

JUNE 2022

# GCU

MAGAZINE

## **Art & Photo Winners**

Page 4

*(cover artwork is from Scarlett Revilak,  
age 6 & under winner)*

## **GCU Scholarship Awardees**

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George N. Juba  
President  
CEO

# Appreciating Family & Friends

**A**s we all know, life certainly has many happy moments and certainly has many sad and challenging aspects as well. We were not offered a handbook when we were first born into this world that would guide us through life. We learn about life each and every day through mentors with the most notable influences coming from our parents, siblings, relatives, teachers, college professors, spouses, the pastor of our place of worship, our friends and everyday experiences as the list certainly can go on and on. Several books have been authored in assisting us in dealing with the challenges we are faced with that offer advice on the best ways to handle setbacks in our lives and how to be successful both personally and professionally. We must never forget also to call upon our spiritual relationship with our Lord to guide us through troubling times and give thanks and praise to Him for our happy moments and all that He has provided.

I am most grateful to have been born into such a wonderful family. My parents were my most important mentors as I give them great credit and appreciation for all they did for me through the years. They molded me into the person I am today. As they both have passed away, there is not one day that goes by that I do not think about them. As a youngster, I was most terrified about having to deal with the loss of my Mom and Dad. But in subtle ways, God prepared me to deal with this sorrow when the time came.

It can also be most difficult in dealing with the loss of family members and friends. Over the last two months I attended funerals for two of my aunts and two of my first cousins. Although the loss of a loved one or a friend is devastating, it is a time to celebrate their lives, the influence that they may have had on us and the many memories we share. I did enjoy getting caught up with family and friends I have not seen in a while. It is sad that the only time you may get together with family and friends is either at a wedding or funeral. Somehow, life gets in the way of keeping in touch, but I have pledged to attempt to stay in touch and not wait for a wedding or funeral to enjoy each other's company especially in today's world of technology. An email or text can mean a lot to someone you do not see on a regular basis letting them know you are thinking about them.

I participated in the GCU's Spring Classic Golf outing at Seven Oaks this past Monday. I had the chance to once

again be with my friends that I have not seen in a while. We all pledged to keep in touch and play more golf over the summer. I invite you to listen to the song and music video on You Tube "That's What Friends Are For" featuring Dionne Warwick, Stevie Wonder, Elton John and Gladys Knight. It should maybe have been titled "That's What Family and Friends Are For"!

Staying with "the theme," condolences are extended to the family of Mr. Roger Embley and his wife Marci Embley as he passed away on April 24. Roger served on the Board of Directors for 4 terms as he was initially elected by the delegates of the 38<sup>th</sup> Convention of the GCU held in 2000 in Louisville, KY and retired in 2016 at the 42<sup>nd</sup> Convention held in Atlantic City, NJ. I will truly miss him as he kept in touch with me even after he had retired from the Board.

As the GCU is a Fraternal Benefit Society that offers life insurance and annuity products, unfortunately we deal with the loss of loved ones on a regular basis. A part of GCU's Mission is "**Protecting Families**" and that is exactly what the GCU does in providing financial assistance to the families of deceased members in time of need. GCU will continue to do so as the organization continues to flourish—our financials continue to be very strong reflecting increases in both life and annuity premium for the first quarter of 2022. Assets continue to increase and stand close to \$2.5 billion. Surplus also grew by \$6.8 million and now totals \$216 million while net income after refunds and capital gains/losses proved to exceed last year's first quarter and budget for 2022 through March 31, 2022 totaling \$ 8.8 million, an increase of \$2 million over the same period of 2021. Our Chief Financial Officer, Tim Demetres, will be presenting a complete financial report and commentary for the period ending June 30, 2022 in the August issue of the *GCU Magazine*. Our sincere appreciation to our members and agents as it is because of loyal membership and agent base that has enabled the GCU to experience strong financial results. Thank you!!

As I announced in the past issues of the *Magazine*, I will be presenting some "tidbits" of historical information in each of my articles, from our humble beginnings noting a multitude of accomplishments and challenging events that occurred that were successfully managed in celebration of the GCU's 130<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

CONTINUED

### Did You Know? Our Humble Beginnings

- In December of 1910, a Gymnastic Branch of the GCU was established whereby members of the Branch were trained in gymnastics and demonstrated their talents before the delegates of the GCU's 12<sup>th</sup> Convention held in Homestead, Pennsylvania in 1912.
  - The Delegates of the 12<sup>th</sup> Convention adopted Bylaws for the Gymnastic Branch as John Gocs was appointed as the GCU's first Physical Culture Director.
  - As of June 12<sup>th</sup>, 1912, the GCU had 805 active lodges, 39,473 members and \$ 332,857.25 in assets.
  - Three branches of the GCU were active in the early 1900's, the General Branch, the Gymnastic Branch (Sokol Branch) and the Juvenile Branch.
  - A children's newspaper was published monthly, "Children's World" that provided articles about historic figures from their parents' homeland, a sermonette appropriately geared to the issues and dilemmas most children face during their pre-teen years and a column devoted to some educational topics.
  - In 1913 an embezzlement of GCU funds occurred conducted by a GCU member and a GCU Officer that began in 1906 as an estimate of \$11,000 was stolen.
- In 1913, uniforms were chosen for the members of the Juvenile Branch that were patterned after the American military cadet and blazoned with the Uhro-Rusin emblem.
  - The GCU provided funding to families, individuals and children during coal miner strikes.
  - A Jubilee Celebration was conducted in Homestead, Pennsylvania on July 23, 1917.
  - In 1918, GCU Members were solicited to pay \$.10 per month in support of the war effort and were encouraged to purchase war bonds rather than hiding their money under blankets.
  - At the GCU's 1916 Convention a resolution was passed to purchase a 230 acre farm just outside Scranton, Pennsylvania in Elmhurst, Pennsylvania for the purpose of building an orphanage that was named the St. Nicholas Orphanage to care for and provide a home and an education in religious and a national atmosphere to orphans of deceased GCU members. The care of the children and young adults was assigned to the Sisters of Saint Basil the Great in June of 1923.

