened to the kid's

Christmas wishes.

The lodge adopted a family for the holidays and proceeds from fundraisers held during the dinner helped finance the family with gifts. A \$300 Membership Annuity was won by Mary Beth Foster, a 45" TV was won by Steve Durkot and a Keurig Coffee maker went to Kathy Kerdos.

Joanie Mahar | President

GCU Home Office Hours of Operation

The GCU Home Office (800.722.4428) is open Monday through Friday 8:30 AM to 5 PM EST.

The Call Center (855.306.0607) accepts calls Monday through Thursday from 8:30 AM to 7 PM EST and Fridays 8:30 AM to 5 PM EST.

5400 Tuscarawas Road, Beaver, PA 15009



For Your Information

Events

13th Egg EGGstravaganza

Sunday, March 18

12 NOON to 5 PM

FREE

St. John the Baptist Church Social Hall
201 East Main Street, Uniontown, PA

Call 724-438-6027 M-F 9 AM-3 PM—
Please Leave Message

The event is co-sponsored by GCU Lodge 81, local egg artists, and the St. John's Ethnic Craft Club. Egg artists display, demonstrate, and sell decorated eggs. Crafts and Easter items (embroidered basket covers, lamb butter molds & decorated candles) are available for purchase. There are children's Easter themed activities and explanations of traditional Easter foods for basket blessing. A Lenten lunch menu is available including; St. John's "famous" pirohi, halushki, pagach, pirohi pizza and assorted soups. The bake sale will include: long rolls (nut, apricot, poppyseed, cottage cheese), paska bread, decorated medovniki, small nut rolls, cookies, homemade candy and many more delicious goodies. There is a workshop on making pysanky and fundraising events with great prizes.

Handicapped accessible.

Spring Helping Hands Day at Holy Annunciation Monastery

Saturday, June 2

9 AM

Sugarloaf, PA

Contact Agnes Rohrbach
570-454-4869

Available

Carpathian Cookery Cookbook

Having sold over 17,000 copies, the cookbook has entered its 18th printing and was requested by the Library of Congress to be in their ethnic cooking collection. 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. There is a variety of paska bread and kolachi (filled roll) recipes, as well as meatless dishes and Lenten recipes, suitable for the Great Fast, as well as the Pre-Christmas Fast. The cost of the cookbook is \$14.⁰⁰ plus \$4.⁰⁰ postage and handling (\$18.⁰⁰). If ordering from Canada, please send a \$27.⁰⁰ 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 Street, Uniontown, PA 15401, call 724-438-6027 (M-F 9 AM-3 PM please leave a message) or email carpathiancookery@gmail.com.



2018 GCU National Event Dates

Family Outings

- Sunday, June 3** Byzantine Family Day—Passaic—Knoebels Park, Elysburg, PA
 - Thursday, July 26** Byzantine Family Day—Pittsburgh—Kennywood Park, W. Mifflin, PA
- Note:** Be sure to check the GCU Website www.gcuusa.com for affinity discounts at amusement parks and other family attractions.

Sports Outings

- Tuesday, February 13** NHL Hockey Game, Pittsburgh Penguins vs. Ottawa Senators
- Mon.-Tues., May 21-22** 2018 GCU National Bowling Tournament
GCU & Slovak Catholic Sokol
The Orleans—Las Vegas, NV
- Monday, June 4** GCU Spring Golf Classic at Seven Oaks CC, Beaver, PA
- Saturday, August 18** PNC Park-Pittsburgh Pirates Baseball plus Fireworks
- Fri.-Sun., Aug. 10-12** GCU + SCS National Golf Tournament—Tam-O-Shanter and Oak
Tree Country Club, West Middlesex, PA
- Saturday, Sept. 15** Charity Golf Scramble, Seven Oaks CC, Beaver, PA

Fraternal Activities & Events

- Monday, January 31** Scholarship Information Submission Deadline
- Friday, April 6** Art, Photo + Video Contest Deadline
- Saturday, June 2** Helping Hands Day at Mt. Saint Macrina, Uniontown, PA and
Holy Annunciation Monastery, Sugarloaf, PA
- Sunday, December 9** 62nd Annual St. Nicholas Celebration
A Benefit for SS. Cyril & Methodius Byzantine Seminary

