

FEBRUARY 2019

GCU

MAGAZINE

GCU GoGive!
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Tournament Information**
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George N. Juba
President
CEO

Continuing the GCU Mission

The GCU is in the midst of celebrating its 127th Anniversary as our Society was founded on February 14, 1892. Over our 127 years, the GCU's Mission has held steadfast in providing assistance to those in need. Our current Mission Statement, **"Protecting Families, Promoting Faith and Fraternalism, Strengthening Communities"** could have been adopted by the founders of the GCU, as this statement provides a clear understanding of what the GCU stands for!

- **"Protecting Families"**—The GCU from its humble beginning offered life insurance to workers employed in very dangerous jobs such as laborers in coal mines, steel mills and factories. Insurance companies at the time would not insure these workers as the risk was too great. The initial death benefit paid upon a member's death was \$400.⁰⁰.

Today, the GCU offers a wide array of permanent and term insurance with low minimum face amounts and very competitive premiums.

In 1977 the GCU started offering a fixed rate annuity. Today, the GCU also offers several fixed rate annuities to choose from, based upon your retirement planning needs.

We invite you to access the GCU's website - GCUusa.com - to secure additional information on each of the life insurance and annuity products offered. Are you and your family **"Protected"**?

- **"Promoting Faith and Fraternalism, Strengthening Communities"** – The GCU's publication "Opportunity Realized" informs us that fraternal benefit societies evolved from brotherhoods which were first formed in Eastern Eu-

rope. The first brotherhood in America was organized by Father Ivan Volansky under the patronage of Saint Nicholas in 1885. Father Volansky who arrived in America in 1884 also played an integral part in the formation of the first Greek Catholic Church in America in Shenandoah, Pennsylvania. These brotherhoods were instrumental in the building of parish churches in addition to organizing and supporting charities, orphanages, nurseries, hospitals and monasteries, preserving the philanthropic base of the Greek Catholic tradition. An example of this ongoing philanthropic commitment since 1892 is evidenced by the GCU's construction of an orphanage in 1923 on a 230 acre farm located in Elmhurst, Pennsylvania. Due to a decline in usage the building and property were sold in 1949, however the building is still standing today.

The GCU's commitment and support has been unwavering over our 127 years of history in support of our Byzantine Catholic parishes and our communities through our various Matching Funds, Grant and Disaster Relief Programs undertaken by our local Lodges and Districts and the GCU. In expanding the GCU's fraternal support programming, the organization now reaches out to other Christian denominations as well. The GCU's GO-Give! Program is available to all our members in support of their own individual causes. The GCU Foundation is another vehicle established to uphold Our Mission!

We invite you to be a part of the GCU's Mission by participating in the many volunteer, fundraising and social activities held to promote faith and fraternalism and strengthen our communities! Please

contact the GCU's Fraternal and Communications Department for additional information on the various programs available.

The GCU began operating as a fraternal benefit society with a grand total of \$600.⁰⁰ in assets. As of year end 2018, the GCU boasts total admitted assets of \$1.9 billion with surplus at \$154.4 million. We also experienced excellent profitability meeting budget before the recording of realized gains and losses. We thank our entire membership and our agents for your support, which plays a most significant role in our financial success! This 127th Anniversary Celebration should not only honor our founders but every administration that led our Society over the course of our history, making sound fiscal and operational decisions in the best interest of our members. We thank you! Our Chief Financial Officer Tim Demetres will be providing a detailed 2018 detailed financial report in the April Annual Report issue of the *GCU Magazine*.

The entire worldwide commerce centers around a transaction, an exchange of cash, services or goods (bartering) for goods or services. It is no different for the GCU as in the insurance world, "today's sale is tomorrow's profits!" We are very fortunate to have on board with the GCU a very dedicated, knowledgeable and loyal distribution force from very large Insurance Maintenance Organizations (IMO's), Field Marketing Organizations (FMO's), General Agents (GA's), Independent Agents, our Captive Agents to our Fraternal Agents. Each relationship is vital to the GCU's current and future success!

We are most proud to announce that the GCU has hired Gary Sorensen as

the Director of Life and Annuity Development. Gary's most recent employment was with Mutual of Omaha as a Regional Sales Manager. We welcome Gary in spearheading our continued recruitment efforts for additional distribution as well as supporting our existing sales force. A full biography and official announcement of Mr. Sorensen's appointment will be published in the April Annual Report issue of the *GCU Magazine*. Welcome Gary!

Technology is ever changing in today's world! Of course, being competitive with life insurance premiums and interest rates plays a major role in selecting GCU for your insurance and retirement planning needs. It is also vital to provide excellent customer service that exceeds our members' and agents' expectations. Securing the most up to date technology is of the utmost importance in assisting our Staff to provide a superior customer experience in addition to providing a "Wow" factor on our online capabilities—electronic policy issues; e-applications; a member portal that provides instantaneous access to your GCU accounts from your smart phone; providing for online payments of insurance premium payments and annuity deposits along with self service changes to your accounts allowed by regulations. As we are committed in our desire to be the "best we can be" in our services and online capabilities, the GCU's Board of Directors has authorized a multimillion-dollar expenditure in replacing our

current policy administration system to the latest and greatest technology to maintain and improve our competitive advantage in the marketplace. Additional details on this venture will be provided by our Chief Operations Officer Scott Schuetz in the April Annual Report issue of the *GCU Magazine*.

This initiative reminds me of a well renowned business executive in the automobile industry, Lee Iacocca and a line he used in many of his Chrysler commercials. I am not quite sure if he coined this phrase, but it has always stuck with me—"Lead, follow or get out of the way!" The GCU certainly wants to be a leader in our niche in the fraternal life insurance market place that we will continue to strive for!

Effective January 1, 2019 all the lodges located in the Greater Pittsburgh Area and within the former District 1 have been officially organized into four regional lodges as follows:

- Central Pittsburgh Regional Lodge—Lodge 28 (Southside-Pittsburgh), Lodge 255 (Greenfield, PA), Lodge 386 (Carrick, PA)
- Southeast Pittsburgh Regional Lodge—Lodges 2 (Munhall, PA), Lodge 288 (Clairton, PA)
- Pittsburgh South Regional Lodge—Lodge 52 (Upper St. Clair, PA)
- Northwest Pittsburgh Regional Lodge—Lodge 390 (McKees Rocks, PA)

We congratulate all the officers who

have been elected as officers of their respective regional lodge. On behalf of the Board of Directors, the Executive Officers, our General Counsel and the staff of our Fraternal Communications Department, we pledge to the officers and members of each of the newly formed regional lodges our continued assistance in assuring even greater success in support of the many current parish and community causes, outreach fundraising programs and volunteer efforts sponsored by the former independent lodges as well as new programs and efforts that may be forthcoming.

In closing, Punxsutawney, Pennsylvania, the home of the famous groundhog Punxsutawney Phil, the great oracle in predicting an early spring or six more weeks of winter, is located approximately 90 miles from the GCU's Home Office. After experiencing below zero temperatures here in Western PA and record setting windchills in January in many locations around the country, we are hopeful that his prediction of an early spring this year is spot on! Stay warm!

A most sincere thank you once again to our members and agents for the continued trust you have in the GCU in placing your and your client's business with the GCU!

Goodness is Great!



GCU CFO Tim Demetres, President/CEO George Juba, Ginny Farthing and Executive Vice President/COO Scott Schuetz.

Good Luck in Retirement

On Friday, January 4, 2019 the GCU staff and executive officers gathered at Seven Oaks Country Club to offer well wishes to Virginia Farthing. Ginny, a member of the new business staff at GCU, retired after 10+ years of service. I would like to take this opportunity to personally thank her for the contributions she made to GCU. We wish Ginny health and happiness as she enters a new chapter of her life.

George Juba | GCU President/CEO



Atty. John J. Urban

Lessons in the Law

Who's on Your Deed?

A lot of people think that because they have a deed with themselves and their spouse named on it, that if one of the spouses dies, the property will automatically transfer to them, as the surviving owner. But in reality, there are steps that the surviving spouse needs to take to remove the deceased person from the deed.

It's not automatic. The property can't be transferred to the surviving spouse or a beneficiary until the deceased person is removed from the deed. The property also can't be sold.

Another type of deed might exist between business partners or tenants in common. This further complicates things if one partner dies and it's not a good way to hold property. It's common for unmarried couples to have a "tenants in common" deed, but your attorney really needs to structure things so the property goes to the appropriate heirs. Business part-

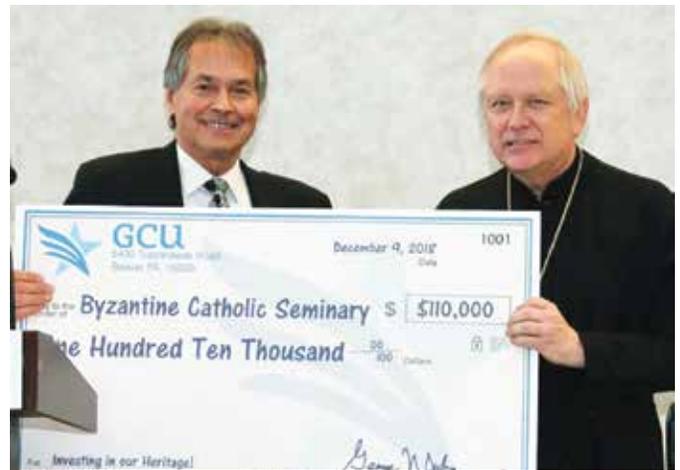
ners may need to put their heirs on a deed. There can be a lot of challenges in these cases.

The moral of this story is that as a part of basic estate planning, it's important to have an attorney who concentrates in estate management. These attorneys will review your deeds to be sure they include the appropriate language—this ensures that upon your death your property transfers to the appropriate person(s).

It's something hard to tell at a glance. There are cases in which a title exam is necessary to find out who actually owns a piece of property, and whether or not there are unresolved issues. It's important to uncover the issues before one of the people named on the deed dies—not after. Complications like a delayed sale could happen if everything isn't in order while the owners are still alive.

GCU Presents Annual Byzantine Seminary Educational Grant

On Sunday, December 9, 2018 GCU President/CEO George N. Juba presented Metropolitan William Skurla, Archbishop of the Archeparchy of Pittsburgh with the GCU's educational grant of \$110,000.00. The annual grant is for the SS. Cyril & Methodius Byzantine Catholic Seminary. The presentation took place at the Saint Nicholas Charity Celebration held at St. John Cathedral Center. With this year's presentation GCU donations, which began in 1961, now total more that \$3.2 million.



GCU President/CEO George N. Juba and Archbishop William Skurla with the GCU educational grant for the Byzantine Catholic Seminary.

Friendsday-Wednesday Soup Sale

On Wednesday, December 12, 2018, Georgia Lehman, her family and other community volunteers supported the December Friendsday-Wednesday Soup Sale benefitting the St. Vincent de Paul Johnstown Family (Soup) Kitchen. Based on the Empty Bowl project where individuals support feeding the poor by purchas-

ing soup and bread as their meal for the day. Georgia and her crew of volunteers made cheese broccoli and stuffed pepper soups. These soups were sold for \$7 a quart and \$5 a bowl. GCU GoGive Grant funds were used to purchase the ingredients for the soups. The project also had support from the local NAHL junior



Kitchen Manager Greg Karcher, Paulette Grove, Georgia Lehman, Zachary Grove and Christopher Lehman. In the background Tomahawks Mascot "Chopper."



Lodge member William Dubovecky purchasing soup from Christopher Lehman.

hockey team, the Johnstown Tomahawks and their mascot Chopper, who signed autographs and posed for pictures. The event sold 95 quarts of soup and 2 bowls of soup. A total of \$675.00 was presented to Kitchen Manager Greg Karcher, following the

event. Georgia would like to thank the GCU Home Office for making the GoGive Grant available and for the support she received from her family and Lodge 625 members who came and purchased soup.

Georgia Lehman

2nd Annual Christmas Character Breakfast

The Miss Greater Hazleton Scholarship Organization hosted its 2nd Annual Christmas Character Breakfast benefitting the Children's Miracle Network Hospitals and the Miss Greater Hazleton Scholarship Organization on Sunday, December 2, 2018 at Edgewood in Drums, PA. The event was a SELL OUT! Special attendees included Santa & his 1st Elf Jingles; Tux the Penguin from the Wilkes-Barre Scranton Penguins; Chase & Skye from Paw Patrol; Elsa & Anna; Olaf; Cinderella; Belle; Ariel and Mulan! Families had a great time enjoying music and the magic mirror photo booth provided by Skuba Entertainment! Thank you to the GCU GOGive! program for supporting the Miss Greater Hazleton Scholarship Organization's efforts to continue "Putting the 'U' in Community"!

Sherri A. Homanko

GCU
GoGIVE

To learn more about GCU Go-Give and how it can help you with your fundraising event visit the GCU Website www.GCUusa.com and click on Giving Back

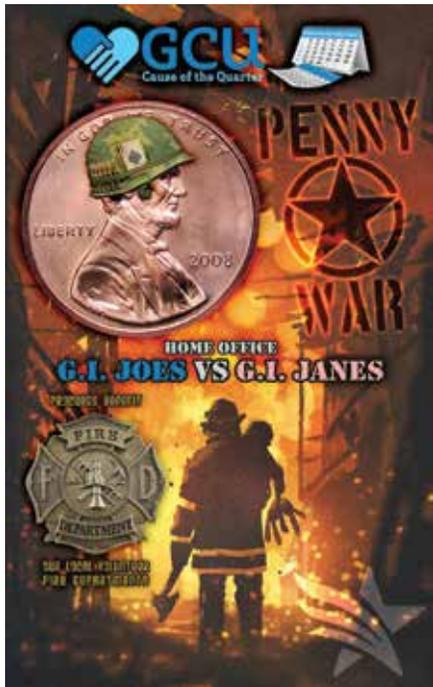
Taylor Mihalow Recipient of Pennsylvania Trio Scholarship

Taylor Mihalow, a member of Lodge 93 in Northern Cambria, PA recently won the 2018 Pennsylvania Trio Scholarship. The PA Trio program helps first generation college students get into college and to develop into successful individuals. Taylor was part of the Saint Francis Upward Bound program in Loretto, PA. Taylor is currently a freshman at Saint Vincent College in Latrobe, PA pursuing a Bachelor of Science Degree in Biology. Her goal is to become a veterinarian. Taylor is a Lodge 93 member and an active member of Saint John Byzantine Church in Northern Cambria where Fr. Vasyl Polyak is pastor. Taylor is a regular volunteer for many activities.