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

CONTINUED

## ESTATE PLANNING

# Lessons in the Law



Atty. John J. Urban

## Does Everyone Need a Trust?

**R**ecently, I received in the mail an invitation to "another" Trust Seminar. I seem to receive one of these invitations every week. However, the latest one caught my eye and I was not too happy to see the quote "Everyone Needs a Trust." Does everyone need a Trust? The correct answer is no.

The first question I ask my clients who think they may need a Trust is "Why do you think you need a Trust?" After I hear their answer, this then leads into a meaningful dialogue of what my clients want to achieve and whether or not a Trust is needed for their estate plan.

Trusts are an important estate planning documents and I can say that everyone does not need a Trust. You need to have this discussion with an attorney who concentrates in the estate planning area. I would caution you to be careful of any attorney that tells you that everyone needs a Trust. There are many kinds of Trusts available for estate planning and one size does not fit all cases.

I strongly recommend that you don't follow the ads and the hype to set up a Trust. Talk with your attorney and decide together if you need a Trust and what kind of Trust you may need. You may find out that all you need is a well drafted Will instead of a Trust.



Mitred Archbishop  
John S. Kachuba  
GCU Spiritual Advisor

# Pentecost

**A**re you worried about your job, your financial future, putting up with the everyday conflicts of your life? How is evil overcome in our life and in the world? Take heart! We don't have to do this alone. That is what the Feast of Pentecost is all about.

Pentecost literally means "the fiftieth day." In the Old Testament it was a harvest festival coming fifty days after the beginning of the grain harvest at Passover. It celebrated the giving of the Law at Sinai and the covenant made with the Chosen People.

The most important Pentecost for Christians was the one that occurred fifty days after Jesus' resurrection, when the Holy Spirit entered the lives of the believers in the Upper Room in Jerusalem. Since that time, Pentecost has been an important day in Christian worship. It is often

referred to as "the birthday of the Church."

As we end the celebration of the Feast of our Lord's Glorious Resurrection, we begin the great Feast of Pentecost. For Christians Pentecost is the celebration of the Holy Spirit entering the life of the Church. On the day of Pentecost, the Holy Spirit anoints the Apostles as preachers of the Good News of Christ. On this day the Church was born, and the Apostles received the gifts of the Holy Spirit. What are these gifts? St. Paul in his letter to the Galatians tells us that the gifts of the Holy Spirit are numerous and great: "But the fruit of the Spirit is: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control." (Gal. 5:22-23) The Holy Spirit has also descended upon us personally with his gifts in the holy Mysteries (Sacraments) of Chrismation and Baptism; and has anointed us and made us temples of the Holy Spirit. St. Paul reminds us of this great truth, and tells us to live accordingly: "Do you not know that your members are the temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own? For you have been bought at a great price. Glorify God and bear Him in your body." (1 Cor. 6:19-20)

It is the Holy Spirit who is our comforter and who brings and keeps us together in the body of Christ on earth – his Church. It is the Holy Spirit who gives us the power to show Christ to everyone we meet. 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. Of course, there are bad times all around today. But Pentecost, the entrance of the Holy Spirit into our life and into the world is the miracle that lets us live the divine life of Christ now, here on earth.

What have we done with the gifts that were given to us by the Holy Spirit? It varies from person to person. Some have utilized the gift, some have put it on hold, while others have driven the Holy Spirit away by their actions. Everything depends on us and how we exercise our free will.

We pray, even when we are going through difficult times: "Heavenly King, Comforter, Spirit of Truth, everywhere present and filling all things, Treasury of Blessings and Giver of Life, come and dwell within us, cleanse us of all stain, and save our souls, O Gracious One."

## PRESIDENT CEO REPORT

As I am a former resident of the town of Dunmore, Pennsylvania, a contingent borough to the City of Scranton, I am very familiar with the St. Nicholas Orphanage property. In fact, when I visit my cousins, George & Joseph Dunda, who reside in Elmhurst, I pass the property each time. In my Mom's youth, she was a housekeeper for several clergy as one of her assignments was in a home located on the property as well that is also still standing. The orphanage is also visible from the number ten hole at Elmhurst Country Club. For players who never played the hole before, they would ask where to aim their tee shot. The answer was always "at the steeple of the orphanage"! So again, some great memories of my Mom, family and times that I will always cherish.