Cause of the Quarter

In July of 2017 GCU introduced the Cause of the Quarter. The idea is to have a cause that all of our members can donate to. Whether they are active in their local lodge or even those that do not have a local lodge, the Cause of the Quarter invites all our members to be part of the GCU—Investing in the Goodness of Community. The GCU Board of Directors will match total donations from each quarter up to \$2,500/quarter. Donation information is available on the GCU Website: www.GCUusa.com.

- January-March** National Center for Addiction & Substance Abuse
- April-June** Alzheimers Association
- July-September** Local Volunteer Fire Departments
- October-December** Salvation Army-Project Bundle Up & Treasurers for Children

Deceased Members

(Lodge-Member-City-State)

83	Dolores Angelisanti, Lower Burrell, PA	390	Patricia Dailey, Chandler, AZ	83	Patricia Hassey, Henderson, NC
8304	Suzannah Antink, Newport Beach, CA	83	Elaine D'Antonio, Aliquippa, PA	321	Natalie Hausele, Greensburg, PA
83	Edna M. Baglivo, Warrington, PA	442	Diane June Dattilo, Youngstown, OH	8327	Alice Heckel, Marshfield, WI
66	Gary Banks, Lake Station, IN	697	Alice M. Dawson, Weirton, WV	8358	Richard Hermanson, Merrimac, WI
83	Ada J. Barbus, Robinson, PA	83	William T. Deasy, Oakmont, PA	83	Marjorie H. Hershberger, Murrysville, PA
10	Joseph Batrla, Aliquippa, PA	258	Eloise Dennis, Youngstown, OH	83	Robert David Hludzik, Freeland, PA
83	Jane Begani, Hummelstown, PA	83	Anna Emma Dominic, Hazleton, PA	28	Peter Horvath, Pittsburgh, PA
83	Mary Behanna, Ann Arbor, MI	83	Mary Donahay, Williamsport, PA	83	Paul Howrilla, Canton, MS
83	Carmella Bennett, King of Prussia, PA	83	Alice Dongweck, Oakdale, PA	336	Anna Hudak, Burton, OH
83	Donald Benninger, East Brady, PA	10	Robert L. Donina, Signal Mountain, TN	10	Edna Hudak, Aliquippa, PA
83	Bernard E. Bergquist, Cheswick, PA	83	Clara Dorchak, Pittsburgh, PA	860	Gregory Bruce Hutsko, Dallas, TX
81	Edward Bernath, Export, PA	255	Theodore Druga, N. Huntingdon, PA	83	James T. Irwin, New Castle, PA
665	Elizabeth Bessenyei, Milltown, NJ	252	John J. Dubos, Youngstown, OH	8327	Ruth Jacobson, Renville, MN
255	Arthur Binkowski, Monroeville, PA	83	Robert Dudick, Northampton, PA	2	Mildred Jama, N. Braddock, PA
17	Elizabeth Biondi, Scranton, PA	81	David Dursa, Carmichaels, PA	8344	Elizabeth M. Jones, Wilkinsburg, PA
17	Michal Bojko, Dickson City, PA	83	Alice L. Ebner, Scottdale, PA	83	Margaret J. Juart, Indiana, PA
8344	Rita M. Bombatch, Johnstown, PA	83	Judith A. Eger, Duncansville, PA	83	Stella Kaminski, Lower Burrell, PA