John Katana | Lodge 93 Secretary



Director of Upward Bound Program Anne Heinzeroth, Taylor Mihalow and Assistant Director of Upward Bound Program Kristin Weixel.



During the third quarter of 2018 GCU employees held a penny war competition to raise money for the local volunteer fire companies. The GI Janes were victorious over the GI Joes earning a nice lunch. The real winners were the three local volunteer fire departments each receiving \$770.00 from this GCU Cause of the Quarter fund raising activity.

Mary Vavrek 91st Birthday Party



On Thursday, December 27, 2018, Lodge 28 held a 91st birthday party for long-time member Mary Vavrek, at her residence at Arden Courts in Jefferson Hills, PA. Twenty-five church & GCU members, family and friends spent precious time with her that evening.

The room was decorated in a red and green Christmas theme, since Mary's actual birthday was Christmas Day. After everyone finished the buffet dinner, several holiday games were played with prizes being awarded. The games were fun and put everyone in good spirits. They included the Left/Right game, a dice game and a trivia game.

Following this, three guests (Brent Kolesar, Sarah Pavlick and Jane Meltzer) entertained the crowd with their piano playing skills. Christmas carol sing-a-long books were passed out and everyone, of every singing ability, joined in.

The last part of the evening was singing "Happy Birthday" and passing out the cake. Mary could feel the love and happiness in the air as she was surrounded by the people who cared for her.

Kim Kolesar | Mary's Daughter

Unfortunately, Mary passed away four days later on New Year's Eve, December 31, 2018. Her obituary appears on page 44.

Giving

SS. Peter & Paul Byzantine Catholic Church Parish Expansion

Duquesne, PA. SS. Peter & Paul Church held a food drive for the Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank along with Lodge 2 of St. John Cathedral in Munhall, PA.

Heading up the food drive was Ann Berezna, who along with her volunteers collected 527 pounds (which converts to \$880.⁰⁹) of cereal, soup, canned good, laundry detergent and more.

Agnes Borsch organized the delivery of the barrels, the packing of all the food and the picking up of the full barrels.

The food drive was a huge success in making a difference in our local communities for the Thanksgiving and Christmas Holidays.

Thanks to all who helped make this project such a huge success.

Patty Bovee

St. Nicholas Church Parish Expansion



Many smiling faces helping with the pieroghi sale.

Dunellen, NJ. St. Nicholas Church started off the New Year with a Parish Expansion Pieroghi Sale on Friday, January 11 and Saturday, January 12, 2019. Forty people came out to support the project. The potato filling was prepared on Friday night. The pinching and cooking took place on Saturday. Over 240 dozen potato pieroghis were made and quickly sold out. Fr. James Badeaux is the administrator at St. Nicholas Church. Because of the large number of volunteers this project was a great success. It was nice to see the enthusiasm, with many workers wearing shirts that said "Stand Back - I Pinch." Mike Majorczak chaired the sale. His organization and coordination of workers made the event run smoothly. Several GCU Lodge 340 & 254 members participated in this worthy event.

Mary K. Bannworth

St. Nicholas Church Parish Expansion

Pocono Summit, PA. On December 9, 2018 St. Nicholas Church concluded its 50th anniversary with a celebration honoring St. Nicholas. Committee Chairperson Alex Zidock, portrayed St. Nicholas, and did a fantastic job. Congratulations goes out to all the committee members for doing a great job not only at this event but at the churches 50th anniversary celebration. Members of the committee are Alex & Joanne Zidock, Karen Leach, Carol Santiago, Deborah Harrison, Louis Negro, Ronald Saxon and Mike Knapp. Karen Leach won the annual St. Nicholas award for the outstanding work that she has done for the church this year. Giveaways from the Home Office were presented to the parishioners and children. The fund raising activities were a huge success at the festive celebration. GCU



Lodge 151 members Mike Knapp and Ruth Karmazon make donation to Fr. Michael.

Lodge 151 members Michael Knapp and Ruth Karmazon presented a Parish Expansion Matching Funds check to Fr. Michael. A special thank you to the GCU for its support.

Marge Russell

Food Bank collection.

St. Michael's Byzantine Church Parish Expansion

Canonsburg, PA. From September 2018 thru May 2019 every Monday morning volunteers continue to gather in St. Michael Church hall for their annual nutroll fundraiser. The volunteers, parishioners and non-parishioners, love to roll out the dough, spread the nut mixture, bake the rolls and finally wrap with tender-loving care for sale. This year started off with the retirement of Betty & John Sopiak, who mixed three to five batches of dough and nuts weekly, for over ten years. May God grant them good health and happiness for many years for their dedicated service. Their smiling faces are surely missed. Pastor Very Rev. Joseph Raptosh checks in regularly and praises the team for their diligent work benefitting St. Michael parish. Judy Shuba and Father Raptosh coordinate the



Volunteers who helped with the nutroll fundraising effort.

ordering & finances and Mary Ruoizzi and Judy Shuba have stepped up to take on the dough making responsibilities. A special thank you to Joseph Raptosh, Sr. who dons his apron each Monday morning and helps out in the kitchen. If you happen to be in the neighborhood stop by or call 724-745-7117 and treat your family to one of the most delicious nutrolls in Washington County.

Barb Kushner

Resurrection Church Parish Expansion

Smithtown-Long Island, NY. The November 4, 2018 ethnic dinner at Resurrection Church was a huge success. Over 160 people attended the event which had two seatings. Home-made stuffed cabbage, haluski, pierogis, kielbasa, sauerkraut and salad made the meal very European and delicious. Andi Wooles, Judy Walsh, Bob & Liza Knapp and their daughter Emily, along with many parishioners worked long hours to make this a very successful day. Fr. Tyler Strand, administrator of the church, was delighted with the event. The dancers, under the direction of Jodi Powduk, did a great job entertaining everyone. They were dressed in European dress and danced to Slavic and Russian music. The boutique sold religious and ethnic items and also had handmade items for sale. A special thank you to the GCU and Lodge 151 for the Parish Expansion Matching Funds.

Marge Russell Pajer



Members enjoying the ethnic dinner.

St. John Byzantine Catholic Church Parish Expansion

Solon, OH. A holiday bake sale was held in conjunction with a stuffed cabbage roll sale at St. John Church in Solon. The event took place on December 11, 2018 where Hungarian nut and poppyseed rolls were sold at \$15.00 each. Many parishioners and people from the community supported this worthy event. Thank you to the GCU Parish Expansion Matching Funds Program. Frozen nut and poppy seed rolls are available year-round, please call the church at 440-248-0417 for ordering information.

Loretta Nemeth



The GCU Home Office employees, once again this year, assisted the local Salvation Army with their Treasures for Children program. The employees purchased gifts for 35 less fortunate children. This annual donation allows the employees to give back to the less fortunate in the local community.

District 5

UPCOMING DISTRICT 5 EVENTS

Junior Bowling Tournament

Binghamton, NY Area

Sunday, March 10

12:45 PM FREE

Laurel Bowl, 137 Laurel Avenue, Binghamton, NY 13905

Contact Bob Sufлита at 607-754-1501.

Wilkes-Barre/Scranton, PA Area

Sunday, February 24

1 PM FREE

Chacko's Family Bowling Center

195 North Wilkes-Barre Blvd., Wilkes-Barre, PA 18702

Contact Ed Keil at 570-824-1264

Applications are available online at GCUusa.com

Adopt-A-Highway (Weather Permitting)

Saturday, May 4

8:30 AM

Volunteers always welcome.

Contact Ed Dolinish at 570-562-2678

Railriders Baseball Game & Tailgate

Saturday, July 20

Tailgate begins at 4 PM

Game time is 6:35 PM

Scranton/Wilkes-Barre Railriders vs. Louisville Sluggers

PNC Field

235 Montage Mountain Road, Moosic, PA 18507

Contact Ed Dolinish at 570-824-1264

Annual Golf Tournament

Saturday, August 3

8:30 AM Shotgun

Sugarloaf Golf Club

18 Golf Course Road, Sugarloaf, PA 18249

Contact Ed Dolinish at 570-824-1264

District 7

UPCOMING DISTRICT 7 EVENT

1st Quarter Meeting

Sunday, March 31

1 PM

Members will begin planning the District's 100th Anniversary celebration and discuss upcoming events as well as Matching Funds charities. The meeting will follow the Divine Liturgy and lunch will be provided.

St. Mary Church Fellowship Hall

Hillsborough, NJ

District 11



District members and guests enjoy their pre-concert authentic Greek meal at Pegasus Taverna in Greektown- Detroit, MI. Photo by Jim Van Kula.

Christmas Choir Concert and Luncheon | A memorable afternoon of merriment and song, invoking the holiday spirit in young and old, resumed in District 11. The very popular Christmas Choir Concert & Luncheon Event in Detroit's Greektown returned to resounding success.

On Sunday, December 9, 2018, GCU District 11 members and guests enjoyed an authentic Greek luncheon at Pegasus Taverna in downtown Detroit's Greektown area.

Following lunch, the group crossed the street for an inspiring Christmas concert by the Detroit Concert Choir at beautiful, historic Old St. Mary's Catholic Church.

Some attendees extended the afternoon event back across the street at the Greektown Casino.

District 11 President Gary Mozuras summed up the experience positively by commenting, "Enjoyed excellent service and food at the restaurant, reserved seating at the concert. The church is beautiful. The choir was excellent. The weather was good. Everyone seemed to have a nice time. It is a very nice afternoon."

Val Marszalec | Fraternal & Publicity Director

District 15



The Seech family at the Christmas Brasstacular event at Lincoln Park Performing Arts Center.

Christmas Brasstacular | The River City Brass Band's "Christmas Brasstacular" at Lincoln Park Performing Arts Center in Midland, PA, did not disappoint. The band was spectacular and conductor James Gourley entertained as only he can. Local high school choirs joined the band for a few lesser known carols and invited the audience to join in on several classics including Handel's Hallelujah Chorus. District 15 members had a private room to enjoy hors d'oeuvres and dessert before the concert. Members also enjoyed the private room during intermission. What a wonderful way to get into the Christmas spirit!

CONTINUED

UPCOMING DISTRICT 15 EVENTS

Jr. Bowling Tournament

Sunday, March 10, 2019

12 NOON

Baden Bowl, 346 Ohio River Blvd., Baden, PA 15005

Contact Bill Uram at 724-287-0689 for details.
Applications available at GCUusa.com

Adult No-Tap Bowling Tournament

Saturday, March 23, 2019

3 PM

Center Lanes, 3084 Brodhead Road, Aliquippa, PA

Dinner to follow at Seven Oaks Country Club

Contact Bill Uram at 724-287-0689 for details.
Applications available at GCUusa.com

Like and share us on Facebook where you can find additional details for all District 15 events.



Elda Davis, Gina Spickerman and Chris Chamberlain at the Christmas Brasstacular event.

District 15 CONTINUED

After Christmas Party Rescheduled |

The annual After Christmas Party for the Sisters of St. Joseph was rescheduled due to hazardous winter weather forecast on the original date. If you'd like to volunteer, please meet at 12:30 PM at their residence in Baden on Sunday, February 24.

If You Are Interested In Helping |

An outing at Top Golf in Bridgeville, PA is being planned for the Spring. If you're interested in helping to plan this event, please contact Elizabeth Harbist 412-913-1446.

Lodge News

Lodge 2

MUNHALL, PA

St. Nicholas and 25th Anniversary Celebration

On Sunday, December 23, 2018 St. John the Baptist Byzantine Cathedral parish accomplished a milestone. It was the 25th Anniversary of the opening of the current church building. Archbishop William along with Fr. Andrew Deskevich and over one hundred fifty parishioners



Commemorative plate from Wendell August Forge.



Celebrating with St. Nicholas.

celebrated a Divine Liturgy of Thanksgiving.

The parish family, relatives and friends enjoyed a brunch at the Cathedral Center. Christmas music played in the background while a special appearance was made by St. Nicholas (Marty Bovee).

GCU Lodge 2 provided treat bags for all of the children attending. A St. John the Baptist icon, a prayer rope, an orange, a popcorn ball, a juice box and a piece of chocolate were in the bag. GCU Coloring books, crayons and footballs were also included.

Fr. Andrew had commemorative plates made at Wendell August Forge with the Cathedral on the front and the 25th anniversary date engraved on the back.

Patty Bovee | Treasurer



Lodge 7's wonderful volunteers.

Lodge 7 YONKERS, NY

Christmas Bake Sale Volunteers

The Christmas Bake Sale benefiting St. Nicholas of Myra Church in White Plains, NY was a success once again this year. Pictured are the outstanding volunteers who ALWAYS work so hard!!

Thank you and Happy New Year!

Debbie McDonnell | Secretary-Treasurer

UPCOMING LODGE 15 EVENT

Sands Casino Bus Trip

Tuesday, April 30

Sands Casino Resort
77 Sands Blvd.
Bethlehem, PA 18015

Benefits CYO of Mercer County, NJ

Contact Marcy Embley at 609-585-3758

Lodge 17 OLD FORGE, PA

St. Nicholas Feast Day Celebration

The annual St. Nicholas Feast Day Celebration was held on Sunday, December 9, 2018 at St. Nicholas Social Center in Old Forge. Church members and guests from St. Nicholas and St. Mary enjoyed a catered luncheon, a visit from St. Nicholas, and a basket fund raiser. The children were entertained with games and songs.