So, in closing, my best wishes to you and your family for a safe, fun and relaxing summer! Enjoy the spring and summer landscape that God has provided!

Please continue to pray for the citizens of Ukraine that God will continue to comfort them and provide relief from this atrocity and will hopefully end sooner than later!

**Glory To Ukraine!**  
**GOODNESS IS GREAT!**

*George*

This year's theme was **"Invested in My Favorite Vacation Spot!"**

# 2022 Art Contest Winners



First Place Age 6 & Under  
Scarlett Revilak, Munhall, PA SEPRL



First Place Age 7-9  
Michaela Revilak, Munhall, PA SEPRL

*My favorite vacation spot is the beach in Alabama. It was the first time my kite flew so high.*

*My favorite vacation spot is the Jefferson Memorial during the blossom season in Washington, DC.*



First Place Age 10-12  
Danielle Parsons, Jefferson Hills, PA NWPRL

*"Sunset Boardwalk" at Myrtle Beach, SC. The beautiful long boardwalk leading up to the ocean.*



Second Place Age 6 & Under  
Genevieve Revilak,  
West Mifflin, PA L 8344

*My favorite vacation spot is watching the dolphins under the moonbeam in Alabama.*



Second Place Age 7-9  
Vivienne Pentz, Somerset, NJ Lodge 254

*My favorite vacation was "Sunrise at the Lake".*



Second Place Age 10-12  
Vid Mares, Bridgeville, PA NWPRL

*This is the Grand Tetons. I love the mountains, you can hike, swim in lakes, climb & it's a great atmosphere.*

This year's theme was  
"Invested in My Favorite Vacation Spot!"

# 2022 Photo Contest Winners



First Place Age 13-21  
Cheyenne Williams  
Craig, CO Lodge 144

*I live an hour from my school, each day is the most beautiful, sometimes funny, vacation that I get to live everyday. I always see cool things, for example, this huge bull moose up close and personal!!*



*Lake Tahoe-located in the Sierra Nevada Mountains, bordering California & Nevada. My wife Jessica and I love to vacation at Lake Tahoe.*



First Place Age 22+  
Austin Chamberlain  
Lisbon, OH  
Lodge 994



*Galveston, TX-  
A beautiful sunset  
while in Galveston.*

Second Place Age 13-21  
Alex Tidwell, Houston, TX  
Lodge 268



*Las Vegas, NV-  
Fantastic fun and  
entertainment.*

Second Place Age 22+  
Linda Oslick, Pittsburgh, PA  
CPRL

# 2022 Scholarships



**Basil M. Wahal**  
Fraternal-Communications  
Director

The GCU National Scholarship Committee met via Zoom on Tuesday, April 26 and announced the awarding of 26 National Scholarships (22—\$2,000.<sup>00</sup> and 4—\$1,500.<sup>00</sup>) together with 38 Academic Performance Scholarships (36—\$1,500.<sup>00</sup> and 2—\$1,000.<sup>00</sup>). Awardees appear over the next four pages.

Scholarship Committee members include: GCU National Directors Dorothy Foran-chairperson, Melanie Basl, Barbara Kushner and David Oleksa; Patricia Dietz of Lodge 151, Judith A. Gula of CPRL, Jack Mendenhall of Lodge 10 and Connie Strittmatter of Lodge 93.

GCU National Scholarship recipients must maintain a minimum 2.75 GPA and submit a collage showing them volunteering within their community focusing on “Community Service and You.” First place winner of the John Katana Memorial Collage Award is Jessica Johnson of L8354, she will receive an additional \$500.<sup>00</sup> award for her winning collage. A second place \$250.<sup>00</sup> award was awarded to Julia Bates of L20. Six of the national awardees this year will receive an additional \$500.<sup>00</sup> award for maintaining a 4.0 GPA: Jessica Bates of L20; Abigail Kutchma of NWPRL; Gabrielle Kutchma of NWPRL; Leah LaMont of L8344; Allison Meko of L62 and Ava Stone of L945.

Four APS Scholarship recipients have continued to maintain a cumulative 4.0 GPA and will receive an additional award of \$500.<sup>00</sup>: Michael Ballow III of L625; Sarah Eperesi of NWPRL; Hunter Gray of L8344; Rebecca Harhai of SEPRL; and Heather Witherow of L62.

Congratulations to all of the scholarship recipients!

## 4.0 GPA Winners



**Abigail Kutchma**  
Cranberry Twp., PA—NWPRL  
Gannon University  
Major: Physician Assistant



**Gabrielle Kutchma**  
Cranberry Twp., PA—NWPRL  
Clarion University of PA  
Major: Nutrition and Fitness



**Leah LaMont**  
Gilbert, AZ—L8344  
Grand Canyon University  
Major: Government with an  
Emphasis in Legal Studies



**Allison Meko**  
Punxutawney, PA—L62  
Pennsylvania State University  
Major: Marketing/Business



**Ava Stone**  
Villanova, PA—L945  
Bucknell University  
Major: Markets, Innovation and Design

## The John Katana Memorial Volunteer Collage Winners

**Jessica Johnson - 1<sup>st</sup>**  
Powhatan, VA—L8354  
William and Mary  
Major: Psychology



**Julia Bates - 2<sup>nd</sup>**  
**4.0 GPA Winner**  
Morrisville, PA—L20  
Gwynedd Mercy University  
Major: Early Childhood  
Educ./Spec. Educ.





