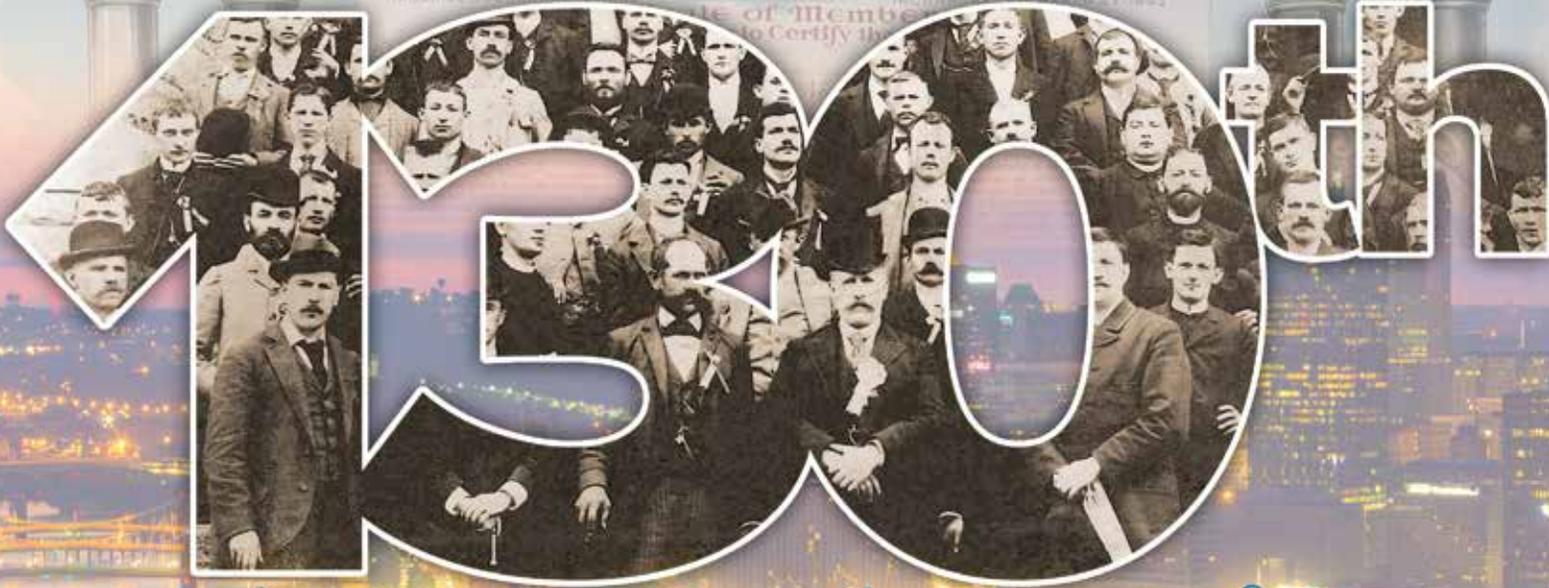


FEBRUARY 2022

ГСУ

MAGAZINE

СА НАМИ БОГЪ! ДА БЪДЕТЪ СВЪТЪ!
THE GREEK CATHOLIC UNION OF RUSSIAN BROTHERHOODS OF THE U.S.A.



FOUNDERS' DAY ANNIVERSARY

1892 February 14 2022

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George N. Juba
President
CEO

Celebrating 130 Years of Trust & Protection

On February 14th, the GCU celebrated its 130th anniversary as our Society was founded on February 14, 1892 in Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania at Saint Mary Byzantine Catholic Church. Over the course of our one hundred and thirty years, the GCU has had an abundance of blessings that also came with many challenges. The success that GCU enjoys today is a tribute to our Founding Fathers and the many past administrations that weathered many difficult storms by having first and foremost a deep faith in God and always keeping our members best interest at the fore front. This year I will be presenting some “tidbits” of historical information in each of my articles, from our humble beginnings noting a multitude of accomplishments and challenging events that occurred that were successfully managed.

Did You Know? Our Humble Beginnings

- ✦ The GCU was founded with a purpose of unifying independent fraternal brotherhoods that were organized in various Greek Catholic/Carpatho-Rusyn communities into one national organization chartered as the “Greek Catholic Union,” a fraternal insurance company.
- ✦ The initial brotherhoods served many purposes with a primary focus to provide financial support to the families that lost loved ones employed in very dangerous occupations in the coal mines, iron ore mines and steel mills or if the breadwinner became permanently disabled as commercial life carriers deemed such occupations as laborers and miners as too risky to insure.
- ✦ The first operations office was in Mahanoy City, Pennsylvania.



St. Mary's Church in Wilkes Barre, PA.

- ✦ The initial face amount of a GCU life policy was \$400.⁰⁰.
- ✦ Fraternal Benefit Societies typically unite for a purpose, as the common bond of the initial brotherhoods was of ethnicity, Carpatho-Rusyn, and religious, Byzantine Catholic.
- ✦ Under the governance process conventions were held with the very first one being held in Scranton, Pennsylvania in 1893. The GCU's office would relocate to Scranton in February of 1896 and again relocate to New York City soon thereafter.
- ✦ Upon making their journey to the United States, a majority of the Carpatho-Rusin or Slovak immigrants were required to be processed at Ellis Island, a federal immigration inspection station located on an island in the State of New York. Many last names were changed as names were difficult to pronounce and spell such as Osbuskevich, Andrejczin, Duzbay and Bankziljak. Believe it or not, the very first President of the GCU was John Smith.
- ✦ President Smith was a successful businessman and became wealthy through a hotel and grocery store that he

CONTINUED

KBRA Upgrades GCU to A- With Stable Outlook

GCU is pleased to announce our financial strength credit rating has been upgraded from BBB+ to A- by the Kroll Bond Rating Agency, LLC and its affiliates (KBRA). The A- credit rating is a measure of GCU's sound financial condition and our likely ability to meet policyholder obligations under difficult economic, financial, and business conditions.

KBRA is a global full-service rating agency with a mission

to set a standard of excellence and integrity. Established in 2010, KBRA remains dedicated to the restoration of trust in credit ratings by creating new standards for assessing risk and by offering timely and transparent ratings. It strives to provide the investment community with the products and tools needed to make informed investment decisions.

The rating upgrade reflects GCU's continued favorable

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3

owned and operated in Mahanoy City, Pennsylvania. He was committed to the GCU's success and initially loaned money to cover initial deficits that were incurred. Dues and assessments were enacted to cover claims and operating costs, however the continued financial hardships and a decline in membership experienced during 1894 threatened the GCU's very existence. To combat this dire issue, an extensive membership drive was launched just prior to the feast of Saint Nicholas in December of that year employing GCU officers and members to pray to Saint Nicholas and ask for his intervention during this critical time. The results of this campaign were very successful as over 1,000 new members were enrolled. The month of December was then declared the season to conduct future membership drives and I am sure is also the reason that Saint Nicholas of Myra is the GCU's Patron Saint.

✦ So from the GCU's very beginning, challenges were presented and President Smith and the elected officers addressed these challenges with their deep faith in God, inspiration provided to them by Saint Nicholas, their desire and commitment in believing in the GCU and its Mission in providing life insurance and other humanitarian needs for the Carpatho-Rusyn and Byzantine Greek Catholic that opted to relocate to the America "driven by a thirst for economic adventure, in search of a land of freedom and opportunity."

(The historical information presented above was derived from the GCU's Publication – "Opportunity Realized – The Greek Catholic Union's First One Hundred Years 1892-1992.")

The GCU began its "humble beginnings" as a fraternal life insurance company with operational assets of \$600.⁰⁰ in total. GCU's current assets through September 30, 2021 now total \$2.37 billion with surplus at \$197.7 million. The primary factor contributing to this surplus growth is net income after dividends and capital gains/losses as \$21.8 million was recorded through the 2021 third quarter. We are in the process of finalizing our 2021 year end financial report as we are expecting our financial goals and premiums to meet or exceed our 2021 budget. Again, our sincere thank you to our members and agents for the life and annuity business you have placed with the GCU that allows for our

financial success to be achieved. President Smith and the initial officers of the GCU no doubt would be very proud of what their vision and plan has transformed into.

The GCU's financial success and operations has "so many moving parts" and "so many pieces to the puzzle" that must be addressed on a continual basis to keep the GCU on this continued successful path.

Our analysis and reports are verified by outside independent sources as required by law. We report on a quarterly basis our financial reports to the Pennsylvania Insurance Department as an audit is also conducted by the Department on a quinquennial basis. We are also required to submit an audit to the Insurance Department each year that is performed by an independent certified public accounting firm that verifies the accuracy of the financial statements, performs an analysis of internal controls and risk exposure within various aspects of our operation to assure that we are in compliance with all standards that first and foremost protects our members' interest.

In addition to regulatory compliance many insurance companies seek a "second opinion" and opt to be rated by a rating agency as well. The top five rating agencies are AM Best, Fitch, Kroll Bond Rating Agency (KBRA), Moody's, and Standard and Poors. Such agencies perform a detailed analysis that determines a company's financial strength and ability to pay claims. The GCU is currently rated by KBRA and we are most pleased to announce that the GCU's rating has recently been elevated to A- with a stable outlook. Our prior rating was BBB+ with a positive outlook. KBRA's Surveillance Report is located beginning on page 1 for your review.

GCU's Humanitarian efforts continue despite the current state of the COVID-19 Pandemic that has impacted the ability of our lodges and districts to conduct fundraising and volunteer events to assist with various needs within their communities and churches. We applaud the efforts of our officers and members of our lodges and districts that have continued to sponsor events under the current challenges. We invite you to review the fraternal section of this publication that presents those various activities that have been held.

Our members may not be getting out and about to support the GCU's Fraternal Mission, but I am most pleased by the financial support of our Kentucky Tornado Relief Program that was sponsored by the GCU Foundation.

This program raised a record amount of donations from our members in the amount of \$25,700.⁰⁰. With the GCU's Matching Funds of \$10,000.⁰⁰, Catholic Charities, the Salvation Army and the American Red Cross each received \$11,900.⁰⁰ to assist the victims of this horrific natural disaster. THANK YOU!

Did You Know? Valentine's Day, also called Saint Valentine's Day or the Feast of Saint Valentine, is celebrated annually on February 14th. The Feast of Saint Valentine was established by Pope Gelasius I in AD 496 to be celebrated on February 14 in honor of Saint



The first GCU Convention in Scranton, PA.

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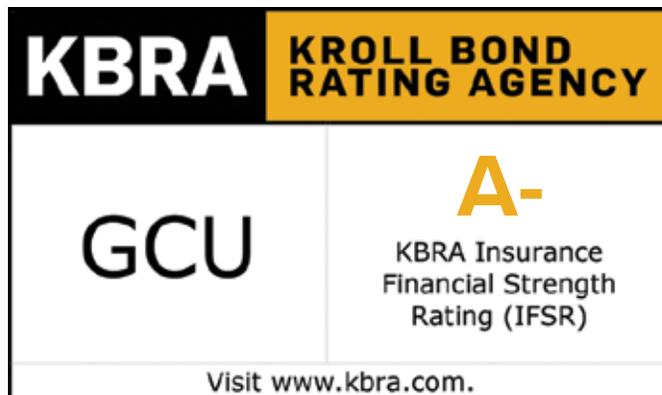
growth trends in surplus and overall capital base which remain underpinned by its demonstrated, consistent trends of profitability. Our balance sheet and membership continue to grow against the headwinds of a challenging interest rate and investment environment. Over the past few years GCU has evolved and strengthened its corporate governance, investment management, and enterprise risk management policies and practices.

Key Credit Considerations. Continued Growth in Capital Base and Profitability Strong capitalization growth and highly favorable trends in total adjusted capital (TAC). Year-end 2020 TAC was \$191.1 million, reflecting an increase of over 550% since 2010. TAC is expected to strengthen in 2021 as surplus through 3Q 2021 is up nearly 9% from a year prior. Risk based capital (RBC) company action level (CAL) has settled in the 350-400% range. Net gains from operations have averaged a strong \$26.9 million across the 2015-2020 period.

Expanding Membership. During a period when fraternal are experiencing membership declines, GCU has roughly 47,600 members, representing a 16.4% increase from 2011. Management believes distribution strategies, attractive rates and commissions, and excellent customer service continue to drive membership.