GCU Lodge 17 members assisted parishioners with decorating the hall for this event, coordinating the fund raiser and providing supervision for the children's games. Thanks goes out to Eric Helbing who was a good sport, by wearing a reindeer antlers hat for the ring toss game.



The kids await the arrival of St. Nicholas.



Front row: Ed, Alice & Ilona Dolinish, Marion Savinelli and Olga Korpita. Back row: Joe Sopp, Mike Mokay, Ed Keil, Fr. Eduard Shestak, Janice Dragan, Pat Oliver and Madge Lesneski.

Appreciation Luncheon & Awards Ceremony

Lodge 17 held its Appreciation Luncheon and Recognition Awards Ceremony on Thursday, December 13, 2018 at Arcaro & Genell's Restaurant, Old Forge, PA. The luncheon recognizes lodge members who assisted with various projects. Recipient's names are engraved on a plaque that hangs in St. Nicholas Social Center. This year's recipients were John Matician, Barbara Matso, Joseph Matso and Elizabeth Wolfe.

Thanks to the GCU Home Office for the give aways and the grants for both events. The lodge's fourth quarter meeting was held immediately following the luncheon.

CONTINUED

Lodge 17 CONTINUED

UPCOMING LODGE 17 EVENT

Annual Ham Bingo

Sunday, April 7

Doors & Kitchen open at 12 NOON

Bingo begins at 1 PM

Hams will be awarded as prizes instead of money. Besides bingo, there will be basket fundraisers, a bake sale and food for sale.

St. Nicholas Social Center
Vine Street
Old Forge, PA 18518

Contact Ed Keil at 570-824-1264

Special Collections for the Holidays

Lodge 17 conducted a food drive and a used eye collection during the month of November at St. Nicholas Church, Old Forge, PA; St. Mary Church, Taylor, PA; St. Michael Church, Pittston, PA; St. Nicholas, Swoyersville, PA and at Wyoming Valley Chiropractic Center. The food was distributed to 2 different locations—The Greater Pittston Food Bank, Pittston, PA and St. Michael Orthodox Church, Old Forge. Special thanks to Dr. John Guarnieri and his staff and to all those who donated.

There were 80 pairs of eyeglasses collected and donated to the Old Forge Lions Club. These glasses were given to Lions Chairperson Walter Ermolovich to be refurbished and distributed in underdeveloped areas.

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

These collections were used as our community Matching Funds projects benefitting Taylor Community Library, Taylor, PA; The Keystone Mission, Scranton, PA and the Women's Resource Center, Scranton, PA.

Ed Keil | Secretary-Treasurer



Used eyeglass collection.



Food collection.



Mother-Infant collection.



The happy children with St. Nicholas.

Lodge 20

PHILADELPHIA, PA

St. Nicholas Celebration

On Sunday, December 2, 2018 Lodge 20 celebrated St. Nicholas Day with a complimentary coffee social for lodge members and parishioners of Holy Trinity Church. All of the children shown received presents from St. Nicholas (Jerry Hanuscin). The large crowd had a great time.

Men's Clothing Donation

On Thursday, December 6 a car filled with men's clothing for donation, was delivered to the Veterans Multi-Service Center of Philadelphia. In addition to the clothing, Lodge 20 donated food and money to the Center. The photo at left shows Lodge 20 Secretary John Morenko presenting a check for \$450.00 to Tim Williams, executive director of the Center and Jerry Pendergrass, veteran service officer. The young men shown on the wall painting all gave their lives defending our freedom.

John Morenko | Secretary



Veteran Service Officer Jerry Pendergrass, John Morenko and Tim Williams, Executive Director of the Center.

Lodge 28

SOUTHSIDE-PITTSBURGH, PA

Food Drive

During November 2018, a non-perishable food drive was held at St. John the Baptist Church, South Side-Pittsburgh, PA. Church and Lodge 28 members were asked to bring donations each Sunday—people responded generously.

When it was time to deliver the goods, the lodge learned that the parish's sister church St. John

Chrysostom in Greenfield-Pittsburgh, PA, had also held a food drive. On Sunday, November 25, donations from both churches were collected and driven to St. Cyril of the White Lake Food Pantry inside St. Mary Russian

Orthodox Church on the South Side. The parishioners greeted the carload of food with open arms. Several very grateful members of the parish helped to carry everything inside. It felt good to see that the donations were appreciated and will be put to good use helping those in the local community.



Collected food items.



Caricaturist draws Nick & Sue Fuga.

Farewell Christmas Party

On Saturday, December 1, 2018, Lodge 28 held a Christmas party for lodge members and the church members of St. John the Baptist Church, South Side-Pittsburgh. The evening began with Liturgy at 4 PM. Following this, everyone was greeted in the hall with Christmas music and a goodie bag. The fun began promptly once everyone was seated. First, the Left-Right game was played. Following this, one lucky winner at each table (who had a sticker at their place setting) received a gift.

The delicious dinner was catered by Sojourn Catering. A variety of cookies and a cake donated by our members, adorned the dessert table.

After dinner, everyone was given a door prize ticket. As numbers were called, members selected a gift of their choice. The wide variety of gifts were available to suit a range of tastes and preferences. There were enough Christmas gifts for all in attendance.

Next, guest speaker Norm Candalore of Sarris Candies, gave an informative and entertaining speech on the history of chocolate as well as stories and insights into the Sarris business. As a much-appreciated treat, everyone received a holiday 4-pack assortment box of chocolates as well as

individually-wrapped chocolate covered pretzels.

Throughout the evening, Martina Revilak, a caricaturist, had her easel set up for individual and group caricatures. Many attendees took advantage of the opportunity and there was a waiting line most of the evening. It was nice to look at everyone's pictures while socializing and mingling.

For days afterward, people were calling to express their thanks for the party. In fact, people who did not attend mentioned that they heard about the wonderful party that they missed.

This was the Lodge 28 farewell party. In 2019, the lodge will be merging with Lodge 255 (Greenfield-Pittsburgh, PA) and Lodge 386 (Carrick, PA) to become the Central Pittsburgh Regional Lodge (CPRL). The lodges are looking forward to working together and continuing to provide great social, fraternal and athletic events in all three churches and communities the new lodge represents.

Kim Kolesar | Secretary-Treasurer

The “Buzz” from Lodge 47

BINGHAMTON, NY

For the last few months, a flurry of activity has kept Lodge 47 active and busy:

Lions Club Eyeglass Collection

It was the original intention of Lodge 47 members to collect eyeglasses for one quarter in 2018 to benefit the Lions Club and Lions Club International Fund. The lodge was proud to work with a Humanitarian Organization dedicated to projects to assist less fortunate people. However, after speaking with a local member,

we learned of the urgent need to continue the collection efforts. The used eyeglasses are refurbished and distributed to under developed areas. If glasses are broken, the metal is reclaimed and used to support eye exams or new glasses are made.

Most recently, the local Lions Club has been working to conduct eye screenings at area schools for students



President Bob Sufflita and Secretary-Treasurer Daria Shierly present Endicott, NY Lions Club Treasurer Phil Struzzi with a Matching Funds check.

in K thru 2nd Grade. By September 2018, Lodge 47 collected over 150 pairs of glasses and was proud to use Community Matching Funds for this project. Thank you to all who took the time to look for any old glasses and generously donate them!



Election Day Pie Sale.

Election Day Pie Sale

The “Buzz” was loud when Lodge 47 partnered with the Holy Spirit Mother’s Club to once again sponsor an Election Day Pie Sale to benefit the Mother’s Club. On two consecutive days, the church kitchen hummed from the early morning hours until into the evening with dedicated volunteers including crust mixers, rollers, pie fillers, apple peelers, corers, slicers, bakers (and many more...) to make this Fraternal Grant project a huge success!

Annual St. Nicholas Dinner Celebration

Adding to the excitement of the holiday season was the annual Thank You Dinner to promote fraternalism and to celebrate St. Nicholas! The event for both Holy Spirit and SS. Peter & Paul Churches was held on Sunday, December 9 as a way to celebrate and say “thank you” to everyone who participated and helped make the lodge events a success and memorable throughout the year.

The program this year featured English and Slavonic Christmas Carols sung by Holy Spirit Choir followed by a catered dinner. With the singing of the hymn to St. Nicholas, St. Nicholas arrived to greet everyone who attended!



St. Nicholas Dinner.



Salvation Army Angel Tree Project.

Angel Tree Project

Sharing in the spirit of giving during the Christmas season, Lodge 47 continued their tradition of assisting The Salvation Army with their annual “Angel Tree” program to provide gifts for local children in need. For the past several years,

the community has helped over 500 families annually. With that in mind, the “Angels” were hung on a tree in the church vestibule and anonymous donors adopted the little “Angels” in the tradition and spirit to “Brighten the Holiday

CONTINUED

Lodge 47 CONTINUED

Season” campaign. The gifts were collected from mid-November until the St. Nicholas Dinner on December 9, 2018. This Community Matching Funds Project was very successful and especially appreciated by The Salvation Army! Thank you to all the donors and to everyone who took the time to shop for the “Angels.”

A sincere thank you to the GCU Home Office for the assortment of GCU “goodies” used for both the St. Nicholas Dinner and the Salvation Army Angel Project. The children loved the coloring/activity books and crayons. The footballs were great and everyone enjoyed getting a “favor” at their place setting.

Thank You!

We extend a heartfelt thank you to Lodge 47 members, the parishioners, volunteers, family and friends for their loyalty, hard work and dedication to the parish and lodge. Thank you to everyone who had a part in making all of the 2018 activities and fundraising events a success.

A special thank you to everyone at the GCU Home Office for the Matching Funds, the Fraternal Grants and fun give-a-ways throughout 2018. Thank you also for all of the support you provide all the lodges and districts. It is your help that enables the lodges and districts to achieve such remarkable success.

As we begin 2019, Lodge 47 wishes all GCU Members a very Happy New Year!

Daria Shierly | Secretary-Treasurer



Lodge 52

UPPER ST. CLAIR, PA

Taste of Heaven Cookie Sale

St. Gregory Church and Lodge 52 did it again—another successful Taste of Heaven Cookie Sale. The sale has become well known in the Upper St. Clair area. People began lining up an hour before opening. Thanks to event leader Sylvia Bender and all of the awesome bakers, the variety of cookies was amazing.

Many thanks to the volunteers that worked placing cookie trays, cleaning the kitchen, passing out containers, assisting shoppers, setting up and cleaning up. This has always been a fun day. A great job was done by all.

Rosemary Tomko | Publicity Director



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



Lydia Marko with St. Nicholas.

Lodge 53

WILKES-BARRE, PA

St. Nicholas Day Event

Lodge 53 and all its members would like to say “Thank You” to the Home Office for the Fraternal Grant to help with expenses and support of the St. Nicholas Day Event. Every child at the event visited with St. Nicholas and received a gift from him. There were over 20 children at the event who enjoyed a great time!

Donation

Lodge 53 had a busy December. Lodge members and parishioners collected and donated food items to a local food bank, a total of \$300.00 in food was collected.

The lodge also helped with children in need so they could have a nice Christmas! Over 20 families were assisted in giving their children a memorable Christmas.

John Marko | Secretary-Treasurer



John Marko with food bank collection.

Lodge 57

BROWNSVILLE, PA

Pre-Christmas Dinner

A pre-Christmas dinner was held at Assumption of St. Mary Byzantine Catholic Church in New Salem PA on Sunday, December 16, 2018 after the morning Liturgy. The dinner had the best attendance in recent years with approximately 80 participants. Former parishioners and friends came from Ohio,

Virginia, Pennsylvania and local area churches. The catered dinner included stuffed cabbage, rigatoni, chicken, potatoes, and salad. A large selection of desserts was provided by the parishioners. There were gifts and prizes for everyone.

Organizer of the dinner was Elaine Milan, with assistance from Ann Skovran, Karen Gaydos and door prize helper, Kyler Theodori. Additional parish dinners will be held after Easter and in celebration of the patronal feast day in August.

GCU lodge members, George Skovran, Genevieve Marszal, Becky Thomas, Bernie Karoffa, Gloria Rubish and Veronica Dirda attended the dinner. Father Christopher Burke is the pastor.

Bernie Karoffa | Publicity



George Skovran.



Lodge Treasurer
Becky Thomas.



Fr. Christopher
Burke.

Lodge 62

PUNXSUTAWNEY, PA

The Community Park & Playground Project

A donation of over \$500.00 will be given to the Community Park and Playground Project through the GCU Matching Funds program from the apricot and nut roll sale. The ladies had a great time making the rolls along with visiting with each other. The Park Playground Project is underway with more areas to be added this Spring. Thank you GCU for enabling Lodge 62 to help the local community.

Julie Brocious | Secretary



Apricot and nut roll sale volunteers.



The kids with St. Nicholas.

Lodge 69

POTTSTOWN, PA

St. Nicholas Day Celebration

The annual Lodge 69 St. Nicholas Day celebration was held on Sunday, December 9, 2018. Parishioners brought a covered dish for the luncheon and baked cookies for a cookie walk. The children of the parish put on a Christmas play and sang carols. There was also a visit from St. Nicholas.

Annual Breakfast

Lodge members purchased and cooked food, set up the hall and decorated for our annual breakfast that was held on Sunday, January 13. Members and parishioners enjoyed the eggs, pancakes, hash browns, baked French toast and desserts, coffee, milk and tea. Everyone had a good time getting together for food and fellowship.

Nancy Harding | Secretary



Stephanie serving food to some young breakfast goers.

UPCOMING LODGE 69 EVENTS

Helping Hands Day

Monday, March 4 - Saturday, March 9
Weather permitting

St. John the Baptist Church & Grounds
301 Cherry Street
Pottstown, PA 19464

Contact Nancy Harding at 610-326-2309

Children's Easter Egg Hunt

Sunday, April 14
Following the 8 AM Liturgy

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

Contact Nancy Harding at 610-326-2309.