**Gregory Batko**  
 Venetia, PA—CPRL  
 Embry-Riddle Aero-  
 nautical University  
 Major: Aeronautical  
 Science



**Thomas Betterly**  
 Hazleton, PA—GHRL  
 St. Joseph University  
 Major: Mathematics/  
 Secondary Education



**Matthew Bonaparte**  
 Prosper, Texas—L10  
 Collin College  
 Major: Business



**Anna Casey**  
 Wilmette, IL—L665  
 University of Iowa  
 Major: Psychology



**Samantha DeProspo**  
 South Park Twp., PA—  
 CPRL  
 California University  
 of PA  
 Major: Environmental  
 Science



**Adam Fabin**  
 Berryville, VA—NWPRL  
 Virginia Polytechnic  
 Institute and State Uni-  
 versity of Virginia  
 Major: Accounting



**Grace Gartley**  
 Aliquippa, PA—L10  
 Grove City College  
 Major: Elementary and  
 Middle Level Education



**Jacob Gartley**  
 Aliquippa, PA—L10  
 Penn State University  
 Major: Business  
 Management



**Eleanor Goodman**  
 Johnston, IA—L8344  
 University of Iowa  
 Major: Business  
 Analytics / Marketing  
 & Pre-Law



**Nicholas Harhai**  
 West Homestead,  
 PA—SEPRL  
 Gannon University  
 Major: Psychology



**Lauren Harris**  
 Pittsburgh, PA—NWPRL  
 Grove City College  
 Major: Psychology



**Aiden Kutchma**  
 Cranberry Twp., PA—  
 NWPRL  
 Gannon University  
 Major: Physician  
 Assistant



**Riley Presloid**  
 Punxsutawney, PA  
 NWPRL  
 Indiana University  
 of PA  
 Major: Early  
 Childhood Education



**Olivia Roberts**  
 Punxsutawney, PA  
 NWPRL  
 University of Colora-  
 do Boulder  
 Major: Communica-  
 tions



**Kylan Rosnick**  
 Pittsburgh, PA—CPRL  
 Chatham Univeristy  
 Major: Political  
 Science

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**Justin Scally**  
Moon Twp., PA–NWPRL  
University of Pgh.  
Johnstown  
Major: Finance



**Gavin Skwirut**  
Latrobe, PA–L8344  
Baldwin Wallace  
University  
Major: Finance and  
Digital Marketing



**Joseph Slusark**  
Duryea, PA–L17  
West Chester  
University  
Major: Marketing



**Nicholas Wilson**  
Baden, PA–L10  
Penn State Behrend  
Major: Mechanical  
Engineering

# Academic Performance Scholarships

## 4.0 GPA Awardees

**Michael Ballow III**  
Harrison City, PA–  
L625  
University of Florida  
Major: Pharmaceuti-  
cal Sciences

**Sarah Eperesi**  
Mars, PA–NWPRL  
Slippery Rock Uni-  
versity  
Major: Marketing

**Rebecca Harhai**  
West Homestead,  
PA–SEPRL  
Ohio University  
Major: Communi-  
cations

**Heather Witherow**  
Reynoldsville, PA–L62  
Pennsylvania State  
University  
Major: Secondary  
Education Social  
Studies

**Melanie Bates**  
Morrisville, PA–L20  
La Salle University  
Major: Chemistry & Biology

**Brandon Bonaparte**  
Prosper, TX–L10  
Arizona State University  
Major: Sports Journalism

**Andrew Borsh**  
La Crescenta, CA–SEPRL  
Arizona State University  
Major: Sports Business and  
Journalism

**Danielle DeProspero**  
South Park, PA–CPRL  
The Ohio State University  
Major: Architecture

**Nikolas Dowell**  
Hubbard, OH–L360  
Youngstown State University  
Major: Political Science

**Jennifer Durica**  
Johnstown, PA–L625  
Penn State University  
Major: Kinesiology

**Maile Erwin**  
Quakertown, PA–GHRL  
Temple University  
Major: Health Professions

**Sarah Foran**  
Vestal, NY–L47  
Georgia Southern University  
Major: Doctorate of Psychology  
Program

**Sarah Fullard**  
Pittsburgh, PA–NWPRL  
California University of Pennsyl-  
vania  
Major: Elementary/Special Edu-  
cation

**Hunter Gray**  
Pittsburgh, PA–L8344  
Thiel College  
Major: Mathematics and Secondary  
Education

**David Gulibon**  
Souderton, PA–L321  
University of South Carolina  
Major: Public Health BS

**Rachael Harris**  
Pittsburgh, PA–NWPRL  
Allegheny College  
Major: Computer Science

**Sarah Kumpon**  
Endwell, NY–L47  
Niagara University  
Major: Biochemistry/Actuarial  
Science

**Emma Lalley**  
Buffalo, NY–L151  
University of Notre Dame  
Major: Business Technology

**Veronica Martonik**  
Conyngham, PA–GHRL  
Elizabethtown College  
Major: Occupational Therapy

CONTINUED

**Taylor Anne Mihalow**

Patton, PA–L93  
 Saint Vincent College  
 Major: Health Science

**Mary Nagy**

Beaver, PA–L994  
 California University of Pennsylvania  
 Major: Associates of Applied Science Physical Therapist Assistant

