

AUGUST 2022

# GCU

MAGAZINE

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George N. Juba  
President  
CEO

# Fraternal Metamorphosis Begins

**T**he GCU is currently in its 130<sup>th</sup> year of operation since it was founded on February 14, 1892. In recognition of this truly remarkable accomplishment, I have been presenting in my bi-monthly articles published in the *GCU Magazine*, “tidbits” of historical information.

From our humble beginnings, noting a multitude of accomplishments and challenging events, that occurred and were successfully managed.

“Change” has been a constant theme throughout our history—fostered by a multitude of factors. Our Founders certainly had a plan and vision that in many ways we continue to emulate today. The GCU’s current Mission Statement is **“Protecting Families, Promoting Faith and Fraternalism, Strengthening Communities.”** This statement encompasses the very roots of our Society from our humble beginnings to the current success and financial stability we enjoy today. That stability provides for even greater resources to meet and stay ahead of current challenges and be able to address those yet to come!

As my education and career centered around business, one person that I admired in his approach in dealing with employees and challenges in the business world was Lee Iacocca. Mr. Iacocca joined Chrysler Corporation in 1979. He successfully led the company, on the verge of going out of business, to success. He reshaped the entire company, rebuilding the company from the ground up. That led to great successes through constant innovations. Throughout his career at Chrysler, he had a plan and vision for the company’s future.

Mr. Iacocca was very well known for his commercials that certainly got the consumers’ attention. One of my favorites was first aired on March 10, 1992 as it ran during the broadcast of Super Tuesday Election coverage in Phoenix, AZ. I invite you to view this commercial on YouTube – search video [GK6QQY4ZpJM](#).

In the beginning of the commercial a factory building implodes behind him. It was symbolic on how he reshaped Chrysler and the American auto industry by cutting elements within his own company that didn’t add value or improvement. Additional financial resources were incorporated within his plan to fund the necessary elements to

success. He was all about change. Some of his memorable lines in that commercial were:

**“Now this new way of doing business means we will be putting our concepts into your garage while the competition is still sharpening their pencils.”**

**“At Chrysler, we believe that standing still is a great way to get run over.”**

**“In this business you lead, follow or get out of the way.”**

The GCU is in the best financial position in its 130 year history. Over the last fifteen years since the Great Recession occurred beginning in 2007, the GCU has experienced substantial growth in assets and surplus. In addition, GCU has achieved excellent net profits over this period. We experienced a substantial increase in financial resources that has allowed for funding of improvements to each facet of our operations. The following accomplishment took place over this fifteen-year time period:

- Expanded our product offerings, most recently a Fixed Indexed Annuity;
- Funded a multi-million-dollar investment into improving our technology systems;
- Revised our governance structure and bylaws to be more modern and relevant to today’s business practices and society;
- Rebranded our Society with a more modern look;
- Allowed for all Christians to join our organization;
- Changed our business name to GCU to be more universal;
- Our executive staff is now hired by the Board rather than being elected at conventions;
- Eliminated conventions—that placed full responsibility in the hands of our Board of Directors which was well received by insurance regulators;
- Allowed for each adult member of the GCU to vote and elect the most capable and experienced individuals to serve on of the Board.

The Board is now addressing concerns about our current fraternal structure. This has been voiced for a multitude of years now, as many of our lodges and districts have gone

CONTINUED

inactive. Attendance at meetings has been minimal (usually just officers attending). There is difficulty filling lodge and district officer positions, while having less than ten percent of our membership participating in our fraternal programs with minimal youth or young adult involvement.

It is now time to “implode” our current fraternal structure! After careful planning, we are extremely pleased to announce that a new fraternal structure has been developed to continue a GCU presence within the Byzantine Catholic Parishes where our lodges are currently based, but most importantly in the communities where our GCU members reside. Presentations will be made this fall on a new structure to all of our lodge and district officers. This program is entitled “The GCU Fraternal Metamorphosis.”

Please be assured that successful current programs that each of our active lodges and districts sponsor, will continue.

We have a plan in place that we are very excited about and I am sure you will be too! As previously noted, the GCU is on a “road to continued success” and we are now in a financial position to place our fraternal programming on this same path.

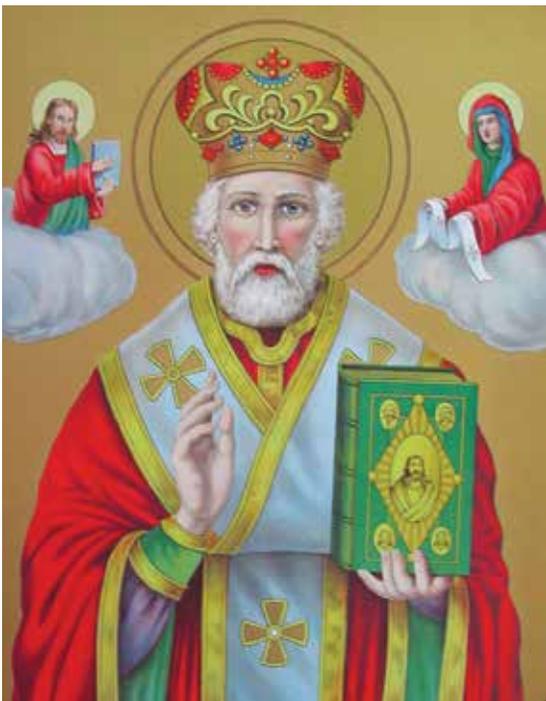
So in closing, in honor of Great American Automobile Business Executive, Lee Iacocca, that I believe the GCU in many ways has emulated:

**“In this business you lead, follow or get out of the way!”**

Goodness is great!



## 65<sup>th</sup> Annual St. Nicholas Charity Dinner



**Sunday, December 4**

**Moleben at 3 PM**

**Social Begins 4 PM**

**Dinner at 5 PM**

St. John the Baptist Cathedral Center  
Munhall, PA

Benefits the Byzantine Catholic Seminary



**2022-2023 GCU Scholarship Programs**

Applications for scholarships will be available on the GCU web site beginning October 1, 2022. All applications must be completed online.

[GCUusa.com](http://GCUusa.com)



# Sisters of St. Basil to Celebrate 88<sup>th</sup> Annual Pilgrimage



In honor of Our Lady of Perpetual Help

## Sunday, September 4

**7 AM Divine Liturgy** House of Prayer Chapel

**7:30 AM Matins** at Shrine Altar

**7:30 AM-12 NOON Mystery of Reconciliation** (Confessions)  
House of Prayer Patio

**9 AM Divine Liturgy** (Slavonic) at Shrine Altar

**11 AM Divine Liturgy** for Vocations Shrine Altar

**12:20-5 PM Mystery of Reconciliation** (Confessions)  
House of Prayer Patio

**1 PM Children's Procession** with Special Blessing for Youth &  
Young Adults-from House of Prayer to the Shrine Altar

**2 PM Enrichment Session** at Trinity Center, **Bereavement  
Session** at Mausoleum, **Children's Pilgrimage** at Children's  
Tent, **Teen Pilgrimage** at Prayer Garden

**2 PM Mystery of Anointing** at Shrine Altar

**3:45 PM Procession** from House of Prayer to Shrine Altar

**4 PM Divine Liturgy** at Shrine Altar-Words of Gratitude: Sister  
Susan Sisko, OSBM

**7 PM Candlelight Procession** (beginning and ending at the  
Shrine Altar)

### CLOSING OF THE PILGRIMAGE

Following the Candlelight Procession: **Teen Social** at Prayer  
Garden Area, **Young Adult Social** at Trinity Center, **Input  
Session**-Seminarists (Followed by a social)

## Monday, September 5

**9:30 AM Divine Liturgy** at Shrine Altar

Mt. St. Macrina  
500 West Main Street  
Uniontown, PA 15401  
724-438-8644

*Follow us on Facebook for updates.*

## SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

### Friday, September 2

**6:30 PM Compline** followed by **Blessing of Water** at Lourdes

### Saturday, September 3

**7 AM-12 NOON Mystery of Reconciliation** (Confessions)  
House of Prayer Patio

#### OPENING OF PILGRIMAGE

**8 AM Matins** at Shrine Altar

**9:45 AM** Procession with icon of Our Lady of Perpetual Help  
from House of Prayer to Shrine Altar

**10 AM Divine Liturgy**-Welcome Sister Susan Sisko, OSBM

**1-5 PM Mystery of Reconciliation** (Confessions)  
House of Prayer Patio

**1 PM Paraklis** at Shrine Altar

**2 PM Children's Pilgrimage** at Children's Tent, **Orientation for  
Teens** at Prayer Garden, **Mystery of Anointing** at Shrine Altar

**3 PM Teen Pilgrimage** at Prayer Garden

**4 PM Vespers** with **Divine Liturgy** at Shrine Altar

**7:15 PM Procession** from House of Prayer to Mount Macrina  
Cemetery, Parastas/Procession to Shrine Altar/Akathist, Teen  
Social following Akathist

# Second Quarter 2022 Financials



**Tim Demetres**  
Chief Financial Officer

**H**ow quickly economic events change the financial landscape. The long-standing trend of declining interest rates finally reversed course over a few short months. The Federal Reserve actively began raising interest rates to tame raging inflation brought on by excessive fiscal stimulus, continuing supply chain disruption, high energy prices, and impacts from the Russia Ukraine war. The silver lining embedded in the negative news is market investment yields have risen paving the way for GCU to increase annuity crediting rates benefiting our current and future members retirement savings and wealth accumulation. The precipitous decline in the equity markets sparked a “flight to safety” resulting in higher sales activity surpassing 2021 same period sales more than \$40 million. As a result, I am pleased to report our excellent mid-year financial highlights with net income exceeding \$15 million and surplus growing to \$220.6 million for the six months ended June 30, 2022.

Highlights of GCU’s half-year results are as follows:

Income before net capital gains (losses) totaled \$15.4 million, \$1.4 million higher than the \$14 million reported in 2021. Net realized capital gains were \$398 thousand in 2022 compared to realized gains of \$103.6 thousand in 2021. Net income after net realized gains was \$15.8 million in 2022 compared to \$14.1 million in 2021.

Total Assets increased \$130 million to \$2.544 billion at June 30th from \$2.414 billion at December 31, 2021. The increase in assets reflect the growth in invested assets from new busi-

ness sales and portfolio earnings. Responding rapidly to higher market returns, we were successful in purchasing investment grade securities at shorter durations, increased credit quality, and higher yields. We have also committed to build upon our asset allocation in alternative assets (investments in LLC’s and limited partnerships) on a risk-adjusted basis.

Liabilities grew commensurate with life and annuity sales and totaled \$2.323 billion as of June 30 compared to \$2.205 billion at year-end 2021. The \$118 million increase in total liabilities is due primarily to a \$122 million increase in life and annuity reserves, a \$4.6 million increase in unsettled security trades, reduced by a \$4.9 decrease in AVR, and a \$4.6 million decrease in the IMR from deferred investment gains/losses.

Total Income increased \$42.6 million in the first half 2022 to \$254.6 million from \$212 million in 2021. Life sales increased 25% from growth in our whole life single premium product. Annuity sales and exchanges increased \$37.7 million to \$187.5 million in 2022. Net investment income of \$59.3 million increased \$5 million from higher assets under management and income earned on bond prepayments.

Operating expenses, before the increase in reserves, totaled \$116.2 million versus \$115.8 million in 2021, an increase of \$0.4 million or 0.3%. The increase in agent commissions from higher sales were largely off-set by lower exchanges of annuity contracts. General insurance expenses were \$138 thousand higher when compared to 2021.

The increase in policyholder reserves totaled \$122.8 million compared to \$82.1 million in 2021. Reserve changes are primarily a function of premiums received, death and annuity benefits paid out, and interest accumulation. Growth in reserves primarily reflect the increase in sales of fixed index and flexible premium deferred annuities.

Surplus grew to \$220.6 million as of June 30th compared

## Summary of Financial Statistics

(000's omitted)	<u>6/30/2022</u>	<u>6/30/2021</u>	<u>Change</u>
Total Income	\$ 254,580	\$ 212,031	\$42,549
Total Expenses	239,002	197,875	41,127
Net Income (Loss)	15,828	14,092	1,736
	<u>6/30/22</u>	<u>12/31/21</u>	<u>Change</u>
Assets	\$2,543,500	\$2,413,827	\$129,673
Asset Valuation Reserve	18,931	23,831	(4,900)
Interest Maint. Reserve	18,003	22,558	(4,555)
Surplus (Net Worth)	220,620	209,242	11,378
Total Adjusted Capital (TAC)	239,701	233,223	6,478
Solv. Ratio by Total Adj. Capital	110.4%	110.7%	-0.30%

## Change in Surplus

(000's omitted)	
Beginning Surplus	\$209,242
Net Income/(loss)	15,828
Change in Unrealized Gain/(Loss)	(8,745)
GCU Holding Company & Other	(301)
Changes in Non-Admitted Assets	(304)
Changes in Asset Valuation Reserve	4,900
Net Change in Surplus	11,378
<b>Ending Surplus</b>	<b>\$220,620</b>

to \$209.2 million at year-end 2021. The \$11.4 million increase in surplus is attributable to the additions of \$15.8 million of net income and the \$4.9 million change in AVR reduced by the change in unrealized gains (loss) of (\$8.7 million), (\$0.3 million) increase in non-admitted software development costs; and (\$0.3 million) reduction for GCU Holding Company's net loss.

Total Adjusted Capital (TAC) was \$239.7 million as of June 30, 2022. TAC starts with surplus of \$220.6 million

and adds back the asset valuation reserve of \$18.9 million and one-half the dividend liability of \$150,000. TAC is a financial strength measure closely monitored by rating agencies. The solvency ratios based on TAC were 110.4% and 110.7%, as of June 30, 2022 and December 31, 2021, respectively. These ratios reflect the consistent measure of GCU's excellent financial strength.

Please be safe and stay healthy. Enjoy the warmth of summer!