Strategic Diversification Efforts. Explicitly targeting a diversification of its business, GCU plans to grow its life insurance portfolio, optimize distribution, and target new geographies and demographics. Life premiums through November 2021 totaled \$8.8 million compared to \$5.5 million for 2020. Life premiums remain just over 3% of total premium writings.

Potential for Spread Compression. Annuity block is susceptible to spread compression (as of 3Q 2021, 59% of annuity reserves are held in products with a guaran-



teed rate of 3.0% or higher) and disintermediation (75% of annuity reserves have no or minimal surrender charge). However, GCU's consistently above-average investment yield (5.0% or higher across the 2015-2020 period) and generally high-credit quality invested asset portfolio are mitigants. Further, the launch of its fixed indexed annuity product may provide some insulation from the current prolonged low interest rate environment.

Exposure to Reinvestment Risk. Notable exposure to reinvestment risk given product portfolio and required yield to meet guaranteed rates in the annuity block. However, target spreads are still being achieved as the society continues to actively manage its credited rates across product offerings and refines asset reallocations to maximize yield.

Lack of Business Diversification. Business mix is highly concentrated as reserves are almost entirely interest-sensitive (between 95% and 96% as measured at YE 2016-2020).

Notable Recent Developments. GCU remains focused on controlled, strategic growth of its suite of life and annuity products. Earnings and surplus growth remain favorable as its balance sheet continues to strengthen. To date, COVID-19 has not had a material adverse impact on mortality or financial operations.

- GCU launched its fixed indexed annuity (FIA) product in October 2021, which will complement its deferred fixed rate annuity product in the current low interest rate environment. GCU launched its final expense product in the fourth quarter of 2020.
- GCU's balance sheet remains sound. As of 3Q 2021, total assets were \$2.4 billion, and surplus strengthened to \$198.7 million.
- Despite the sustained low interest rate environment and the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, GCU maintained favorable operating margins.
- Through 11 months ended 2021, total premium revenue was \$274.7 million, an increase of over 42% from the same period a year prior. Life premiums (\$8.8 million) increased 126% while annuity premium and exchanges (\$265.4 million) increased over 40%. Life sales remain driven by its whole life single premium and final expense products.

PRESIDENT CEO REPORT

Valentine of Rome, who died on that date in AD 269.

An additional purpose of the establishment of the GCU was to spread love and friendship amount the Rusin Greek Catholic people living in America. I was not able to locate any information on why the date of February 14th was chosen to establish the GCU, but just maybe Saint Valentine had his hand in the founding of the GCU as well!

As always, please contact me with any questions for concerns you may have!

Happy Valentine's Day and Happy 130th Anniversary to the GCU!

Goodness is Great!

George



Mitred Archpriest
John S. Kachuba
GCU Spiritual Advisor

Time

Here we are, the beginning of another year, 2022. Some of us may have made our annual “New Year’s Resolution” that we end up keeping for a few weeks. We may promise ourselves that we are going to lose weight, spend more time visiting others or just accomplish things we have been planning for years. Whatever the plan, we would like to begin with a “blank slate.” Unfortunately, we are still suffering from the Coronavirus and its variants. We and our loved ones may have suffered from this terrible disease and its consequences. Did we spend time in quarantine, if so, what did we do? Were we so sick that we were not able to accomplish anything, or communicate with those whom we love? Did we miss work or school?

Someone once told me: Imagine \$86,400.00 is credited to your bank account every morning. Whatever amount you did not use is deleted from your account at the end of the day. The balance cannot be carried over to the next day. The next day the same thing happens, you receive \$86,400.00 in your account, and at the end of the day it is gone.

Guess what, we all have that kind of an account. The name of the account is time, it credits us with 86,400 seconds every day. Whatever we have failed to invest of that 86,400 seconds is deleted at the end of every day. If we fail to use the day’s deposits, the loss is ours. There is no going back. There is no drawing against tomorrow. We must live in the present on today’s deposits. Invest the time to get the most in health, happiness, and success. We should also make sure some of this treasure is spent on praising and glorifying God, the One who gave us the gift in the first place.

The clock continues to run, we need to make the most of today. Yesterday is history, tomorrow is a mystery, today is a gift. That is why it is called the present! If we stay in the present and use this time in terms of a gift from God given equally to all of us, then we can appreciate the time the Lord has given us on earth. It is in this time that we live, we love, and we strive to live a life following the Gospel.

The clock continues to run, we need to make the most of today.

Yesterday is history, tomorrow is a mystery, today is a gift.

That is why it is called the present!



How do we do that? Are we aware of those around us that may simply need to be acknowledged as fellow human beings—the man who stands on the corner by the stop sign begging, the older woman who must wait on tables at our favorite breakfast place so she can pay her rent. What about the unfriendly woman in the grocery line who is complaining about wearing a mask because of the Coronavirus? Do we ignore them, or do we help them in some way? It may only take a smile, a few kind words, an extra tip for their service, or just some eye contact to let them know that they are important, and fellow human beings.

The question we must all ask ourselves is how have we spent and continue to spend the time God has given us on this earth?

In my years as a priest, I have listened to many “what if” or “I should have” scenarios of people’s lives. Make the best use of your gift of time, so there will be no regrets when your account is deleted at the end of the day.



Atty. John J. Urban

Lessons in the Law

Absentee Parents Can Inherit

The harsh reality is that not every parent is a good parent and not all moms and dads play roles in their children's lives. The disappointments presented by absentee parents are many when children are alive, but they're magnified tenfold when those children die at an early age.

I recall a single mom who'd been the only parent her son had known while he was growing up. The boy died in his 20s with no heirs, no will and an estate with modest assets. The father ended up inheriting 50% of the estate,

even though he'd never been in the picture. If the son had a will in place, the father could have been excluded.

What happens is that parents are the automatic beneficiaries of children over the age of 18 who don't have wills. The real tragedy is that the boy's sister got nothing. No matter what the role a parent plays in a child's life, assets are automatically split 50/50 between mom and dad. Estranged parents still have rights.

It's a mistake to think your child doesn't need a will simply because he or she has no assets. What if the child dies and there's a malpractice suit? The absentee parent will benefit from any court rulings.

If your child gets sick, you'll end up having to go to probate court to have yourself appointed as guardian, and the absentee parent will have to be notified.

Parents with children going off to college should carve out the time, before those high school graduates hit the road, to put a will, financial & healthcare powers of attorney and a living will in place.



GCU Home Office Hours of Operation

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

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

The Home Office will be closed April 15 in observance of Good Friday.

5400 Tuscarawas Road, Beaver, PA 15009



Giving

St. Mary Byzantine Catholic Church Parish Expansion



Fr. Eduard Shestak with the fundraising committee.

Taylor, PA. St. Mary BC Church held a fundraiser on December 12, 2021. Tickets were sold for \$5. Each parishioner was sent a letter with 5 tickets asking that they purchase these tickets. Tickets were also sold for several weeks after each Divine Liturgy at St. Mary and St. Nicholas Churches. There were 3 prizes, \$100.⁰⁰, \$50.⁰⁰, and \$25.⁰⁰. The monies raised were used to offset parish expenses including a new air conditioning system. Thanks

to all who participated.

A Christmas Cookie Sale took place at St. Nicholas Church Hall on Saturday, December 18. Members from Lodge 17, parishioners of St. Mary & St. Nicholas BC Churches baked over 400 pounds of cookies and 14 small and 7 large fruitcakes. The sale was pre-order only, cookies were \$10 a pound, small fruitcakes \$6 and large fruitcakes \$15. Dishes of cookies wrapped with a bow were available for an additional cost. Cookie varieties included Anise, Italian Wedding, Chocolate Chip, Peanut Butter Kiss, Nut & Apricot Rugala, Thumbprints, Linzer, Snowballs, Pepper, Ricotta, Welsh, Rum Balls, Magic Cookie Bars, Peanut Butter Snicker, Shortbread, Oatmeal, Spritz, Macaroons, Almond Cherry Biscotti, Kolache and many more.

Many of the remaining cookies were donated to a nursing home. Thanks to all who donated cookies and volunteered to pack orders.

Ed Keil | Lodge 17 Secretary-Treasurer



Fr. Eduard Shestak picking the winning numbers with chairperson Pat Oliver.



Mary Ann Faust, Maria Calogero, Pat Oliver and Linda Mokay with wrapped Christmas cookies.

St. John Byzantine Catholic Church Parish Expansion



Mary Sass and Loretta Nemeth package Christmas cookies.

Solon, OH. St. John Byzantine Catholic Church held a Holiday Food Sale on Saturday, December 18. The sale consisted of homemade Hungarian nut & poppy seed rolls, assorted Christmas cookies and homemade fresh Hungarian kolbasz. About 375 rolls were sold, as well as 290 dozen cookies and 120 pounds of kolbasz. The sale was a huge success, thanks to the hard work of all the volunteers, many of whom didn't even belong to the parish! The sale raised a net profit of \$5,477.⁰³, which will receive a \$5,000.⁰⁰ match from the GCU. The parish is grateful to the GCU Parish Expansion program for its aid to our small faith community.

Loretta Nemeth



Mitzi Sauvinsky and Mary Jane Molnar sealing cookie containers.

Sacred Heart BC Church Parish Expansion

Livonia, MI. The Ladies of Sacred Heart held their annual tea and also received GCU Parish Expansion Match for the event. On Sunday, December 5, Marianne Nagrant (Donation Coordinator) and Maryellen Gross (Ladies of Sacred Heart Chairperson) presented the \$1,874.⁵⁰ GCU check to Fr. Joseph Marquis to be used toward the cost of replacing the original and un-repairable heating system in the church.

Marianne Nagrant | Event Coordinator



Check presentation to Fr. Joseph Marquis.

St. Mary Byzantine Catholic Church Parish Expansion

Nesquehoning, PA. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the annual St. Nicholas Festival was replaced with a food sale of homemade halupki, haluski and rice pudding. Orders were taken in advance and picked up or delivered.

The basket raffle, was replaced with donations from parishioners, donating the value of what they would have spent on the baskets. Hopefully the parish festival can begin again in 2022.

Profits from both events were eligible for GCU Parish Expansion Matching Funds.

Fr. Vasyl Chepelskyy

SS. Peter & Paul Church Parish Expansion



Left: Arlene Polivka and Mary Ann Pesta ready to serve desserts.



At right: Part of the kitchen crew-Tom Kearns, Richard Miller & Jerry Lungstreh.

Duquesne, PA. SS. Peter & Paul BC Church held several fund raisers including a successful spaghetti dinner on November 7, 2021. This project enabled the church to obtain a GCU Parish Expansion Match which totaled \$5,000.⁰⁰. The projects were sponsored by the Parish Club which includes many GCU members. Grateful thanks and appreciation to the GCU Home Office for being such a great help.

Photos were taken by Connie K. Smith.

Ann Bereznak



GCU member Ann Bereznak presenting the \$5,000.⁰⁰ check to Fr. Will Rupp, administrator of SS. Peter & Paul BC Church.

Giving

St. Irene Byzantine Catholic Church Parish Expansion



The beautiful poinsettias.

Portland, OR. A Poinsettia Sale was held at St. Irene Byzantine Catholic Church in Portland on weekend of December 4 & 5, 2021. Thank you to all who purchased these beautiful plants and the GCU for the Parish Expansion Matching Funds.

Fr. Vasyl Mutka

Patronage of the Mother of God BCC Parish Expansion

Baltimore, MD. Parishioners of Patronage of the Mother of God Byzantine Catholic Church were very busy preparing holupki, halushki, potato pancakes, kielbasi, several different varieties of kolache, as well as homemade baked goods, this past fall for their Slavic Food Festival on November 20, 2021. Semi-annual Slavic Food Festivals have been a parish tradition for over 40 years. The COVID-19 pandemic provided a challenge to continuing the tradition, but thanks to the generous efforts of 36 people, with a combined total of 679 volunteer hours, they found a way of making the festival a huge success. The church realized a profit of \$6,204.⁰⁰ and received GCU Parish Expansion Matching Funds of \$5,000.⁰⁰, which will greatly benefit the parish. Patronage Church would like to thank the GCU for the Matching Funds and the parishioners for their time and energy. Fr. Serhii Deiak is the Administrator of Patronage of the Mother of God Church.