**Ryan Pajer**

Plainview, NY–L151  
 Quinnipiac University  
 Major: Civil Engineering

**Sarah Pavlick**

Brentwood, PA–CPRL  
 University of Pittsburgh  
 Major: Chemical Engineering

**Emma Planitzer**

Venetia, PA–CPRL  
 University of Pittsburgh  
 Major: MBA - Katz School of Business

**Jacob Rau**

Flushing, MI–L644  
 Michigan State University  
 Major: Kinesiology

**Ryan Roberts**

Punxsutawney, PA–NWPRL  
 Penn State University  
 Major: Business Management

**Jason Roman**

Baden, PA–L8344  
 University of Notre Dame  
 Major: Accounting

**Star Rosnick**

Pittsburgh, PA–CPRL  
 Washington and Jefferson College  
 Major: Economics & Spanish

**Zachary Rossi**

New Prague, MN–L258  
 Penn State Harrisburg  
 Major: Kinesiology

**Alexandria Shirilla**

Brunswick, OH–L302  
 University of Pikeville Kentucky  
 College of Osteopathic Medicine  
 Major: Doctorate of Osteopathic Medicine

**Kassandra Smith-Green**

Oakland, MD–CPRL  
 Frostburg State University  
 Major: Education

**John Soyka**

Ebensburg, PA–L401  
 Dickinson College  
 Major: Political Science

**Caroline Susco**

Clifton, VA–L8354  
 Virginia Tech  
 Major: Human Nutrition, Food, and Exercise

**Nathan Taggart**

Aliquippa, PA–L697  
 Kent State University  
 Major: Nursing

**Michael Tomchak**

Coraopolis, PA–NWPRL  
 Robert Morris University  
 Major: Cyber Security

**Brooke Weitzel**

Chagrin Falls, OH–L302  
 DePaul University  
 Major: Health Sciences

**Caitlin Weitzel**

Chagrin Falls, OH–L302  
 Ohio University  
 Major: Business Administration

**Mary Theresa Wilson**

Baden, PA–L10  
 University of South Carolina  
 Major: Accounting and Sport & Entertainment Management

# 2022 Athletic Scholarships

The GCU Fraternal/Athletic Committee, consisting of five GCU National Directors, is pleased to announce the winners of the 2022 Athletic Scholarship. The awardees were selected from 9 applicants for this year's awards. Marlow Soyka of Ebensburg, PA (Lodge 401) & Noble Dresser of Clairton, PA (SEPR) will each receive a \$2,000.00 scholarship to assist with their first-year expenses of post-secondary education.

Marlow excelled in cross country and basketball during her high school career including 4 district champion teams, 2 state runner up teams and a state championship

team in cross country. She spent countless hours volunteering with the Healthy Kids Running Series sharing her love of running with elementary age students.

Noble was a standout midfielder on his soccer team and exhibited leadership on and off the field. He volunteers regularly with his Boy Scout Troop 1843 improving his community and local business & church structures.

Will you be the 2023 Athletic Scholarship awardee? Online applications for high school senior athletes will be accepted at [www.GCUusa.com](http://www.GCUusa.com) beginning on October 1, 2022.



Marlow Soyka



Noble Dresser



## GCU GoGive! Benefits Veterans

**Fremont, WI.** Leon Maierhafer used the GCU Go-Give! program to raise funds for the Organization of Overseas Veterans. Leon and his team of volunteers purchased meats and accompaniments with the Go-Give! seed money to sell at Chico's Boat Landing in Fremont, WI. Grilled brats and cheeseburgers were sold to fishermen as they passed through the area. The sale netted over \$2,100.00 for the veterans.



## COMMUNITY

# Giving

## St. Elias Byzantine Catholic Church Parish Expansion



**Munhall, PA.** The parishioners of St. Elias BC Church would like to express their gratitude to the GCU for the Matching Funds in conjunction with their Lenten Kitchen Fundraiser. GCU member Barbara Wahal, presented the check to parishioner Robert Monahan.

**Mary Caryl Planiczki**

## St. Mary Byzantine Catholic Church Parish Expansion

**Windber, PA.** St. Mary Byzantine Catholic Church held its annual Easter Bake sale on April 9, 2022. The bakers made over 320 paska. There were also nut, poppyseed and apricot rolls baked and sold.

The paska and rolls are sold throughout the entire community. Many of the parishioners place the paskas baked by the church volunteers in their baskets for the blessing of Paschal foods after the Divine Liturgy on Easter weekend.

**Thresa Valko**



Paskas can be seen in many of the baskets while being blessed. At right: volunteer workers wrap rolls before being sold.

## St. John Byzantine Catholic Church Parish Expansion

**Scranton, PA.** St. John BCC made pirohi on March 16, 23 & 30, 2022. The work was spread over 3 days due to the availability of volunteers. The parish made 216 dozen of cheese & potato pirohi. This is the favorite flavor of the church's customers. An average of 13 volunteers came each day to make the dough, prepare the filling and pinch the pirohi. The pirohi were then flash frozen. Each day the volunteers were treated to a light lunch. The pirohi were sold for \$9.00 per dozen, with some donating their change to the project as well.