Tim

## GCU INCOME STATEMENT

### Six Months 2022 vs. 2021

INCOME (000's omitted)	6/30/2022	6/30/2021	Change
Life Premium	\$ 5,915	\$ 4,738	\$ 1,178
Annuity Premium	180,653	140,835	39,818
Annuity Exchanges	6,819	8,930	(2,111)
Accident & Health	233	268	(35)
Sub Total	193,620	154,770	38,850
Net Investment Income	59,288	54,301	4,987
Amort. of Int. Maint. Resrv.	980	1,063	(83)
Commission-Reinsurance	496	776	(280)
Other	196	1,121	(925)
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$254,580</b>	<b>\$212,031</b>	<b>\$42,548</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>			
Death Benefits	\$ 2,238	\$ 2,250	\$ (12)
Annuity Benefits Paid	90,983	91,578	(595)
Annuity Exchanges	6,819	8,930	(2,111)
Surrender Benefits	105	292	(187)
Accident & Health Benefits Pd.	210	261	(51)
Commissions	10,354	7,206	3,148
General Insurance Exp	4,932	4,795	138
Ins., Taxes, Licenses & Fees	358	314	44
Pension Expense	8	9	(1)
Int. on Contract & Dep. Accts.	155	126	28
Sub-Total	\$ 116,162	\$ 115,761	\$ 401
Increase in Reserves	122,840	82,114	40,726
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$239,002</b>	<b>\$197,875</b>	<b>\$41,127</b>
<b>Net Gain/Loss bef. Refunds</b>	<b>15,578</b>	<b>14,156</b>	<b>1,422</b>
<b>Refunds to Members</b>	<b>148</b>	<b>168</b>	<b>(20)</b>
<b>Net Gain/Loss after Refunds</b>	<b>15,430</b>	<b>13,989</b>	<b>1,441</b>
<b>Net Capital Gains (Losses)</b>	<b>398</b>	<b>104</b>	<b>295</b>
<b>Net Income/Loss</b>	<b>\$ 15,828</b>	<b>\$ 14,092</b>	<b>\$ 1,736</b>

## BALANCE SHEETS

### June 30, 2022 vs. December 31, 2021

ASSETS (000's omitted)	6/30/2022	12/31/2021	Change
Bonds	\$ 2,363,095	\$ 2,213,353	\$ 149,742
Preferred Stocks	21,563	23,125	(1,562)
Common Stocks	23,357	35,384	(12,027)
Alternative Investments	53,201	45,062	8,139
Cash/Short Term Investments	33,087	48,638	(15,551)
Mortgages	3,556	3,674	(118)
Certificate Loans	705	608	97
Derivatives	630	472	158
Real Estate	15,260	15,461	(201)
Inv. Income Due & Accrued	28,259	27,575	684
Other	787	476	311
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$2,543,500</b>	<b>\$2,413,827</b>	<b>\$129,673</b>
<b>% Total Change Year to Year</b>	<b>5.4%</b>		
<b>LIABILITIES</b>			
Life Reserves	\$ 85,551	\$ 81,792	\$ 3,759
Annuity Reserves	2,182,313	2,063,504	118,809
Accident & Health Reserves	120	131	(11)
Employee Pension Liability	7,048	6,869	180
Convention Reserve	127	127	0
Adv. Prem. & Fut. Rfnd. Resrvs.	367	368	(1)
Pending Investment Trades	6,267	1,666	4,601
Accounts Payable	1,044	1,139	(95)
Refund Accumulations	3,108	2,599	509
Asset Valuation Resrv-AVR	18,931	23,831	(4,900)
Interest Maint. Reserve-IMR	18,003	22,558	(4,555)
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>\$2,322,881</b>	<b>\$2,204,586</b>	<b>\$118,295</b>
Surplus Fund	220,620	209,242	11,378
<b>Total Liabilities &amp; Surplus</b>	<b>\$2,543,500</b>	<b>\$2,413,827</b>	<b>\$129,673</b>
<b>Solvency Ratio*</b>	<b>110.4%</b>	<b>110.7%</b>	

\*Adds AVR + 1/2 of dividend liability to surplus.

Financial information is unaudited and presented on the statutory basis of accounting.

Totals may vary slightly due to rounding.



Mitred Archpriest  
John S. Kachuba  
GCU Spiritual Advisor

# Life Goes On

**W**hether we are infants learning to live in the world; students learning a vocation; adults living out our vocation and our lives; or older adults sharing the knowledge of our lived lives: **LIFE GOES ON.**

However, all our plans and goals can be changed in an instant. As someone once said to me: “We make plans and God laughs.” But even then, **LIFE GOES ON.** God has a plan for us, a plan that many times we would never imagine. God’s ways are not necessarily our ways. I recently underwent surgery and unexpected complications set in. In fact, I am writing this from a rehabilitation facility and **LIFE GOES ON.** These interruptions in our lives can be times when God gives us spiritual growth. We learn not only from our own sufferings, but also from others. As I go through my own physical therapy, I see many struggling more than I am. We may tend to think “Well, they may be suffering more, but I still have to bear mine.” The better reaction is to pray for those who may be worse off than we are. God is teaching us to care for each other. The suffering and tragedy we undergo also affords the opportunity for those who take care of us to follow in the footsteps of Christ. The sacrifices they make for us, the time they take out of their lives to care for us, and the compassion they show us reflect the Gospel story of the Good Samaritan.

These past few weeks have afforded me the opportunity not only to look at how I have lived my life, but how I can do better to serve the People of God. Isn’t it a wonderment of how God enters our life when we least expect it? Those times that we face tragedy in our lives, in our families, and even death, God comes to us, and so to speak, “Hits us on the side of the head with a two by four!” The lessons we learn at these times can change our life if we only take the opportunity to recognize them. I knew a man who had the disability of alcoholism. One day he ran his car into a building, was in a coma for months, and when he came out of it, never drank alcohol again. I used to tell him God hit him on the side of the head with a building!

I began this article on the eve of Pentecost. I wrote in

**The better reaction is to pray for those who may be worse off than we are. God is teaching us to care for each other. The suffering and tragedy we undergo also affords the opportunity for those who take care of us to follow in the footsteps of Christ. The sacrifices they make for us, the time they take out of their lives to care for us, and the compassion they show us reflect the Gospel story of the Good Samaritan.**

my last article on the topic of Pentecost: “It is the Holy Spirit who lives within each of us from the day of our baptism, making us temples of God. It is the Holy Spirit who gives us the strength to make it through all the conflicts and problems which we meet along the road of life.” We can say **LIFE GOES ON** because God is always there looking out for us, His sons and daughters. What is needed from us is to believe that He is there for us. What is needed from us is prayer, is acceptance of the will of God, and gratitude for all that God has done for us.

O Jesus, grant to us, your servants, your quick and constant comfort when discouragement overcomes our inmost spirit. When our souls are troubled, do not withdraw from us, nor be far off when we are confused and doubtful. Rather, stand by us always. Come close to us, O You who are everywhere present, come close! Just as you promised, in Your goodness, to be with Your Apostles at all times so stay with us who long for You that we may glorify the Holy Spirit with one accord.

*Ikos from the Canon of Pentecost*

**LIFE GOES ON!**



Atty. John J. Urban

# Lessons in the Law

## Savings Bonds

**S**o many of us like to talk about things from the past. This article memory is about US Savings Bonds. I remember buying stamps at school and when you had enough stamps on the official bond card you would exchange the card for a US Savings Bond. I also remember my dad receiving bonds from the US Steel payroll plan.

Why am I talking about US Savings bonds? I am finding that many clients are now finding these bonds belonging to their parents or even their own bonds. These bonds are often hidden in the back of drawers or hidden in a secret place. These bonds are still valuable, however some of them may not be paying any more interest.

If you and or your parents have these old US savings bonds, now is the time to value these bonds and begin a process of liquidating the bonds. You will need a strategy on how and when to cash the bonds because of the ac-

cumulated taxable interest. I just spoke with a client who found over eighty thousand dollars of uncashed bonds. It is a great find for the family, but an estate has to be opened in order to cash the bonds and there will be a significant tax obligation. With prior planning we could have eliminated the probate process and reduced the tax liability.

Now is the time to value your bonds and determine a strategy to cash them and do some tax planning. You may need to discuss these issues with your attorney, accountant and tax preparer. There are special tax rules in effect in some cases. For more information on liquidating US Savings Bonds, you can go to the government website. There you can value the bonds and determine how much interest the bonds will generate for taxable income.

## 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 Monday, September 5 in observance of Labor Day.**

5400 Tuscarawas Road, Beaver, PA 15009



# Holy Annunciation Monastery Sugarloaf, PA



District 5 President Gina Keil presenting a donation to Mother Marija.



Judy Kringer, Ann Marie Betterly, Mother Marija, Agnes Rohrbach and Judy Betterly making presentation for GHRL.

**S**aturday, June 18, 2022 started off dreary for the annual Helping Hands Day. Eventually the sun did make an appearance, although the winds remained very strong. Volunteers from District 5 and Greater Hazleton Regional Lodge came together to help the Sisters at Holy Annunciation Monastery. Twenty-six volunteers in all donated their time for the Sisters.

Liturgy was held at the chapel at 8 AM, celebrated by the Rev. Scott Boghossian and then it was time to see what Mother Marija and the Sisters had in store for all to do.

There is always plenty of grass to be mowed and of course trimming the trees, getting rid of the old trees and weeding the beautiful flower beds. Some people also take the time to visit the animals on the premises.

For the people who could not help outside, volunteers assembled 1,000 boxes for the Sisters bake sales and a handful of them had the opportunity to remove wrappers

from Hershey Kisses for their cookie baking. It was a joy to watch Fr. Hradil's 3 children unwrap the Hershey Kisses and line them up around the bowl.

Fr. Eugene Hradil and Michael Komishock said grace and then it was time to enjoy some pizza, homemade cookies, Klondike bars and other refreshments.

Presentations were made to Mother Marija by Gina Keil from District 5 and Judy Kringer, Ann Marie & Judy Betterly and Agnes Rohrbach from GHRL.

**Mark Saturday, October 29<sup>th</sup> on your calendar for the Fall Helping Hands Day at the Monastery.** Come lend a helping hand and help spread some fraternalism. All are welcome and the more that show up help to get the work done a lot faster. Hope to see you then.

**Agnes Rohrbach** | GHRL Secretary & Activities Director



Fr. Eugene Hradil and crew getting ready to chop down a tree.



Success the tree is down-Brian Romancheck and Fr. Eugene.



Roy Paisley visiting the horses.

# Mt. Saint Macrina Uniontown, PA



Dedicated volunteers who shared their time and talents at Mt. Saint Macrina on June 4, 2022

On Saturday, June 4, 2022 members of GCU lodges in the Southwestern Pennsylvania area, along with parishioners from local Byzantine Catholic churches joined together to assist the Sisters of St. Basil in Uniontown, PA. The volunteers came together for Helping Hands Day at Mt. St. Macrina to beautify the grounds of the monastery.

The day was under the direction of Sr. Joanne Lickvar with assistance from the GCU Fraternal Communications

Department. There was plenty to accomplish, with volunteers once again sticking to outside chores this year. Many helped clean up debris that had accumulated over the winter. Volunteers also planted flowers in numerous flower beds spread across the sprawling property. There were trees to prune and additional areas to prepare for the pilgrims returning this year to attend the annual Pilgrimage over Labor Day weekend.

If you missed the chance to help on June 4, there will be an additional day of preparation for the Pilgrimage on Saturday, August 20, with a rain date of August 27. If you have questions or would like additional information, please

email GCU Fraternal-Communications Director Basil Wahal at [bwahal@GCUusa.com](mailto:bwahal@GCUusa.com).



# Our Growing Digital Landscape



**Mitch Valvano**  
Social Media Strategist

Hello, my name is Mitch Valvano and I've been the GCU Social Media Strategist since April 2022. I was born and raised in Ellwood City, PA where I currently live with my wife and two children. In this newly created position at GCU, my efforts go into raising awareness online of everything happening in the organization. My goal is to promote, chronicle and share all of the fun stuff going on. Working with you in the digital landscape and engaging with you on your preferred social media platforms is how we want to share the great content the GCU and its members create. I look forward to connecting with you at an event and especially online! Is there anything you want to see or read about? Send comments or suggestions to my email, [mvalvano@GCUusa.com](mailto:mvalvano@GCUusa.com).

From the ARV newspaper to the *GCU Magazine*, the organization has always known the importance of communicating with members. Faced with the growing digital landscape and the availability of everything on the internet, GCU has the opportunity to have instantaneous communication with its membership. Electronic media has provided GCU with a unique opportunity—the ability to better serve GCU members and their families with fast and secure email messaging.

You have trusted GCU with your family's financial needs and we assure you that sharing your emails with GCU will only allow us to serve you better and quicker wherever you or your families may be. We can only do this if you share your email address with GCU.

GCU has always supported its younger members with activities and financial assistance. We encourage younger members to engage with us online via social media to stay up to date on GCU programs which can assist with their educational expenses.

Stay updated with events via email campaigns in your inbox and feel free to follow, like, share and connect on the social media platform of your choice. All members that update or supply GCU with their email address will be eligible to win a \$25 Target Gift Card. One lucky GCU member for every 20 new email addresses received in the months of August and September 2022 will be chosen from each month's submissions.

It is time to update your digital profile! You can do this by calling the GCU Call Center 855-306-0607.

## Corporate Community Events Coordinators



**Molly Kullen**  
Corporate Community  
Events Coordinator  
Western, PA

Hi! My name is Molly Kullen and I began working as The GCU Corporate Community Events Coordinator in Western Pennsylvania in March. I am very excited to be a part of the GCU. I enjoy coordinating events for all interests and love meeting new people at each event.

I live in Beaver, PA with my husband, Jake and our dog, Berkley. I love spending my free time with family and friends.

There are a lot of fun upcoming events planned for the remainder of 2022 such as the Fall Family Day at Maze Craze, and the Pittsburgh Steelers Game. A list of upcoming events are on this issue's back cover.

I am looking forward to planning more activities in 2023. My goal is to plan fun member events for everyone to enjoy. For event information or to share an idea for a social event you might like to see, please feel free to call 724-683-3927 or email me at [mkullen@GCUusa.com](mailto:mkullen@GCUusa.com). I hope to see you at an event soon!



**Melissa Cohen**  
Corporate Community  
Events Coordinator  
North Eastern, PA

As a new member of the GCU team, I was very excited to hear that the first event I would be attending was GCU Byzantine Family Day at Knoebels Park. I grew up going there several times a year and as an adult I still enjoy the family oriented amusement park featuring free admission (*Knoebels Park is actually America's largest free admission park*). These days "free" is a rare word—especially at an amusement park!