8344	Maudress A. Boots, Baden, PA	52	Stephanie Ellegood, Alexandria, VA	83	Mary Kelly, Orlando, FL
83	Sylvia Boring, Indiana, PA	83	Diana Ent, Orangeville, PA	8358	Alyce Kilsdonk, Hilbert, WI
83	Margaret K. Bradley, Sellersville, PA	53	Helen Evanik, Wilkes-Barre, PA	83	Betty Knell, McMurray, PA
8304	Wayne L. Brandau, Capistrano Beach, CA	8309	Dennis P. Evans, Apopka, FL	255	Mary A. Kocan, Pittsburgh, PA
83	Joseph Buli, Kenmore, NY	83	Florence Evans, Pooler, GA	83	Dolores Koman, Imperial, PA
109	Jerry Burr, Zelienople, PA	254	Barbara Farinick, Pompton Plains, NJ	57	Stanley R. Koper, Monessen, PA
47	William Buzinsky, Johnson City, NY	83	Walter J. Faucett, Franklin, PA	83	Charles Kormanik, Kansas City, MO
994	James L. Cable, Rochester, PA	83	Catherine T. Fisher, Monroeville, PA	15	Michael John Kosco, Hamilton, NJ
83	Merle L. Campbell, Chicora, PA	999	Melvin Fisher, Mesa, AZ	2	John Kostelnick, W. Mifflin, PA
83	Francesco Carafa, Oreland, PA	81	Lillian Fogle, Pittsburgh, PA	7	Dorothy Kostik, Yorktown Heights, NY
390	Charles Carey, Pittsburgh, PA	10	Lorraine Foister, Aliquippa, PA	164	Michael Kovach, Canfield, OH
83	Edith Casasanta, Coraopolis, PA	83	Marie Futules, Cheswick, PA	83	Anne Kovinsky, New Kensington, PA
2	Irene Celovsky, Worcester, MA	83	Ila Mae Gearhart, Lebanon, PA	945	Ann Kowpak, Kingwood, TX
8358	Philip Cherek, Hatley, WI	8358	Robert Gorden, Wisconsin Rapids, WI	83	Ann Krajnik, Erie, PA
28	Mary Churilla, Pittsburgh, PA	83	Edward Grace, Drexel Hill, PA	83	Betty M. Kriebel, Murrysville, PA
302	Joseph Cicero, Niles, OH	83	Loretta Graham, Butler, PA	8358	Sidney Kroeger, Hortonville, WI
66	Ruth M. Cidulka, Crown Point, IN	302	Margaret Greenfelder, Maple Hts., OH	83	Mary R. Kuhn, Sellersville, PA
83	Harvey Clinkscales, Cleveland, OH	302	Ann Guman, Cleveland, OH	83	John P. Kustra, McKeesport, PA
83	Sara C. Clowes, Marianna, PA	83	Doris L. Gwin, Williamsburg, PA	10	Steve Kuzniar, Beaver, PA
351	Cynthia Cordaro, Reynoldsville, PA	83	Xuan Ha, Warrington, PA	83	Stanley Kwitkowski, Apollo, PA
665	Marie Crisonino, Bayonne, NJ	83	Betty Hagerty, Waltersburg, PA	271	Juergen Lauer, South Elgin, IL
83	Linda A. Cunningham, Butler, PA	8344	Ronald W. Hain, Llewellyn, PA	83	Ray Lawrence, Studio City, CA
83	Richard Curry, Jeannette, PA	83	Melvin T. Harrington, Pittsburgh, PA	83	Paula D. Lechner, Greensburg, PA
83	James Cywinski, Pittsburgh, PA	255	Pauline Harris, Pittsburgh, PA	83	Robert A. Leins, Russell, PA
994	Thomas J. Czerpak, Midland, PA	8358	June M. Harrison, Minocqua, WI	83	Gerald E. Lentz, Muskego, WI
				255	Josephine Licata, Arnold, PA