Sharon Kotula



A few of the happy volunteers.



Baked goods.

Annual Christmas Parade & Festival

The annual Christmas in Conyngham Parade & Festival were held Saturday, December 4, 2021 at Whispering Willows Park in Conyngham, PA. Over 20 groups participated in the parade along with 10+ vendors at the festival. The top 3 floats were Bright Beginnings Learning Academy, Anna Marie School of Dance and Tracey's Academy of Dance. Parade judges were Lisa Shuggart (SSPTV), Carla Thaller (Residence Inn/Hampton Inn/Fairfield Inn & Suites), Jumpin' Jeff Walker (KRZ radio) and Tricia Marnell (Conyngham Mayor).

There was a special appearance by Santa & Mrs. Claus along with performances by All That Dancing, Voice by Angela & Autumn Falls Entertainment.

There were stations for Letters to Santa, ornament decorating and tricky trays. There was also a gingerbread house competition held in the Brass Buckle event room.

Over \$2,000.00 was raised benefiting the Conyngham Valley Civic Organization (CVCO) and start-up funds for Christmas in Conyngham 2022.

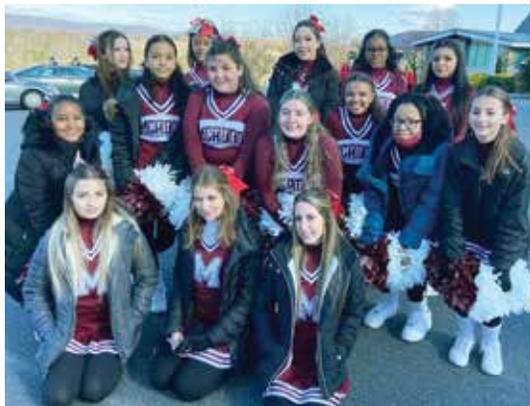
The committee for the event was Dr. Sherri Homanko (GCU member & CVCO Vice President), Joseph Stavnage, Jeannine Lesante (CVCO Board member), Lori Lesante, Brian Earley (CVCO Board member), Jerry Seiwel and Angela Conahan.



Mrs. & Mr. Claus wave to the parade goers.

Thank you to the GCU for supporting this community event through the GCU GoGive! program and helping to bring the spirit of Christmas alive.

Sherri Homanko | GCU & Committee Member



Maura Gallagher as the Snow Queen in the Nutcracker Ballet

GCU member Maura Gallagher starred as the Snow Queen in the Nutcracker Ballet a presentation by the Scranton Ballet Company. The performance took place at The Theater at North in Scranton, PA. Maura, a lifelong member of GCU Lodge 211, is the daughter of Mark & Kristen Gallagher, Moscow, PA and granddaughter of Paul & Lorraine Suche, Eynon, PA. Way to GO Maura!

Paul Suche



Maura Gallagher.

Taylor Mihalow Graduates From Saint Vincent College



Taylor Mihalow.

Taylor Mihalow of Patton, PA graduated early in December 2021 from Saint Vincent College in Latrobe, PA. Taylor graduated with a Bachelor's of Science in Health Science and a minor in Biology.

While at Saint Vincent College, Taylor was a member of Beta Beta Beta Upsilon Gamma Chapter of the National Biology Honor Society, Gamma Sigma Epsilon Rho Pi Chapter of the National Chemistry Society, Equestrian Club, Pre-Veterinary Club, Orientation Committee, Creativity Club, Art Club and Her Campus Club. Taylor was also named to the College's Dean's List for three semesters. She job shadowed and completed two internships at Latrobe Animal Clinic where she assisted with veterinary care for companion animals.

Taylor volunteered during her time at Saint Vincent College through helping with the Jared Box Project packaging care packages for children with cancer, the Orientation Committee helping freshmen move in and being a "big" to three "littles" to help them with the transition to college and the Reading Rocks Project making creative projects for the education club.

Taylor will be moving to North Carolina this summer to pursue her career in animal research. Taylor is a member of Lodge 93 and has been a recipient of the GCU National Scholarship. She currently resides with her parents Gary & Rose Mihalow in Patton, PA.

District 5

UPCOMING DISTRICT 5 EVENT

WBS Penguins Hockey Game

Saturday, March 19, 2022

6:05 PM

\$10 GCU Members

\$20 Non-Members

Deadline to order tickets is February 28

Wilkes-Barre/Scranton Penguins vs Utica Comets

Game ticket on lower level behind the goal, you will receive a St. Patrick's Day rally towel, hot dog, chips & a soda.

Contact Ed Keil at 570-954-6379



Play It Forward Pittsburgh 2021 event.

Jr. Bowling Tournament | First up on our activity calendar is the Junior Bowling Tournament. District 15 children are invited to bring a friend for lunch and bowling on Sunday, March 20. Lunch will be served at noon followed by bowling and prizes. Contact Kathy Kapaldo at 412-951-8331 to register your child(ren) by March 10.

Adult No-Tap | The Adult No-Tap Bowling Tournament is scheduled for Saturday, April 9. Entry fee includes bowling, dinner and prizes. Invite someone new to the Adult No-Tap; all GCU members and friends are welcome! Contact Elizabeth Harbist for an application 412-913-1446 or etharbist@yahoo.com.

With Deep Sympathy | District 15 extends its sympathy to the family and friends of Janet (nee Uram) Stetzer of Butler, PA who passed away on January 3. Janet was president of Lodge 109 in Lyndora, PA. She volunteered with many local community organizations. District 15 was very fortunate to have her help at the district's golf outing each year. Janet was preceded in death by her husband Dick Stetzer. She is survived by her son David; daughters Maria and Laura Jo; 8 grandchildren; and 2 great grandchildren. Funeral Liturgy was held at St. John the Baptist in Lyndora. May God grant Janet blessed repose and eternal memory.

Elizabeth Harbist | President



Play it Forward volunteers (from left): Elizabeth Harbist, Cindy Fever, RoxAnn Savka, Donald Ribarchak, Kathy Kapaldo, Laura Seech, Bethany Coldwell and Mary Bridge.

District 15

Happy New Year! Let's hope that 2022 is an improvement over the past few years. District 15 officers have planned many 2022 activities for members and guests. However, everyone must continue to monitor local guidelines regarding indoor meetings and gatherings. Please check the District 15 Facebook page for updates on all activities in the coming months.

Play It Forward Pittsburgh 2021 | In December, Laura Seech organized a team of district volunteers for Play it Forward Pittsburgh 2021. Held annually at the David Lawrence Convention Center, Play it Forward provides gently used and some new toys allowing struggling families to give their children a joyful holiday season. District 15

volunteers helped families find the right size bike; organize toys; clear empty boxes and some manned the checkout counters. It was a great way for the volunteers to be reminded of their own blessings while helping others.

UPCOMING DISTRICT 15 EVENTS

District 15 Senior Award

Completed applications & all materials due by February, 28, 2022

Awardees will be honored on April 9, 2022

Contact Kathy Kapaldo at kkapaldo@comcast.net

Jr. Bowling Tournament

Sunday, March 20, 2022

12 NOON Lunch with Bowling to follow

Center Lanes, 3084 Brodhead Road, Aliquippa, PA.

Contact Kathy Kapaldo at 412-951-8331 or email her at kkapaldo@comcast.net

Adult No-Tap Bowling Tournament

Saturday, April 9, 2022

2 PM

Dinner to follow at Seven Oaks CC

Center Lanes, 3084 Brodhead Road, Aliquippa, PA
Dinner to follow at Seven Oaks CC

Contact Elizabeth Harbist at 412-913-1446 or email her at etharbist@yahoo.com

Lodge 7

YONKERS & WHITE PLAINS, NY

St. Nicholas Day Celebration

The annual St Nicholas celebration returned full force after missing the previous year due to the pandemic. The event brought the parish family together as well as raised funds for St. Nicholas of Myra Byzantine Catholic Church in White Plains, NY. GCU Lodge 7 donated gifts for St. Nicholas to give to the parish children.

Debbie McDonnell | Secretary-Treasurer



St. Nick welcomes all with a wave and visits with the children.

Lodge 47

BINGHAMTON, NY

Lions Club Eyeglass Collection

Lodge 47 Secretary-Treasurer Daria Shierly met with John Tillotson of the Endicott Lions Club on January 6, 2022, to present him with a GCU Community Matching Funds check for \$500.00 along with over 200 pairs of glasses that were donated to the Lions Recycle for Sight Program. Mr. Tillotson was expecting the glasses, but not the check. On behalf of the Endicott Lions Club, he expressed his gratitude to all the Lodge 47 members and parishioners of both Holy Spirit and SS. Peter & Paul BC Churches, who took the time to look for and donate their old, used, broken, prescription and non-prescription glasses.

Thank you to everyone who helped make a difference in someone's life by conserving sight for people less fortunate and other families who need assistance with vision exams in the U.S. and underdeveloped areas.

Lodge 47 is thankful for the support of the GCU Home Office who approved the Community Match for this event.

Daria Shierly | Secretary-Treasurer



John Tillotson from Endicott Lions Club with the donated glasses and check from Lodge 47.

Home Office "Invested in the Goodness of Community!"



GCU Home Office staff members packed emergency response kits of personal care items for adults & kids for the Red Cross. Pictured are: Rebecca Meyers, Jessica Gillingham (back), Jennifer Inman (middle), Casey Bush (front), Tabitha Carlin, Chris Chamberlain, Amy Douglas, Linda Schall and Gina Spickerman. Missing from photo is Shawn Ely.

Lodge 69

POTTSTOWN, PA

St. Nicholas Celebration

St. Nicholas made his annual visit to St. John Byzantine Catholic Church School of Religion/ECF program. The parish did not have its regular St. Nicholas Celebration (due to the pandemic) that included a Christmas play, carols, potluck lunch, cookie walk and visit from St. Nick. During class, St. Nick was welcomed by the Hymn to St. Nicholas and Byzantine Christmas carols. St. Nicholas with the help of pastor Father Nicholas de Prospero passed out gifts from GCU Lodge 69 to the students. Students were filled with the joy of St. Nicholas! GCU members Fran Petro and Alex Riebe are co-coordinators of the School of Religion ECF Program.

Alex Riebe | Event Co-Coordinator



Lodge 77

LORAIN, OH

Annual St. Nicholas Day Dinner

St. Nicholas came to visit the children of St. Nicholas Parish at the annual St. Nicholas Day dinner on December 5, 2021. The auditorium stage was decorated and Bruce Szibo, Lodge 77 vice president was St. Nicholas. Treat bags and toys were given to all the children who attended. Lodge member Corey Knick led everyone at the dinner in signing Christmas carols.

Anne Dillon |
Treasurer



Lodge 81

UNIONTOWN, PA

During the fourth quarter of 2021, Lodge 81 members continued their participation in parish and community events.

Community

Gerry Dorobish, in addition to her volunteer work at the Mount St. Macrina Religious Gift Shop, participated in a county wide food collection project. The Faith Formation Program in the local Roman Catholic churches prepared approximately 75 boxes of food to donate to the homeless of Fayette County through the St. Vincent de Paul Society.

Lodge 81 and St. John ECF Program's appeal for the donation of Angel Tree gifts and toy collection for the City Mission, received a great response. Gifts were provided for 35 children whose names were on the Angel Tree. Bonnie Balas and Marcia Harrer delivered the gifts on December 16. On December 20, Marcia, Bonnie and Nadine Morgan delivered a carload of toys to the City Mission which were distributed to needy children.



Joe Borytsky, Bonnie Balas, Joan Bridges and Mark Jesko at Slovak Christmas event.

Greater Community

On Saturday, November 27, Joan Bridges, Mark Jesko and Bonnie Balas attended the "Christmas Around the World" event at the Slovak Cultural Center, lending support to sister fraternal organization NSS Life's event.



Joe Borytsky & Mark Jesko making drop pull ornaments at Nativity Display.

Parish

The annual Christmas Craft & Bake Sale and Nativity Display took place at the St. John BC Parish. Marcia, Bonnie and others prepared and donated to the bake sale table. Mark Jesko assisted Robert Morgan in the Nativity Display room. Social Ministry members Joan Bridges and Cathy Phillips welcomed guests, sold

"wassail" and prize chance tickets. A highlight of the day was a visit from St. Nicholas (portrayed by Stephen Petruska) who presented treat bags to the ECF students.