The 10<sup>th</sup> annual event took place on Sunday June 12, 2022. As members arrived they were registered for a free raffle with several Target gift cards up for grabs. Members enjoyed sav-

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Happy families at Knobeels Park.

ings on each ticket booklet for the rides and there was a delicious catered BBQ lunch under the pavilion with all the fixin's.

Considering there was a possibility for some showers and the park cut their regular hours, we were happy to include the prayer service before lunch and also announced raffle winners as everyone finished eating. Thank you so much to Fr. Paul Varchola West for leading us in the prayer service.

After some of the youngsters came up and helped me pull the raffle winners and announce names, it was time to enjoy the rides! Meeting the members and families was so much fun and I really look forward to returning to Knobeel's Park again soon!

“Never let the fear of striking out keep you from playing the game.” – Babe Ruth.

One of the first events I wanted to plan as the new GCU Corporate Community Events Coordinators was a Scranton RailRiders fundraiser game. The RailRiders are the Triple-A affiliate of the NY Yankees. When I began my journey with the GCU in mid-May I immediately reached out to the RailRiders to try and get scheduled as the Featured Community Organization of the Game for their 2022 season.

We were in luck! There was one date left for their 2022 season: Friday, July 15, 2022. To sweeten the deal, it was also a fireworks night with a Margaritaville theme; the next best way to kick back and relax if a tropical island vacation isn't on your calendar. How could we pass up the amazing promotion they offer the non-profit of the evening?

For those who aren't familiar: the Community Organization of the Game (COG) receives: 100% of the proceeds from the RailRiders' "Community Corner" memorabilia sales during the game; an on the field pre-game camera interview broadcast throughout the stadium; ceremonial "First Pitch" thrown out by a GCU member; on-air radio promotion - during the in-game radio broadcast on Bold Gold Media's WICK - "The Mothership" stations (1400 AM, 1440 AM, 93.5 FM, 106.7 FM and 107.9 FM); discounted ticket price and an informational table for guests to stop by and learn more about the GCU.

GCU offered \$5.00 tickets to members for the game. With seats typically costing \$13-\$15 per person this was a great opportunity for an affordable night out.

COG seats are typically further in the outfield but the GCU negotiated for great seats near the 1st base line. With the date locked in, great seats secured, and an exciting evening of baseball lined up, the only thing left to worry

about was the weather, which turned out to be just one of the many highlights of the evening!

I recruited my fiancé and two brothers to help me set up the GCU table and hand out colorful leis to guests entering the stadium. The GCU "crew" showed Margaritaville theme wearing tropical sunglasses and hula skirts. Gina Keil, District 5 president, stopped by the GCU table to help hand out Margaritaville leis, interact with guests, and of course joined us for some photos with RailRiders mascot, Champ!

The GCU invited Camp Freedom (*a non-profit based in Carbondale, PA to support veterans and first responders through social activities and recreation*) to send a family to the game as our guests. We were thrilled to meet Mike, a member of Camp Freedom, along with his family for their first ever RailRiders game! Mike wound up winning a signed Gleyber Torres baseball and baseball card from the GCU raffle as well!

Gary Pezak, Lodge 92 athletic director, won the drawing to throw out the first pitch and I took the field to speak with the RailRiders emcee on camera about the GCU be-



Gary Pezak (above). Gina Keil, Melissa with volunteers Dan and Jeromy.

ing community oriented. With perfect weather, smiling guests, and the smell of park food in the air, it was time to sit back and enjoy the game. The RailRiders kept everyone moving with fun YMCA dances and in-between inning games for the kids. Amanda and her son Ryan were smiling ear to ear the entire game for their first ever in-person professional baseball game experience at a stadium.

The RailRiders claimed the big W over the Louisville Bats with a score of 9-0! The grand finale of the evening was the highly anticipated fireworks show to light up the sky for the perfect end to a wonderful evening. I'm happy to report that 100% of the RailRiders Community Corner store sales for the evening was donated to the GCU Foundation, totaling \$505.00 for the evening. Thank you to everyone who attended the game and we look forward to joining the RailRiders again next year as the featured COG!

**Did You Miss It?** Bartolo Colón, Eddy Rodriguez, & Gleyber Torres are just some of the signed merchandise items that we purchased from the RailRiders Community Store and raffled off to our attendees. Not to worry if you missed it, because we have exciting news! You will have another opportunity to win a RailRiders gift certificate for food and

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some more merchandise from the RailRiders Community Store if you plan on attending upcoming games with us in September! **\*Note: raffles are not allowed to be conducted inside the stadium. Please see our website or contact Melissa for more information\***

**More Upcoming RailRiders Games This Season:** We have some extra passes from the game and scheduled an additional two games for members to enjoy for the same

great price of \$5. We want to give members the choice to either join us for an evening game with fireworks to follow on Friday, September 16<sup>th</sup> or an afternoon game on Sunday, September 18<sup>th</sup>, or of course for both games if you wish! Check out [www.GCUusa.com](http://www.GCUusa.com) for game details and to purchase tickets. **\*Note: all tickets will be digital and sent to your mobile phone\*** Please contact Melissa with any questions 878-207-2327 [mcohen@GCUusa.com](mailto:mcohen@GCUusa.com).



## GCU at Montage Mountain Water Park Events

### Adult Swim Night

August 24<sup>th</sup>, 2022 6 PM-10 PM

Must be 21+ to enter and have a valid ID

\$5 admission when you book through the GCU by August 23<sup>rd</sup> (75% savings!)

Visit the GCU Young Professionals Table near the Lazy River for both events.

### GCU \$5 Waterpark Day

August 27<sup>th</sup>, 2022 11 AM-6 PM, all ages

\$5 admission per person for both members and non-members;

must book by August 26<sup>th</sup> through GCU (over 80% savings!)

## September Events

### Binghamton Rumble Ponies vs Somerset Patriots Game & Fireworks Night

Friday, September 2, 2022 at 7:05 PM

\$6 tickets Box Seats Section 4

Double-A Mets battle the Double-A Yankees in a Superhero Showdown

Marvel Superhero Day – Come Dressed As Your Favorite Superhero and meet Captain America

### Roba's Family Farm Tickets

Saturday September 10<sup>th</sup> \$10 per member

Enjoy Roba Farms All Day

GCU exclusive firepit/picnic area from 5 PM-9 PM

Roasting marshmallows and snacks provided

### Scranton/Wilkes-Barre RailRiders vs. Worcester Red Sox & Fireworks Night

Friday, September 16<sup>th</sup>, 2022 6:35 PM Game, 5:30 Doors

\$5 Tickets – Seats in Section 15 – Raffles TBA

Must purchase through GCU website or contact Melissa – 9/15/22 deadline

### Scranton/Wilkes-Barre RailRiders vs. Worcester Red Sox & Family Fun Day

Sunday, September 18<sup>th</sup>, 2022 1:05 PM Game, 12:05 PM Doors

\$5 Tickets – Seats in Section 15 – Raffles TBA

Must purchase through GCU website or contact Melissa – 9/15/22 deadline

### Joan Jett (September 26) and Justin Moore (September 23) Concert Tickets at Bloomsburg Fair Raffle

-Includes fair tickets-

Social Media Contest, See the GCU Facebook @gcuofusa for more information

Winner to be selected 2 weeks before concert

## October Events

### Pocono Foliage Express & Hawley Hoedown Adventure

Saturday, October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2022 Train Ride Departs Honesdale at 12 Noon (1.5 hour round trip)

Tickets on GCU website \$10 per person (Save 50%)

### Hawley Harvest Hoedown

Just under 10 miles down the road from Honesdale is Hawley!

10 AM on Saturday, October 1<sup>st</sup>, join in for a traditional Hoedown street fair featuring games, crafts & other vendors, hayrides, live music, pumpkin decorating and always some surprises

# Giving

## St. Mary Byzantine Catholic Church Parish Expansion

**Marblehead, OH.** The dedicated parishioner volunteers of St. Mary Byzantine Catholic Church used their gifts of time, talent and treasure to raise much needed Parish Expansion funds during the Spring and early Summer of 2022.

The parishioners combined a “Take-out or Dine-in” Perch Fish Fry with homemade bakery sales and basket fundraiser every other Friday during the Great Fast and once a month from Easter until July. In addition, St. Mary’s also sold hot dogs to tourists visiting the historic Marblehead Lighthouse event. This winning combination generated over \$6,000.<sup>00</sup> in net income for the parish.

St. Mary Church thanks the GCU for the Parish Expansion Matching Funds as the parish looks forward to celebrating the 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the founding of the parish with a joyous celebration this coming October.



**Nancy Fredrick**



## Ss. Peter and Paul Byzantine Catholic Church Parish Expansion



**Tarentum, PA.** Parishioners were able to gather together at Ss. Peter & Paul BC Church for a wonderful nut roll sales project, which has been sponsored here for decades. It was nice to meet new people and enjoy great company and conversation. There were some folks not even from the parish family who enjoyed coming to help. It is a good way to help the community as well. The rolls are popular and loved here by local people and even a few from a greater distance.

The faithful of Ss. Peter & Paul and other crew members are glad to make this “sweet” effort for all those to enjoy for their Easter celebrations. Much more important is that Jesus himself unites hearts in one and inspires them to serve the community through this project. That is why it is so popular and appreciated by the local community.

A very special thanks to GCU Matching Funds program and other sponsors for their help and support.

**Fr. Vasyl Polyak**

## St. Paul & Sacred Heart of Mary RC Churches Parish Expansion

**Weirton, WV.** GCU Lodge 697 recently used the GCU Non-Byzantine Parish Expansion program to donate \$1,000.00 each to St. Paul and Sacred Heart of Mary Roman Catholic Churches. Both parishes had fish fries fundraisers during the Lenten season. Janet Winwood, lodge treasurer, presented Guy Holmes the \$1,000.00 check for St. Paul RCC. Marilyn Charnie, lodge president presented Betty Fiedorczyk, representing Sacred Heart of Mary RCC, the \$1000.00 check. Both parishes were extremely happy to receive the donation from GCU and would like to express their gratitude for the donation.

**Marilyn Charnie** | Lodge 697 President



## Holy Spirit Byzantine Catholic Church Parish Expansion



**Oakland, PA.** Holy Spirit church held a Spring flea market and lunch food sale on May 14. There was a great turnout and sales were the best ever! Thanks to the volunteers and to the GCU for the Parish Expansion Matching Funds. All proceeds will be used for church repairs and upgrades.

**Mary Dzurichko**

## Shrine Of Our Lady of Mariapoch Parish Expansion

**Burton, OH.** The 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Miracle of Mariapoch Gala fundraising event for the Shrine of Our Lady of Mariapoch was held at St. Joseph Byzantine Catholic Church “Venue 81 Eleven” Party Center on June 25, 2022. Over 120 attendees were treated to a scrumptious small plate buffet offering many varied food and dessert offerings.

Overall, the event was a financial success due to the brisk ticket sales for the basket fundraiser, and very generous cash donations. Attendees represented at least five different Byzantine parishes from Northeast, Ohio which is a wonderful testimony to the spiritual and financial support that the Shrine of Mariapoch receives from the faithful of the Eparchy of Parma.

Thank you to the GCU for the Matching Funds contribution, which will help maintain the beauty of the Shrine and grow evangelization efforts.

**Deacon William Fredrick**



## GCU GoGive! Helps with Eagle Scout Project

**Ventura, CA.** Sebastian Victoriano is an Eagle Scout that proposed a project to help his church, Church of the Foothills, to improve the land which needed to be cleared as a requirement of the City of Ventura for fire mitigation. As you may be aware Southern California is in a fire hazard area and all property owners are required to reduce brush and maintain a certain amount of clearance. Unfortunately, this exposes the hillsides increasing the chance of mud slides during the rainy season. It is very important to keep the growth rooted in the ground to avoid slippage. This project is a demonstration plot showing how native and drought tolerant plants are able to root into the hillside with a minimum of irrigation. The parish is looking forward to expanding the plantings in the future based on Sebastian's model.

We thank the GCU for the GoGive grant that helped to fund the project.

**Lou Vigorita**



## GCU GoGive! Helps Purchase Sewing Kits

**Valparaiso, IN.** A GCU GoGive! grant was used to purchase sewing kits that are distributed by Lutheran World Relief all over the world. Each kit consisted of 6 yards of material and 4 spools of thread. This enables women the opportunity to earn a living by sewing for others and this material/thread gives them a head start on supplies. Thank you to the GCU Home Office for helping provide these kits to help others.

**Carla Nolting**



**LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF**



Angela, Owen and John Kutzfara.

Dr. John & Angela Kutzfara of CPRL welcomed their first born son Owen John on Saturday June 25, 2022. Owen was baptized at St. Stephen Roman Catholic Church Grand Island, NY on Saturday July 23, 2022. His baptism outfit was over 60 years old and had been worn by his father, uncle, great uncles, and cousin. The godparents were Aunt Jackie Kutzfara and Uncle Ross Giglio. He is the grandson of John & Patricia Kutzfara and Ross & Flo Giglio. He is the great grandson of Barbara Wahal and Donna Kutzfara. May God grant Owen and his family many happy and blessed years.

## Bill & Barb Dzuricko Celebrate 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

William & Barbara Dzuricko celebrated their 40<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary on June 19, 2022. Fr. Kevin Marks offered congratulations and gave the jubilarians a special blessing and a gift of flowers at the end of the 9 AM Divine Liturgy at St. Michael Byzantine Catholic Church in Hermitage, PA.



Barbara Dzuricko, Fr. Kevin Marks and Bill Dzuricko.

## Alexis Wolfe Graduates From Pittsburgh Capa 6-12



Alexis Wolfe.

On Sunday, June 19, 2022, Alexis Wolfe, a member of Southeast Pittsburgh Regional Lodge, graduated from Pittsburgh Capa 6-12, **Creative and Performing Arts Magnet**. She will be attending Point Park University in the fall and was awarded a President's Scholarship. She will study Biology and Forensic Science.

Alexis is the daughter of Deborah & Ronald Wolfe, of Pittsburgh, PA and granddaughter of Janet & Bernard E. Ducar of Whitaker, PA and GCU Southeast Pittsburgh Regional Lodge.

Deborah Wolfe



Aaron Gulibon.



formal graduation ceremony was not held due to the global pandemic.