The parish is extremely grateful for the assistance of friends from other parishes who make this effort possible. The workdays were full of love,



A few of the many volunteers who worked to make dough, prepare filling and pinch the pirohi.

laughter and camaraderie, while raising necessary funds for the upkeep at St. John. Thank you to all those who volunteered, to those who purchased

the pirohi and the GCU for providing Matching Funds for the project.

**Joanie Roskos**



Volunteers who gave their time to make the fish fry a success.

## Church of the Resurrection Parish Expansion

**Monroeville, PA.** The Lenten Fish Fry at Church of the Resurrection was a great success again this year despite bad weather and other challenges. Volunteers included GCU members, parish members and students from Plum, Gateway and Penn Hills High Schools under the direction of Fr. Don Bolls. This led to a great time for all the people that supported the project to benefit Resurrection Church.

**Thomas E. Oslick, Sr.**

## St. Joseph Byzantine Catholic Church Parish Expansion

**Toronto, OH.** St. Joseph BC Church held its annual Lenten Potica & Paska sale for 2022. The event started March 1 and ended April 30, 2022. Proceeds were small this season due to some challenges, hopefully the parish will make this up at the Fall Potica Sale.

**Nancy Doerr, OCDS**

## GCU Members Complete Pittsburgh Half Marathon

Congratulations to CPRL members GCU National Director Melanie Basl, Dr. John Kutzfara, Jackie Kutzfara and Anthony DeProspero who ran in the Pittsburgh Marathon on Sunday, May 1, 2022. Even though the weather was less than ideal, they were all able to complete the half marathon in respectable times as family cheered them on.

God bless them and grant them health as they continue to participate in future marathons.



Anthony DeProspero, Jackie Kutzfara, Melanie Basl and Dr. John Kutzfara.

## Ronald Milam Graduates From University of Mount Union

Lode 302 member Ronald Milam, son of Julie Martin and grandson of Bonnie & Tom Ciresi, graduated magna cum laude from the University of Mount Union on May 14, 2022. He earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Criminal Justice and a Bachelor of Science degree in Psychology.

Ronnie is pursuing a career as a fireman. He has been on the active roster at the Lexington Volunteer Fire Department for the last two years and received his volunteer certification this past September. While earning his degrees at Mount Union, he has been attending EMT classes at the Mahoning County Career Technical School in Canfield, OH. He is currently doing ambulance ride time to gain field experience and patient contacts. He will be taking a national registry test in June to receive EMT certification. He will also begin attending the professional fire academy at Uniontown Fire Department for 7 weeks. Before fulfilling all requirements to become a fireman, he will take a year of paramedic classes. Although he still has another year plus of schooling, his future looks bright.



Ronald Milam

## GCU Staff and Members Participate in the Beaver Volunteer Fire Department 5K Walk/Run



Molly Kullen, Jennifer Inman, Amy Douglas with granddaughter Kendra, Gina Spickerman, Tom Woolaway, Sharon Smilek, Stacy Culler and Brenda Powers.

## Lodge 151 Congratulates Members Emma Lalley and Paul Mamay



Emma Lalley graduates from Notre Dame with grandmother Marge Pajer in attendance.



Paul Mamay graduates from the Coast Guard Academy. With him is his sister Lauren, mom Suzanne, dad Paul and brother Nicholas.

Emma Lalley, daughter of Nancy & Mark Lalley and sister of Jack graduated from the University of Notre Dame in South Bend, IN. On May 15 Emma received her BS from the Mendoza Business School. She worked very hard and accomplished her goals. She will be working in NYC at

West Monroe as a consultant.

Paul Mamay Jr., son of Suzanne & Paul Mamay and brother of Lauren and Nicholas graduated from the Coast Guard Academy in New London CT on May 18, 2022. Paul received a BS in Civil Engineering as well as his commission as an officer in the US Coast Guard. Vice President Kamala Harris presented each graduate with their diploma and commission papers. Over the past 200 weeks Paul has made some wonderful lifelong friends and had an impressive lacrosse career. His next stop will be at Newport, RI on the cutter USCG Campbell.

Both Emma and Paul are grandchildren of Lodge 151 President Marge Pajer, who is proud of their accomplishments.



Emma with her brother Jack, mom Nancy and dad Mark.



Paul with sister Lauren, grandmother Marge and brother Nicholas.



Paul Mamay with Vice President Kamala Harris at his graduation from the Coast Guard Academy.

# District 7

## UPCOMING DISTRICT 7 EVENT

### Annual Golf Outing

Saturday, August 27, 2022

Shotgun Scramble Format

Time will be announced

Green Pond Country Club  
3604 Farmersville Road, Bethlehem, PA 18020

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

## GCU Home Office Hours of Operation

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

The Call Center (855.306.0607) operates Monday thru Thursday from 8:30 AM to 7 PM EDT and Fridays 8:30 AM to 5 PM EDT.

The Home Office will be closed on Monday, July 4 in observance of Independence Day. Regular business hours will resume on Tuesday, July 5.