Second Quarter Meeting

Saturday, April 27
Following the 4 PM Liturgy

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

Contact Nancy Harding at 610-326-2309.

Lodge 77

LORAIN, OH

Casino Bus Trip

GCU Lodge 77 held a Casino Bus Trip Fundraiser on Sunday, November 4, 2018 to Presque Isle Casino in Erie, PA. Fun was had by all 40+ participants as they played games both to and from the casino. Complimentary breakfast pastries and goody bags were provided by the

lodge for each person which included snacks for the ride home. There were some winners at the casino, but overall everyone won with a beautiful day of weather for travel and lots of fun and laughter! The funds raised will make a difference in many lives around the community this holiday season.

Kathy Knick | President



Goodies are packed for the Presque Isle Casino trip.

UPCOMING LODGE 77 EVENT

Rediscover Your Roots

Friday, March 1
6 - 9 PM

Adults \$20
Ages 6-12 \$10
Age 5 and under FREE

St. Nicholas Parish Hall
2711 W. 40th Street, Lorain, OH 44053

Enjoy an evening of traditional ethnic food and journey to the cultural and spiritual roots of Central Europe through a film produced by Horizons Media.

Dinner includes: baked fish, haluski, pierogi, green beans, coleslaw, apple-sauce, coffee/tea.

Call 440-282-7525 or 440-240-8955
email: info@stnicks.org



Taking a photo with St. Nicholas.

St. Nicholas Day Celebration

St. Nicholas Day was extra special this year at St. Nicholas Church with the support of Lodge 77.

Following the Divine Liturgy on Sunday, December 9, everyone proceeded to the church hall for a wonderful dinner with Christmas music and caroling. St. Nicholas greeted guests and passed out golden coins while the "Hymn to St. Nicholas" was sung. The children each had a chance to visit with St. Nicholas receiving a GCU drawstring bag full of goodies and their choice of a toy. It was a blessing to have almost 30 children this year. Lodge 77 Vice President Bruce Skibo did a wonderful portrayal of St. Nicholas.

Thanks to the proceeds from the casino bus trip, the lodge made donations to several community programs this Christmas. The programs included: St. Elizabeth (a Catholic Charities supplier of food and shelter in Lorain), Wags 4 Kids (providing service animals for disabled children) and the Blessing House (a children's crisis center). Lodge 77 is thankful to St. Nicholas church for providing us with a home base, and the support of the GCU for the Matching Funds and Fraternal Grants that help make these donations and events possible.

Anna Martha Dillon | Treasurer

Lodge 81

UNIONTOWN, PA

Lodge 81 made Christmas contributions to their parish and in the local community. Donations were made to the Sisters of St. Basil at Mt. St. Macrina, the Salvation Army “Sparkle” project for the local needy and St. John Parish. Gerry Dorobish donated much of her time to the Mt. Macrina Religious Gift Shop during their busy holiday season.



Teachers with ECF students at the St. Nicholas program.



Parish

The annual Christmas Craft and Bake Sale was held the weekend of December 1-2. Bonnie Balas and Marcia Harrer, not only baked and donated items, but also helped package and price them for the event. This event was highlighted by a Nativity display brought in by parishioners to give reverence to our Lord's birth.

Marcia, the ECF coordinator, was also very creative in her plans for the St. Nicholas program held on Sunday, December 2, for the ECF students and parish children. This year included a “Breakfast with St. Nicholas,” a craft activity and a gold coin toss game. Marcia, Bonnie, Gerry, James Mihalko, and Amy Layton helped the children make a St. Nicholas icon ornament. Parishioner David Tercho, who took on the role of St. Nicholas, greeted the children and presented each with small gift bags.



Students at Mt. Macrina Monastery.



Stage Right performers at Uniontown Library.

Community

On Saturday, December 15, Lodge 81 offered a Community Christmas Program at the Uniontown Public Library, made possible with a GCU Fraternal Grant. Nearly 100 community children and their families attended the event which started with a Stage Right performance of “How the Grinch Stole Christmas.” Gerry, James, Marcia, and Bonnie helped the children with a Christmas craft sticker activity, while Stephen Petruska and his niece Makayla passed out GCU draw string bags, then directed the children to visit with Santa and pick a free book. The generosity of the goodies and backpacks from GCU was greatly appreciated.

An open house at the Mt. Macrina House of Prayer was held on the afternoon of Sunday, January 13. Bonnie and Gerry attended the event with many others. Sister Barbara Jean was on hand for information, and Sister Carol's exquisitely decorated rooms made a wonderful atmosphere. Social time included visiting with the Sisters and partaking of Sister Carol's delicious baked items.

Bonnie Balas | Vice President & Publicity Director



Lodge members at House of Prayer Open House.

UPCOMING LODGE 81 EVENTS

1st Quarter Meeting

Sunday, February 24

Following Divine Liturgy

Plans to finalize the Egg EGGstravaganza event.

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

14th Egg EGGstravaganza

Sunday, April 7

12 NOON - 5 PM

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

Call 724-438-6027 (M-F 9 AM-3 PM)

Additional information appears on page 40.

Lodge 92

JESSUP, PA

Stuffed Chicken Breast Dinner

The annual Stuffed Chicken Breast dinner at Holy Ghost Byzantine Catholic Church was held on November 4, 2018. Members of the church and GCU Lodge 92 served dinners to over 335 people. This very successful dinner will profit the church assisting with financial debts.

Golf Tournament Proceeds Donated

Early in November, lodge members presented a donation to Hospice of the Sacred Heart in Scranton, PA from profits of the Friends of Bruce Semon Jr. Golf Outing sponsored by Lodge 92. The donation assisted with their annual event of serving and delivering Thanksgiving meals to patients and families. The organization fed close to 700 people before noon on Thanksgiving Day.

2019 Officers

At the lodge's annual meeting held at Marino's Cucina in Jessup, a unanimous vote re-elected current lodge officers to the same positions for the 2019 calendar year.



Lodge members volunteering at the Stuffed Chicken Breast dinner.

Helping the Needy

Lodge 92 picked a name from the Valley View Giving Tree, a maximum of \$150.00 is permitted for each child. Continuing the giving spirit the lodge also donated to the SpiriTrust Hospice. Donations were collected among lodge members and friends allowing for a donation of \$150.00 to the Hospice. It is such a great feeling knowing that you helped, even in a small way!



Donation to the Valley View Middle School Chorus. Lodge 92 member Amy Borick and Valley View music teacher Robert Manento.



Michaela Mancak and Gregory Barkowski Sr. present a donation to Rev. John Cigan for the Holy Ghost Parish.



Valley View Middle School Choir.

Saint Nicholas Children's Party

Lodge 92 held its annual children's party on December 2, 2018. The crowd topped off at approximately 200 people. After the performance of the Valley View Middle School Choir, Saint Nicholas made his arrival while the Holy Ghost Choir greeting him with their rendition of the "Hymn to St. Nicholas."

Members of Lodge 92 served the guests homemade pizza and hot dogs. There was plenty of good cheer and cookies to go around too.

Every child had the opportunity to create a snowman ornament and win a prize at the bean bag toss game. Everyone in attendance received a "smore" snowman candle as a gift.

The basket fundraiser, held in conjunction with the party, produced an opportunity for guests to win a prize.

As everyone left the event, "Merry Christmas," "thank you" and "see you next year" filled the air.

Finally, Lodge 92 would like to wish all members of the GCU a very blessed, healthy and prosperous 2019.

Mark Barkowski | Publicity Director

Michaela Mancak | Secretary-Treasurer

UPCOMING LODGE 92 EVENT

16th Annual Ethnic Dinner

Sunday, March 3

11:30 AM - 3 PM

Tickets are \$12 - Take Out Only

LaSalle Auditorium Hall, Jessup, PA

Dinner features: kielbasy, holupki, pirohi and haluski.

Call for tickets at 570-499-0679 or 570-489-1304.

Lodge 93

NORTHERN CAMBRIA, PA

Good Samaritan Food Pantry

Members of Lodge 93 volunteered at the Northern Cambria Good Samaritan Food Pantry to pack and distribute Christmas dinners. Over 100 dinners were served to needy families in the Northern Cambria region. A thank you to all the volunteers.



John Katana presenting a donation to co-director of the Good Samaritan Food Pantry Nancy Lowmaster.



Donation made to Good Samaritan Food Pantry.



Volunteers at the Good Samaritan Food Pantry.

Christmas Party

Lodge 93 sponsored a Christmas Party for parishioners of St. John and SS. Peter & Paul Byzantine Churches, Lodge 93 members and guests. The menu was a covered dish with chicken as the main entree. Other food items included ham, kolbasi, a vegetable dish and meat tray. Traditional Christmas Eve supper food including: perogies, mushroom soup, honey, garlic, and Christmas bread, was also offered. Assorted desserts and refreshments were served. The meal was followed

by a gift exchange. Fr. Vasil Polyak presented a short video on "Christmas in the Ukraine."

Fr. Vasil then lead the singing of Christmas Carols both in English and Slovanic. The final activity was a donation presented to Good Samaritan Food Pantry as part of the community outreach program. A good time was had by all. Compliments to everyone that helped with the delicious food and the outstanding desserts.

Recognition Lunch

Lodge 93 recognized members and parishioners of St. John Byzantine Church for their volunteer work during the past year. A light lunch and tokens of appreciation were presented.

John J. Katana | Secretary Treasurer



Lodge member Tom Spencer presenting a donation to Kathy Jo Scrips. Kathy is director of the Elderton Presbyterian Youth Group. This donation was made possible from the GCU Non-Byzantine Parish Expansion program.



The lodge participated in the local All State Toys for Tots program. Accepting toys is Liz Ramsey, coordinator of the local program.

Flag Donation

Once again Lodge 93 donated flags to the local American Legion. These flags will be placed at the head stones of veterans at the various cemeteries within the Northern Cambria region. Vietnam veteran hats were also distributed to those that served during the Vietnam War. One veteran mentioned that the hats were an added touch to their program.



Walter Royal presenting a donation to Fr. Vasil from the Lodge 93 Basket Auction proceeds to benefit the roof projects of the chapel and parish.

Lodge 109

LYNDORA, PA

Celebrates St. Nicholas Day

Lodge 109 celebrated the feast of St. Nicholas with a parish luncheon on Sunday, December 9 in the church hall of St. John the Baptist Byzantine Church after the morning Liturgy.

There were approximately 70 in attendance for the tureen luncheon. Lodge 109 provided the main entree of chicken, mashed potatoes, rolls & beverages and decorated the tables with live poinsettias which were awarded as door prizes for those in attendance.

St. Nicholas arrived after lunch with a bag full of gifts of candy, coloring books, crayons and footballs for the children and key chains for the adults. Thanks to the GCU Home Office for the Fraternal Grant which helped pay for the food and poinsettias.



St. Nicholas, portrayed by Rick Reeder, is surrounded by the parish children.



Parishioners attending the dinner.

Celebrating Theophany

Lodge 109 observed Theophany eve on Saturday, January 5, 2019. A tureen dinner was held after the evening Liturgy in the hall of St. John the Baptist BC Church. The hall was dimly lit by candle light and the tables were decorated with wax-covered candles, holly and poinsettias celebrating the season.

There were approximately 50 parishioners in attendance who provided the tureens and desserts to compliment the fish, rolls and punch supplied by the lodge. A pleasant evening of good food and socializing was enjoyed by all.

Janet Uram | Secretary-Treasurer



Lodge members with Fr. Nicholas Daddona and Fr. Ed Cimbala.

Lodge 151

NEW YORK, NY

Annual Meeting

The Lodge 151 annual meeting was held on Saturday, November 24 at the Cottage restaurant. Lodge 151 Chaplain Fr. Nicholas and his wife Dr. Maureen Daddona were in attendance. Dr. Maureen presented a video

CONTINUED

Lodge 151 CONTINUED

about challengers of faith and how we should not neglect our gifts from God. We should face life and challengers with more dignity and strength. God is within us and gives us the strength to get through our lives. We are God's handy work. Fr. Ed Cimbala from St. Mary Church was delighted to be our guest at the meeting. He gave a talk about being in the GCU. Fr. Cimbala said that in addition to Sunday Liturgy at 10 AM, the Liturgy is celebrated in Slovanic at St. Mary on Sundays at 8 AM and once a month a musical Liturgy is celebrated at 6 PM. Everyone is invited to attend.

Visit to St. Josaphat's Monastery

GCU members and parishioners of St. Andrew Church visited St. Josaphat's Monastery in Glen Cove, NY and were very impressed. The historic mansion is located on beautiful grounds on Long Island's Gold Coast. It was owned by the Pratt family. Today it is used for Sunday and special Liturgies. It is also used for retreats, filming and other special events. We were greeted by Brothers Ambrose & Andrew and Fr. Philip. They gave a tour of the huge home and chapel. The entrance was decorated with a beautiful nativity and Christmas tree. A delicious lunch completed a great day.



St. Nicholas Celebration

St. Andrew parish celebrated St. Nicholas Day with a lunch and visit from St. Nicholas. The parishioners were happy to share their pot luck meal with Sister Katerina and other guests. The children were overjoyed to see St. Nicholas and to receive GCU coloring books and other gifts. It was a special day.

Marge Russell | President

UPCOMING LODGE 151 EVENTS

2nd Quarter Meeting & Helping Hands Day

Sunday, May 5

Contact Marge Russell at 516-307-1016.

Luncheon & Show "Mame"

Wednesday, May 29

Westbury Manor
1100 Jericho Turnpike
Westbury, NY 11590

Contact Marge Russell at 516-307-1016.

Lodge 164
YOUNGSTOWN, OH



Lodge 164 officers for 2019. From left: Secretary Diana Danko, Treasurer Sharon MacDonald, Fraternal Activity Director Jackie Leson, President Dr. Tom Sopkovich, Athletic Director George Lutza and Auditor Don Danko.