While at the University of South Carolina, Aaron was a member of the Darla Moore School of Business case competition team that won Deloitte’s National Audit Innovation Challenge. Not only did they receive recognition from one of the world’s largest accounting and professional services firms, but they also received a \$10,000.00 grant to the university’s business school.

Aaron was a member of the Upsilon Chapter of Beta Theta Pi, where he served as treasurer, as well as a member of the Alpha Lambda Delta Honors Fraternity. Aaron also competed

on South Carolina’s club baseball team, was a supplemental instructor of business calculus and served as a teaching assistant for the Masters of Human Resources program.

After graduation, Aaron began his career at Deloitte as a Risk and Financial Advisory Analyst in Charlotte, NC. In 2022, he obtained his North Carolina CPA license and continues his career at Deloitte as an Audit Senior. Aaron has been a GCU National Scholarship Recipient and recipient of the “Best Essay” award. He currently resides in Charlotte, NC.

## Barb Dzuricko Inducted into Track & Field Hall of Fame

Barb Dzuricko was recently inducted into the Pennsylvania High School Track & Field Hall of Fame as a “Contributor.” Her contributions include: being an outstanding athlete who placed at the 1974 & 1975 State Track Meet at Penn State University; being an excellent head coach at Hickory High School for 30 years which included several District 10 and state championships; being a long time Track & Field Meet Director for District 10 and the City of Hermitage Invitational; and now serving as a PIAA Track & Field and Cross Country Official. The induction took place on Saturday, May 28, 2022 at Shippensburg University during the 2022 PIAA Track and Field State Championship Meet, where Barb and her husband Bill worked the Triple Jump event. Bill presented the award to Barb. The Dzurickos are members of St. Michael Byzantine Catholic Church in Hermitage, PA and GCU Lodge 258.



Barb & Bill Dzuricko.

# District 5



Gina Keil and Mari Sue Rayno weeding and at right is Ed Keil mowing grass at Helping Hands Day.

**Helping Hands Day** | On Saturday, June 18, 2022 a few members of District 5, along with members of Greater Hazleton Regional Lodge, assisted the Sisters of Holy Annunciation Monastery, Sugarloaf, PA at Helping Hands Day. Please consider helping out at the Fall Helping Hands Day on Saturday, October 29, 2022. The Sisters are always so appreciative of the help they receive.

**Golf Tournament** | District 5 held their annual Golf Tournament at Sugarloaf Golf Club on Saturday, August 6, 2022. A full report on the event will be published in the *October GCU Magazine*.

**Looking Forward** | Information on the district's annual meeting and Scholarship Brunch will be forthcoming.

Gina Keil | President

# District 7

## UPCOMING DISTRICT 7 EVENT

### Annual Golf Outing

Saturday, August 27, 2022

Scramble Format

1:30 PM Shotgun

Green Pond Country Club

3604 Farmersville Road, Bethlehem, PA 18020

Mike Geles at 732-423-5754 or email him at mikegeles@gmail.com

# District 11

## Day of Recollection—Sundays in Preparation for the Great Fast and Pascha

| For the 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the Great Fast on April 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2022 a Day of Recollection was held at St. Nicholas Byzantine Catholic Church, Clinton Twp., MI. The day began with an 11 AM Liturgy, followed by a Parish Potluck luncheon at 1 PM with Lenten Hymns led by St. Nicholas Church Choir.

Two presentation on the Lenten theme were presented by Deacon Robert Cripps and Deacon Gregory Loya, both of the Byzantine Eparchy of Parma. Each presentation was approximately a half hour in length with a short break in between. The day concluded with the Praying of Hours.

Comments of the day were overwhelmingly positive, spiritually rewarding; relaxed enjoyable afternoon; great food; great people; happy and fortunate not too have missed this event.

A sincere thank you to Fr. Joe Repko for the idea and hosting the event, to the Deacons for accepting the invitation to present and to the GCU for the District Grant that helped cover expenses.



Concelebrants of the Day, Fr. Joseph Repko, Deacon Robert Cripps, Deacon Gregory Loya and Sub-Deacon Philip Dismore.

## UPCOMING DISTRICT 11 EVENT

### Scholarship Applications Now Available to Eligible College Students

**Deadline is September 6, 2022**

District 11 offers two scholarship awards, each in the amount of \$500.00 to two District 11 college students. Applications can be found on the District 11 web page.

Contact President Gary Mozuras at 586-872-6142

# District 15

**Kennywood Memories** | By the time you read this article, the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Byzantine Day at Kennywood Park will be history. Sponsored by the GCU and the Byzantine Archeparchy of Pittsburgh, Byzantine Day is one of the annual “ethnic days” at the amusement park located a short drive from Pittsburgh proper. For me Byzantine Day marked the middle of summer. One more month to go before school resumed in September. But more importantly, Byzantine Day was a celebration of faith, tradition, family and friends. I can’t remember ever missing Byzantine Day. In our house the kids missed the “school picnic” at Kennywood, but never Byzantine Day.

Prayer service, Slavjane dancers, relay races, potato picking, and horse-shoe contests. (What happened to all those potatoes anyway?) Picnic baskets left on a table and covered with a tablecloth for supper. Meeting your older relatives at the merry-go-round benches; and friends you saw once a year—only at Kennywood. When our parish hosted seminarians from Ukraine one summer, we invited them to Kennywood for Byzantine Day; after all they were only a few years older than our own kids. Now those men are priests; two serving parishes in the US and one in Europe. The pure joy on their faces; the cultural exchange of words and ideas; and the jokes about misspoken American phrases. Closing the park with 7 rowdy teenagers in tow. Priceless memories for our family.

Kennywood’s Byzantine Day is just one example of the events and experiences that tie us to each other as Byzantine Catholics and GCU members. As we move forward, we are challenged with making new memories and finding new ways to stay connected in our technologically savvy, yet distant society. Yes, we can be friends on social media, but do we make the time to connect in-person, face to face? As I reflect on the most meaningful experiences the annual trip to Kennywood for Byzantine Day comes to mind. Time with my fellow Byzantines and fraternalists keeps me planted, connected to my faith, traditions, family and friends.

We are all busy, and our kids and grandkids are even busier. Remind yourself to stay connected; encourage your kids and grandkids to participate in GCU events. Help your kids to stay connected to their heritage while they imagine new opportunities for future generations of GCU members. It’s not too late, even if you did miss the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Byzantine Day at Kennywood this year.

**Our Deepest Sympathy** | Is extended to Bud Miller on the passing of his wife, retired District 15 Auditor, Irene Miller, who died on June 17 and to Martha Seech and her family on the sudden death of Martha’s husband George who died on July 7, 2022. His obituary appears on page 41.

May God grant Irene and George blessed repose and eternal memory. Vicnaja pamjat!

Elizabeth Harbist | District President

## UPCOMING DISTRICT 15 EVENTS

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### Ladies Luncheon and Bunco

**Saturday, September 24, 2022**

**Doors open at 11:30 AM**

**Lunch at NOON**

**Tickets are \$35**

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

Proceeds will be shared equally between D15 Senior Award Fund and Heroes Supporting Heroes, a local organization that supports active military families and veterans. The organization is located in Oakdale, PA.

Tickets available by contacting Kathy Kapaldo at 412-951-8331 or kkapaldo@comcast.net, Janet Uram (Lodge 109) at 724-287-0689 or Marilyn Charnie (Lodge 697) at 304-670-5900

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### Annual Golf Outing

**Sunday, October 2, 2022**

**12 NOON start with dinner to follow**

**NEW FORMAT-2-Golfer Best Ball**

Please note the change to **SUNDAY** for this event. More information, applications and hole sponsorships are available on District 15 webpage.

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

Contact Elizabeth Harbist at 412-913-1446

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### Afternoon at Black Dog Wine Company

**Sunday, October 16, 2022**

**12 NOON-4 PM**

**12:15 Wine Tasting**

**1 PM Lunch catered by The Cooked Goose**

**\$20 for GCU Members**

**\$25 for Non-Members**

Send check payable to GCU D15 to:

Elizabeth Harbist

215 Thornwood Court, Moon Township, PA 15108

Questions? Call or email Elizabeth at 412-913-1446 or etharbist@yahoo.com

**SAVE the DATES!** We hope you’ll save these dates and join us for one or more of these events.

# Lodge News

## Lodge 15

TRENTON, NJ

### Honoring Our Veterans

As the country commemorated Memorial Day, once again Lodge 15 members placed over 450 United States American Flags on the graves of military veterans in the three cemeteries of the Assumption of the Virgin Mary Byzantine Catholic Church. This activity broadened the exposure for all of us to focus on the remembrance of those who served, fought and made the ultimate sacrifice for this country. Coordinator John Kashner rallied his dedicated volunteers Theresa Kashner, Gregory Embley, Anna & Tom Petty, Mary Ann Biko, Joseph & Pam Trapp, Stephanie Hennessey, John Soganic and



Mary Ann Biko in action.

Joseph Mihalchik to help with this project.

### Stay Cool

It has been an extremely hot summer and I hope all of you are staying cool. We will have to remember these days during the long winter months.

**Marcy Embley** | Fraternal Activity & Publicity Director



Mary Ann Biko, John Kashner, Tom Petty, John Soganic and Anna Jane Petty getting ready to place the flags.

## UPCOMING LODGE 15 EVENT

### 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter Meeting

**Sunday, September 11, 2022**

**After the 10 AM Divine Liturgy**

Assumption of the Virgin Mary Byzantine Catholic Church Social Hall

411 Adeline Street, Trenton, NJ 08611

## UPCOMING LODGE 17 EVENTS

### St. Nicholas Flea Market

**Saturday & Sunday, September 17 & 18**

**Saturday, September 24**

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

Expect great bargains & hidden treasures at the flea market, along with delicious food, baked goods and a 50/50 fundraiser.

This is a GCU Parish Matching Funds event.

Volunteers in the kitchen are needed.  
Contact Ed or Gina at 570-824-1264

### Fall Helping Hands Day at Holy Annunciation Monastery

**Saturday, October 29, 2022**

**9 AM**

Contact Ed or Gina at 570-824-1264

## Lodge 17

OLD FORGE, PA

### Helping Hands Day at Sugarloaf

Several members of Lodge 17 assisted the Sisters at Sugarloaf Monastery for Helping Hands Day on Saturday, June 18, 2022. The lawn was mowed and weedwacked, the flowers were pruned, the beds were weeded and boxes were made. Keep Saturday, October 29, 2022 open to help the Sisters again in the fall.

### Lecture

On Saturday night, July 23, 2022, the Very Rev. Eduard Shestak, pastor of St. Nicholas Byzantine Catholic Church, held a lecture on the meaning of Sunday. The talk was very interesting and informative. Lodge 17 hosted a social in the church hall following the lecture. Revello's Pizza and Minooka Bake Shop cookies were enjoyed.

### Community Matching Funds

GCU Lodge 17 assisted with the Basket/Prize Raffle at the 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Big Blue Golf Classic for the Richard P. Notari Sr. Scholarship Fund as a Community Matching Funds project. The

CONTINUED

## Lodge 17 CONTINUED



Committee Members for the Basket/Prize fundraiser: Nikole A. Jeffers, Diane Notari, John M. & Domenica Argonish and Dr. Rob Notari. Missing from photo were John P. Argonish, Tim, Rick & Kamryn Notari, and Madelyn Lesneski.

golf event was held on Saturday, May 21, 2022 at Blue Ridge Trail Golf Club, Mountain Top, PA. During the past decade, this tournament has raised over \$150,000.00, with funds raised going directly to 55 scholarships to assist students in the Old Forge School District who excel in mathematics and in leadership.

Mr. Notari was a mathematics teacher in the OF School District who died of cancer. At various times in his career, he was the golf coach, freshman football coach, bowling coach, and Director of Athletics at OFHS. He was a member of St. Nicholas Byzantine Catholic Church, Old Forge, where he taught catechism and sang in the choir. Several members of the Notari/Lesneski/Argonish family are members of GCU Lodge 17.

It was a great day for golfing. The field sold out again at 212 golfers. The tickets for the basket fundraiser sold at 25 tickets for \$10 and 75 tickets for \$20. Prizes included several TV's, baskets of cheer, golf bags, golf balls, hats, watches, sunglasses, signed memorabilia, football jerseys and so much more. Thanks to all who made this tournament a huge success.

Ed Keil | Secretary-Treasurer

## Lodge 47

THE BUZZ FROM BINGHAMTON, NY

### Strikes, Splits & Spares—Another season in the books!

Lodge 47 members, families and guests joined the GCU Bowling League from Binghamton, NY as they proudly marked an end to their 2021-2022 bowling season. Awards were presented after everyone had a chance to socialize before enjoying their dinner and dessert on

April 5, 2022.

With summer in full swing and going by fast, the teams are already getting prepared for the start of next season. Good Luck Bowlers!



Bowling League end of season gathering.

### Mulch Madness

Thank you to more than a dozen volunteers who gathered at Holy Spirit Church on June 11, 2022, a beautiful Saturday morning.

Work was underway by 9 AM for Lodge 47 members, parishioners, family and friends who brought gloves, rakes, shovels, buckets, clippers and brooms. They weeded, trimmed trees, picked up trash and spread a lot of mulch!

After a two-year-long pandemic-related hiatus, it was a blessing for this group to come together and participate in an outdoor parish clean-up project. Snacks, fruit and beverages hit the spot when it was time for a break!

Everyone was welcome to join and those unable to lift or spread mulch kept plenty busy. A huge THANKS to everyone who offered their time and energy. This clean-up would not have been a success without the generosity, help and support of everyone who attended. Thank you for making this event an incredible success!

Daria Shierly | Secretary-Treasurer



Volunteers at Helping Hands Day.



Thomas Rubish, Super Bowl Champ  
Matt Birk and Paul A. Rubish.

## Lodge 57 BROWNSVILLE, PA

### 2022 Youth Rally

Members of Lodge 57, Paul Andrew and Thomas Rubish, participated this year in the ByzanTeen Youth Rally held at Emmitsburg, MD from June 30-July 3. They and teens from across the country attended vespers, matins, prayers and Liturgies. All the teens worked

hard in packaging over 14,000 meals for the needy as a service project. They listened to numerous guest speakers, one of them being Super Bowl Champion, Matt Birk, who was a center for the Baltimore Ravens. He gave every teen an autographed copy of his book, ALL-PRO WISDOM. They also enjoyed the sports and crafts, along with meeting new friends from across the country. The Rubish brothers are looking forward to the next rally in San Diego, June 27-30, 2024.