Pirohi making is a large part of the parish's fundraising, Joan Bridges and Bonnie Balas assisted, as there was an overwhelming demand for St. John's "famous" pirohi during the pre-Christmas season.

St. John Social Ministry held "Meet and Greet Socials" to warmly welcome their new pastor, Father Vasyl Symyon, after the Divine Liturgies on Saturday & Sunday, December 12-13, 2021. GCU members Cathy Phillips, Joan Bridges, Bonnie Balas and others provided snacks and light refreshments for the many who attended.

Historically GCU officers who are ECF teachers would arrange for the children to sing Christmas carols for the Sisters at Mount Saint Macrina Monastery. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, this could not take place. Instead, the parish took up a collection to present to the sisters which totaled approximately \$500.⁰⁰. The children in turn sang Christmas carols for those in attendance at the December Birthday Coffee Social. Marcia Harrer was recognized for her December birthday.

Cathy Phillips was a hostess for the January Birthday Coffee Social. Joan Bridges was among the birthday celebrants to be recognized.

The next quarterly meeting is slated for mid-February at which time plans will be discussed for the 15th EGG Eggstravaganza scheduled for Sunday, April 3 at St. John Social Hall. Complete details are on page 34.

Bonnie Balas | VP & Publicity Coordinator



Rich Harrer (at left) supervising the Angel Tree gift loading.



City Mission toy collection delivery.

Lodge 93

NORTHERN CAMBRIA, PA

Parish Expansion

Lodge 93 once again helped secure GCU Byzantine Parish Expansion Matching Funds to complete the final event of a three part fundraiser benefiting St. Anne Byzantine Church in Clymer, PA. The fundraiser was the sale of homemade haluski. No kitchen in any Byzantine parish is complete without a good haluski recipe.

With a new cabbage shredder,

to replace last year's broken device, the avid cooks worked many hours creating their delicious recipe. The fresh-harvested green cabbage combined with many flavors to bring a real old country zest that was just right.

Advanced orders were taken and pickup times were provided. Thanks to those volunteers that delivered the delicious goods.

The parishioners and Father Wesley Mash extend a huge thank you to the GCU.



Byzantine Beauties—Lois, Irene & Janet.



Elderton Presbyterian Church Soup and Sandwich Fundraiser.



Fr. Edward Pyo receiving check from President Walter Rogal.

Non-Byzantine Parish Expansion

Lodge 93 was able to assist a local church through the Non-Byzantine Parish Expansion Matching Funds program. Amid Coronavirus, fundraising remains an important source of financial support, as well as, connecting with local community members and businesses.

Tom Spencer, chairperson, was the organizer of the event at the Elderton Presbyterian Church located in Elderton, PA. Everyone likes to eat so with CDC guidelines in effect a Soup and Sandwich Fundraiser was held. Takeout dinners were delivered curbside. The event raised \$1,205.⁰⁰. Thanks to the GCU Non-Byzantine Parish Expansion Matching Funds program another \$1,000.⁰⁰ was added to the parish's profit.

Parish Donation

If you think it is costly heating your home this winter, just imagine the cost to many of the area's churches – with their soaring ceilings and drafty stained-glass windows. Extreme cold during the winter months can cause energy costs to increase and result in high energy bills which impact a church's budget. In order to help defray costs, Lodge 93 presented Father Edward Pyo, pastor of St. John BCC, with a check for heating oil.

Holiday Food Bank Thank You

Thank you to the GCU Board of Directors for "Investing in the Goodness of Community," by continuing the Holiday Food Bank initiative. Reducing food insecurity, as the economic impact of the pandemic continues, is a major concern. Lodge 93 recommended the Good Samaritan Food Pantry as its recipient. The Good Samaritan Food Pantry is an essential service to the Northern Cambria and surrounding areas. Many in the area continue to feel the effects of COVID-19 as unprecedented levels of unemployment continue to drive the need for food. The food pantry is honored to count the GCU as a partner in its mission to nourish people, build solutions to end deprivation and empower the community.

Connie Strittmatter | Secretary-Treasurer



Deacon Paul & St. Nicholas with the winning raffle ticket.

Lodge 109

LYNDORA, PA

St. Nicholas Celebration

On Sunday, December 5, the eve of his feast day, St. Nicholas brought treats to St. John BC Church for the parish children.

First he filled the children's boots and shoes, that had been placed before the icon screen, with chocolate filled gold coins. Next, he proceeded to the church hall where he passed out coloring books, crayons and candy which was supplied by the GCU Home Office.

St. Nicholas also took time to pull the

winning ticket for the half & half fundraiser which had been named after him. The winner was—what a coincidence—"Nicholas" Russin!

The drawing was followed by a Tureen luncheon. Lodge 109 provided the main course, which was chicken.

Janet Uram | Secretary-Treasurer



Children line up for treats from St. Nick.

Lodge 144

AURORA, CO

Verna and Larry Rock Celebrate 62nd Wedding Anniversary

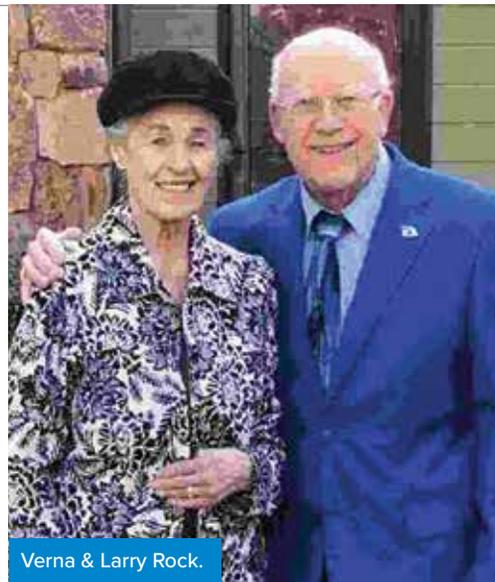
Sixty two years ago on a beautiful Saturday, October 10, 1959 the blushing bride Verna and the handsome groom Larry pledged their love for one another and were united in Holy Matrimony in St. Stephen Byzantine Catholic Church in Leisenring, PA.

Their union was blessed with three sons: Gregory, Vincent and Larry.

Larry and Verna reside in Golden, CO and are members of GCU Lodge 144.

Their devotion to one another knows no bounds and their love story continues. May God grant them many more happy and blessed years together.

Na Mnohaja I Blahaja L'ita!!



Verna & Larry Rock.



Fr. Nicholas Daddona, Cathy Walsh (seated), Janell's mom and Janell.

Lodge 151 NEW YORK, NY

Congratulations

On November 20, 2021 at St. Andrew the Apostle BCC in Westbury, NY Janell Lo-Hing received the sacraments of baptism, confirmation and Holy Communion. Fr. Nicholas Daddona performed the sacraments. Cathy Walsh and Christine Hulak were sponsors. May God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit bless her always.

St. Nicholas Day

St. Andrews celebrated St. Nicholas Day on December 5, 2021. Guests from the Glen Cove monastery, Fr. Philip, Fr. Walter and Deacon Andrew joined in the celebration. Sister Katrina from St. Joseph's Villa also attended. Lodge 151 hosted a fundraiser to help raise some funds. St. Nicholas (Sal Manno), greeted the young children. Prior to St. Nicholas Day on November 30 the Akathist Hymn to St. Andrew was celebrated for parishioners' special intentions. GCU members Tony Messino and Marge Russell presented a Parish Matching Funds check to Fr. Daddona at the event.



Members at the annual meeting.

Annual Meeting

The Lodge 151 annual meeting was held at the beautifully Christmas decorated Milleridge Inn. The restaurant has been in business for over 80 years and is known for its elaborate decorations and Christmas lighting. The group enjoyed playing trivia and Chris Hulak gave out some beautiful gifts. Everyone attending walked away with Christmas themed mugs, dish towels, placards, decorations and treats. Following lunch and the meeting, members strolled through the quaint shops at the restaurant village visiting the bakery and several gift shops. The Milleridge was the perfect place to ring in the Christmas season.

Father Nick Daddona invited a priest from the Ukraine, Fr. Pavlo Vyshkovski, to inform us of how the Catholic Church is working in the Ukraine. He discussed the history of the Russians and their control of the Ukraine. Sister Katarina OSB was there to help translate into English. Fr. Nick started this talk as part of the new Adult Education program. A question time was held at the end of the very informative lecture.

St. Nicholas Luncheon

On December 12, 2021, St. Nicholas Orthodox Church resumed its tradition of hosting a luncheon. It was an afternoon of fellowship, food and fun. St. Nicholas arrived to visit the children immediately following the delicious lunch that members of the parish Sisterhood prepared. The afternoon included Christmas carols, trivia contests, games and prizes. GCU member Laura Muhlfeld chaired & emceed the event.



Marge Russell (right) presenting donation to Adelphi Breast Cancer group.

Adelphi Breast Cancer Donation

Marge Russell went to Adelphi Breast Cancer Group to present the GCU Community Matching Funds check. They were extremely thankful to the GCU. The photo above shows some of the staff at the breast cancer group receiving the check from the GCU.

CONTINUED

Lodge 151 CONTINUED

Woodloch Pines Get-a-Way

In early December, GCU members Laura and Marge joined members of St. Mary Nativity Catholic Church for a five day trip to Woodloch Pines in the Poconos. The food was plentiful and excellent. They both enjoyed the opportunity to make new friends and participate in conversations and games. The resort offers a myriad of sports facilities and daily activities to entertain guests. Guests were happy to see the precautions the resort took to keep rooms and facilities sanitized. A highlight of the week was an evening hayride through the holiday lights and sound show.

Visit to St. Josaphat Monastery

GCU members and fellow parishioners went to St. Josaphat Monastery in Glen Cove, NY to celebrate the holidays. Rosemary & Sal Manno brought a delicious lunch with Cathy, Dennis Walsh and Marge Russell bringing dessert. Fr. Philip Sandrick, OSBM greeted the group and took them on a tour of the beautiful, magnificent mansion which was built about 1910. The Christmas decorations added to the beauty of the monastery. The monastery also has gorgeous icons on the walls throughout. In 1944, the estate, which includes the monastery fell into the hands of the Ukrainian Catholic Rite Basilian Fathers. Fr. Maxim Markiw, OSBM became the first Provincial Superior of the newly created Dormition Province of the Basilian Fathers in the US. The monastery has plenty of history. Currently only 5 people live in this mansion. It was a great day.



Lodge members and staff at St. Josaphat Monastery.



Tony Messino & Marge Russell present check to Fr. Nick Daddona.

It's a Giving-Versary-2022!

Thank you to the GCU Home Office for its generosity and donation of \$1,000.⁰⁰ to St Raphael's Food Pantry in Long Island City through the Holiday Food Bank Donation program.

Father Kim, the new pastor at St. Raphael, expressed his amazement at the donation and the GCU's ongoing partnership with the pantry. These monies really made an impact on providing more meals to those in need. The week of the donation over 325 families were greeted with bags of food.

St. Raphael's has been close to the heart of Chris Hulak for over 20 years. In the early years, students from Queens Technical High School learned the joy of giving—Cheerio to Cheerios Day, diapers for Diaper Day, canned goods (Yes You Can-Can Day) and school supplies.

Ann Kandratino along with James & Christine Hulak continue to donate new clothing, household items, GCU backpacks, pens, tote bags and books. "For it is in giving that we receive."—St. Francis of Assisi

Marge Russell | President

Christine Hulak | Treasurer

Lodge 164

YOUNGSTOWN, OH

Annual St. Nicholas & Christmas Party

On Sunday, December 12, 2021 after the Divine Liturgy the annual lodge St. Nicholas/Christmas Party was held in St. Mary BCC Social Hall.

Fifteen members and 6 guests, which included non GCU member Bingo workers, attended the event. President Tom Sopkovich called the party to order, welcomed members and guests. Fr. Richard Lambert led the singing of the Hymn to St. Nicholas and blessed the food. The Pledge of Allegiance followed.