# District 15

**No-Tap Bowling Tournament** | The District 15 Adult No-Tap Bowling Tournament was held on April 9. There was a great turn out, including several bowlers from CPRL. In the absence of an athletic director, Kathy, Dan & Pam Kapaldo along with Laura Seech helped to make sure the event was enjoyable for everyone. A fantastic buffet dinner at Seven Oaks followed the tournament. Thank you also to Jackie at Center Lanes in Aliquippa, PA and Ellen Policastro at Seven Oaks and her staff.

The winners at the event were: Women's Actual: 1<sup>st</sup> Melanie Basl; 2<sup>nd</sup> Rose Bero and 3<sup>rd</sup> Katie Kuzma Frederick. Women's Handicap: 1<sup>st</sup> Pat Kutzfara; 2<sup>nd</sup> Judy Kotula and 3<sup>rd</sup> Barb Wahal. Men's Actual: 1<sup>st</sup> John Niskach; 2<sup>nd</sup> Greg Maranowski and 3<sup>rd</sup> Charlie Houser. Men's Handicap: 1<sup>st</sup> Chris Barca; 2<sup>nd</sup> Brian Bartko and 3<sup>rd</sup> Tim Seech.

Chris Barca, John Niskach and Greg Maranowski each bowled a 300 game. Katie Kuzma Frederick bowled two 300 games! Our worst bowlers, Brian Stengel and yours truly, received a wiffle bat & ball and badminton rackets & birdie respectively. Bowling is just not our game!



Pat & John Kutzfara, Barb Wahal and GCU National Director Melanie Basl at the No-Tap Tournament.

**Senior Award** | George Thomas "Tommy" Charnie received the District 15 Senior Award during a presentation at Seven Oaks on April 9. Tommy is the son of Marilyn Charnie, president of Lodge 697 in Weirton, WV. The Charnie family attends St. Mary Byzantine Catholic Church in Weirton. Academic success and effort; church and community service; and a well-articulated plan to pursue his/her goals are all factors taken into consideration by the D15 Senior Award Committee. Tommy Charnie more than met all criteria. A senior at Brook High School with a 4.25

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Tommy Charnie

GPA, Tommy is ranked 17 out of 221 classmates. He is a member of the National Honor Society; National Technical Honor Society and the Brooks Honor Society. A high school athlete, Tommy lettered in Cross Country & Track.

Most impressive however, is Tommy's work outside the classroom. He volunteers with St. Mary's pirohi project to help his church, and he has raised funds to benefit people

facing food insecurity in Weirton. In 2020 Tommy raised \$2,000.00 for Community Bread Basket through the GCU GoGive! Program. In 2021 Tommy raised \$11,000.00 for Community Bread Basket and a local food pantry. In his spare time, he runs his own seasonal grass cutting business! Tommy will attend Kent State University's Imani Campus where he has been accepted into their architecture program. We congratulate Tommy Charnie, and wish him the very best in all his future endeavors.

Elizabeth Harbist | President



District President Elizabeth Harbist presenting Tommy Charnie with the 2022 senior award.

## UPCOMING DISTRICT 15 EVENTS

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### Seven Oaks Pool Party

**Late July or early August**

The new pool facility promises to be an awesome venue for party-goers of all ages. Once a date is finalized, information will be sent to district members via email and will also be available on the district's Facebook page.

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

Contact Elizabeth Harbist at 412-913-1446

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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 at 412-951-8331, Elizabeth at 412-913-1446 or Janet at 724-287-0689.

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### Annual Golf Outing

**Saturday, October 1, 2022**

**12 NOON start with dinner to follow**

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

Please note the change to **SATURDAY** for this event. More information, applications and hole sponsorships will be available beginning in July.

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**

**More details to come**

Contact Elizabeth Harbist at 412-913-1446

**SAVE the DATES!** Hope you'll save these dates and join the district for one or more of these events.

# Lodge News



Greg Embley, Stephanie Hennessey and Rick Crum.

## Lodge 15

TRENTON, NJ

### Cemetery Clean Up

On Saturday, May 21, 2022, members of Lodge 15 joined their fellow parishioners on the grounds of the three cemeteries belonging to The Assumption of the Virgin Mary Byzantine Catholic Church, to participate in the clean-up of all three properties. Ten volunteers removed debris and trash from the cemeteries. After three hours of manual labor resulting in 42 bags of trash and debris, the task was completed.

Greg Embley | President



Lodge member cleaning up cemetery.

## Lodge 62

PUNXSUTAWNEY, PA

### Lenten Pirohi Making

Lodge 62, parishioners and a few friends from Ss. Peter & Paul Byzantine Catholic Church were hard at work during the Lenten season making pirohi. They enjoyed each other's fellowship throughout the weeks. The proceeds from the sale along with GCU Matching Funds were used to repair and seal the roads to the church cemetery.



Lodge members and parishioners work together making pirohi.