Paul Andrew and Thomas are altar servers at Holy Ghost Byzantine Catholic Church in McKees Rocks, PA where Fr. Frank Firko is the pastor. Several other teens from their parish also attended this gathering. Their father, Paul Rubish was a chaperone and photographer for the event and is also a member of Lodge 57.

**Bernadett Karoffa** | Publicity Director  
**Paul Rubish**

## Lodge 69

POTTSTOWN, PA

### Helping Hands Day

The lodge rented a dumpster for clean-up around the St. John Byzantine Church area and repairs to the rectory for the weeks of June 24 through July 4. It was also a good time for parishioners to declutter their own homes and get rid of unwanted items.

**Nancy Harding** | Secretary



Steve Pestrock  
taking items into  
the dumpster.



Above is Nancy & Gene Harding  
with Mike Onifrek moving tables.  
Below is Liz Schrak & Michael  
Onifrek moving tables.



## Lodge 81

UNIONTOWN, PA

Summer activities for Lodge 81 include many community and parish events.

### Community

On Saturday, June 4 the annual Helping Hands Day took place at Mount Saint Macrina. Stephen Petruska helped with groundskeeping, while Gerry Dorobish and Bonnie Balas along with others helped



Bonnie Balas and Monica Sweet at St. Anne Shrine at Helping Hands Day.



Makayla with uncle Stephen Petruska, Theresa Petruska in the car and Fr. Vasyl.

### Parish

On Sunday, May 29 a Memorial Day service was held at the St. John Cemetery in Hopwood, PA. Father Vasyl celebrated a Panachida while Stephen Petruska led the responses. Father Vasyl blessed the family graves of those who attended. Many Lodge 81 members were at the service.

On Saturday, June 5, Father Vasyl, Kay Breakiron, Julie Pillar and Bonnie Balas prepared St. John BC Church for the Feast of Pentecost. The morning was spent cutting Linden branches and other greenery from the church grounds which were made into arrangements to decorate the church.

Parishioners and friends met after the daily Divine Liturgy on Wednesday, June 8 to weed and clean up the church grounds. Father Vasyl and Julie Pillar trimmed the bushes, while Gerry

by cleaning up and planting flowers at the fish pond site.

Gerry Dorobish extends herself and gives her time in so many ways in the local community. She not only volunteers for two days a week at the Mt. Macrina Religious Gift Shop, she tends to the flowers planted on the monastery grounds. At the Uniontown Public Library, she assists on Thursdays at a Summer Reading Program. As part of "The Ladies of Charity" she works at "The Children's Closet" which provides clothing for needy children-newborn to age 5. During the week of July 11-15, Gerry helped at Summer Bible School provided by the local Roman Catholic churches. Gerry is such a blessing to the local community.



Flag Day participants.

Dorobish, Bonnie Balas and others helped with the weeding.

A Flag Day recognition was held on Sunday, June 12, following the Divine Liturgy. This year's event was changed up by having a flag raising ceremony. Steven Popson, an altar server and Boy Scout with Troop 643, assisted James Mihalko and Stephen Petruska with the raising of the Flag. Father Vasyl gave a blessing and Richard Harrer led the "Pledge of Allegiance" and singing of "God Bless America." Marcia Harrer and Bonnie Balas served refreshments which included apple pie with ice cream and lemonade. Officers gave apple pies as door prizes and a grand prize patriotic themed basket donated by Gerry Dorobish.



Bonnie Balas, Fr. Aaron and Joan Bridges with saints' relics.

On Friday, June 22 St. George Maronite Catholic Church held a special service to honor their patron Saint - Saint Sharbel. Local Byzantine priests, Father Vasyl Symyon and Father James Fraser were invited to concelebrate with Father Aaron, pastor of St. George Church. There was a Liturgy, veneration of relics and holy anointing, followed by a social. Joan Bridges and Bonnie Balas attended the event.



Fr. Vasyl blessing Bernadette Karofa's car.

### Parish Social Events

On Sunday, June 19 a Father's Day Breakfast was sponsored by St. John Social Ministry Committee. Parish women prepared the meal and decorations made by Bonnie Balas were a bottle of Dad's Root Beer decorated with balloons and lottery tickets which were given as door prizes.

June birthdays were celebrated as well as recognizing the parish high school and college graduates. A Patron Saint Day Luncheon was held on Sunday, June 26 following the Divine Liturgy. St. John Social Ministry provided the meats and essentials, while parishioners brought an array of delicious covered dish items. On July 10

CONTINUED

## UPCOMING LODGE 81 EVENTS

### Assist at 88<sup>th</sup> Annual Pilgrimage

Sunday, September 4  
Volunteers are needed

### Annual Rosary Walk

To be announced

### Annual Food Drive

To be announced

### 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Classic Car Show

Sunday, September 25  
Details appear on Page 38

### 40<sup>th</sup> Annual Carpatho-Rusyn Celebration

Sunday, October 30  
Details appear on Page 38

## Lodge 81 CONTINUED



Buchko and Schifko families at the July birthday social.

following Divine Liturgy, St. John Social Ministry held a July Birthday Social to recognize those celebrating July birthdays. Among those were Mark Jesko, Debbie Kmetz and Lodge 81's Richard Harrer.

The Feast of St. Elias was celebrated with Divine Liturgies on July 19 and 20. The Vigil Divine Liturgy was cantored by Stephen

Petruska. Following both Liturgies, Father Vasyl blessed each attendee with anointing/mirovaniye. In the church parking lot he blessed vehicles and even one parishioner's wheel chair.

The lodge held its quarterly meeting on Sunday, August 7 following the Divine Liturgy. Plans to participate in the Mt. St. Macrina Annual Pilgrimage, upcoming 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Car Show (Sunday, September 25), Annual Food Drive, Annual Rosary Walk and the 40<sup>th</sup> Annual Carpatho-Rusyn Celebration (Sunday, October 30) were discussed.

**Bonnie Balas** | Vice President & Publicity Coordinator



Presentation of Matching Funds to the Jessup Hose Co. #2. From left to right: Gary Pezak, Joseph Himchak, Billy Muchal (Hose Co. #2 president) Ronald Mancak, Mark Pegula (Lodge 92 president), Greg Barkowski, Dominick Perini (Hose Co. #2 carnival chairman) and Stanley Pezak. Standing behind the GCU sign are lodge members Ellie Barkowski and Debbie Pezak (Lodge 92 vice president).

## Lodge 92

JESSUP, PA

### Jessup Hose Co. #2 Community Carnival

GCU Lodge 92 helped the volunteer Jessup Hose Co. #2 at its annual Community Carnival by sponsoring the Pizza/Pizza Frita stand, Thursday, May 26 through Sunday, May 29.

With the Fireman's parade on Friday, St. Ubaldo Race on Saturday, and fireworks on Sunday, the members were extremely busy each night putting in 7 to 10 hours each day.

As it is everywhere, help is extremely scarce and the Jessup Hose Co. #2 was gratefully for the lodge's sponsorship. The lodge was glad to help and hope to assist next year.

**Michaela Mancak** | Secretary-Treasurer



Ronald & Michaela Mancak.

## Lodge 93

NORTHERN CAMBRIA, PA

### St. John the Baptist Reflection

St. John the Baptist BC Church, established in 1897, located in Northern Cambria celebrated the birth of its namesake on Friday, June 24.

The event began with Pastor Reverend Roman Andriitso along with Reverend Ivan Rusyn and Deacon Raymond Zadzilko celebrating Divine Liturgy.

Reverend Rusyn is the pastor of Ss. Peter & Paul BCC in Jerome, PA and St. Mary BCC in Windber, PA. Deacon Raymond Zadzilko serves the Northern Cambria church and Ss. Peter & Paul BCC in Patton, PA. Three altar servers, children of the priests, also assisted at the Liturgy.

A reflection on St. John the Baptist's unique role as the precursor of Jesus was explained to parishioners and guests. The clergy spoke of the message of St. John that the Lord is imminent, so we must be prepared. On this solemnity, the Church renewed that meaning. This feast day is one of the very few saints' days which commemorate the anniversary of the birth, rather than the death, of the saint being honored.

Following the remembrance of the anniversary of the birth of St. John the Baptist a covered dish dinner was served in the church social hall. A highlight of the dinner was a pictured designed cake of St. John the Baptist.



Parishioners: Sandy & Richard Ferrence, GCU members Patty Rogal Landry and Walter Rogal. Missing from the picture members: Gary Mihalow and Brenda & Chuck Dunchack.

### Heritage Festival

Lodge 93 sponsored a booth with St. John BCC at the Northern Cambria Annual Heritage Festival. This is the sixth year of participation for the day-long event featuring crafts, food and entertainment. The parish's Byzantine heritage was highlighted throughout the day. The mission statement of the GCU: "Protecting Families, Promoting Faith and Fraternalism, Strengthening Communities" was presented along with products. Appreciation is extended to the GCU for the Matching Funds program that includes improving the fabric of our local communities.

Connie Strittmatter | Secretary-Treasurer & Fraternal Director

## Lodge 109

LYNDORA, PA

### Salad/Bingo/Luncheon

On Saturday, June 4, a salad/bingo was co-sponsored by GCU Lodge 109 and the Ladies Guild of St. John the Baptist Byzantine Catholic Church.

The admission ticket included a croissant sandwich of ham, egg or chicken salad and many other homemade salads, plus the bingo cards and door prizes. A basket raffle and 50/50 tickets were also featured.

Approximately 50 women and 6 men were in attendance. John Pocchiarri kept all amused with his humor as he called out the bingo numbers.

Thanks to the GCU Home Office, Lodge 109 was able to double its efforts with Parish Matching Funds.



The crowd waits for the first bingo number.



Pat & Bob Kosar along with Helen Musko finishing the planting and edging in front of the church sign.

### Helping Hands Day

During the first week of June, several members of Lodge 109 and parishioners of St. John the Baptist took some time out of their daily routine to help make the grounds and entrance to the church more beautiful.

Dead foliage from the spring tulips and daffodils were removed and replaced with new annuals in the beds and planters by the doorways. Weeds and overgrown shrubs were also removed or trimmed as needed.

Thanks to the Home Office for the Fraternal Grant to buy the materials to accomplish this task.



Front row: Joey Stavish (led the pledge) and Addison Koch (read poem). Back row: 3 members of the Honor Guard, State Rep. Marci Mustello, MC Bill Uram Jr., Butler Twp. Commissioner Sam Zurzolo, Vocalist Lou Pocchiarri (sang the National Anthem and God Bless America) and Butler Twp. Commissioner Jim Lokhaiser.

### Flag Day Ceremony

On Sunday, June 12, the lodge's annual Flag Day event was held at the War Memorial. The ceremony was emceed by Bill Uram, Jr. The Honor Guard composed of members of the VFW and American Legion did the service complete with a barrage of gun fire and ended up with the playing of Taps by their bugler.

It was truly a community event with participation from church members, township commissioners,

firemen, State Rep. Marci Mustello, VFW and American Legion.

Several of the parish children read patriotic poetry and led the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag. Thanks to GCU Home Office for the Fraternal Grant which helped pay for the picnic luncheon which followed at the Church.

Janet Uram | Secretary-Treasurer



Children from St. John's parish with Bill Uram Jr. trying on their new sunglasses from the GCU Home Office.

## Lodge 151

NEW YORK, NY

### Helping Hands Day

Lodge 151 held Helping Hands Day at St. Andrew BC Church. Flowers were planted and then volunteers went inside to have pizza. A special thank you to Dennis Walsh and Sal Manno for their help.

### Flag Day Celebration

Flag Day was celebrated at the Seasons with music by Ed Silver and Stan. Over 50 people attended and sang patriotic songs and enjoyed treats. Patriotic questions



Flag Day at the Seasons.

were asked with prizes given to the winners. Father's Day was also acknowledged by giving out bottles of wine to the fathers at the event. It was an exciting day.

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter Meeting

Lodge 151 held its 2<sup>nd</sup> quarterly meeting in June. It was a friendly meeting with lunch and some activities. Chris Hulak and Ann Kandrato organized the Haiku activity and gave out prizes. It was informative and fun.

### Haiku Activity

Ever the master teacher, Ann Kandrato gave a "master" class on writing the haiku—a summer haiku and ever the student, lodge members studiously responded with thoughtful poetry. Ann shared with her students "If you write one haiku in your lifetime, you are a haiku master."—Basho



Members at the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter meeting doing the Haiku activity.



Helping Hands Day at St. Andrew BC Church.

All received exquisitely designed placards with symbols of the summer—seagulls, beach balls, umbrellas and sunglasses.

Then with heads bowed all wrote Japanese poetry in a Chinese restaurant—a nod to June being Asian Pacific American Heritage Month.

Everyone thanked and applauded Ann for all her behind the scenes preparation. Next day texts included "Kudos to Ann and Christine for the haiku activity. It was a fun afternoon." (Cathy) "Thank you for making the afternoon so special." (Marie) "I think you did a great job! I like the haiku." (Marge) "Beside the gift of creativity, you gave us gifts as well. We enjoyed the tote bags and wallets you gave to all of us." (Chrissy) Arigato, Ann Kandrato, for sharing your inimitable talents with GCU Lodge 151.

Marge Pajer | President

Christine Hulak | Treasurer

### Members' Haiku Poetry

Seagull out to sea

I see, I see, I see, I

Landing on my head"

Ann Kandrato

"Beach ball in the sand

Rolls to the waves and shoreline

Time for fish to play"

Marie Dzadik

"Waves rushing forward

Dive under the water quick

What fun it can be"

Marge Pajer Russell

"Seagull flies up high

Soaring, soaring,

soaring to—

God's heaven in glory"

Cathy Walsh

"O, Beach umbrella,

Stuck in the smoldering

sand

Fierce wind blew you far"

Laura Muhlfeld

"Sunglasses for sun,

Too bright, too bright, keeps us from

Seeing the world clear"

Chrissy LoBello

## Lodge 164

YOUNGSTOWN, OH

### Donations Made

Lodge 164 officers, President Tom Sopkovich, Treasurer Sharon MacDonald and Secretary Diana Danko presented the donations from the Mother's Day Fundraiser to Our Community Kitchen, Veterans Outreach Program and Rescue Mission of the Mahoning Valley on June 8, 2022.