Attendees enjoyed a hot buffet meal of stuffed cabbage, baked ham, scalloped potatoes, sweet potatoes, green bean casserole, salad, bread & butter and beverages. Cooks, Karen & Jackie donated two fruit Jell-O desserts and Sharon donated a whipped chocolate chip dessert which delighted everyone.

Before the party began, Christmas cards were signed for shut-ins and nursing home residents. Candy canes and lodge calendars of activities & events were passed out to everyone. Members also received GCU giveaways – pocket calendars, stick-on calendars, GCU chocolates and sugar free chewing gum packets.

Thanks to Fraternal Activity Directors Karen Muransky & Sharon MacDonald and newly elected Activity Director Jackie Leson who planned the menu and prepared the food along with help from Diana Danko, David Muransky and Barb Fleet.

Following the presentation of the lodge donation of \$200.00 to St. Mary Church and required business, a drawing was held for edible door prizes for everyone. The party closed with Cantor Dan Kovachik leading the singing of three Christmas carols.

Dr. Tom Sopkovich | President



Lodge donation made to St. Mary Church.



Members enjoying the buffet.

UPCOMING LODGE 164 EVENTS

2nd Quarter Meeting

Sunday, April 3

Following the 10:30 AM Divine Liturgy

St. Mary's Assumption Social Center
356 South Belle Vista Avenue, Youngstown, OH 44509

Mother's Day Bingo Fundraiser

Sunday, May 8

Doors open at 5 PM

Bingo begins at 6:30 PM

St. Mary's Assumption Social Center
356 South Belle Vista Avenue, Youngstown, OH 44509

Flag Day Celebration

Sunday, June 9

Following the 10:30 AM Divine Liturgy

St. Mary's Assumption Social Center
356 South Belle Vista Avenue, Youngstown, OH 44509

Father's Day Bingo Fundraiser

Sunday, June 19

Doors open at 5 PM

Bingo begins at 6:30 PM

St. Mary's Assumption Social Center
356 South Belle Vista Avenue, Youngstown, OH 44509

Lodge 254

HILLSBOROUGH, NJ

St. Nicholas Presentation

The Bethlehem Players of St. Mary Byzantine Catholic Church took time to pose for a group picture on December 5, 2021 after making a presentation at the St. Nicholas dinner. Father James Badeaux is pastor.



The Bethlehem Players.

UPCOMING LODGE 254 EVENT

Bakeless Bake Sale

The month of March 2022

Benefits: youth, scholarship fund, educational & parish needs

St. Mary Byzantine Catholic Church
1900 Brooks Blvd., Hillsboro, NJ 08844

Donations can be placed in the collection basket at any Liturgy (mark envelope GCU Lodge 254 Bakeless) or mail it to Lodge 254 Treasurer John Kichura, 10 Morris Place, Belle Mead, NJ 08502. Make checks payable to GCU Lodge 254. All donations received by March 31 will be matched up to \$5,000.00 by the GCU.



GCU officers meet for their 1st quarterly meeting. Pictured from left to right are Vice President Charles Bazaral, Secretary Wendy Gardner, Treasurer John Kichura, Historian Alberta Folsome and President Elias Zareva.

First Quarter Meeting

GCU officers of Lodge 254 met for their first quarterly meeting of 2022 at St. Mary Byzantine Catholic Church. On the agenda was the organization of upcoming events and putting forth guidelines on some of the events such as the bakeless bake sale, bus trips and scholarship awards. Lodge 254 is looking forward to successful and safe events!

Elizabeth Pentz | Publicity Director

Thank You!

Thank you to everyone that donated towards the GCU Kentucky Tornado Relief fund. With your donations and the GCU Match of \$10,000.00, checks totaling \$11,900.00 each were sent to the American Red Cross, The Salvation Army and Catholic Charities to assist their continuing efforts to help those affected.





Hills School Principal Michelle Minto, GCU members Diane Sogan and Carla Gasser.

Lodge 268

MINGO JUNCTION, OH

Hills School Christmas Donation

Lodge 268 happily helped Hills School Poverty Committee again this Christmas season. Four children each received a Christmas gift which included a pair of pants, sweatshirt, three pair of socks, gloves and 10 oz bag of M&Ms. The lodge also donated 177 pairs of socks and underwear. Lodge 268 is very appreciative of their generous members and the Matching Funds from the GCU to be able to help the local community in so many ways.

Church Luncheon

Lodge 268 along with Saint John Byzantine Catholic Church held a luncheon after Divine Liturgy on Sunday, January 16, 2022. In an attempt to increase attendance and provide fellowship during the cold winter months, a luncheon will be held each of the next two months. The luncheons will be Sunday, February 13, 2022, and Sunday, March 13, 2022, both following the 11:00 AM Divine Liturgy. All are welcome to come—please call Carla Gasser 740-317-0677 if you plan to attend. In the photo below you may notice members wearing their coats. Unfortunately, the furnace went out on the day of the January event. GCU members decided to help pay to get the furnace fixed as a project for this year.



Members and guests at the luncheon after Liturgy.



Heather Carmichael and GCU member Jenny Burress.

Bakeless Bake Sale

Lodge 268 had a “bakeless bake sale” to buy gifts for 28 children from the Bay Six Food Bank of Mingo Junction. Each child received a pair of pants and a sweatshirt, three pair of socks, gloves and a 10 oz bag of M&Ms. The lodge also purchased blankets and made a monetary donation. A special thank you to Heather Carmichael and GCU member Jenny Burress for doing all the shopping and to Mary DiPetro and GCU member Carla Gasser for wrapping all the gifts. Bay Six is extremely grateful for the generosity that the GCU provides to help so many in need.

Carla Gasser | President



St. Nicholas arrives.

Lodge 271 ORLAND PARK, IL

Christmas on the Prairie 2021

St. Nicholas made his annual stop at Annunciation BC Church in Homer Glen, IL on a horse drawn carriage. The event was enjoyed by

parishioners, friends and especially the children.

Rev. Father Thomas Loya, pastor at Annunciation, commented “The event is about who we are. St. Nicholas is part of the riches of our church.” Fr. Loya added the church wishes to spread the message of charity and share the spirit of St. Nicholas, the Byzantine Church’s patron saint, with all of us. There were prairie tours filled with stories of St. Nicholas, a tent with spinning and candle-making activities and plenty of hot chocolate,



Baked goods.



A tent full of goodies & demonstrations.

cookies and other baked goods. Fun was had by all.

GCU Lodge 271 wishes everyone a Happy and Healthy New Year 2022!

Vicki Blidy | Vice President

UPCOMING LODGE 302 EVENTS

16th Annual Adult Game Night

Saturday, March 26, 2022

5:30 PM

St. Joseph Byzantine Catholic Church Activity Center
8111 Brecksville Road, Brecksville, OH

Easter Egg Hunt

Sunday, April 10, 2022

12 NOON following the 10:30 AM Liturgy

St. Joseph Byzantine Catholic Church Hall
8111 Brecksville Road, Brecksville, OH

2nd Quarter Meeting

Sunday, May 22, 2022

Following the 10:30 AM Liturgy

St. Joseph Byzantine Catholic Church
8111 Brecksville Road, Brecksville, OH

Lodge 302 BRECKSVILLE, OH

Holiday Cash Giveaway- Joel’s Place for Children

Lodge 302 selected Joel’s Place for Children in Avon, OH as the recipient of the lodge’s Holiday Cash Giveaway. Lodge members sold tickets throughout the months of October, November and up to the drawing on Sunday, December 19. Prior to the drawing, Becky Loas from Joel’s Place spoke



Fr. Bruce Riebe drawing the winning tickets.

and expressed their gratitude to the lodge members and everyone who purchased tickets to support the organization. The COVID-19 pandemic has hampered Joel’s Place fund raising and they were unable to conduct their big fundraiser in 2021. Becky was very appreciative to GCU for its support. Fr. Bruce Riebe, pastor at St Joseph Byzantine Catholic Church had the honors of drawing the winning tickets. Winners were 1st prize (\$500.00)—Anne Andrako; 2nd prize (\$100.00)—Linda Primuth and 3rd prize (\$75.00)—Laura Lynch. Net profit for the local charity was \$1,984.00. This amount was then matched by the GCU Home Office Community Matching Funds program.

Jean Karaffa | Athletic & Fraternal Director

Christine Bratnick | Publicity Director



Lynn DelNegro (lodge member who sold the winning ticket to Laura Lynn who was not present), Becky Loas (Joel’s Place Coordinator), Linda Primuth and Annie Andrako (both lodge members and winners).

Lodge 336

EUCLID, OH

Flag Day Celebration

Flag Day was extra special in 2021—it was the first public event that Lodge 336 was able to hold since the start of the pandemic. The celebration was held on Sunday, June 12, 2021.

Labor Day Raffle

A Labor Day raffle was held as a Parish Matching Funds project for Lodge 336. The lodge sold over \$5,000.00 in tickets and with GCU Matching Funds was able to donate a total of \$10,410.00 to Holy Resurrection Parish. Lucky prize winners were: 1st prize (\$1,000.00)—John Rusnak, 2nd prize (\$500.00)—the Stachowiak Family, 3rd prize (\$250.00)—Elsie Zivich & 4th prize (\$125.00)—Frank Whites.



Flag raiser Bob Festko, Fr. Lukas Mitro, Patti Comai and altar server Tighe Weaver.

Gift Card Collection for Fill This House

Lodge 336 partnered with Holy Resurrection Parish to collect gift cards for “Fill This House,” a non-profit organization that provides transition assistance to children aging out of the foster care system. They provide household items to the young adults and help them with setting up their first home. A total of \$1,185.00 was collected, so together with the Community Match from the GCU the lodge was able to donate almost \$2,400.00 to these needy young people.



Lisa Stanich, member of Holy Resurrection Parish, who helped plan the “Fill This House” project with the final gift card collection.



Lodge member Rachelle Perry Godfrey dropping items off at the Pet Pals Shelter.

Donation to Euclid Pet Pals

Lodge 336 helped to make the holidays a little brighter for the animals at the city of Euclid Pet Shelter. Lodge members collected items on the shelter’s “wish list” and gift cards that were donated to the shelter. Thanks to all who donated items.



Irene Chinchar with Fr. Lukas Mitro.

St. Nicholas Celebration

Each year Lodge 336 celebrates the feast of St. Nicholas by sponsoring a social at Holy Resurrection Parish. This year’s celebration was held Sunday, December 5. The lodge also assisted in the spirit of St. Nicholas by providing gifts him to distribute to all of the children in attendance.



Fr. Lukas Mitro, St. Nicholas (Bob Fetsko) and children of Holy Resurrection Parish.



Fall Family Festival that was held at Holy Resurrection. Lodge 336 presented Fr. Lukas Mitro with the \$5,000.00 Parish Matching Funds Check.

Patti Comai | President

Greater Hazleton Regional Lodge (GHRL)

HAZLETON, PA

Once again Mother Nature is showing she is the boss. As this article is being written the temperature is -3 degrees. On the bright side, Spring is only about 60 days away.

Remember Stay Safe—Stay Healthy! Even though you may be vaccinated wear your masks to protect yourself & others and always wash your hands. A little bit of safety can hopefully help get rid of this dreaded disease.

St. Nicholas Dinner

GHRL St. Nicholas dinner was held on Sunday, December 12 at Capriotti's Restaurant. Attendance was down a bit from past events, but those who did attend had a great time, St. Nicholas and his helper (Jana Marie Tarapchak) visited with everyone and distributed gold chocolate coins to all attendees. Christmas donations were made to all parishes of GHRL. There was also a variety of tricky trays and a 50/50 drawing. Thanks to all who donated their time in helping make this event special and to those that donated tricky trays.



St. Nicholas and his helper making their rounds at the dinner.



Pennsylvania Fraternal Alliance President Theresa Kluchinski and PFA 2020 Fraternalist of the Year Agnes Rohrbach.

Pennsylvania Fraternal Alliance President Theresa Kluchinski presented the 2020 PA Fraternalist of the Year Award to Agnes Rohrbach (the GCU 2019 Fraternalist of the Year). This presentation was delayed by the COVID-19 pandemic. Agnes received a plaque and a commemorative medal. A donation to Meals-on-Wheels of Greater Hazleton was also made in her honor as part of this prestigious award.



Pastors Fr. Gregory Hosler, Fr. Peter Donish, Fr. James Carroll, Brother Mario and Fr. Jerome Wolbert at the St. Nicholas dinner.