**UPCOMING
LODGE 164 EVENTS**

**Lenten Soup & Sandwich
Fundraiser**

Each Wednesday during Lent
Starting March 6
Served after Liturgy of Presanctified Gifts
St. Mary's Assumption Social Center

**Youngstown Area Jr. Bowling
Tournament**

Sunday, March 31
Sign-in at 12:30 PM Bowling at 1 PM

Camelot Lanes
628 Boardman-Canfield Road
Boardman, OH 44512

Contact Elaine Chachko at 330-755-6243

2nd Quarter Meeting

Sunday, April 7
Following Liturgy
St. Mary's Assumption Social Center

Lodge 182
KINGSTON, PA

Annual Christmas Pageant

The annual children's Christmas Pageant at Saint Mary's Byzantine Catholic Church in Kingston, PA was held on Christmas Eve, December 24, 2018, before the Divine Liturgy. Parish children, Lodge 182 and the ECF teachers came together to recreate their version of the miracle of Jesus' birth. The performance was met with great appreciation and expressed enjoyment from all who attended Liturgy on Christmas Eve. Special thanks to Father Mykhaylo Prodanets, and ECF teachers: Lora Seasock, Barb Zelnick, Mary Ann Evans, Marlene Williams and Laure Marcin. Gift bags were given to all who attended and all who participated.

Laure Marcin | Secretary



Front row: Irena Pochatko - Angel Gabrielle; Sophia Nesgoda - Angel; Eddie Kingsland - The Little Drummer Boy; Andrew Kurilla - Shepherd; Amelia Nesgoda - Angel and Ivanna & Antonina Prodanets - Angels. Middle row: Marlene Williams - Shepherd riding on camel; Maria Terza - King and Julianna Pochatko - King. Back row: Macrina Pochatko - Mary; Jason Marcin - Narrator; Colleen Evans - Donkey; John Seasock - Joseph; Paul Seasock - King; Ivan Prodanets - Shepherd and Stepan Prodanets - Shepherd. Missing from photo Dorianna Williams - Sheep.

Lodge 255

GREENFIELD-PITTSBURGH, PA

Kid's Christmas Party

The annual Lodge 255 Kid's Christmas party was held on Saturday, December 1, 2018. Lodge and parish children enjoyed pizza, a hot chocolate bar, the Polar Express movie and a visit from Santa himself. Thanks to Jen Gula and Ammie Ribarchak for organizing the event!



Lodge members and guests at the Grand View Golf Club.



The kids with Santa at the party.

Adult Christmas Party

The annual Lodge 255 Adult Christmas Party was Saturday, December 8 at Grand View Golf Club. Lodge members and friends enjoyed games, food and fraternalism, while overlooking the cityscape! Thanks to Kitty Cherevka and John & Patty Niskach for organizing the event!

Melanie Basl | Publicity Director

Lodge 268

MINGO JUNCTION, OH

Bakeless Bake Sale

Lodge 268 held a "Bakeless Bake Sale" to buy gifts for 34 children from the Mingo Food Bank. Each child received a top, a pair of pants, a sweatshirt, socks, and an 8 oz bag of M&Ms. A special thank you to GCU members Jenny Burress and Carla Gasser for doing all the shopping. The lodge also helped a family pay some bills. An additional monetary donation was presented to the Mingo Food Bank.



GCU members with socks that were delivered to the Hills School Poverty Committee.

Community Assistance

Lodge 268 assisted the Poverty Committee at Hills Elementary School. This committee provides needy families with nutritious food that could be taken home to feed children on non-school days. The lodge also donated 77 pair of socks to the school's shoe and sock drive. Lodge 268 members were very generous and a special thank you to the GCU Matching Funds program which enabled the lodge to help so many this year.

CONTINUED

Lodge 268 CONTINUED



Members enjoying the Christmas Party.

Annual Christmas Party

On Sunday, December 16, Lodge 268 held its annual Christmas party. A delicious buffet meal followed Divine Liturgy. A special thank you to Suzanne & Bill Albaugh, Cathy Risdon and Jeanie Roberts for all their hard work. Christine Peterson and Jeanie Roberts lead Christmas carols and Santa visited with treat bags for the children. Everyone enjoyed the afternoon. Thank you to the GCU for the Fraternal Grant that helped fund the event.



Carla & Sara Gasser delivering packages to Mingo Food Bank.

Carla Gasser | President

Lodge 288

CLAIRTON, PA

Decorating for Christmas

On Saturday, December 1, volunteers at Ascension Byzantine Church assisted with decorating the church and hall for Christmas. The children helped decorate the multiple trees. Lodge 288 donated silk poinsettias that will be reused for years to come. The children received Advent calendars from the lodge to track the days until Christmas.



Children singing at the St. Nicholas Celebration.

St. Nicholas Celebration

On Sunday, December 9, the annual St. Nicholas celebration was held in the church hall. The children gathered in the church prior to Liturgy to present gifts for the shut-in parishioners of the parish. Volunteers chose names and delivered the gifts before Christmas.

A program before Liturgy included the children singing the Hymn to St. Nicholas, with assistance from the cantors, and a Jesse Tree presentation. As the older children did the readings, the younger children hung their handmade ornaments on the Jesse Tree.

After Liturgy, the lodge sponsored a breakfast for families in the hall. The children waited anxiously for St. Nicholas to arrive, they had learned a special song to sing to invite him to visit. They did a beautiful job and just as they completed the song, St. Nicholas made a grand entrance. When he arrived, one of the youngest children Henry Dufalla, rushed up to him and jumped into his arms before he could get into his seat. Henry's excitement was enough to warm the heart of even the Grinch. The children visited with St. Nicholas who gave out candy canes to everyone. The ECF instructors had gift bags for the children. The Holy Name Society had a stocking of candy and GCU Lodge 288 had gift bags with a Nativity ornament, treats and a sticker set to create their own Nativity scene. Thanks to all that stayed afterwards to help with the clean-up.

Southeast Pittsburgh Regional Lodge Meeting

Shown above are attendees of the initial meeting of the new Southeast Pittsburgh Regional Lodge which combined former GCU Lodges 2 & 288. The officers elected were: President Andrea Harhai, Vice President Trish Roberts, Secretary Mary Lou Salago, Treasurer Patty Bovee, Spiritual Advisor Fr. Andrew Deskevich and Auditors Carolyn Nista & Barb Gomolak.

Trish Roberts | President



GCU President/CEO George N. Juba was in attendance at the combined meeting of Lodges 2 & 288.



Thornsberry children with St. Nicholas.

Lodge 302 BRECKSVILLE, OH

St. Nicholas Pot Luck & Children's Christmas Party

The annual St. Nicholas Pot Luck & Children's Christmas Party was held on Sunday, December 2 at St. Joseph's Byzantine Church. Lodge 302 and the GCU Home Office donated items for the children's gifts bags. This is always a fun and well attended event for both children and adults enjoying the arrival of St. Nicholas. Thank you to Diana Simpson and St. Nicholas, Dennis Sedlak!

Congratulations

Mary Jane Shaver, long time St. Joe's parishioner and Lodge 302 member, celebrated her 90th birthday on January 24, 2019. Lodge 302 thanks her for all her years of volunteerism. God grant your servant Mary Jane many happy and healthy years!

Madeline Karaffa, granddaughter of Millie Karaffa and the late Michael Karaffa, is studying abroad in Florence, Italy through Kent State University's degree program. She is majoring in fashion merchandising. Madeline recently applied for an internship with Kohl's corporate office as a merchandise analyst intern working alongside a planner and buyer from a specific department with the potential for a job offer. After a video interview, she was chosen to fly out to Kohl's corporate headquarters in Wisconsin, for the final round of interviews. Madeline accepted a 10-week paid internship at the corporate headquarters. When Madeline is not traveling or in school, you can hear her angelic voice in the choir loft during communion at St. Joseph Byzantine Church. Congratulations!

Congratulations also to the Laule and Karaffa families on the baptism of Mila Christine Laule, daughter of Dave & Janine Laule. She is the granddaughter of GCU National Director Michael & Jean Karaffa and great granddaughter of Millie Karaffa. May God grant Mila many happy and healthy years!



National Director Mike Karaffa, Janine & David Laule, Jean Karaffa, great grandmother Millie Karaffa with Mila.



Mary Jane Shaver and Greg Karaffa with daughter Madeline.



Jean Karaffa, John Greifenstein, Judy Weitzel, Al Matyas and Fr. Bruce Riebe. Missing from photo is Sandy Payer.

Holiday Cash Raffle

Lodge 302 held a Holiday Cash Fundraiser on Sunday, December 16. Proceeds and Matching Funds from the Home Office to the tune of \$2,000.00, benefitted St. Joseph's Capital Improvement Fund. The lucky winners were John Greifenstein, Al Matyas and Sandy Payer. Lodge 302 thanks all the volunteers, officers and members, that sold tickets to make the event successful.

UPCOMING LODGE 302 EVENTS

Annual Adult Game Night

Saturday, March 9

Doors open at 5:30 PM

St. Joseph Activity Center
Brecksville, OH

Bring your favorite games and a favorite appetizer or dessert to share. Refreshments will be provided.

2nd Quarter Meeting

Sunday, April 7

Following 10:30 AM Liturgy

St. Joseph Activity Center
Brecksville, OH

Easter Egg Hunt

Sunday, April 14 at 12 NOON

St. Joseph Church Hall
Brecksville, OH

Diane Richey | Publicity
Director

Lodge 316

PHILLIPSBURG, NJ

St. Nicholas Brunch

On Sunday, December 9, 2018, members of Lodge 316 joined with parishioners of SS. Peter & Paul Church to host a Christmas Brunch in honor of St. Nicholas. Following Liturgy, everyone enjoyed a delicious breakfast prepared by church members. After breakfast, everyone sang Christmas carols and about that time, Santa arrived. The children were thrilled. They all had a chance to talk with Santa and the parents were able to get photos. As the children were saying goodbye to Santa, they had another surprise. St. Nicholas came to visit. All the children gathered around St. Nicholas and more pictures were taken. It was a busy morning for all! Thank you to the volunteers who made this day special and thank you to the GCU for the Fraternal Grant for this event and providing giveaways for the children and adults.

The week following the Christmas Brunch, President Ann Wilkins and her brother Bill Kravchak visited homebound members of Lodge 316 and the parish. They arrived with beautiful poinsettias and delicious Christmas cookies baked by Ann. Everyone enjoyed the holiday visits.

Happy New Year to all!

Kathleen Meddaugh | Secretary-Treasurer



Santa with the happy children.



Ann Wilkins preparing to visit the homebound with poinsettias and cookies.



Lodge members packing treats.

Lodge 321

BRADENVILLE, PA

St. Nicholas Christmas Parties

Lodge 321 members packed treats for the 2018 St. Nicholas Christmas parties at St. Mary Byzantine Church in Bradenville and St. Mary Byzantine in Trauger, PA. The treats were handed out by Saint Nicholas to 50 children.

Scott Wajdic | Secretary-Treasurer





Packing food items to be taken to the Euclid Hunger Center.

Donation Made

St. Stephen's Church and Lodge 336 recently donated non-perishable food items with an approximate value of \$400.00 to the Euclid Hunger Center. The donation helped many families during the holiday season.

Lodge 336

EUCLID, OH

Fall Family Festival

A Fall Family Festival Dinner and Fundraiser was held on Saturday, November 10 at St. Stephen Byzantine Church. The event was a joint fundraising effort sponsored by Lodge 336 and St. Stephen parish. In conjunction with the dinner there were several fundraising activities. The evening also served as a nice welcome to our new parish administrator, Fr. Robert Jager, Mrs. Rose Jager and their family. Congratulations to Lodge 336 Treasurer Irene Chinchar on her prize winnings.

St. Nicholas Celebration

Lodge 336 together with the members of St. Stephen parish celebrated the feast of St. Nicholas on the evening of December 5. A community pot luck dinner featured delicious food and desserts brought by each family to share. St. Nicholas came to visit and passed out treats (provided by Lodge 336) to all the children. Later that evening Lodge 336 presented a check to St. Stephen's Administrator Fr. Robert Jager and Lisa Stanich, ECF Program Director. The evening was a fun filled family event that was enjoyed by all in attendance.



The kids as well as the adults enjoyed the visit from St. Nicholas.



Items donated to the animal shelter.

Animal Shelter Donation

Lodge 336 helped to make the holidays a little brighter for the animals located at the Euclid Animal Shelter. During the holiday season the lodge collected items on the shelter's wish list— pet supplies, food, toys and various cleaning products. In total \$350.00 worth of goods were donated to the shelter. Thanks to GCU's Matching Funds program, the lodge will be following up with a second donation in February!

Patti Comai | President



Stryker Little, Chris Little and Jayden Perez after last year's Run Ranger event.

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. The proceeds from this event will benefit veterans and their families. Additional information is available at <https://runrangerrun.com/>. Sergeant Little's team name is Team Leadfoot - Christopher Little. 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 ranging from easy to hard. 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



Food Drive.

Lodge 360

CAMPBELL, OH

Thanksgiving Food Drive

Throughout the months of October and November Lodge 360 held a Thanksgiving Food Drive to benefit the St. Vincent dePaul Food Kitchen. Anyone who generously donated food items received an entry into a drawing for a beautiful Santa and \$50.00 in lottery tickets. The lucky winner of the drawing was Aubrey Vokish. Lodge 360 collected \$1,350.00 in food donations.

Luncheon

Lodge 360 held a luncheon at The Holiday Inn, Boardman, OH following the fourth quarter meeting on December 30, 2018 at St. Michael Church in Campbell. Seated from left to right: Arlene Arendas, Bernie Kovach, Ed Stanko, Rev. Kevin Marks, Aubrey Vokish, Christopher Vokish, Keri Vokish, Lisa Romito and Jerry Arendas.

Lisa Kinnick Romito | Secretary-Treasurer



Luncheon at the Holiday Inn.



Peter & Barbara Stecko.