10	Eleanore Jean Lipp, Beaver Falls, PA	83	Olga J. Prusinowski, Bridgeport, PA	8344	Dolores A. Ward, Beaver, PA
83	Emil Lohin, Pottsville, PA	83	Gabriel Puhak, Harrisburg, PA	83	Andrew Washington, Olean, NY
83	Paul Lorenz, Audubon, PA	8358	Margaret Reichhart, Milwaukee, WI	83	Philip Way, Haymarket, VA
8358	Myron Lotto, Green Bay, WI	83	Ruth V. Reighard, Hollidaysburg, PA	8344	Eleanor S. Webb, Lansdale, PA
83	Lawrence Lucas, Pittsburgh, PA	52	Barbara Remster, Carnegie, PA	83	Regina Wernert, Pittsburgh, PA
83	Norman G. Luzell, Industry, PA	8344	George Rizzard, Pottsville, PA	255	Coleen G. Woeber, Venetia, PA
316	Margaret Maczko, Phillipsburg, NJ	271	Inga Rohacek, Berwyn, IL	8344	Nicholas J. Yackanicz, Whitehall, PA
8344	Jennie N. Manegold, Douglassville, PA	83	James Runkle, Bridgeport, PA	83	John J. Yakubik, Hazleton, PA
83	Myra Mangiacarne, Altoona, PA	83	Jack Savercool, E Stroudsburg, PA	401	Josephine Yarosh, Portage, PA
66	Lillian E. Martin, Warsaw, IN	625	Joanne Schilling, Hollsopple, PA	10	E. A. Young, Aliquippa, PA
8344	Dora Mazepa, Palmerton, PA	8358	Norman A. Schneiter, Glenbeulah, WI	271	Robert Yurschak, Chicago, IL
83	Nola McAfee, Berwick, PA	83	Marshall P. Schoedel, Pittsburgh, PA	83	Harriet Ziemba, Bethel Park, PA
83	Stephanne McAleer, Bellefonte, PA	83	Robert Seeley, Utica, PA	109	Edward Zillifro, Slippery Rock, PA
83	Ruth McAllister, Indiana, PA	83	Richard Shimer, Altoona, PA		
83	Margaret A. McGill, Meadville, PA	69	Beverly Shoemaker, Mont Clare, PA		
83	Ethel McNamara, Penn, PA	164	Ann S. Sikora, Homosassa, FL		
83	Dorothy Melensky, Pittsburgh, PA	83	James Silvestri, Monroeville, PA		
83	Sue Menestrina, Clairton, PA	83	Rudy V. Simonini, Washington, PA		
10	Samuel Mike, Aliquippa, PA	83	Carol Smith, Sarver, PA		
83	Anthony Miller, Knoxville, TN	994	Joan Smith, Beaver, PA		
83	Regina M. Miller, Cranberry Twp, PA	83	Lula Snavelly, Hollidaysburg, PA		
182	Melanie Mizenko, Ashley, PA	83	Donald Snyder, New Florence, PA		
625	Anna Mlinarchik, Johnstown, PA	83	Billie C. Sprecker, Beaver, PA		
83	Rosellen Moller, Greenville, PA	83	Steve Starosto, Conway, SC		
83	Barbara Molnar, Chicora, PA	83	Albert John Steck, Silver Spring, MD		
360	Margaret Mraz, Campbell, OH	83	Lilla-Belle Stephenson, Vandergrift, PA		
321	William Muchoney, Everett, WA	644	John P. Stetz, Barberton, OH		
83	Mary Jane Muller, Indiana, PA	83	Wanda Streitman, Cabot, PA		
252	Martina S. Nagel, Cincinnati, OH	288	Julius Such, Jefferson Hills, PA		
83	Vera A. O'Hara, Ebensburg, PA	625	Elizabeth Syplivy, Johnstown, PA		
83	Lola Organ, Portersville, PA	83	Bernice Tabor, Johnstown, PA		
83	Arnold Osborne, Fenelton, PA	83	John Telatnik, Niagara Falls, NY		
8358	Mary Ann Otto, Clintonville, WI	8358	Elsie A. Tessmann, Wauwatosa, WI		
83	Helen Owens, Pittsburgh, PA	83	Clara Timtishin, Pocono Lake, PA		
83	Marion Page, Clairton, PA	271	Larry Tincher, Washington Park, IL		
83	Leona Paquet, Avonmore, PA	271	Michael R. Tirpak, Glenview, IL		
83	Joseph Pavina, New Salem, PA	83	Flora M. Trettel, Butler, PA		
83	Dorothy Pekich, Johnstown, PA	92	Mary Valeski, Waymart, PA		
994	Elena Pelaia, Beaver, PA	83	G. Edwin Van Dyke, Freeport, PA		
336	Catherine Perich, Euclid, OH	83	Geraldine Varley, Canonsburg, PA		
83	Charlotte M. Perroz, Bairdford, PA	83	Virginia Vascik, Marienville, PA		
83	Margaret Petkash, Conway, PA	211	Bertha Ann Vicki, Jessup, PA		
271	Emil S. Placko, Bensenville, IL	53	Illuminada Vogt, Hawley, PA		
288	Alexander M. Pomilio, Elizabeth, PA	83	Mary L. Vybiral, Pittsburgh, PA		
83	Eleanor A. Price, Evans, GA	8358	Judith Walentowicz, Big Bend, WI		
336	Stella Pridon, Salem, OH	665	Elizabeth M. Wallace, Union, NJ		
83	Daniel C. Prosser, Monroeville, PA				