December Activities

December also featured a calendar fundraiser for St. Mary BC Church in Hazleton for church renovations. All tickets were sold and the net income received GCU Parish Matching Funds.

St. Michael BC Church in McAdoo, PA had a parish fundraiser (Cookie Walk and Bake Sale) and SS. Peter & Paul BC Church in Beaver Meadows, PA had a parish fundraiser (Pirohi Sale). Matching Funds were applied for all of these fundraisers and checks were presented to the parishes.

SS. Peter & Paul in Beaver Meadows also had a Warm Heart Clothing Drive and the donations were presented to United Charities.

CONTINUED

Greater Hazleton Regional Lodge (GHRL) CONTINUED

Lottery Calendars

The GHRL Matching Funds beneficiary for February 2022 will be SS. Peter & Paul BC Church in Beaver Meadows. Lottery calendars were given to all the representatives of the lodge and thanks to the Home Office for the printing of the tickets.

With Deep Sympathy

A message of sympathy to the family of Martha Osif who passed away on Christmas Day. Martha was the former president of Lodge 89 (District 6); was a bowler with the GCU 89'ers bowling league; one of the original founders of the league and she was also the Lady Bowler of the Year for 1993. She was a member

of St. John BC Church in Hazleton, a member of the choir, pirohi worker and cantor. She attended many GCU Conventions throughout her tenure. May God grant her blessed repose and eternal memory.

Looking Ahead

Even though a lot of people have received their COVID-19 vaccines, this past year still has been a hassle to come up with safe activities that can be held to get GHRL members together. Hopefully the upcoming months of 2022 will allow for planning of different trips and shows. Let's all keep fingers crossed and hope for a better 2022.

Please remember in your prayers

all that has been lost due to this dreaded pandemic, the people lost due to the pandemic and those who have been devastated by natural disasters.

As always, GHRL tries to keep members updated on a list of activities, if you are computer savvy, check out the GCU website for updates. If there are any questions at any time, please feel free to call Agnes at 570-454-4869 or email her at agnesr@ptd.net.

Until next time, take care and may God bless!

Agnes Rohrbach | Secretary & Activities Director

Central Pittsburgh Regional Lodge (CPRL)

GREENFIELD, CARRICK & SOUTHSIDE-PITTSBURGH, PA

Children's Christmas Party

On Sunday, December 12, 2021, nineteen children plus their parents gathered at St. John Chrysostom church hall for a fun afternoon. The hall was festively decorated for the Christmas season.

The party began with each child receiving a gift bag upon arrival and going to the cookie table to create their own masterpiece. Next, a pizza lunch and more was served.

With a full stomach from lunch, adults



Santa and Kids.



Ugly sweater winners.

partaking in the ugly sweater contest were called to the dance floor. They were each assigned a number as impartial judges chose the ugliest sweater, first runner up and the prettiest ugly sweater. The three winners were given a wrapped gift. The next game played was the Left/Right game. It was played twice: once for kids and once for adults. Everyone had a fun time passing the gift around.

Josh and Gab were the entertainment. They are well known and perform at various school assemblies and more throughout the

CONTINUED

Central Pittsburgh Regional Lodge (CPRL) CONTINUED

area. They played instruments and sang both Christmas and popular songs (complete with dance moves). The kids and adults were on the floor dancing for the whole 45 minutes.

As they finished singing Jingle Bells—Santa arrived in the hall! He came in and sat in a chair next to the Christmas tree and the children happily ran up to him as their names were called to receive their gift. They also had a chance to sit on Santa’s lap for a photo and to talk with him.

The day concluded with many adults and kids winning their choice of door prizes. Thank you to all the lodge and church members who helped make this event a huge success.

Welcome Fr. Michael Kunitz

Holy Spirit Church in Oakland celebrated a welcome Divine Liturgy for new administrator, Fr. Michael Kunitz, on Sunday, January 2, followed by an expanded fellowship meal. It was an enjoyable time of conversation as all wished for a successful future for Fr. Michael and the parish.



Fr. Michael Kunitz & wife Janine.

On Saturday January 15th St. Pius X Church in Carrick also had a “meet & greet” with Father Michael and his wife Janine. After a Divine Liturgy, all gathered for lunch and conversation. The parishioners are happy to have them join the St. Pius X prayer community!



Fellowship meal welcoming Fr. Kunitz at Holy Spirit.

Holiday Toy Drive

GCU and church member Barb Rebovich conducted a holiday toy drive during the month of December at St. John the Baptist Church. A wide variety of beautiful toys were collected for boys and girls. These toys were then given to



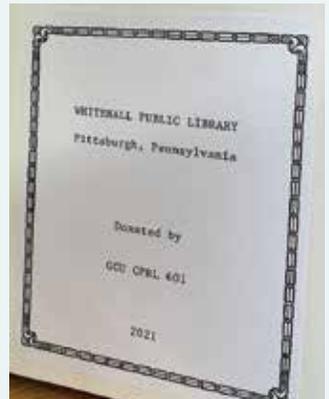
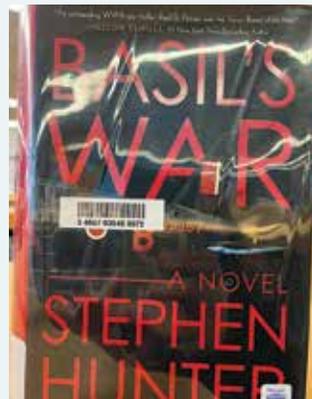
Fr. Miron Kerul'-Kmec of St. John the Baptist (South Side) accepting a check from Barb Rebovich.

the Deaf Blind Lions Club of Pittsburgh to pass out to children in need during this 2021 holiday season.

A dollar amount was assigned to each toy with over \$1,200.⁰⁰ matched by the GCU Matching Funds program.



CPRL received an inscribed leaf (GCU CPRL 601) on a donation tree inside Whitehall Library.



CPRL also received a nameplate (GCU CPRL 601) inside a library book.

2021 Community Matching Funds

For 2021 Community Matching Funds, one of the four nonprofits to receive a CPRL donation was Whitehall Library. The donation was recognized as shown above.

Kim Kolesar | Trustee



VA Hospital delivery by Trish Roberts with Program Leader David DiFuccia.

Southeast Pittsburgh Regional Lodge (SEPRL) CLAIRTON & MUNHALL, PA

VA Hospital Donation

November and December were busy months for SEPRL as Fraternal Grants and Matching Funds for the year were finalized. Both parishes were busy collecting donations for the VA Hospital Homeless Facility in Aspinwall, PA. More than 800 toiletries, socks, food, reading glasses and prayer shawls were delivered to the facility. The director met volunteers at the door and was overwhelmed as the boxes were unloaded. He was thrilled with the donation of a karaoke machine that had been on their wish list for a number of years.

Gift & Treat Bags for Children

On December 8, SEPRL gathered at the Clairton Municipal Building to help other volunteers pack 250 gift and treat bags for the children for the community's Light Up Night. The lodge provided candy and a craft project to add to the bags for Santa's visit that evening.



Volunteers who helped prepare treat bags for light up night.

Mantle House Mission

This year the lodge partnered with the Mantle House Mission in West Newton, PA. The Mission provided names of 33 adults & 47 kids who are either disabled, handicapped, homeless or who were truly in need of assistance.

The parish of St. John Cathedral bought gifts that were wrapped and delivered by Fr. Andrew Deskevich and Patty Bovee on Friday, December 17 to the Mission.

This was such a rewarding opportunity for all that participated to help those families at this critical time of year.

St. Nicholas Events

Ascension Church held a St. Nicholas celebration on Sunday, December 12. Marianne & Henry Lassige cooked a delicious breakfast for 63 attendees and Carolyn Nista helped with decorating and serving. Father Ivan Mina invited families to the hall after Liturgy. St. Nicholas arrived with gift bags for the children as they started to sing for him. A Parish Matching Funds check was presented to Father Ivan after the blessing from the picnic and other fund raisers.

St. John Cathedral's St. Nicholas/Parish Christmas Breakfast was held on Sunday, December 19 with a catered meal for 105 people. Excited children sang St. Nicholas' song, calling him in for a visit. He arrived with a goody bag and a card with a monetary gift for each of the children. Everyone enjoyed the day. An added surprise came when Fr. Andrew Deskevich passed out tickets to everyone for chances to win gift cards and a Christmas goody basket to end the day.

Trish Roberts | President
Patty Bovee | Treasurer



St. Nicholas group photos at Ascension BC Church (left) and St. John BC Cathedral (right).

Northwest Pittsburgh Regional Lodge (NWPRL)

MCKEES ROCKS & GIBSONIA, PA

Parish Matching Funds for Holy Ghost Northside

For the second year Holy Ghost BCC Northside-Pittsburgh, PA held a Bakeless Bake Sale campaign. The event took place from September through Thanksgiving Day. The campaign was coordinated by GCU member Kim Valeriano with pastor Fr. Frank Firko. Special collection envelopes were distributed at both Holy Ghost Northside and sister parish Holy Ghost BCC McKees Rocks, PA. Both parishes responded positively raising a total of \$3,662.⁰⁰ in donations which were matched by the GCU Parish Matching Funds program.

Celebrating 46th Church Anniversary

On November 30, St. Andrew the Apostle Church in Gibsonia celebrated its 46th church anniversary. Due to COVID-19 they were not able to celebrate the 45th anniversary last year. The parish instead decided to celebrate the 46th

anniversary this year. Following a church service attendees celebrated with a dinner in the church social hall. Father Radko Blichor blessed the meal before the parishioners enjoyed it together. Thirty-four parishioners gathered safely together in celebration.

St. Nicholas Day Celebration

On Sunday, December 5 NWPRL sponsored the annual Holy Ghost BCC McKees Rocks St. Nicholas Day celebration. This annual event features a short performance by the students of Holy Ghost's ECF program and a party with gifts for the students and a visit from St. Nicholas. The celebration highlights the role of St. Nicholas as the patron of the Byzantine Catholic Church and provides the opportunity to remind each generation that there is a real saint behind the tradition of Santa Claus.

The youth group presented a program of stories from the life of St. Nicholas. Gifts were provided for all the catechetical program students, even those who could not attend for the safety of their family.

Unfortunately, again this year due to the pandemic, Saint Andrew the Apostle Church in Gibsonia was not able to hold their traditional Saint Nicholas party. To ensure that the children did not miss out on their St. Nicholas gift, Father Radko Blichor instead had the children come up to the front of the church after Liturgy to receive treat bags from Saint Nicholas.



Children coming to the altar to receive St. Nicholas treat bags from Fr. Radko.

The church's ECF program has been conducted via zoom for the past year. The treat bags were sponsored by GCU NWPRL. Lodge Vice President RoxAnn Savka, thanks everyone who helped make the children's gifts possible.

UPCOMING NWPRL EVENT

1st Quarter Virtual Meeting via Phone Conference

Sunday, February 20, 2022

2 PM Eastern Time

Dial-in number: 605-472-5351 Access Code: 451303#

Questions please contact Steve Puluka at 412-897-4650 or steve@puluka.com



GCU member Kim Valeriano and parishioner of Holy Ghost Northside.

Christmas Toy Drive

For 15 years in a row, Saint Andrew the Apostle in Gibsonia sponsored a toy drive in conjunction with NWPRL. For the past 5 years, the toy drive has been opened to the neighborhoods surrounding the church. Toys collected were given to The Lighthouse Foundation Christmas Toy Shoppe. With the donations from the church drive and others, the foundation was able to provide gifts for 381 children this year. NWPRL Vice President RoxAnn Savka thanks everyone who once again helped make the toy drive a success.

RoxAnn Savka | Vice President

Steve Puluka | Secretary-Treasurer



RoxAnn Savka showing the toys collected.

Pittsburgh South Regional Lodge (PSRL)

UPPER ST. CLAIR, PA

Taste of Heaven Cookie Sale

The 11th annual Taste of Heaven Cookie Sale took place on December 4, 2021, at St. Gregory Byzantine Catholic Church. Thirty-five parishioners volunteered to bake the eight cookie varieties needed to fill the orders for 4,000 cookies. Thank you to the GCU for the Fraternal Grant to support the fundraiser, which also gave members opportunities for fellowship, socialization and even evangelization as customers visited the church.



deRicci Horwatt and Tom Prokop.