Lodge 390

MCKEES ROCKS, PA

Angel Tree Gifts

Heartfelt thanks are extended to all who graciously took an angel from the Angel Tree, and turned it into a precious gift for a less-fortunate child in our local area. Holy Family Social Services in Emsworth, PA and Family Foundation in McKees Rocks gathered these gifts and distributed them to the children in time for Christmas. Everyone was indeed very generous! GCU Lodge 390 sponsors this annual project. Enormous gratitude goes out to Barbara & Peter Stecko for sacrificing their time to make this event come to fruition for the children! God bless all of you and know that this is pleasing to Our Lord. You made many children very happy and loved this Christmas Season.

Philippian Fast Pirohi Sale

Holy Ghost parish in McKees Rocks pirohi have long been recognized as among the best in the Pittsburgh area. This reputation was reinforced by victory at the Kennywood Park Pirohi Festival this past summer. Throughout the Philippian Fast the team was hard at work pinching pirohi prior to Christmas. Gratitude is expressed to all who participated in this project. This year Lodge 390 sponsored the fund raiser for Parish Matching Funds of \$780.00 extending the benefit for the church.

Steve Puluka | Secretary-Treasurer



Volunteers making pirohi.



Meeting St. Nicholas.

Lodge 401

NANTY GLO, PA

St. Nicholas Day Dinner

With the cooperation of Lodge 401, the Home Office and the Ladies Guild the annual St. Nicholas Day dinner was held December 2, 2018 at St. Nicholas Church. It was a well attended and successful event—the largest crowd to date. The festivities began following the Sunday morning Liturgy. The catered dinner was subsidized by the Ladies Guild. A note of special thanks to those who decorated the hall, purchased the gifts, to the GCU Home Office, members of the Ladies Guild and to St. Nicholas, for distributing gifts to the children.



Rocky with Marina Sell at St. Stephen's Living Center.

Christmas Visit to St. Stephen's Living Center

Lodge 401 members made their annual Christmas visit to the residents of St. Stephen's Living Center in Nanty-Glo, PA on December 16, 2018. With the assistance of the GCU Home Office we were able to purchased Christmas stockings and filled them with various treats for the residents. Lodge member Marina Sell led us in singing Christmas

carols that were chosen by the residents. This was the fifth year Lodge 401 sponsored this heart warming event. Thank you to those who participated and to the Home Office for their financial assistance.

Gene Ostinowsky | Vice President

Lodge 442

BOARDMAN, OH

Christmas Decorating

Lodge members and parishioners gathered on Saturday, December 1, 2018 to decorate Infant Jesus of Prague Byzantine Catholic Church for the joyous holiday season. Poinsettias, trees and the Nativity scene were all erected. A “thank you” light lunch was provided by Lodge 442 for the 35 volunteers.



Children with St. Nicholas.

UPCOMING LODGE 442 EVENTS

Youngstown Area Jr. Bowling Tournament

Sunday, March 31

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

Camelot Lanes
628 Boardman-Canfield Road
Boardman, OH 44512

Contact Elaine Chachko at 330-755-6243

Food Drive for St. Vincent dePaul's Food Pantry

April & May 2019

A “most needed items” list will be provided at the collection point in the vestibule of Infant Jesus of Prague Byzantine Catholic Church, Boardman

Coffee & Donut Social and 2nd Quarter Meeting

Sunday, April 7

Following the 9 AM Liturgy

All parishioners, friends and family are invited for the social followed by the 2nd quarter lodge meeting.

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

Children's Christmas Party

Lodge 442 partnered with The Altar & Rosary Society of Infant Jesus of Prague Church to host the annual children's Christmas Party on Sunday, December 16. The party featured a light lunch, party favors, and a special visit from St. Nicholas, who had presents and coins for each child. Special thanks to Paul Kasper, Ken Litwin, Mary Beth Hayer and Karen & Kathy Kollar.



Some of the goodies available at the bake sale.

Christmas Bake Sale

On Saturday, December 22 and Sunday, December 23, 2018, Lodge 442 co-sponsored the annual Christmas Bake Sale. Kolachi, strudels, pizzelles, cookie trays and other “goodies” were baked and available for purchase. Special thanks to Mary & Jerry Novak, Ken Litwin and everyone who supported this fundraising activity. Lodge 442's half of the proceeds was a Matching Funds project for the church's Building & Grounds Maintenance Fund.

Elaine Chachko | Treasurer &
Activities Director

Greater Hazleton Regional Lodge

HAZLETON, PA

Hope everyone is fairing the weather. Only in Northeastern Pennsylvania can you have rain and 50+ degree weather turning to snow the same day. Oh, well, hopefully winter will be over soon!

1st Quarter Meeting Report

Our first quarterly meeting was Sunday, January 27 at St. Michael Church Hall in McAdoo, PA. After a delicious meal the meeting was called to order. On the agenda was the presentation of Matching Funds raised in the month of November for Holy Dormition Friary. The presentation was made to Fr. Jerome Wolbert, OFM caretaker of the monastery.

Secretary Agnes Rohrbach reported on the new Matching Funds amounts for 2019. A motion was made to apply for Community Matching funds to assist a GCU member whose house was damaged by a fire. The lodge will have a fundraiser in the month of April and a monetary donation will be given to the family. Parish Matching Funds for St. John BC Church in Hazleton will be used to help with renovation work. This fund raiser will be held in the month of June.

Thank you letters were read from organizations that benefited from the 2018 fund raisers and from the parishes that received Christmas donations. It was great to see four of the priests from the lodge in attendance at the meeting.

A list of activities was given to everyone for the coming year. As usual, dates are subject to change and additional activities may be added. **Mark your calendar, the 42nd "Holupki Open" will be held on the second Saturday of July this year, which is July 13.**

If you are unsure about a meeting or an event, please feel free to give Agnes a call at 570-454-4869, or if you are computer savvy, check out the GCU website for updates or new postings.

Until, next time, take care and May God Bless!

Agnes Rohrbach | GHRL
Secretary &
Activities Director



Rick Hoppey, Agnes Rohrbach, Scholarship recipients Rebecca & Jonathan Kaschak and Deacon Larry Foran.



Michael Komishock, Deacon Larry Foran, Fr. Gregory Hosler (back), Agnes Rohrbach, Msgr. Nicholas Puhak, Fr. Peter Donish, Fr. Gregory Noga and Fr. Richard Polmouner.



Matching Funds distribution to Holy Dormition Friary. Rick Hoppey, Agnes Rohrbach, Rev. Jerome Wolbert, OFM and Ann Marie Betterly.

UPCOMING GHRL EVENTS

Jr. Bowling Tournament

Sunday, March 10

1 PM

Bowl-Arena

190 Susquehanna Blvd., West Hazleton, PA 18202

Contact Agnes at 570-454-4869

Hollywood Casino Bus Trip

Sunday, April 28

Blind Doubles No-Tap Tournament

Saturday, May 4

3 PM

Bowl-Arena

190 Susquehanna Blvd., West Hazleton, PA

Contact Agnes at 570-454-4869

2nd Quarter Meeting

Sunday, May 5

2 PM

SS. Peter & Paul Church

107 South 4th Street, Minersville, PA 17954

Spring Helping Hands Day at Holy Annunciation Monastery

Saturday, June 1

9 AM

Sugarloaf, PA

Byzantine Day at Knoebels Park

Sunday, June 2

10 AM

Elysburg, PA

UPCOMING CPRL (CENTRAL PITTSBURGH REGIONAL LODGE) EVENTS

Mardi Gras Fat Saturday Celebration (21 & over)

Saturday, March 2

Liturgy 6 PM

Party 7 PM - 11 PM

\$25 (BYOB)

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

Only 80 tickets available. No tickets will be sold at the door. Dress—Mardi Gras attire.

Deadline for tickets is February 23

Contact John Niskach at 412-521-3963 or gculodge255@gmail.com

Lenten Pirohi Sale

Starting March 9

Every weekend during Lent

St. Pius X Church
2336 Brownsville Road
Pittsburgh, PA 15210

Jr. Bowling Tournament

Sunday, March 24

12:30 PM

Coral Lanes
4071 Homestead-Duquesne Road
West Mifflin, PA 15122

Contact John Miller at 412-576-4328 or j.miller121253@gmail.com

Legally Blonde the Musical

Saturday, March 30

7 PM

GCU Member \$5

Non-Members \$12

West Mifflin High School
91 Commonwealth Avenue
W. Mifflin, PA 15122

Deadline for tickets is March 16

Contact Kim Kolesar at 412-469-0659



Paul Yackulich Jr. and Georgia Lehman make a donation to Rosa-lie Danchanko at the Free Medical Clinic.

Lodge 625

CONEMAUGH, PA

St. Nicholas Social

During the holiday season, Lodge 625 was quite busy. On December 5, following Divine Liturgy, the lodge hosted the St. Nicholas Social with pizza and salad. The weather that evening did not cooperate, but those in attendance were pleased that this annual social event, continued as planned. Lodge 625 thanks the Home Office for the Fraternal Grant used to purchase the pizza and supplies.

Donation

On Sunday, December 9, President Paul Yackulich Jr. and Secretary-Treasurer Georgia Lehman presented Father Robert Oravetz with a check for \$4,240.⁰⁰. The donation represented profits from the Jackson Heritage Festival and GCU Matching Funds and will benefit the church's roof fund.

Christmas Eve Social

On December 24, Lodge 625 hosted the annual Christmas Eve Social. Lodge members brought favorite cookies or holiday snacks to share with those attending Christmas Eve Divine Liturgy.

Meeting Notes

At the 4th quarter/annual meeting on November 25, members voted on community organizations to receive \$3,000.⁰⁰ in profits from the local Music Festival and GCU Matching Funds. Fourteen organizations were awarded between \$100.⁰⁰ to \$400.⁰⁰ per charity. President Paul Yackulich Jr. and Secretary-Treasurer Georgia Lehman personally delivered checks to eleven of the organizations.

CONTINUED



Paul Yackulich Jr. and Georgia Lehman make a check presentation to Walnut Grove Food Pantry Director Ken Reed.

UPCOMING LODGE 625 EVENTS

1st Quarter Meeting

Sunday, February 24

Following Divine Liturgy (approx. 10:15 AM)

Holy Trinity Church Hall, Conemaugh, PA

Stuffed Chicken Dinner

Sunday, March 17

11 AM - 2 PM

Holy Trinity Church Hall, Conemaugh, PA

Easter Party

Sunday, April 14

Following Divine Liturgy

For children 12 and under

Holy Trinity Church Hall, Conemaugh, PA

Mother's Day Social Hour

Sunday, May 12

Following Divine Liturgy (approx. 10:15 AM)

Holy Trinity Church Hall, Conemaugh, PA

Lodge 625 CONTINUED

The lodge's 2019 calendar is full of events to help support the lodge, parish and local charities. The first event was the Souper Bowl Sunday Soup & Cracker Donation for the local food pantry. The lodge collected soup and crackers through February 3 at Holy Trinity Church.

Members of Lodge 625 who would like to be added to the lodge's email list are asked to send an email to: gculodge625@yahoo.com or visit GCU Lodge 625 on Facebook.

Georgia Lehman | Secretary Treasurer



Announcing the GCU Art & Photo Contest!

2019

This year's theme: "My Favorite Holiday"

Need some inspiration? Brainstorm:
How do you celebrate?
Where do you spend your holiday?
What's the best part of your holiday?
Who do you like to spend your holiday with?

If you're 12 or younger, enter your artwork!
Submission must be original on paper or art board - maximum size 12"x18"
Include short description of your art, name, age, address, phone number and email on the back of your submission.

Deadline: April 5, 2019

If you're age 13-23 enter your photo! Include short description, name, age, address, phone number and email with your submission. Photos that include identifiable people require a model release. The model release form is available for download at GCUusa.com/events.

One entry per member. All contestants must be a GCU member for one year. Membership end age is determined as of March 31, 2019. Visit the GCU Website for complete rules and details.

Lodge 860

DETROIT, MI

Annual Christmas Giving Tree Project and Party

This Christmas season, as always, children of the ECF (Eastern Christian Formation) catechism program at St. Nicholas Church in Clinton Township, MI, held their annual Christmas Giving Tree Project, with support from Lodge 860.

Each year, the children of the parish erect an artificial Christmas tree in the lobby of the church and place tags on it for various gifts for local needy children. They also collect non-perishable food items for needy families. Parishioners and lodge members purchase the tag items and return them to the tree. Children from the ECF program then deliver the items to a local agency to distribute to the needy.

This year, the lodge received a Fraternal Grant to help the ECF participants ensure that all gift items on the tree were purchased. The remainder of the grant was used to purchase additional food items. Everything was delivered in time to allow the recipients to enjoy the spirit of the season.

The Giving Tree project culminated on Sunday, December 16, 2018, and was recognized at the annual ECF Christmas Play and Pizza Party



The children from the ECF program at St. Nicholas Church in front of their Giving Tree. Photo by Laura Nagrant.

event held in the parish social hall. The children entertained their families, parishioners and lodge members with a seasonally themed play and shared a pizza luncheon. Then they sang traditional Christmas hymns and carols until St. Nicholas stopped in to hand out gifts for them!

The parish ECF program offers catechism lessons for children from preschool to high school on Sunday mornings between the Divine Liturgies at the church.

Val Marszalec | Fraternal & Publicity Director



Father Robert Lozinski, CSC and parishioners Boris & Cheryl Shihinski with some of the canned goods collected at St. Michael parish.

Lodge 945

DUNMORE, PA

Thanksgiving Day Feed a Friend Project

Through the generosity of members of Lodge 945, the parishioners of St. Michael Byzantine Catholic Church and the GCU Matching Funds program, a total of \$1,700.00 in canned goods and monetary donations was presented to the Scranton Rescue Mission.

Annual Meeting

Lodge 945 held their annual meeting on November 30, 2018 at Sibio's Restaurant in Dunmore, PA. Officers elected for 2019 were President Paul

CONTINUED



Children with St. Nicholas.