Remembrances

Sister Rita Keshock, OSBM

She was able to take an egg and transform it into a beautiful icon

Early in the morning of Sunday, November 19, 2017, Sr. Rita (Florence) Keshock fell asleep in the Lord at Mt. Macrina Manor. While the community was praying Matins on Sunday, commemorating the Resurrection, she surely met her Risen Lord with joy and gladness.

Sr. Rita, the daughter of the late Michael & Sophia (Backus) Keshock, was born in Campbell, OH. She entered the Sisters of St. Basil the Great from St. Nicholas Byzantine Catholic Church in Youngstown, OH on June 12, 1947 and made her Final Profession of Vows on August 28, 1953.

Sr. Rita spent half of her religious life in the ministry of education for which she was well-prepared, having earned both a Bachelor's and Master's Degree in Education. While she served diligently in the many schools staffed by the Sisters at that time, there was a new ministry waiting for her in the wings. An article in the Byzantine Catholic World dated January 14, 1996 summed it up in these words: *Basilian Sister Finds New Home in the World of Art.*

This was her passion. In her own words, Sr. Rita explained, "I am now a painter, a calligrapher, a crafter and an etcher." Having learned the craft of etching onto eggs, she discovered that this would be a perfect medium for producing icons. Spending hours in her art room Sr. Rita noted that she often became lost in meditative thought of the beauty of life as she worked. Sister took great pride in the fact that, particularly her etched icons, were displayed in a numerous exhibits throughout the country. She also taught the craft of etching on eggs to others in workshops, thus leaving a legacy of this favorite ministry of hers.

In his homily, Archbishop William Skurla

noted that what we were gathered for was a celebration of hope and a celebration of sadness. It is one of hope because as we heard in the reading from Thessalonians, we believe that "God will bring forth with Him from the dead those also who have fallen asleep believing in Him." It is one of sadness, because we are bidding farewell to one whose life has been so much a part of ours. Archbishop noted that Jesus has come to give us a new understanding of life in the promise of resurrection and the revelation of eternal life. Sr. Rita, like all of us, was continually being called into the mystery of life. Now she has completed her earthly journey and now she enjoys the beauty which she tried to express so meticulously in her etched icons.

Sr. Rita was preceded in death by her parents, her sisters Mary Louise and Alice (Kuzmack) and her brother Edward. She is survived by her brothers

Peter B. Gnall

Peter B. Gnall, 77, of Blakeslee, PA died on Friday, January 12, 2018 at Geisinger Wyoming Valley Hospital in Wilkes-Barre, PA. He was the loving husband of the late Catherine Rusnak Gnall, who died in 2004.

Born in Shenandoah, PA, he was a son of the late Peter Gnall, Sr. and Olga (Kasyan) Gnall.

Peter was a 1958 graduate of Immaculate Heart High School in Fountain Springs, PA. A deeply devoted Byzantine Catholic, he was a member of St. Nicholas Byzantine Catholic Church in Mt. Pocono, PA where he served as cantor. He had previously performed the same duty at St. Andrews Byzantine Church in Westbury, NY and St. Mary's

John (Katherine), Robert (+Kathryn) and Charles (Joann), her sister-in-law, Mary Jo and several nieces and nephews.