Dorothy Mayernik, Carol Olack, Milada Michlik, Nancy Pillar, deRicci Horwatt and Maureen Dumbaugh.



Items collected for the Jubilee Soup Kitchen.

Jubilee Soup Kitchen Donations Collected

During the Nativity Fast, St. Gregory's Advent Outreach focused on the Jubilee Soup Kitchen, a wonderful ministry supporting Pittsburgh's Hill District. Jubilee provides services to assist those whose lives are challenged by poverty, joblessness and/or homelessness. Since 1979, open 365 days a year, Jubilee Soup Kitchen provides hot meals every day at noon, bathrooms, showers, personal hygiene items and seasonally appropriate clothing.

St. Gregory parishioners were asked to donate food service supplies, personal care items and clothing such as new socks and other basics and cold weather gear including gloves, hats, scarves and jackets. The response was tremendous. On Monday, December 20, St. Gregory members loaded up three cars full of donations delivered them to the Jubilee Soup Kitchen. PSRL is grateful to all the parishioners and a special thanks to the GCU for the Community Matching Funds.

Dorothy Mayernik

Lodge 625 Happenings

CONEMAUGH, PA

Well, 2022 is underway! Lodge 625 hopes that everyone in the GCU family had an enjoyable holiday season despite the challenges the pandemic continues to inflict.

Donations Made

During the month of December lodge officers visited many local organizations and presented them with donations raised through the lodge's summer and fall fundraisers. A total of \$10,500.00 was distributed to local charities including a \$500.00 donation to the Sisters of the Order of St. Basil the Great and House of Prayer in Uniontown, PA.



President Rita Hull, Brad Griesheimer, pastor of Walnut Grove and Secretary-Treasurer Georgia Lehman making donation to the Walnut Grove Food Pantry.



Capt. Erin Smollen from the Salvation Army accepting the donation from Rita and Georgia.



Nancy Threadgill, pastor of St. Mark Episcopal Church representing St. Mark's Pet Food Pantry accepting check from Georgia & Rita.

Manager of St. Vincent de Paul Human Needs Office Steve Knowlton accepting donation from Rita & Georgia.

UPCOMING LODGE 625 EVENT

3rd Annual Cash Bash & Dinner

Saturday, April 2, 2022

Doors Open at 6 PM

Dinner Served from 6:30-7:00 PM

Drawing Starts at 7 PM—Live cash drawings every 15 minutes—Grand prize drawn at 9 PM

Donation \$10 per ticket

Holy Trinity Byzantine Catholic Church
217 4th Street, Conemaugh, PA 15909

Contact Georgia Lehman at
GCUlodge625@yahoo.com or 814-242-2083

3rd Annual Cash Bash

As 2022 begins, there are still a number of uncertainties that surround many activities that Lodge 625 has planned. However, during the lodge's annual meeting, it was decided to move forward with the 3rd Annual Cash Bash on Saturday, April 2, 2022. Although things may change, a calendar of events was developed for the year. Lodge officers will be monitoring the situation and making changes as events approach. If you would like to support this event by making a donation with a chance to win some prizes, please reach out to Georgia Lehman at 814-242-2083.

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

Georgia Lehman | Secretary-Treasurer

Lodge 697 WEIRTON, WV

Saying Goodbye and Saying Hello

St. Mary BC Church had to say goodbye to Fr. Vasyl Symyon as he was reassigned to Uniontown, PA and welcomed Fr. Robert Jones and his wife Pani Liz. May God bless both of them on their new assignments.



Farewell party for Fr. Vasyl in the newly remodeled Church Hall.

Matching Funds

Tommy Charnie held a fundraiser benefiting the Community Bread Basket in Weirton as his Brooke High School Senior Honors Project. The fundraiser involved a drawing of five baskets of items, all valued at \$600.00 or more. Tommy raised \$6,100.00 in profits and with GCU Community Matching Funds through Lodge 697 his profits were increased by \$5,000.00. Tommy was able to provide \$11,100.00 to the Community Bread Basket for their efforts in the local community.

Marilyn Charnie | President



Left: Fr. Vasyl and Lodge 697 Treasurer Janet Winwood. At right: welcome Fr. Robert Jones.



Tommy Charnie with the 6 baskets that were raffled.



Channel 9 News interviewed Tommy and recorded the basket drawing.

FRATERNAL



The chocolate fountain was a big hit.

Lodge 999

PHOENIX, AZ

Cookie Exchange

People of all ages had a great time. They brought a variety of cookies, tasted and voted on their favorite. Games with prizes for the winners, people decorating cookies and enjoying a light lunch.



The kids waiting to visit with St. Nick.

St. Nicholas Celebration

A nice event with a dinner with halupki, halushki, kiebasi and potatoes served. People brought their favorite cookies for dessert and also enjoyed the chocolate fountain. St Nick came to visit as the children sang Christmas carols.

Joanie Mahar | President

SPORTS

GCU Members Attend Pittsburgh Penguins Hockey Game January 20, 2022





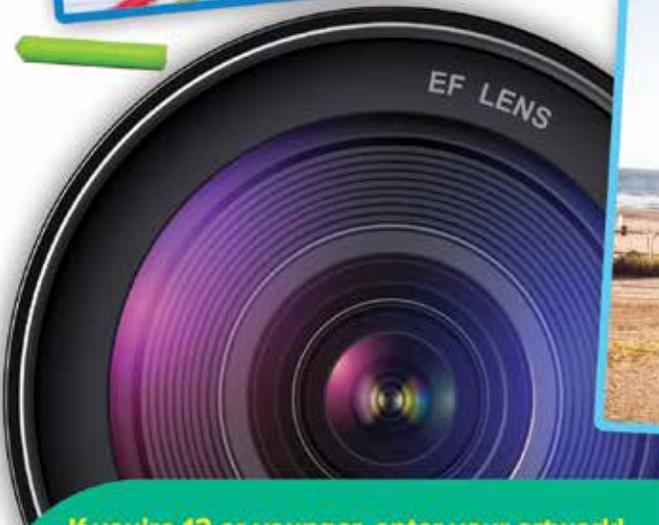
Announcing the
GCU

2022 Art & Photo Contest!

This year's theme:
"Invested in...
My favorite
vacation
spot!"



Deadline:
April 4, 2022



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.

If you're age 13-UP 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.

For Your Information

Events

15th Egg EGGstravaganza

Sunday, April 3
12 NOON to 4 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.

Egg artists will display, demonstrate, and sell decorated eggs; Easter items (embroidered basket covers, lamb butter molds, decorated candles); crafts for purchase; children's Easter theme activities; explanation of traditional Easter foods for basket blessing; Lenten lunch menu; baked goods (including long rolls and more); workshop on making pysanky; fundraising activities and door prizes. Handicapped accessible.

Helping Hands Day at Mt. Saint Macrina

Saturday, June 4
9 AM

Uniontown, PA

Contact Basil Wahal at the GCU Home Office 724-495-3400 Ext. 3924 or email: bwahal@GCUusa.com

Byzantine Day at Knoebels Park

Sunday, June 12
10 AM

Elysburg, PA

Contact Agnes Rohrbach 570-454-4869 or visit the Events Section of the GCU Website

GCU Golf Classic

Monday, June 6
9:30 AM Shotgun Start

Seven Oaks Country Club
132 Lisbon Road, Beaver, PA 15009

Applications will be mailed to previous participants and are available in the Events Section of the GCU Website

Contact GCU Frat.-Comm. Dept at 1-800-722-4428 ext. 3810.

Spring Helping Hands Day at Holy Annunciation Monastery

Saturday, June 18
9 AM

Sugarloaf, PA

Contact Agnes Rohrbach 570-454-4869

National Bowling Tournament

Friday, May 13 & Saturday, May 14

Brookgate Lanes
14950 Snow Road
Brook Park, OH 44142

Lodging at Crowne Plaza Hotel
7230 Engle Road
Middleburg Heights, OH 44130
440-243-4040

Applications will be mailed to previous participants and are available in the Events Section of the GCU Website.

Contact GCU Frat.-Comm. Dept. at 1-800-722-4428 ext. 3810.

Available

Carpathian Cookery Cookbook



Having sold nearly 20,000 copies, the cookbook has entered its 21st 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 & 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 kolache (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, please include your phone number when ordering. Call 724-438-6027 (M-F 9 AM-3 PM please leave a message) or email carpathiancookery@gmail.com.

Remembrances

Sister Mary Ann Vasilchek

The oldest living member of the Sisters of St. Basil, Sister Mary Ann Vasilchek entered into eternity on Wednesday, January 5, 2022. Her long journey of 78 years as a Sister of St. Basil ended as she stepped into new life.

Sister Mary Ann (Elizabeth) Vasilchek was born in Struthers, OH, the daughter of John & Susan (Ondovcin) Vasilchek. She entered the Sisters of St. Basil in Uniontown on May 14, 1944 and made her Final Profession of Vows on April 4, 1954 in the presence of the late Rev. Fr. Bernardine Hvizdos, OFM.

Sister Mary Ann's years of ministry were largely spent as a home Sister in the various parish missions staffed by the Sisters. She also enjoyed teaching religion to younger children—several years and many of her summers were taken up with this ministry. In addition, Sister served at the Bishop's Residence in Pittsburgh and at St. Basil's Home in Uniontown.

Following her service at St. Basil's Home, Sister Mary Ann retired to the monastery, where she assisted wherever she could. In addition, from 1997 until 2005, Sister Mary Ann was a faithful volunteer at Mt. Macrina Manor. As her health declined, the Manor then became her home for the remaining years of her life.

While she wanted to be remembered for her deep faith and love of prayer, the Sisters also remember Sister as an enthusiastic sports fan. Although she was from Ohio, her loyalty in sports was transferred to Pittsburgh, and many a prayer was sent for the Pittsburgh Pirates, Steelers or Penguins. When visiting her at the Manor, any mention of sports would cause her eyes to light up! Sister Mary Ann also enjoyed putting together jigsaw puzzles; as another hobby, she spent time re-purposing greeting cards into bookmarks. These found their way into the hands of her many friends and acquaintances.

Metropolitan William, in speaking of Sister Mary Ann as a faithful follower of Christ, turned to the Gospel. These words, "when the dead shall hear the voice of the Son of God, and those who have heeded it will live..." are true of Sister Mary Ann's long life as a religious. Heeding the call of her vocation, she now finds its reward in her new life in the Kingdom. Her presence in the world as a Sister was manifested in the many ways throughout her life she heeded the voice of God.

Sister Mary Ann was the last surviving member of her immediate family. She was preceded in death by her parents,

her sisters Mary, Helen, Susan, Delores, Ann & Eileen, and brothers Michael, John & Edward. In addition to her members in community, she is survived by several devoted nieces and nephews.

The Parastas Service for Sister was celebrated on Sunday, January 9 by Rev. Jerome Botsko, Monastery Chaplain. The Funeral Divine Liturgy was concelebrated by Metropolitan Archbishop William Skurla and Rev. Jerome Botsko on Monday, January 10. Noah Hicks, great-nephew of Sister Mary Ann, served at the altar. In attendance were the Very Rev. James A. Spontak, Rev. Christopher Burke and Rev. Stephen Wahal. Interment followed in the Dormition Section of Mount Macrina Cemetery.