Thanks for the GCU Matching Funds and support of the bingo event.



Donation made to Veterans Outreach from the Mother's Day Bingo.



Donation made to Rescue Mission of the Mahoning Valley from the Mother's Day Bingo.



Donation made to Our Community Kitchen from the Mother's Day Bingo.



Dr. Sopkovich, Fr. Lambert and Treasurer Sharon MacDonald presenting the \$4,004.00 check from the Father's Day Fundraiser, which included Matching Funds of \$2,002.00 to benefit the church & hall maintenance.



Group of workers from left to right: Dan Kovachik, Alice White, Francie Kovachik, Dave & Karen Muransky, Jackie Leson, Bill Campy, Judy Knight, Ray Williams, Diana Danko, Sharon MacDonald and Barb Fleet.

### Father's Day Bingo

The lodge held a Father's Day Bingo Fundraiser to benefit St. Mary's Church and Social Hall maintenance on June 19, 2022. The Sunday evening event had 131 players supporting the fundraiser, with 17 bingo workers – only 5 non-GCU members. With income of \$5,950.00 and expenses of \$3,948.00, the net income was \$2,002.00. Along with GCU Matching Funds of \$2,002.00 the Church will benefit with a \$4,004.00 check.

The lodge thanks the GCU for all their support.

## UPCOMING LODGE 164 EVENTS

### 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter Meeting / Election of Officers

**Sunday, November 6**

**Following the 10:30 AM Divine Liturgy**

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

### St. Nicholas Day / Christmas Party

**Sunday, December 4**

**Time will be announced**

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



Cooks and servers at the picnic buffet: From left Diana Danko, Bill Campy, David & Karen Muransky, Emery MacDonald and Fraternal Activity Director Jackie Leson.

### 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter Meeting & Picnic

On Sunday, July 17, 2022, after Liturgy, the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter lodge meeting & picnic were held at St. Mary's Social Center. Twenty-two people enjoyed a buffet of burgers, hot dogs, baked beans, potato & pasta salad, relish tray and watermelon. Desserts were donated by Jackie Leson, Karen Muransky and Sharon MacDonald.

Dr. Tom Sopkovich | President

## Lodge 250

STERLING HEIGHTS, MI

### Helping Hands Day

Lodge 250 members and parishioners of St. Basil the Great BCC gather together each spring and donate their time and skills to help with grounds clean up. Trimming, raking, weeding and cleaning of the Grotto are some of the many chores that are on the list of duties. All participants are treated to a pizza luncheon provided by Lodge 250. Thanks to all who came this year to help!



Helping Hands Day volunteers.

### Flag Day Ceremony

Each June, Lodge 250 honors the US Flag with a ceremony following the 10 AM Liturgy, this year was no exception. As parishioners and friends gathered at the flagpole in front of St. Basil the Great, Lodge 250 members distributed flags and programs. President of Lodge 250 John L. Minarish, welcomed attendees. Both Fraternal Activities Director J. P. Minarish and Fr. Mychail Rozmarynowycz, spoke of the freedoms everyone in the US enjoys. Refreshments were served following the program, provided by Lodge 250.



Flag Day ceremony.

Anita Cipa | Treasurer

## Lodge 254

HILLSBOROUGH, NJ

### Scholarship Awards

On Sunday, June 6, 2022 at St. Mary Byzantine Catholic Church, Lodge 254 presented \$500.00 scholarships to two high school graduate parishioners.

The scholarship awards were presented to the recipients after the 8:30 AM Liturgy with Father James Badeaux, pastor, and announced by Elias Zareva, Lodge 254 president. A reception followed in the Fellowship Hall.

The recipients of the GCU Lodge 254 Scholarships were: Zachary Bezick a graduate of Hillsborough High School where he has been a member of the Tri-M Music Honor Society, French Honor Society and National Honor Society. He has been active in peer mentoring as well as in the Brass Ensemble. He

demonstrates his great skills and love of music as a talented performer in playing the Euphonium and Tuba.

Zachary has been an active member of the parish as an altar server and member of the ByzanTEENS. He has also been an ECF assistant and been involved in the Toys for Tots program. Zachary plans to attend Florida State University in Tallahassee, FL and his goal is to major in Biological Science on a Pre-Med track and to one day work as a doctor.

Gianna Duncan is a graduate of Immaculata High School in Somerville, NJ. She has been an active participant in track at the high school. She has also helped with the basketball team. Gianna has been active and involved in dance since



Scholarship recipients—Zachary Bezick and Gianna Duncan with Fr. James Badeaux and Lodge 254 President Elias Zareva.

2007 and used her dancing skills and her talent in teaching dance to less fortunate children. She has also been a CIT - Camp Helper.

Gianna has been an active member of the church as an ECF assistant, volunteering at the church bingo and for the Tricky Tray church fundraiser. She has been active with the ByzanTEENS for four years and attended the ByzanTEEN Youth Rally in PA. Gianna plans to attend

CONTINUED

## Lodge 254 CONTINUED

Temple University in Philadelphia, PA and her goal is to major in Psychology on a Pre-Law track and to one day work as a lawyer.

The ByzanTEENS at St. Mary Byzantine Catholic Church are involved in many group activities. Some of the fundraisers of the group have been home-made chocolate Easter crosses, serving Sunday morning breakfasts and a most delicious Spaghetti Dinner attended by many.

Mrs. Christina Duncan directs and supervises this faithful group of teens where they have fun, meet friends and are involved in many worthwhile activities!



Sight & Sound participants.

### Sight & Sound Bus Trip

Forty members of Lodge 254 and parishioners of St. Mary B.C. Church in Hillsborough, traveled to Lancaster, PA on Thursday, July 28 to Sight and Sound Theater to witness the epic presentation of “DAVID.”

The group enjoyed the unique

sights of the Amish countryside and a sumptuous dinner & shopping in the giant giftshop at Shady Maple Smorgesborg in East Earle, PA. Shady Maple claims to be the world’s largest buffet—all had a great time.

Elias Zareva | President



Mike Vasil & daughter Alyssa and Mike with Bill Dzuricsko at Helping Hands Day.

### Helping Hands Day

St. Michael Byzantine Catholic Church and GCU Lodge 258 had another successful Helping Hands Day on Saturday, June 11. Volunteers trimmed, weeded, edged and put down 100 bags of mulch around the shrubs, trees and plants on the church and social center grounds. Mike Vasil and his daughter, Alyssa, were seen sporting their pink GCU T-shirts and Bill Dzuricsko wore his yellow GCU shirt. Thank you to the Home Office for providing the colorful Helping Hands shirts as well as the grant that allowed Lodge 258 to purchase the mulch. Special thank you to Randy Tomko, Rich Will and Jim Zawacki, who helped work on the grounds over several weeks, but could not attend on June 11.

## Lodge 258

HERMITAGE, PA

### Flag Day Celebration

On Sunday, June 12, St. Michael Byzantine Catholic Church in Hermitage and GCU Lodge 258 held their Flag Day Celebration. After both the Saturday 4 PM and Sunday 9 AM Divine Liturgies, parishioners were treated to USA Flag pins, chocolate candy and informational brochures from the GCU

Home Office, as well as individually wrapped iced sugar cookies, decorated as USA Flags, courtesy of Lodge 258. The Lodge also used part of its grant to purchase and donate new USA and Vatican Flags to be used on the social center flagpole. During the 9 AM Liturgy, Fr. Kevin Marks blessed the two new flags and about 25 GCU members and parishioners began the Flag raising ceremony at 10:20 AM. Veterans Norbert Vasil and Jim Zawacki helped Bill Dzuricsko and Alyssa Vasil remove the old flags and replace them with the new ones. All present recited the Pledge of Allegiance, sang the National Anthem and listened to motivational information and prayers from the beautiful Flag Day booklets provided by the Home Office. The program concluded with the singing of “You’re a Grand Old Flag” and “God Bless America.” A special thank you to Joan Walker and Dr. Roy Sartori who helped lead the singing.

Bill Dzuricsko | President



Fr. Kevin Marks blessing flags.



Oskar's family: Ingrid, Jan, Rev. Fr. John Kapitan, Ericka, Oskar and his grandmother Christine Peterson.

## Lodge 268

MINGO JUNCTION, OH

### First Communion

On Sunday, June 19, 2022, GCU member Oskar James Poulsen received his first communion at St. John the Baptist Byzantine Catholic Church. The lodge would like to wish him continued success in his spiritual journey.

### Helping Hands Day

Lodge 268 held a Helping Hands event. New flowers were planted. Members weeded around St. John the Baptist Church, trimmed bushes and did other maintenance work. After the work was done a luncheon was held for everyone to attend. A great day of fellowship was had by all.

Carla Gasser | President

## Lodge 271

ORLAND PARK, IL

### ByzanTEEN Yard Sale

This year's Lodge 271 ByzanTEEN Yard sale was held on Friday & Saturday, June 17 & 18 at Annunciation Byzantine Catholic Church. Donations from parishioners were collected for weeks prior to the event. Donations included lots of kid's games and toys, seasonal decorations, crafts and household items. The yard sale also serves

many of the elderly in our parish as it allows them to downsize their households with little effort while also helping the youth. The event was a great success with a slow but steady flow of traffic on both Friday and Saturday despite the weather we had on both days. Thanks again to Cathy Baranko for helping organize the event.

Vicki Blidy | Vice President



The many treasures found at the ByzanTEEN Yard sale.



## Lodge 319

FLUSHING, MI

### Ukraine Fundraiser Dinner

On May 18, 2022 St. Michael Byzantine Church held a Knights of Columbus Ukraine Humanitarian Fundraiser dinner. The Fraternal Grant from the GCU helped purchase the food for the 388 people who were served pierogies, sausage & sauerkraut, haluski, cucumber salad and nut roll for dessert. Lodge 319 members and Knights of Columbus members cooked and served at the event. With great community support and discipleship from St. Michael Church, the event raised over \$6,000.00 for Ukraine.

Pat Chartier | President



## Lodge 351

INDIANA, PA

### Walking Decathlon 2022

The Indiana County Walking Decathlon 2022 started the year out with in-person events. Lodge 351 requested a \$200 Fraternal Grant to help out with prizes to be awarded to participants at the end of the event. To receive a prize walkers were required to participate in at least one event. This year there were a variety of options beginning with the Hot Chocolate Walk at Blue Spruce Park in February. Some of the other unique walks were – A Walk Through the Lens, led by local photographers; the Jim Nance Walk (a local famed athlete); Scavenger Hunt Bingo in White’s Woods; A

Virtual Indiana County Walks Day and ending with Nature Palooza 2022. All of the walks were new to this year’s decathlon. The Jimmy Stewart Birthday Walk was held on Friday, May 20. It began at the Jimmy Stewart Museum and was led by the museum’s curator. For Jimmy Stewart fans this was a wonderful walk back in time. Since the pandemic, the Indiana County Decathlon Committee has developed quite a few self-guided walks, which can be found on the Indiana County Walking Decathlon Facebook page: Indiana County Walking Decathlon. Lodge 351 encourages anyone who travels



Indiana County Walking Decathlon: Josh Krug (Deputy Director of Planning Indiana County) and Barb Hauge (Program Manager of Indiana County WalkWorks).

to Indiana County to check out these self-guided walks, which are located all throughout Indiana County.



Kvitka Kadar, Katie Little, Vasyl Kadar, Terri Cook, Ulia Kadar and Stryker Little at helping Hands Day.

### Helping Hands Day

Lodge 351 was on hand for Helping Hands Day at St. Jude Byzantine Catholic Church. Father Vasyl Kadar, his wife Kvitka and children Vasyl and Ulia also helped to plant and water flowers on the church grounds. Helping Hands this year was held after Divine Liturgy on Wednesday, June 1, 2022. It was a beautiful sunny day and those who attended Divine Liturgy were on hand to help including Katie & Stryker Little, Terri & Mitch Cook, John Kowalski and Patty Yamrick. The hose caused a little bit of an issue when Father Kadar turned it on. Over the winter months the nozzle developed small cracks unseen by the human eye and when Father turned it on the water sprayed in all directions. It made for a lighthearted and fun filled morning and provided some respite from the hot sun. Some additional work still needs to be completed including weeding, repairs to the church sign and St. Jude statue, and additional work on the hillside—with God’s help this will all be accomplished.

### Miner’s Memorial Update

Members of Lodge 351 are continuing to work with Ernest Borough community members to develop the Miner’s Memorial in Ernest, PA. Work will be completed through a grant from Indiana County Planning and Development to do the basic landscaping and install sidewalks. The park is located at the site of the form R & P Coal Mine Office. It was demolished in April and the site will be developed. There is much work to be done and fundraising has started. Lodge members will also be assisting with a Trash and Treasure Sale that will be held at St. Jude Church in Ernest, PA on August 20, 2022.

Patty Yamrick | Fraternal Director



The Old Mine Office site is making progress.

## Greater Hazleton Regional Lodge (GHRL)

HAZLETON, PA

The three H's: Hazy, Hot & Humid have been with us for the past few days, and in NE PA this is a rarity, but we should enjoy the summer weather, it does not last too long. The next time an article is written, we will be getting ready for fall splendor.

### Welcoming Melissa Cohen

The GHRL would like to welcome Melissa Cohen, the new GCU Corporate Community Events Coordinator for the northeastern section of the state. A few people got to meet her at Byzantine Day at Knoebels Park and also at the annual Holupki Open. If you know of any events that you would like planned, please let me know and I will contact Melissa to give her some ideas. I have been working with her for the past 2 months and she has a lot of great interest in the area and is looking forward to planning some events. Congratulations and welcome aboard.



Eugene and Sviatoslav (John) Hardil with their Hershey Kisses bowl at the Helping Hands Day.



Agnes Rohrbach with CEO of Meals on Wheels of Greater Hazleton Anita Mastellar.

### Keeping Busy

The activities for the area have been few due to COVID-19 but were very rewarding. Byzantine Day at Knoebels Park was held on Sunday, June 12; Helping Hands Day at Holy Annunciation Monastery was Saturday, June 18 and a June calendar fundraiser for Meals on Wheels of Greater Hazleton was also completed. The calendar fund raiser was a huge success and Secretary Agnes Rohrbach presented a check to the CEO of the organization Anita Mastellar.