Lodge 945 CONTINUED

Dunda, Vice President Betty Salva, Secretary-Treasurer Sharon Kofel, Auditor Myron Fedor, Fraternal Activities Mary “Topsy” Zayac, Publicity Director George Kofel and Chaplain Rev. Robert Lozinski, CSC.

St. Nicholas Children’s Christmas Party

Lodge 945 and St. Michael Parish held a Children’s Christmas Party in the church hall on Sunday, December 9, 2018 following the Divine Liturgy. The children and parishioners enjoyed holiday treats along with a visit from St. Nicholas, who presented gifts to all the children. Special thanks to the GCU Home Office for providing giveaways for the children and adults.

Special Matching Funds Benefiting the Carmelite Nuns

Lodge 945 participated in the GCU Special Matching Funds for 2018 benefiting the Carmelite Nuns of the Holy Annunciation Monastery in Sugar Loaf, PA. The lodge’s efforts allowed them to achieve the full matching allocation of \$1,500.00.

George Kofel | Publicity Director

UPCOMING LODGE 945 EVENTS

1st Quarter Meeting

Sunday, March 31

Immediately following the 9 AM Divine Liturgy

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

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

Pysanky Workshop

Saturday, April 13

11 AM - 3 PM

GCU members \$30

Non-members \$40

A lite lunch and refreshments will be provided. Class is limited to 20 participants. Reservations are a must and will only be taken with payment. Please contact George Kofel at 570-241-2256 for information and reservations.

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



Members and guests enjoying the cookie swap.

Lodge 999

PHOENIX, AZ

Christmas Cookie Swap 2018

On Sunday, December 16 Lodge 999 and parishioners at St. Stephen Cathedral held a Christmas Cookie Swap. People were asked to bring 4-5 dozen cookies and the recipe to share. Diane Papeh’s cookies were voted the best and she received a prize. Games

were played and children had the opportunity to decorate a gingerbread cookie. Pictures were taken with the Gingerbread Man to remember this fun event!

Joanie Mahar | President

GCU Junior Bowling Tournament Dates

Central Pittsburgh Regional Lodge (former District One Lodges)

Sunday, March 24 at 12:30 PM

Contact John Miller at 412-576-4328

Youngstown Area Lodges (Lodges 164, 360 & 442)

Sunday, March 31 at 1 PM

Contact Elaine Chachko at 330-755-6243

District 5 Wilkes-Barre/Scranton Area

Sunday, February 24 at 1 PM

Contact Ed Keil at 570-824-1264

District 5 Binghamton, NY Area

Sunday, March 10 at 12:45 PM

Contact Bob Suflita at 607-754-1501

Greater Hazleton Regional Lodge

Sunday, March 10 at 1 PM

Contact Agnes Rohrbach at 570-454-4869

District 15

Sunday, March 10 at 12 NOON

Contact Bill Uram at 724-287-0689



**All applications are available at GCUusa.com
Members/Events/Month of Event/Find Location**

A JOINT TOURNAMENT OF GCU, FCSU & SLOVAK CATHOLIC SOKOL

83RD
ANNUAL

National Bowling Tournament



FRIDAY, MAY 17, 2019
SATURDAY, MAY 18, 2019



Noble Manor Lanes

2440 Noblestown Road
Pittsburgh, PA 15205
412-922-4622

LODGING



401 Holiday Drive
Pittsburgh, PA 15220
412-922-8100

\$99 Single or Double
Block Code: GCU



555 Trumbull Drive
Pittsburgh, PA 15205
412-922-0100

\$99 Single or Double
Block Code: NBT

Applications will **NOT** be accepted after **APRIL 15, 2019**

Applications will be mailed to all NBT participants from the last three years.

Applications are also available for download at GCUusa.com

For Your Information

Events

14th Egg EGGstravaganza

Sunday, April 7

12 NOON to 5 PM

FREE

Sponsored by Lodge 81, Local Egg Artists and the St. John's Ethnic Craft Club.

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.

Twenty egg artists will be demonstrating, displaying, and selling numerous variations of egg art. An Egg Bazaar will feature egg dyes, beeswax, tools, books, videos, and pysanky kits for sale. Ethnic Easter basket supplies such as embroidered covers, candles, lamb butter molds, egg wraps, parish cookbooks, handmade Easter crafts and much more, will be available for sale. There will be information for Easter basket blessing foods such as hrutka/sirets (Easter Cheese), horseradish/beets, braided long rolls, and Paska Bread design making. A 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. Visitors can try a hands-on workshop to learn how to decorate eggs. There will be a Children's Corner featuring egg-related crafts, storytelling, cookie decorating and a jigsaw puzzle area. There will also be several fundraising activities. A Lenten Luncheon menu, including St. John's "famous" pirohi, halushki, pagach pockets, pirohi pizza, soups and more will be available for purchase. There is no admission fee. Door prizes will be awarded throughout the day. Handicapped accessible.

Spring Helping Hands Day at Holy Annunciation Monastery

Saturday, June 1

9 AM

Sugarloaf, PA

Contact Agnes Rohrbach
570-454-4869

Byzantine Day at Knoebels Park

Sunday, June 2

10 AM

Elysburg, PA

Contact Agnes Rohrbach
570-454-4869

Mount St. Macrina House of Prayer Schedule

Spring Spiritual Reading Series

Monday, March 18 & 25, April 1 & 8
10 AM-11:30 AM

By Sr. Barbara Jean Mihalchick, OSBM
Free Will Offering | Register by March 11

Lenten Prayer Morning

Saturday, March 23
9:15 AM-1 PM - Includes Lunch

By Rev. Don Bolls
\$35 Offering | Register by March 19

Weekend Retreat

March 29-31
Friday 7 PM-Sunday 11 AM

By Fr. Bill Kiel
\$150 Offering | Register by March 25

Mt. St. Macrina House of Prayer
10 West Main Street PO Box 878
Uniontown, PA 15401-0878
Email: hpmsm@verizon.net
Website: sistersofstbasil.org



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 \$28.⁰⁰ 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.



2019 Calendar of Events

2019 JANUARY 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wed.	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 GCU Closed	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28 Magazine Deadline	29	30	31 Scholar Deadline		

1-GCU Closed-New Year's Day Cause of the 1st Quarter-
 28-Magazine Deadline National Coalition Against
 31-Deadline Scholarship Docs. Domestic Violence

2019 FEBRUARY 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wed.	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21 Penguin Game	22	23
24	25	26	27	28		

21-Penguin Game

2019 MARCH 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wed.	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3	4	5	6 Bd. Meet	7 Bd. Meet	8 Bd. Meet	9 Bd. Meet
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26 Magazine Deadline	27	28	29	30 Dinner Show Outing

26-Magazine Deadline
 30-Dinner at Seven Oaks CC & Singing in the Rain at Lincoln Park Performing Arts School Midland, PA

2019 APRIL 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wed.	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5 Art Deadline	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19 GCU Closed	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

5-Art & Photo Deadline Cause of the 2nd Quarter-
 19-GCU Closed-Good Friday Freedom Service Dogs of
 America

2019 MAY 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wed.	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7 Bd. Meet	8 Bd. Meet	9 Bd. Meet	10 Bd. Meet	11
12	13	14	15	16	17 NBT	18 NBT
19	20	21	22	23	24 Magazine Deadline	25
26	27 GCU Closed	28	29	30	31	

17-18-National Bowling Tournament Pittsburgh, PA
 24-Magazine Deadline
 27-GCU Closed-Memorial Day

2019 JUNE 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wed.	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 HHD
2 Kneebels	3 Golf Classic	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29

30 1-Helping Hands Day Uniontown & Sugarloaf
 2-Byzantine Family Day Kneebels
 3-Golf Classic at Seven Oaks CC

2019 JULY 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wed.	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4 GCU Closed	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25 KW	26 Magazine Deadline	27
28	29	30	31			

4-GCU Closed Independence Day Cause of the 3rd Quarter-
 25-Byz. Family Day Kennywood Park Big Brothers & Big Sisters
 26-Magazine Deadline

2019 AUGUST 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wed.	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3 Pirates
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16 NGT	17 NGT
18 NGT	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

3-PNC Park Outing
 16-18-National Golf Tournament Seven Oaks CC & Blackhawk GC in Beaver, PA

2019 SEPTEMBER 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wed.	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2 GCU Closed	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25 Magazine Deadline	26	27	28
29	30					

2-GCU Closed Labor Day
 25-Magazine Deadline

2019 OCTOBER 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wed.	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 Scholar Apps.	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

1-2020 Scholarship Apps. Available Online
 Cause of the 4th Quarter-Salvation Army--Project Bundle-Up and Treasures for Children

2019 NOVEMBER 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wed.	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21 Magazine Deadline	22	23
24	25	26	27	28 GCU Closed	29 GCU Closed	30

21-Magazine Deadline
 28-29-GCU Closed-Thanksgiving

2019 DECEMBER 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wed.	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8 St. Nick Dinner	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24 GCU Closed	25 GCU Closed	26	27	28
29	30	31 GCU Closed				

8-St. Nicholas Dinner
 24-25-GCU Closed-Christmas
 31-GCU Closed-New Year's Eve

GCU Office Closed GCU Sponsored Event GCU Magazine Deadlines

Deceased Members

(Lodge-Member-City-State)

- 8344 Kathryn Achenbach, Gilberton, PA
360 Anne J. Adams, Struthers, OH
8344 Eleanor Andrews, Pittsburgh, PA
945 Mary Androsiczsko, Scranton, PA
8344 Dianne T. Bagenstose,
Greenville, PA
8344 Patricia A. Bailey, Harleysville, PA
401 John L. Baird, Windber, PA
211 Eugenia Barkofsky,
Elmhurst Twp., PA
8344 Louise M. Barnes, Ambler, PA
8344 Gerald T. Barrow, Washington, PA
8344 Linda L. Beal, Dilliner, PA
401 Patricia Berkheimer, Clear Spring, MD
8313 Virginia P. Biggs, Galesburg, IL
999 Elaine Billings, Surprise, AZ
8344 Millie Bistarkey, Espyville, PA
92 Ethel Bocan, Jessup, PA
8315 Robert A. Bogatitus, Knox, IN
8344 Werner H. Brecht, Warrington, PA
8344 Elizabeth Brochetti, Yatesboro, PA
8344 Charlotte M. Brown, Warren, PA
8344 Gwendolyn M. Brown,
Brownsville, PA
8344 Georgia M. Burress,
Youngstown, OH
252 Elizabeth A. Butchko,
Youngstown, OH
8344 Grace M. Callow, Horsham, PA
8344 Helen P. Canney, Leetsdale, PA
994 Harold G. Caprara, Leechburg, PA
8358 David E. Cardinal, Fond Du Lac, WI
8344 Mary M. Carroll, Phoenixville, PA
8344 Louis Cerullo, Stroudsburg, PA
8344 Robert Chapman, Carnegie, PA
66 Jerry S. Chelle, Lancaster, NH
8344 Victoria A. Ciangiarulo,
Bethel Park, PA
GHRL Anna Ciccozzi,
Beaver Meadows, PA
8358 Irene Coates, New Berlin, WI
8344 Mabel Colligan, Kittanning, PA
8344 Edward H. Collins,
King of Prussia, PA
625 Edward Cominsky, Johnstown, PA
8344 Max F. Confer, State College, PA
8344 Jean A. Cook, Warren, PA
8344 Doyle Creasy, Bloomsburg, PA
2 George Danscak, Munhall, PA
8304 Kenneth Dettling, Canyon Lake, CA
258 Rosa DiMario, Farrell, PA
8344 June DiSciullo, McKeesport, PA
17 Edward Dolinish, Old Forge, PA
81 Margaret Dursa, Belleville, IL
CPRL William T. Dzurko, McKeesport, PA
994 Donna Eperesi, Freedom, PA
994 Michael Eperesi, Freedom, PA
644 Theodore A. Evans, Canton, OH
211 Deborah A. Everett, Jermyn, PA
8304 Frank Ferencz, Tustin, CA
8344 Anna M. Fife, Carnegie, PA
8344 Beverly Flotta, Natrona Heights, PA
8344 Pearl Forgas, Johnstown, PA
8324 Dennis Forgash, Waldorf, MD
CPRL Nancy L. Fossick, N. Huntingdon, PA
302 Donald Friend, Mineral Ridge, OH
8344 Alma Gallaher, Pittsburgh, PA
93 Theodore Galuschik, Patton, PA
SEPRL Dolores Gardner, Monroeville, PA
CPRL John Vernon Gedris, Ofallon, IL
8358 Edna E. Gerlach, Germantown, WI
8344 Jerome Gola,
Hanover Township, PA
8344 Kenneth G. Grady,
Spring Church, PA
69 Stanley Grayouskie,
Douglassville, PA
17 Helen Grochal, Sugar Notch, PA
8358 John E. Hacker, Alexandria, VA
8344 William K. Hamer, Ford City, PA
20 Helen Hamilton, Glen Mills, PA
8309 Jeanne F. Hamilton, Bradenton, FL
8341 Eleanor Hankins, North Lima, OH
302 Penny Harris, North Canton, OH
625 Lloyd R. Henderson,
New Florence, PA
CPRL Lillian A. Herb, Pittsburgh, PA
10 Rudolph Hiber, Aliquippa, PA
390 Robert Hicks, Mt. Lebanon, PA
8344 Rose F. Hitman, Norristown, PA
164 Emory Holowatch, Warren, OH
83 Elsie E. Horn, Russellton, PA
8344 Elizabeth J. Houy, Warren, PA
252 Margaret Hudak, Youngstown, OH
10 Virginia F. Hvizgyak,
Cranberry Twp, PA
8327 Leslie Iverson, Winona, MN
8344 Shirley Johnson, Glenshaw, PA
8304 Louis E. Kauder, La Mirada, CA
8344 James Kearney, Brockway, PA
8324 Marianne Kiniry, North Potomac, MD
8344 Lucille M. Kirk, Coraopolis, PA
8344 Joseph A. Klocek, Allentown, PA
8324 Mary Klotz, Silver Springs, MD
8344 Mary A. Kocur, Warren, PA
8344 Henrietta Koofer, Martinsburg, PA
999 Catherine Koperna,
Sagamore Hills, OH
GHRL Veronica Kotch,
Beaver Meadows, PA
860 Edward Kotun, Plano, TX
CPRL George Kranack, Pittsburgh, PA
8344 Allen H. Kreider, Lancaster, PA
8344 Mabel F. Krepps, Pottstown, PA
CPRL Joan Krofchik, Lower Burrell, PA
8341 Rita Kwiatkowski, Brook Park, OH
8344 Shirley Kyle, Oakdale, PA
8358 Karen B. Labelle, Osseo, WI
8344 Dominick A. Lamantia, Bolivar, PA
69 Veronica Leck, Mohnton, PA
8344 Harold Legler, Pittsburgh, PA
8344 Jack W. Leitem, West Sunbury, PA
360 Milton Lenhart, Canfield, OH
255 Virginia Mae Lesko, Whitaker, PA
8309 Hilda L. Lewis, Deland, FL
8344 Howard Lewis, Tobyhanna, PA
8302 Carol J. Lloyd, Tucson, AZ
999 Carol Loeffler, Gilbert, AZ
8327 Gerald E. Lohberger, Waldorf, MN
8344 Martha Longstreth, Oakdale, PA
994 Ann Lucas, Moon Twp, PA
8344 Josephine Luce, Pittsburgh, PA
8344 William Luther, Hastings, PA
8344 Helen Lynn, Latrobe, PA