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

Deceased Members

(Lodge-Member-City-State)

- 8348 Marva Andrievk, Murfreesboro, TN
302 Beverly A. Ankert, Westlake, OH
8344 Debra L. Barber, West Pittsburgh, PA
53 James J. Barna, Harveys Lake, PA
8341 Michael A. Belaney, Salem, OH
8344 Aubra L. Bethune, Shelbyville, DE
20 Helen Bing, Bristol, PA
8358 Philip Blair, Madison, WI
62 Thomas J. Boboige, Reynoldsville, PA
271 Eugene Howard Bohlin, Palos Park, IL
8315 Mary Jane Borjan, Dyer, IN
8344 Dennis Bothell, Creekside, PA
8358 Charlotte Brandt, Milwaukee, WI
8344 Lois Branson, North Wales, PA
GHRL Catherine Brilla, Pottsville, PA
665 Nicholas G. Buli, Roselle Park, NJ
8344 Michael Calafiore, Johnstown, PA
8344 Albert Camp, Ambridge, PA
8320 Beverly B. Carlisle, Mayfield, KY
53 Dolores Cebrick, Swoyersville, PA
271 Sophy Chan, Schaumburg, IL
8344 Mary Charnok, Charleroi, PA
8344 Mary L. Checca, Cecil, PA
8344 Frank E. Check, New Salem, PA
302 Linda Chudowsky, N. Olmsted, OH
8344 Charles Churley, Irwin, PA
8358 Donald J. Cigler, Denmark, WI
8344 Dorothea J. Cole, New Hope, PA
8344 Vera Cortese, Russellton, PA
8344 Louise I. Craig, Downington, PA
8344 Linda D. Cross, McKees Rocks, PA
860 Michael Czarnowczan, Sterling Hts., MI
8315 Frances M. Darnell, Merrillville, IN
8344 Francis J. Davidavage, Shenandoah, PA
8344 Ralph W. Davidson, Harleysville, PA
8344 Virginia Defibaugh, Altoona, PA
CPRL Margaret Dejidas, Pittsburgh, PA
360 Agnes H. Delsignore, Campbell, OH
NPRL Dale Dickson, Verona, PA
8344 Phyllis A. DiPasquale, Aliquippa, PA
8344 James F. Dixon, Ellwood City, PA
211 Elizabeth A Dolinak, Eynon, PA
254 Martha Drost, Manville, NJ
GHRL Coleen J. Dubitsky, Hazleton, PA
NPRL Ann Eddinger, Cranberry Twp., PA
SPRL Eleanore Eged, Gulf Breeze, FL
8358 Loretta A. Eisenhardt, Sheboygan, WI
8344 Eva Mae Eshelman, Roaring Spring, PA
336 Joseph Fakult, Willowick, OH
8344 John J. Fecko, Johnstown, PA
8341 Mary Ann Fidak, Toronto, OH
8341 Elaine S. Forsthoffer, Canal Fulton, OH
8344 Mary P. Foster, Jenkintown, PA
8344 Janet Giammetteo, Pittsburgh, PA
8344 Gerald Giba, Elizabeth, PA
CPRL Theresa Glod, Bethel Park, PA
8358 Jeannine Gorsalitz, Kaukauna, WI
8344 Patricia A. Grim, Orrstown, PA
8309 Lois Hale, Denair, CA
336 Barbara J. Halusker, Cleveland, OH
8315 Warren D. Hannum, Bedford, IN
8344 Arlington Hardy, Walnutport, PA
8344 Mary E. Hartman, Elverson, PA
8358 Darlene E. Hass, Bloomer, WI
8344 James Charles Hawke, Lancaster, PA
8358 Barbara A. Henschel, Waunakee, WI
8344 Virginia A. Hoffman, Carnegie, PA
8344 Grace A. Hostetler, New Salem, PA
8344 Helen H. Imhof, Hummelstown, PA
8313 Mary R. Isabella, Butler, PA
644 Thaddeus Jadwisiak, St. Louisville, OH
8344 Raymond H. Johnston, Butler, PA
8344 Olga Jurkovec, Pittsburgh, PA
945 Anna Kalinich, Scranton, PA
SPRL David A. Karap, McKeesport, PA
CPRL Edward Karsin, The Villages, FL
8344 Helen J. Keeley, Landenberg, PA
8344 John Kelnock, Marion Heights, PA
994 Pamela E. King, Clinton, PA
8344 Ruth F. Klein, Hickory, PA
SPRL John Krieger, Pittsburgh, PA
8358 Lucille Kuehn, Menomonee Falls, WI
8341 Rose Kuhar, Columbus, OH
10 Virginia Kwolek, Aliquippa, PA
8337 Edward Lakomec, Binghamton, NY
8433 Flora M. Larkin, Stroudsburg, PA
258 Anastasia Lenarcic, Transfer, PA
8344 Luther Lindemann, Beaver, PA
254 Michael Lisnock, Branchburg, NJ
8358 Eleanor A. Locks Lewis, Wauwatosa, WI
860 Robert J. Marhevko, Hillman, MI
8344 Emma Maslanik, Oakdale, PA
7 Julie McAvoy, Fairfax Station, VA
351 Ruth McCurdy, Indiana, PA
8344 Francis J. McGuckin, Telford, PA
8360 Ruby L. McSwain, Mt. Pleasant, SC
8344 John C. Metzgar, Export, PA
8344 Donna Miller, Warren, PA
302 Gilbert T. Miller, Aurora, OH
20 Norman M. Mitchell, Warminster, PA
92 Andrew Mitro, Chapel Hill, NC
8344 Sarah A. Mosorjak, Johnstown, PA
8344 Suzanne E. Murphy, Phila., PA
8358 Carl J. Ostrowski, Glendale, WI
8344 Shirley J. Palm, McMurray, PA
151 Vincent Panchuk, Queens, NY
10 Alan Parisi, Ambridge, PA
8344 Caroline R. Parry, Pittsburgh, PA
SPRL S. Gerard Patterson, West Mifflin, PA
8344 Helen R. Paulick, Pittsburgh, PA
15 Marion Pennise, Whiting, NJ
271 Anne T. Petrisko, Orland Park, IL
8344 Rebecca Petruney, Sheffield, PA

8344	Mary Pierce, Warren, PA	994	Katherine Stevens, Beaver Falls, PA	<i>GHRL—Greater Hazleton Regional Lodge</i>
8344	Dorothy U. Pietro, Pittsburgh, PA	401	Patrick Straple, Nanty Glo, PA	<i>CPRL—Central Pittsburgh Regional Lodge</i>
302	Remo E. Ponzio, Parma, OH	8344	Albert Suchy, Cresco, PA	<i>SPRL—Southeast Pittsburgh Regional Lodge</i>
8344	Doris R. Prager, Perkasio, PA	360	Andrew Swantek, Boardman, OH	<i>NPRL—Northwest Pittsburgh Regional Lodge</i>
994	Martha J. Presecan, Beaver Falls, PA	8344	Rosemary A. Szczyglak, Shenandoah, PA	<i>PSRL—Pittsburgh South Regional Lodge</i>
NPRL	William Pyda, Imperial, PA			
8358	Priscilla Reinhart, LaCrosse, WI	8304	Alice Takahashi, Torrance, CA	
665	Joseph Rembish, Matawan, NJ	8344	Donald Talbert, Martinsburg, PA	
8304	Lloyd W. Rennix, San Marcos, CA	8344	Ken Thomas, Westover, PA	
NPRL	Pearl Revtai, McKees Rocks, PA	8344	William H. Timblin, Beaver Falls, PA	
235	Merton Reynolds, Danbury, CT	18	Cecelia Joan Timko, Perryopolis, PA	
8344	Geraldine A. Ristau, Warren, PA	8344	Barbara A. Tubbs, Warren, PA	
8344	Jeffrey G. Roberts, Ligonier, PA	8327	Janice Urness, Crookston, MN	
8358	Diane Rogalla, Eland, WI	10	Carolyn Varga, Cranberry Twp., PA	
8359	Josie H. Roland, Morganton, NC	8344	Eva Walker, Indiana, PA	
10	Angela Ross, St. Augustine, FL	8344	James D. Walsh, Bradfordwoods, PA	
8309	Helen Rudy, The Villages, FL	999	Jane Walsh, Santa Paula, CA	
8344	Joan Rutkowski, Erie, PA	8344	Dale E. Watkins, Mill Hall, PA	
8344	Russell Rycheck, Cranberry Twp., PA	8309	Robert E. Watson, Ocala, FL	
8344	Daniel A. Santimauro, Murrysville, PA	999	Dwight D. Weidauer, Phoenix, AZ	
109	Karen L Scheller, Evans City, PA	8344	Fred Weingruber, Pittsburgh, PA	
442	Rose Schneider, Salem, OH	8344	Daniel M. Welch, Franklin, PA	
665	Suzanne Schroll, Leland, NC	8344	Alan H. White, Duquesne, PA	
8358	Vivian Schultz, Manitowoc, WI	8344	Anne White, Harleysville, PA	
81	Eleanor Serafin, Uniontown, PA	8344	Barbara Williams, Warren, PA	
8344	Dean Shawver, Howard, PA	8344	Job E. Williams, Harrisburg, PA	
10	Mary Shillingburg, Ambridge, PA	8302	Peggy L. Worden, Tucson, AZ	
8344	Thomas Shontz, Penn Hills, PA	8344	Linda Wyland, Cresson, PA	
8327	James L. Simon, Hibbing, MN	8341	Mildred Zachery, Alliance, OH	
8344	Larry Smith, East Stroudsburg, PA	8344	Joseph J. Zajdel, Galena, OH	
8344	Robert Snovel, Sellersville, PA	8344	Olga Z. Zdarko, Warren, PA	
8344	Robert E. Sprumont, New Kensington, PA	8344	Martha Zedick, Blairsville, PA	
860	Robert John Stefano, Troy, MI	8344	Louis Zenz, Northampton, PA	
		8327	Arlene B. Zimpel, Plummer, MN	
		NPRL	Anne J. Zurawski, Coraopolis, PA	

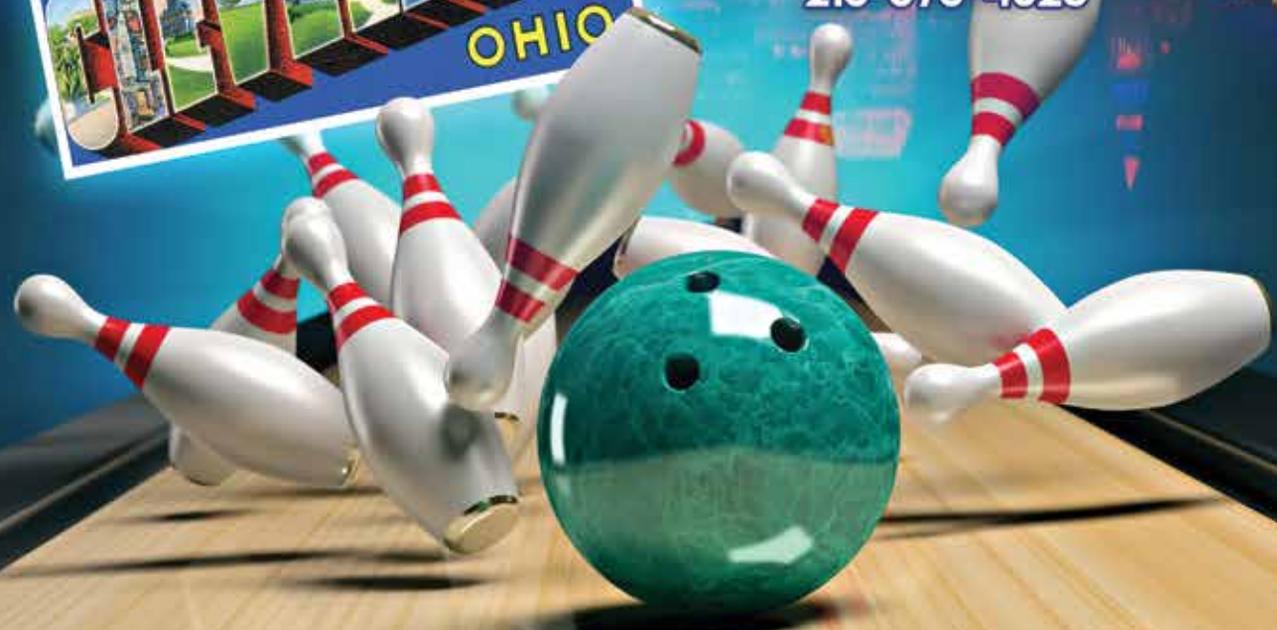


A JOINT FRATERNAL EVENT FOR
FCSU, GCU, NSS & SCS MEMBERS



Brookgate Lanes

14950 SNOW ROAD
BROOK PARK, OH
216-676-4325



**2022 NATIONAL BOWLING TOURNAMENT
CLEVELAND, OH
FRIDAY, MAY 13 & SATURDAY, MAY 14, 2022**

LODGING



CROWNE PLAZA
7230 Engle Road
Middleburg Heights, OH 44130
440-243-4040

Block Code:
SNB