## UPCOMING GHRL EVENTS

### Hay Ride

**Sunday, October 16  
1 PM**

Thomas Farms, Drums, PA

Contact Agnes Rohrbach 570-454-4869

### Fall Helping Hands Day at Holy Annunciation Monastery

**Saturday, October 29  
9 AM**

Sugarloaf, PA

Contact Agnes Rohrbach 570-454-4869

### November Calendar Fundraiser

**Details to come**

### St. Nicholas Dinner

**Sunday, December 4  
1 PM**

Capriotti's, McAdoo, PA

Contact Agnes Rohrbach 570-454-4869

### Joseph Durkay Memorial Holupki Open

After a 2 year absence, the 43<sup>rd</sup> annual Joseph Durkay Memorial Holupki Open at White Birch Golf Course took place on Saturday, July 9 and was attended by 71 golfers. We wish the new owner of the course, Randy Kurzinsky the best of luck, he was very helpful with the tournament. **Keep July 15, 2023 open for next year's tournament.**

### Parish Expansion Matching Funds

A few of the parishes have had parish fund raisers and are very grateful for the GCU Parish Matching Funds. If you are interested in having a parish fund raiser to help with expenses, give Agnes a call to assist with the required paperwork.

### Congratulations

Congratulations are extended to Thomas Betterly as a National Scholarship winner from GHRL. He is studying at St. Joseph University majoring in Mathematics/Secondary Education. He will be honored at the GHRL annual St. Nicholas dinner.

### Notes:

As always, GHRL tries to keep everyone updated on upcoming events, if you are computer savvy, check out the GCU website for updates. If you have any questions, please feel free to call 570-454-4869 or if you have something of interest you can email: agnesr@ptd.net

Until next time, take care and May God Bless.

Agnes Rohrbach /Secretary & Activities Director

## Southeast Pittsburgh Regional Lodge (SEPRL)

CLAIRTON & MUNHALL, PA

### Mother's Day & Father's Day Treats

On Mother's Day, at Ascension Church in Clairton, moms were recognized with carnation corsages before Liturgy. On Father's Day the



Julia Tomkowitz, Fr. Ivan Mina and Kingston Bellavance.

### Congratulations

On May 15, 2022 Kingston Bellavance and Julia Tomkowitz were congratulated on their First Reconciliation and Solemn Communion. They each received a card and gift from SEPRL in remembrance of their special day.

## UPCOMING SEPRL EVENTS

### 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter Meeting

Sunday, September 11  
12 NOON

Ascension Church  
318 Park Avenue, Clairton, PA 15025

### Clothing/Coat/Sweater/Food Drive

More information will be announced soon

If questions contact Trish at 412-233-7814 or trishala2@earthlink.net

dads also received a carnation for their lapel and a delicious bonus, homemade #1 Dad cookies.

At St. John Cathedral Parish each of the females received a carnation and a chocolate chip cookie on Mother's Day weekend Mary 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> after each Liturgy.

The cookies worked so well that on Father's Day weekend after each Liturgy, the men of the parish each received a chocolate chip cookie from Fr. Andrew.

SEPRL purchased the treats for these two special occasions.

### Helping Hands Day

With the weather cooperating this May, St. John Cathedral's Helping Hands Day was a fun, successful day.

The day started with the cleaning of the beds at both the church and the parish house. Volunteers trimmed hedges, pulled weeds, added topsoil, planted flowers, used peat moss and sprayed to prevent deer and rabbits from consuming the hard work.

Thanks to all those who helped make the day a success, as well as SEPRL.

### Eyeglass Collection

During the month of May, SEPRL members held a community Matching Funds event, collecting over 100 pairs of used prescription eyeglasses and additional readers and sunglasses for the Clairton Lions Club. The Clairton Chapter is celebrating 100 years of service this year. Carolyn Nista and Trish Roberts were invited to attend their July meeting and do a short presentation on the GCU. At the end of the presentation, President Eugene Tognarine and Secretary Catherine Assenti accepted the boxes of glasses and a GCU Matching Funds check. The Lions expressed their gratitude for the donation which will be used for their ongoing support of local organizations in need.

Trish Roberts | President

Patty Bovee | Treasurer & Publicity Director



Debbie Clinton, Marge Sedor and Trish Roberts at Ascension Church on Mother's Day.



Fr. Andrew giving Father's Day treats at St. John Cathedral.



Carolyn Nista, Catherine Assenti, Eugene Tognarine and Trish Roberts delivering eyeglasses.

## Northwest Pittsburgh Regional Lodge (NWPRL)

MCKEES ROCKS & GIBSONIA, PA

### Easter Activities

Saint Andrew BC Church in Gibsonia celebrated Palm Sunday with a dinner, gift bags and egg hunt for the children. The gift bags and egg hunt were sponsored by NWPRL.

### Annual Flag Day

NWPRL marked this year's Flag Day with a short program. President Tina Burns welcomed members and guests reminding them to pray for those who serve our country and those who gave



Flag Day program.

their lives defending the freedom the Flag represents. Veteran members raised the Flag and at 7 PM the assembly joined in the "Pause for the Pledge" originated in 1980 at the Star-Spangled Banner Flag House in Baltimore. The program was followed by an ice cream social.

RoxAnn Savka | Vice President

Steve Puluka | Secretary-Treasurer



Norma Kacsur & Julia Mosko getting ready to cut the cake. Members socializing at the Flag Day event.

## Pittsburgh South Regional Lodge (PSRL)

UPPER ST. CLAIR, PA

### Flag Day Celebration

PSRL once again sponsored the Flag Day Ceremony at St. Gregory BC Church in Upper St. Clair, PA on Sunday, June 12. Lodge President John Tomko did the honors as Flag Bearer. The parish children participated by holding small flags and waving them during the prayer offered by Father Valerian Michlik, and during the congregational singing of "God Bless America." Immediately following, PSRL hosted an ice cream social in the church hall, featuring a make-your-own sundae bar.



Lodge President John Tomko and the parish children with their flags.



Women of Faith members Toni Wolfe and Susan Ruglovsky accept the GCU Matching Funds donation from Treasurer Michael Pillar (left) and President John Tomko.

### Light of Life Rescue Mission Donation

Following the Divine Liturgy on Sunday, July 17, representatives of St. Gregory's Women of Faith and officers of the GCU Pittsburgh South Regional Lodge presented a donation to support the Light of Life Rescue Mission – Northside Pittsburgh. Women of Faith host the weekly after-Liturgy coffee hour by providing breakfast pastries. Free will offerings placed in the basket support the good works of the Rescue Mission. Sincere thanks to the GCU Matching Funds Program and all who take part in supporting our parish outreach ministries.

Dorothy Mayernik | Secretary

## Lodge 625 Happenings

CONEMAUGH, PA

### Barbara Slavich Turns 100!

On June 11, 2022, Barbara Slavich, a lifetime member of Holy Trinity Parish and GCU Lodge 625 celebrated her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday. Father Robert Oravetz and several members of the parish visited Barbara at her home and presented her with a cake, card and several other gifts. Lodge 625 wishes Barbara many more blessed years!



Barbara Slavich with her son Jeff and daughter in law Ruth Slavich.



Jackson Heritage Festival, President Rita Hull and Kathy Russin.

### Annual Jackson Heritage Festival

On July 8-10, 2022, the lodge participated in the 17<sup>th</sup> annual Jackson Heritage Festival. The lodge's booth has been a staple at the event for the past 10 years. Once again the event proved very successful as the lodge sold out of pirohi, halupki, halushki and gobs before the event ended. This event receives GCU Community Matching Funds—thanks to the Home Office for making these funds available.

### Annual Lodge/Parish Picnic

The annual lodge/parish picnic at Holy Trinity Church will take place on Sunday, August 21, 2022, following the 11 AM Divine Liturgy. The lodge will be providing the main dish (hot dogs & hamburgers) and members are asked to bring a covered dish to share. This event is open to both lodge members and parishioners.

Members of Lodge 625 who would like to be added to our email list are asked to send an email to: [gculodge625@yahoo.com](mailto:gculodge625@yahoo.com) or you can like us on Facebook—GCU Lodge 625.

Georgia Lehman | Secretary-Treasurer

## UPCOMING LODGE 625 EVENTS

### 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter Meeting

Sunday, August 28

Following Liturgy (approx. 10:15 AM)

Discussion will be on the next major project, the Slavic Dinner slated for October 23.

Holy Trinity Church Hall,  
217 Fourth Street, Conemaugh, PA

### 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Slavic Dinner

Sunday, October 23, 2022

TAKE OUT ONLY

Time will be announced

Holy Trinity Church Hall,  
217 Fourth Street, Conemaugh, PA

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

Degree options are offered both online and on campus.

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- Dogmatics
- Liturgy
- Sacred Scripture

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## Lodge 999

PHOENIX, AZ

### Cleaning the Church for Easter

Ten people showed up to clean and decorate the Canopy for the Shroud at St. Stephen Byzantine Catholic Cathedral on April 2 in preparation for Holy Week and Easter.



Holy Week & Easter Church preparation.

### Father's Day Bowling

On June 19, lodge members and parishioners enjoyed an afternoon of bowling and fellowship to honor Father's Day. A light lunch was provided after the 10 AM Liturgy. Then it was onto bowling at Let It Roll Bowl & Entertainment located in Phoenix. All fathers bowled FREE. Everyone that attended had a great time.

Joanie Mahar | President



Father's Day bowling.



Andre House delivery.

### Baking For the Andre House

On April 15, 2022, 6 people assisted Lodge 999 with baking and packing over 600 cinnamon rolls. The rolls were then delivered to Andre House for the homeless for Easter Service brunch.

## UPCOMING LODGE 999 EVENT

### Laugh4Hope Family Comedy Night

Friday, September 2, 2022

7 PM

Virginia G. Piper Performing Arts Center at Xavier Preparatory College

4710 North 5th Street, Phoenix, AZ 85012

Benefits Life Choice Womens Clinic and it's mobile unit "The HOPE Mobile"

## Available



### Carpathian Cookery Cookbook

Having sold nearly 20,000 copies, the cookbook has entered its 20<sup>th</sup> printing and was requested by the Library of Congress to be in their ethnic cooking collection. The 330-page cookbook has a new look and features a protective plastic cover. The book includes sections on Christmas and Easter customs and recipes, traditional Rusyn and Slavic foods, other ethnic dishes, and many other tried-and-true recipes of St. John's parishioners. There is a variety of paska bread and kolachi (filled roll) recipes, as well as meatless dishes and Lenten recipes, suitable for the Great Fast, as well as the Pre-Christmas Fast. The cost of the cookbook is \$14.<sup>00</sup> plus \$5.<sup>00</sup> postage and handling (\$19.<sup>00</sup>). If ordering from Canada, please send a \$30.<sup>00</sup> U.S. Postal money order payable in U.S. dollars to reflect the difference in the exchange rate and postage cost. To order please send a check or money order to: Ethnic Craft Club, St. John Byzantine Catholic Church, 201 E. Main Street, Uniontown, PA 15401, call 724-438-1382 (M-F 9 AM-3 PM please leave a message) or email [carpathiancookery@gmail.com](mailto:carpathiancookery@gmail.com).

# For Your Information

## Events

### 88<sup>th</sup> Annual Pilgrimage at Mt. St. Macrina

**Friday, September 2, 2022  
through Monday, September 5, 2022**

Mt. St. Macrina  
500 West Main Street,  
Uniontown, PA 15401  
724-438-8644

More info & schedule of events appear on page 3.

### 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Classic Car Show

**Sunday, September 25  
Registration at 12 NOON  
Concludes at 4 PM—Rain or Shine  
\$10 Registration Fee**

St. John the Baptist Byzantine Catholic Church Parking Lot

185 E. Main Street, Uniontown, PA.

The first 150 cars will receive dash plaques and gifts.

More than 25 trophies, including one large trophy—"Father Vasyl's Favorite," will be awarded.

Classes include: 1900-1930, 1931-1950, 1951-1960, 1961-1965, 1966-1970, 1971-1976, 1977-1987, 1988-2001, Street Rod/Modified, Trucks 1959 and older and 1960-2001. No judging for 2003 and newer.

Arnie Amber-Oldies DJ, fundraisers, Byzantine Auction, and food will be featured. A golf cart shuttle will be available. Delicious foods, sandwiches, soups, halushki, baked goods and more.

Proceeds benefit St. John the Baptist Byzantine Church Maintenance Fund.

Contact info: 724-438-1382 (leave message)

### Charity Golf Scramble

**Monday, September 26, 2022**

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

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

**Benefits Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank**

Contact Molly Kullen at 1-800-722-4428 ext. 3927.

### Fall Helping Hands Day at Holy Annunciation Monastery, Sugarloaf, PA

**Saturday, October 29  
9 AM**

Contact Agnes Rohrbach at 570-454-4869

### 40<sup>th</sup> Annual Carpatho-Rusyn Celebration

**Sunday, October 30, 2022**

**Divine Liturgy 9 AM**

**12 NOON to 6 PM**

**FREE**

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

There will be ethnic foods such as holubki, pirohi, halushki, kolbasi and sauerkraut, soup, potato pancakes, pagach, baked goods and much more. This annual event will include musical entertainment throughout the day and a speaker and/or video presentation on Rusyn culture and customs (program subject to change). A display of artifacts, authentic costumes, photographs, and documents, and assistance with genealogical questions. There will be pysanky, iconography, wood burning, bobbin lace making, and folk-art demonstrations, music, church tours, children's activities (including egg art, cookie decorating, coloring/craft projects, and storytelling), crafts, parish cookbooks, raffles, videos, and much more. Handicapped accessible. Admission is free. For information call 724-438-1382 M-F 9 AM-3 PM, (leave message). NOTE: This year's event may be modified due to the uncertainty of COVID. Please check parish website <http://www.stjohn-baptist-byz-cath-uniontown.org/> or call 724-438-1382 (leave message) the week of the event for possible changes.

### 65<sup>th</sup> Annual St. Nicholas Charity Dinner

**Sunday, December 4**

**Moleben at 3 PM**

**Social Begins 4 PM**

**Dinner at 6 PM**

St. John the Baptist Cathedral Center  
Munhall, PA

Benefits the Byzantine Catholic Seminary

# GHRL Holupki Open

The “43<sup>rd</sup> Annual Joseph Durkay Memorial” Holupki Open was held on Saturday, July 9, 2022 at White Birch Golf Course.