The Parastas Service was celebrated on Friday, November 24 by Monastery Chaplain Rev. Michael Huszti. In attendance were Very Rev. Archpriest John G. Petro, Very Rev. Ronald Larko, Rev. James Ragan and Rev. Stephen Wahal. The Funeral Divine Liturgy was celebrated on Saturday, November 25 by Archbishop William C. Skurla with Very Rev. Andrew Deskevich and Rev. Michael as concelebrants. In attendance were Very Rev. Leo Schlosser, OSB and Very Rev. Ronald Larko.

May God grant to his handmaiden, Sr. Rita, eternal memory and peaceful repose.

Byzantine Church in New York, NY. He was a lifelong active GCU member of Lodge 151. He was also a member of the Pocono Mountain Seniors organization.

He is survived by his brothers Theodore, Myron, Jerome, Nestor, Andrew and Gabriel Gnall; sisters Salome Levkulich and Monica Lapinsky; brother-in-law Michael Knapp; and his dear friend Pina Lally. In addition to his wife Catherine, he was predeceased by his sister Evdokia Knapp.

The Liturgy of Christian Burial was celebrated by Father James Carroll at St. Mary's Byzantine Catholic Church in Mahanoy City, PA. Interment followed at St. Mary's Cemetery, Mahanoy City, PA.

Blessed repose and eternal memory.



TEAM EVENT
MONDAY, MAY 21 – 3-6 PM

DOUBLES AND SINGLES EVENTS
TUESDAY, MAY 22 – NOON TO 6 PM

ROOM RATE \$99*
FRIDAY & SATURDAY, MAY 18-19

ROOM RATE \$49*
SUNDAY-THURSDAY, MAY 20-24

*THERE IS AN \$18/NIGHT RESORT FEE



TO RECEIVE THE SPECIAL GROUP RATE BOWLERS WILL NEED TO ENTER THE ASSIGNED RESERVATION ID: A8GCC05 THROUGH THE HOTEL'S WEBSITE AT THE FOLLOWING URL: WWW.ORLEANSCASINO.COM/GROUPS

OR CALL (800) 675-3267 AND IDENTIFY THEMSELVES AS BOWLERS OF GCU 82ND NATIONAL BOWLING OR USE THE ASSIGNED RESERVATION ID: A8GCC05

2018 GCU - SCS
NATIONAL BOWLING TOURNAMENT
AT THE ORLEANS IN LAS VEGAS, NV.
MONDAY, MAY 21-TUESDAY, MAY 22, 2018

BOWLING COST FOR THE EVENT WILL REMAIN THE SAME AS IN 2017.
\$22 PER EVENT, \$5 FOR ALL EVENTS AND \$29 FOR THE BUFFET BANQUET
ON MONDAY, MAY 21 FOLLOWING BOWLING AT 6 PM. TOTAL FOR BOWLERS
IN TEAM, DOUBLES, SINGLES, ALL EVENTS AND THE BANQUET IS \$100.

THE ORLEANS HOTEL & CASINO
4500 W. TROPICANA AVENUE
LAS VEGAS, NV 89103



Announcing the
GCU



2018 Art, Photo & Video contest!

This year's theme is:

"Invested in Relaxation"



Art



Need some inspiration? **Brainstorm:**
How do you relax?
Where do you go to relax?
What relaxes you the most?
Who do you like to relax with?



If you're 12 or younger, enter your artwork!
-submission must be original on paper or art board – maximum size 12" x 18"
-include short description of your art, name, age, address, phone number and email on the back of your submission



If you're age 13 – 23 enter your photo or video!
-send photo submissions to events@GCUusa.com
-videos must be at least 30 seconds, maximum of three minutes
-include short description, name, age, address, phone number and email with your submission
-photos or videos that include identifiable people require a model release. *Find the model release and exact directions for submitting your video at GCUusa.com/events.

Deadline
April 6, 2018

Winners in each category will receive a gift card of their choice!

One entry per member. All contestants must be a GCU member for one year.

Membership and age is determined as of March 31, 2018.