109 Viola Maletta, Butler, PA
 8344 Elizabeth Matisko,
 New Kensington, PA
 8309 Anna Mae Matola, Crescent City, FL
 8344 Frank McDermott, Carnegie, PA
 66 Karol McFeely, Michigan City, IN
 8344 Edna S. Mertz, Leighton, PA
 8344 William D. Miller, Pittsburgh, PA
 302 Marie Misconish, Parma Hts., OH
 8358 Russell A. Missureli, Racine, WI
 81 Barry Mondichak, Allentown, PA
 8344 Shirley Moon, Somerset, PA
 994 George V. Moore, Baden, PA
 8358 Gale Mortl, St. Francis, WI
 8344 Coralie Mounts, Claysville, PA
 10 Emma Jane Mraovich, Aliquippa, PA
 8344 Frances J. Nagy, Johnstown, PA
 8344 Bertha V. Neeb, Leighton, PA
 625 Mary Negrey, Aurora, CO
 8344 Charles O. Neville, Aliquippa, PA
 8344 Helen E. Nothstein, Leighton, PA
 8344 James O'Donnell, Harvey's Lake, PA
 8344 Alfred Oxenford, Birdsboro, PA
 18 Anne Pantalo, Pittsburgh, PA
 8341 Mary Pazur, Poland, OH
 8341 Magdalene Pellior, Toronto, OH
 8344 William Pentz, Indiana, PA
 81 Matthew Peperak,
 Christiansburg, VA
 271 Ruth D. Peterson, Chicago, IL
 994 Frank V. Pishioneri, Monaca, PA
 66 Betty A. Polomchak, Crown Point, IN
 10 Julianne Popovnak, Aliquippa, PA
 8344 George L. Post, Pottsville, PA
 66 Albert L. Praschak, Crown Point, IN
 17 Michael Prebish, Pittston Twp., PA
 8344 Phoebe K. Ralph,
 North Huntingdon, PA
 994 Gerald Repcheck, Vero Beach, FL
 8358 Margaret Richardson, Milton, WI
 8344 Robert H. Rinehold, Doylestown, PA
 8344 Mary Rodgers, Karns City, PA
 340 Elizabeth Sahayda, Cary, NC
 235 Robert Sanko, Stratford, CT
 GHRL Dina Marie Schlauch,
 West Hazleton, PA
 8358 Gerald Schmidt, Elkhorn, WI
 8358 Helene E. Schroeder, Tigerton, WI
 8344 Dale W. Schwartz, Donora, PA
 211 John T. Sekellick, Jessup, PA
 8326 John P. Siko, Allen Park, MI
 8344 Donald A. Simoncic, Cheswick, PA
 GHRL Kirk Douglas Sims, Hazleton, PA
 8344 Arlene B. Siron, North Wales, PA
 164 Hazel Sneltzer, Salem, OH
 8344 Margaret Stafford, McKean, PA
 8344 Victor Stauffer, Myerstown, PA
 8344 John L. Steinhart, Carnegie, PA
 8324 Raymond L. Stotler,
 Haure De Grace, MD
 8344 Grover E. Strait, McConnellsburg, PA
 945 Mary Stuchlak, Clarks Summit, PA
 8344 John S. Stump, Hollidaysburg, PA
 8344 Angeline Sundy, Aliquippa, PA
 8344 Catherine M. Swartzlander,
 Butler, PA
 8344 Geraldine Tassone, Warren, PA
 8344 Mary I. Templin, Reading, PA
 8344 Robert A. Tennent, Carnegie, PA
 625 Camilla Terek, Southfork, PA
 8344 Mary C. Tobias, Spring City, PA
 CPRL Kathleen M. Troyan, Tarentum, PA
 302 Consolata Trudick, Sloatsburg, NY
 8344 Coletta M. Tyman, Gibsonia, PA
 8344 Rose Louella Tynio, Harrisburg, PA
 8326 Mary K. Ulrich, Howell, MI
 8324 Laura J. Unkart, Westminster, MD
 8344 Richard Varoga, Freeport, PA
 CPRL Mary Vavrek, Pittsburgh, PA
 10 Jovan Vukmaravich, Aliquippa, PA
 8344 Dorothy M. Wadding, Yatesboro, PA
 8309 John Wasako, Bradenton, FL
 8344 Roy L. Whitton, Friedens, PA
 321 John Wilk, Latrobe, PA
 8344 Evelyn L. Williams, Carnegie, PA
 8344 Thomas B. Williams, Cresson, PA
 8326 A J Wilson, Niles, MI
 994 Andrew Zajac, Baden, PA
 319 Mary Zalewski, Flint, MI
 8309 Mary Zangus, Ocala, FL
 8344 Bernard Zelenak, Bridgeport, PA
 8344 Dorothy Zentock, Cresson, PA
 8344 John Zerphey, Middletown, PA
 52 George Zifchak, Bethel Park, PA

Remembrances

Mary (Pacak) Vavrek

Former GCU Lodge 28 Secretary-Treasurer Mary (Pacak) Vavrek passed away peacefully on Monday, December 31, 2018 at the age of 91.

She was born on December 25, 1927 in South Side-Pittsburgh, PA to Anna & Michael Pacak. Mary was born a twin; however, her twin Anna, only lived to 6 months old. Mary grew up in the South Side slopes area of Pittsburgh. She had three other siblings *Anna, Helen and Michael, who predeceased her. (*After her twin died, Mary's parents named the next baby girl Anna also.*)

Mary was a graduate of South High School in 1945 as a business major. She worked at her family's "mom and pop" store inside their house. In addition, she held secretarial jobs at Harleysville Insurance and U.S. Steel. Once she married and started a family, she did not return to paid employment.

Mary was married on August 31, 1957 to Robert Vavrek of Johnstown, PA at St. John the Baptist Church in South Side-Pittsburgh. They purchased a home not far from the church and Mary would be a lifelong South Side resident.

When her children began school, Mary started volunteering. First with the school PTA as an officer. Then she added the South Side Food Co-op, Brashear Food Pantry, Meals-on-Wheels, South Side Community Council, cleaning at church, running errands for the household, volunteering at voting polls and the local GCU lodge.

Fellow GCU member Helen Burey got Mary and many others at the church, involved with the GCU lodge located at St. John parish. Mary was the secretary-treasurer of Lodge 841 and held the same position in Lodge 28 when the lodges at St. John merged. She held the

position until the end of 2010. Mary attended her first GCU National Convention in 1976 in Las Vegas, NV. She would attend every convention after that until her last one in Atlantic City, NJ in 2012. Mary enjoyed attending GCU functions, especially Byzantine Family Day at Kenywood Park and the St. Nicholas Charity Dinners.

Mary is survived by her three children: Robert (Jean) Vavrek, Karen (Mark) Pavlick, and Kimberly (John) Kolesar as well as five grandchildren.

In April 2017, with the onset of dementia, Mary could no longer live in her home alone. She moved to Arden Courts in Jefferson Hills, PA, where she would remain until her death. As coincidence would have it, Mary met up with another former GCU lodge officer, who was also a resident at Arden Courts.

In addition to relatives, friends, church and GCU members visiting the funeral home, City of Pittsburgh City Council President Bruce Kraus, District Justice Gene Ricciardi and GCU President George Juba took time out of their busy days to visit and offer their condolences. Many people shared stories of the good works that she did throughout her life.

Father Tom Schaefer celebrated a Parastas service on Thursday, January 3 and the Funeral Divine Liturgy on Friday, January 4, 2019. The Liturgy was celebrated at St. John the Baptist Byzantine Church in South Side-Pittsburgh. Mary was buried in St. John the Baptist Cemetery in Castle Shannon, PA.

Eternal memory and blessed repose.

Michael Adam Geles, Sr.

Michael A. Geles, Sr., age 81 of Colonia, NJ, entered into eternal rest on Sunday, December 2, 2018.

Mr. Geles was born in Carteret, NJ to John & Mary (Cenkner) Geles. He proudly served his country in the Air Force and received a BA from St. Peter's University. He lived in Linden, NJ prior to moving to Colonia 44 years ago.

Michael was an accountant with Paine Webber of New York for 35 years, retiring in 1998. He was a member and Trustee of St. George Byzantine Catholic Church. Mr. Geles was a member of GCU serving as Lodge 665 secretary-treasurer for many years, the Knights of Colum-

bus, AARP and the American Legion. He was an avid Jets & Mets fan and was a fan of the Brooklyn Dodgers before they moved to LA. He enjoyed bus trips to Atlantic City with his wife and friends as well as country music.

Mr. Geles is survived by his beloved wife of 47 years, Margita (Mitro) Geles; his devoted children, Michael A. Geles, Jr. and his wife Jola Szmyd, and Edward J. Geles; his step granddaughter, Claudia Szmyd and many nieces and nephews.

The Funeral Mass was offered at St. George Byzantine Catholic Church, Linden, NJ.

Blessed repose and eternal memory.

Sister Gertrude Martin, O.S.B.M.

Very peacefully, as she had always wanted, Sister Gertrude moved from the earthly realm to the heavenly in the early evening of Wednesday, November, 28, 2018. Sister had been a resident at Mt. Macrina Manor and it was from there that she was surely welcomed by the Lord she served with fidelity and enthusiasm for 75 years.

Sr. Gertrude (Irene) Martin was born in Homestead, PA, the daughter of the late Nicholas & Ann (Kopas) Martin, the middle child of 13 siblings. She entered the community from St. John the Baptist Cathedral parish in Homestead on October 3, 1943. Sr. Gertrude made her Final Profession of Vows on August 19, 1951 in the presence of the late Rev. John Kocisko.

Her teaching apostolate spanned 33 years, 12 of which she also served as principal. Still in the teaching apostolate, she additionally served as a member of the Provincial Council for five years. For another six years, Sr. Gertrude ably administered St. Basil's Home for Women. A brief return to teaching took her to Trenton, N.J. before she returned to the monastery. Sister's energetic nature and varied talents led her to be assigned as the manager of the Religious Gift Shop. At the Gift Shop, she was a familiar face for over ten years, tending to all aspects of this special ministry of the Sisters. It was a ministry from which it was hard for her to take leave, since she especially enjoyed being there.

In 2005, Sister retired from active ministry, but she busied herself at the monastery with various projects. She was not one to sit still and watch the world go by. At the monastery, she will be especially remembered for directing the Christmas decorating throughout the house. Even now, as soon as that season rolls around, her name is invariably mentioned.

Each year, the National Religious Re-

tirement Office publishes a poster to become the basis of their campaign materials. They select Priests and Sisters whose faces are a reminder of the more than 35,000 religious past the age of 70 years living in the United States. For the 2009 poster, Sr. Gertrude was one of the three Sisters to be chosen. One could not help but be attracted by those deep-set blue eyes and infectious smile, the face of a happy Sister.

Father Andrew Deskevich, in his inspiring homily, noted that when we say before God that we are thankful to have known and loved someone like Sr. Gertrude, we are in fact thanking God for revealing something of Himself yet again in human form.

As Father stated further, "It was only in Jesus Christ that we saw the glory and goodness of God fully shining in a human face. And yet it is also true that in the goodness of every human being, there is another, if different revelation of God, incomplete, flawed, but nevertheless a mirror of His love." This mirror of His love, we glimpsed in the life of Sr. Gertrude.

As we thank God for her life which has reached its earthly fulfillment, we pray that she may now hear the words: "Come, you whom my Father has blessed, take for your heritage the kingdom prepared

for you since the foundation of the world."

Sr. Gertrude was preceded in death by her parents, and 11 of her siblings; her brothers Nicholas, John, Edward, Raymond, Donald, Elmer and Clifford; and her sisters Ann Kasko, Pauline Pushcar, Mary Baka and Eleanor Stellute. In addition to her Sisters in community, she is survived by her brother George Martin, her sister Verna Savko, and many devoted nieces & nephews and their families.

The Parastas Service was concelebrated on Monday, December 3 by the Very Rev. Andrew Deskevich and Rev. Jerome Botsko, Monastery Chaplain. The Very Rev. Ronald Larko was in attendance. The Funeral Divine Liturgy was celebrated on Tuesday, December 4 by the Very Rev. Andrew Deskevich with Rev. Jerome Botsko, as concelebrant. In attendance were Very Rev. Archpriest John Petro, Very Rev. Ronald Larko, Rev. James Spontak, Rev. Stephen Wahal and Rev. Christopher Burke.

May God grant to his handmaiden, Sister Gertrude, eternal memory and peaceful repose.



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