A total of 71 golfers participated in the Captain & Crew Scramble Format. The group winners were: Low Scratch Round: Ed Keil, Scott & Andrew Schukraft and Gary Norconk. 1<sup>st</sup> Flight Low Net: 1<sup>st</sup> Place—Bob & Cindy Massa and Chris & Elyse Mohr; 2<sup>nd</sup> Place—Gavin Vercusky, Zeke Milot, Alex Kubishin & Pat Cervasio and 3<sup>rd</sup> Place—Tom Olex, Jim Kil-

gallen, Dameas Evanko & Noah Pappastek. 2<sup>nd</sup> Flight Low Net: 1<sup>st</sup> Place—Ron & Denise Navarre & Curt & Ann Arbogast; 2<sup>nd</sup> Place—Paul Dunda, Christina Schultz, Jerry Brace & Joe Zareck and 3<sup>rd</sup> Place—Thomas, Stephen & Howie Betterly & Mark Buchinsky. Closest to the pin winners were: Joe Schaffer, Ed Keil, Tom Olex (Hole in One), Gavin Vercusky & Zeke Milot. **Congrats to Tom**



The winners circle.

**Olex for scoring a hole in one!** Long Drive winners were: Chris Mohr, Mike Handzelek, John Chulock, P.J. Mikulca, Tom Chulock and Justine Bartholomew. The banquet was held at the grove hall and prize money and door prizes were awarded.

Thanks to the Home Office for the Fraternal Grant, the golf balls, hand sanitizers and sunscreen. GHRL also gave all the golfers a 25 oz aluminum water bottle.

Thanks to all the hole sponsors, Randy of White Birch Golf Course and the volunteers who are always ready to assist in any way they can.

Next year’s tournament will be held on **Saturday, July 15, 2023**—mark your calendars.

Agnes Rohrbach | Athletic Director



Some of the volunteers who helped at the Open: (seated) Ann Marie Betterly, Agnes Rohrbach, Judy Kringer and Roy Paisley. Back: Judy Betterly, GCU Community Events Coordinator Melissa Cohen and Rick Hoppey.



Steph Iacobelli, Mary Boyle, Lauren Navarre and Maria Poloni. Mary Boyle’s family were the founders of the Holupki Open.



# Deceased Members

(Lodge-Member-City-State)

- 164 John P. Almasy, Lewis Center, OH  
57 Elmer Andrachek, Monessen, PA  
8344 Norman Arendas, N. Huntingdon, PA  
NPRL George Ator, Pittsburgh, PA  
360 Robert Babich, San Diego, CA  
57 Onufry Babilya, Brownsville, PA  
8344 Helen M. Babyak, Cheswick, PA  
8344 Paul Balko, Belle Vernon, PA  
8344 Charles R. Barr, Martinsburg, PA  
8344 Robert L. Benner, Reading, PA  
8313 Bernice W. Benton, O'Fallon, IL  
93 Michael Berzansky, Ocean, NJ  
8344 Wanda Betts, Cherry Tree, PA  
164 John Bianco, Niles, OH  
CPRL John Basil Blich, Pittsburgh, PA  
8344 Jo Ann Blystone, Marion Center, PA  
945 Elizabeth Bodnar, Dunmore, PA  
144 Olga B. Bodnar, Longmont, CO  
8344 Dennis L. Bonace, Warren, PA  
8344 Janice Bonaparte, Freedom, PA  
697 Gloria Bonar, West Liberty, WV  
8344 Mary Bonati, Export, PA  
8327 Mary L. Braam, North Mankato, MN  
8304 William Brown,  
Huntington Beach, CA  
8344 Edward J. Buber, Port Carbon, PA  
8344 Sister Dorothy Bucko,  
Bethlehem, PA  
8344 Mae Corosu, Plumville, PA  
8344 Edwin A. Cowers, Warrington, PA  
8344 Richard A. Delaney, Warwick, PA  
17 Ilona Dolinish, Old Forge, PA  
8344 Gloria J. Elias, Irwin, PA  
8358 Jean A. Farris, Janesville, WI  
10 Karen Farris, Pittsburgh, PA  
182 Eugene Fera, Plymouth, PA  
8309 Elaine M. Florenz, Ocala, FL  
994 Mary Frankland, Beaver Falls, PA  
8344 Helen S. Gajewski, Butler, PA  
8344 Catherine Garrison,  
North Huntingdon, PA  
8344 James Gaul, East Stroudsburg, PA  
8344 Edward V. Gimeno, Staten Island, NY  
8344 Sophie Golitko, Kokomo, IN  
8304 Donald W. Graul, Santa Maria, CA  
8344 Rita Grillo, Warren, PA  
8304 George Guyer, Franklin, WI  
8358 Patti Hansburg, New Berlin, WI  
8302 Phyllis E. Harp, Phoenix, AZ  
8304 Ronald C. Harper, La Mirada, CA  
8358 John E. Harrell, Grayson, LA  
8360 Willie Harris, Jonesville, SC  
8344 William F. Harteis, Edensburg, PA  
66 Martha A. Heazeltine,  
Indianapolis, IN  
8344 Herman L. Helmich, Bethel Park, PA  
53 John Hemenetz, Wilkes Barre, PA  
8327 Janet S. Hird, Rochester, MN  
360 Shirley A. Hoffman, Campbell, OH  
8344 Thomas K. Iacovino,  
Jeffersonville, PA  
NPRL Joseph Ernest Jani, Coraopolis, PA  
302 Mildred Karaffa, Strongsville, OH  
8344 Robert Karl, Gibsonia, PA  
8344 Robert Kenney, Masontown, PA  
164 Cherie L. Kent, Youngstown, OH  
8344 Patricia M. King, Stroudsburg, PA  
8341 David Kirk, Girard, OH  
SPRL Stephen George Kish,  
Bethel Park, PA  
8344 Daniel F. Kitzko, New Castle, PA  
8324 Teddey W. Kitzmiller, Elkridge, MD  
8344 Wilhelmina Kleckner, Orwigsburg, PA  
8344 Denise R. Klink, Johnstown, PA  
8358 Stephen Knezevich, Milwaukee, WI  
8325 Alfred W. Kolakowski, Lancaster, MA  
8358 Olga S. Krubsack, Nekoosa, WI  
211 David Lazar, Simpson, PA  
8344 Mary Lehman, Pine Grove, PA  
999 Winton Lemoine, Tucson, AZ  
8357 Lenn Lengel, Marion Center, PA  
8344 Dennis Lesinski, New Brighton, PA  
8344 Arlene R. Leslie, Tarentum, PA  
8344 Robert Letso, Indiana, PA  
8344 Daniel Loya, Dawson, PA  
8344 Jeanne Lunsford, Walnutport, PA  
GHRL Eleanor Maguschak, Barnesville, PA  
8349 Gerhart Malunat, The Woodlands, TX  
8344 Jean E. Manning, Pittsburgh, PA  
8360 Joseph F. Martin, Conway, SC  
999 Gregory G. Maskarinec, Honolulu, HI  
CPRL John A. May, West Mifflin, PA  
10 Paula McBride, Freedom, PA  
8344 George McComb, Pittsburgh, PA  
8358 Thomas J. McHugh, Appleton, WI  
8344 Evelyn McKinley, Howard, PA  
8354 Jack McKosky, Powhatan, VA  
8344 Pamela McTiernan, Frackville, PA  
340 Suzanne Mercorelli,  
Scotch Plains, NJ  
62 Veronica Metro, Apollo, PA  
GHRL Thomas R. Miglas, Palmyra, VA  
8344 Barbara Mihalow, Aliquippa, PA  
8344 Andrew L. Miller, Knox, PA  
994 Irene Helen Miller, East Palestine, OH  
8344 Mary Milligan, Freedom, PA  
8344 Armelindo R. Molinaro,  
Pittsburgh, PA  
77 William Paul Moran, Elyria, OH  
GHRL John P. Moyer, Freeland, PA  
81 Ralph J. Nevala, Coal Center, PA  
8344 Marcella Olzak, Pittsburgh, PA  
401 Mary Palencsar, Pittsburgh, PA  
994 Freelon Pate, Fernandina Beach, FL  
302 Norma L. Pecsok, Eastlake, OH  
CPRL Thomas Perhach, South Park, PA  
8344 Samantha Persuitt, Aliquippa, PA  
8344 Emil Ploskina, Liberty Boro, PA  
8309 Steve Radi, Englewood, FL  
8304 Charles R. Reynolds,  
Rancho Mission Viejo, CA  
SPRL Mary Ricci, White Oak, PA  
302 Anna Rollison, Zanesville, OH  
8344 Lois A. Romett, Ebensburg, PA  
8344 Linda Rossick, Freedom, PA  
CPRL Barbara Marie Rushe, Whitaker, PA  
8344 Barbara Ann Ryan, Monroe Twp, NJ  
53 Elizabeth Scavone,  
Hanover Twp., PA

# Remembrances

## George R. Seech

- 8327 Anna M. Scheiber, Le Sueur, MN
- 994 Alex Sebastian, Beaver, PA
- 271 Thomas J. Sedor, Palos Hills, IL
- 18 J. Elizabeth Sember, Scottsdale, PA
- 77 Philip Senko, North Olmstead, OH
- 8344 Richard Stager, Pine Grove, PA
- 8344 John Stanisic, Trafford, PA
- 8358 Donald G. Steffes, St. Cloud, WI
- 8344 Valeria J. Steinmetz, Pittsburgh, PA
- 8344 Jean Stiles, Telford, PA
- 8327 Roy S. Stola, Shelly, MN
- 8357 Edward M. Straight, Middlebourne, WV
- 8309 Leah J. Sullivan, Webster, FL
- 8344 Thomas L. Tate, Birdsboro, PA
- 8344 Judith A. Thomas, Beaver, PA
- 235 Michael Tkac, Plainville, CT
- 66 Sylvia Tokach, Lake Station, IN
- 8354 Josephine M. Totterdale, Warrenton, VA
- 8344 Sue Turzanski, Bethlehem, PA
- 319 Andrew Vanchick, Detroit, MI
- 8344 Eufrasia Vello, Portage, PA
- 8358 Edward A. Vogt, Fond Du Lac, WI
- 8358 Dennis Wallintin, Beaver Dam, WI
- 8327 Donald R. Wang, Halstad, MN
- 8341 Dorothy L. Ward, Hanoverton, OH
- 8359 Emma R. Weatherford, Graham, NC
- GHRL Allen Welkie, Bethlehem, PA
- 8344 Abigail B. Wolf, Warren, PA
- 10 Rena Xillas, Ambridge, PA
- 92 Helen Yablonski, Blakely, PA
- CPRL Carolyn Yanchik, Pittsburgh, PA
- 8358 Frances E. Yelk, Poynette, WI
- 8344 Darrell E. Yutzy, Somerset, PA
- 8344 Judith A. Zahoran, Manor, PA
- 10 Elizabeth Zapko, Aliquippa, PA

George Richard Seech, 85, of Hopewell Township, PA, previously West Aliquippa, PA died peacefully on July 7, 2022 while enjoying nature with his wife.

George was born on October 12, 1936 in West Aliquippa, PA. Son of the late Andy & Mary (Mokranin) Seech. He is survived by his wife of 61 years, Martha (Ribnicky), daughter Christine Sack and husband Jake, son Timothy and wife Laura, and son Thomas. He is further survived by grandchildren Lukas, Timothy and Julie. He is also survived by his remaining sister, Mary Elizabeth Olack, and many nieces, nephews, step-grandchildren/great grandchildren, as well as many long-time friends. He is preceded in death by brothers, Andrew Thomas and David John.

He graduated from Aliquippa High School, class of 1955, and proudly served in the US Navy as an aviation electronics technician from 1957 to 1963, flying with AEW-12. He then worked as an electrician at J&L Steel Works and joined the Hopewell Volunteer Fire Department where he remained a lifetime member. George also designed and subcontracted his own family home in Hopewell, where his family still resides.

He was a member at Saint Mary Byzantine Catholic Church in Ambridge, PA, and was a previous member of Saint George Byzantine Catholic Church in Aliquippa, PA. He was a lifelong member of the GCU, serving as an officer of Lodge 10 for many years. George served as a delegate to numerous conventions, and accompanied his wife, Martha, to many GCU events at the national, district, and lodge levels while she served as a member of the Board of Directors for 38 years.

George spent every day trying to make his friends and family laugh, typically making himself laugh the hardest in the process. He enjoyed spending time in nature, as well as spending many, many years at his summer home in Erie, PA. He had a wide variety of interests and hobbies and always had a project that he was working on. Above all else, George loved his family and always wanted them close, even on the ordinary days—that's when he was the happiest.

The interment was private at the National Cemetery of the Alleghenies, Bridgeville, PA.

*GHRL—Greater Hazleton Regional Lodge*

*CPRL—Central Pittsburgh Regional Lodge*

*SPRL—Southeast Pittsburgh Regional Lodge*

*NPRL—Northwest Pittsburgh Regional Lodge*

*PSRL—Pittsburgh South Regional Lodge*



**SAVE THE  
DATE**

**Dog Walk Around Dano Drive**

*Sunday, September 25, 2022—1 PM to 3 PM*

Seven Oaks Country Club, Beaver PA

**Fall Charity Golf Scramble**

*Monday, September 26, 2022*

*10 AM Shotgun Start*

Seven Oaks Country Club, Beaver PA

**Fall Family Day at Maze Craze**

*Saturday, October 8, 2022—2 PM*

Maze Craze Corn Maze, New Springfield OH

**Axe Throwing and Escape Room Night**

*Friday, October 14, 2022—7 PM to 9 PM*

*Ace Axe Throwing, Homestead PA*

**Pittsburgh Steelers vs. New Orleans Saints NFL Game**

*Sunday, November 13, 2022—1 PM Kickoff*

Acrisure Stadium, Pittsburgh PA

**Holiday Pops**

*Saturday, December 17, 2022 - 8 PM*

Heinz Hall, Pittsburgh PA

*Dates and times are subject to change.  
Visit the GCU website [GCUusa.com](http://GCUusa.com) for details  
and ticket information for all of these events.*