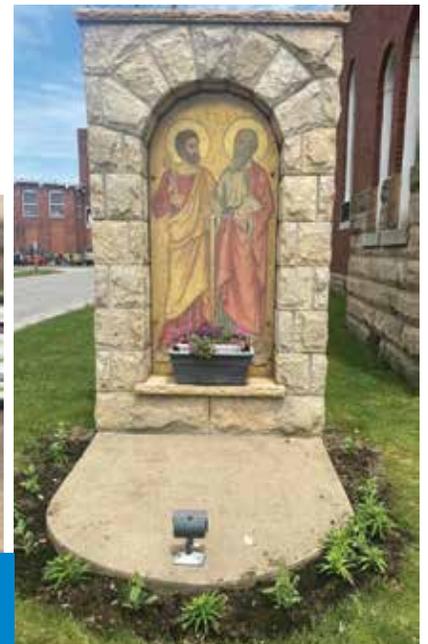
### Helping Hands Day

Members of Ss. Peter & Paul Byzantine Catholic Church and Lodge 62 used the Helping Hands Fraternal Grant they received from GCU for cleaning up around the church and planting flowers. The funds were very much appreciated.

Julie Brocious | Secretary



Beautiful flowers that were placed at Ss. Peter & Paul Church on Helping Hands Day.



## Lodge 69

POTTSTOWN, PA

### Easter Egg Hunt for School of Religion

Lodge 69 held their annual Easter Egg Hunt for the School of Religion students after a two year absence due to the pandemic.

The high school students hid the eggs in plain sight for the younger students to find.

Everyone enjoyed the activity.



School of Religion group after the Egg Hunt.

### Easter Rolland Paska Bake

Everyone seemed to enjoy the nut and raspberry rolls that were baked at St. John BCC for the Easter holidays. Paska was also baked in April—in time to go into the baskets to be blessed on Easter Sunday.

Nancy Harding | Secretary



Liz Schrack, James Parkenski and Frank Yanchik showing off the finished product.



Annette Schweitzer and Cheryl Chiarello rolling dough.



Tending the ovens.



Searching for hidden eggs.



Easter Egg Hunt participants.

## Lodge 77

LORAIN, OH

### Easter Egg Hunt

On Thomas Sunday, April, 24, 2022, GCU Lodge 77 sponsored and assisted with the annual Easter Egg Hunt at St. Nicholas Parish. It was a beautiful day for everyone to be outside, enjoying each other's company while the children collected candy filled eggs.

Anne Dillon | Treasurer

## Lodge 81

UNIONTOWN, PA

Lodge 81 continue their community and parish activities throughout the spring.

### Community

An afternoon of recollection was held on March 27 at St. Mary Nativity Church in New Salem, PA. Joan Bridges, Bernadette Karoffa, Bonnie Balas and other GCU members attended to hear the presentation by Father Christopher Burke and partake of a delicious meal.

Lodge 81 sponsored an Easter Collection for the local Salvation Army. The items included: Easter candy, basket items, and nonperishable food items. On April 12 Marcia Harrer and Bonnie Balas delivered the items as well as a check for \$310.<sup>00</sup>.

On May 11 the “2022 Fayette County Interscholastic Reading Competition” was held in the St. John Church Social Hall. Local schools competed after having read prescribed books through the school year. Stephen Petruska arranged and set up the event and Gerry Dorobish participated as a judge.



Bonnie Balas, Marcia Harrer with Vance Harrer and a Salvation Army representative.



Stephen Petruska with library coworkers.



One of the many vendors at the Eggstravaganza.

### Parish

Sunday, April 3 marked the return of the 15<sup>th</sup> Egg Eggstravaganza which proved to be an overwhelming success. Many egg artists demonstrated, displayed and sold their unique forms of egg art. Among other participants were vendors such as Mt. St. Macrina Religious Gift Shop; St. John Ethnic Craft Club and St. John Kitchen. Parishioners and Lodge 81 members donated baked goods and many raffle items which greatly enhanced the income. Lodge 81 members: Marcia & Rich Harrer, Gerry Dorobish, Joan Bridges, Bonnie Balas, Mark Jesko, Julie Pillar, Stephen Petruska and James Mihalko all helped with the event. Father Vasyl Symyon, pastor, presented church tours. Julie Pillar created a special collection box for the Ukraine Relief Fund which yielded over \$200.<sup>00</sup>. The inspiration for the collection was realizing that a “Master Pysanky Artist,” Oleg Kiraschuk, from Kosmach, Zakarpattija, is on active duty serving on the front lines. Dee Ruckert, a participating egg artist and retired teacher, had a special table for sales to benefit 22 children from a Kyiv orphanage with \$320.<sup>00</sup> in donations collected for this cause. In response to Metropolitan William’s request to assist the Greek Catholic Churches in Zakarpattija, St. John parish family raised \$12,000.<sup>00</sup>. Many thanks to GCU for providing a fraternal grant and giveaways.

Throughout the Lenten season Lodge 81 members helped prepare for Pascha. Stephen Petruska cantored many services, Bonnie Balas embroidered basket covers and helped ECF students make their own basket covers, Cathy Phillips sold Colebrook candy, and Joan Bridges & Marcia Harrer helped with long roll sales.

On Palm Sunday an April birthday celebration was held. Gloria Schifko (L 57) and Kay Balas, Bonnie’s mother celebrating her 92<sup>nd</sup> birthday, were among those recognized for their April birthdays.

Lodge 81 sponsored the end-of-year Pizza & Bowling Party for ECF Students on Sunday, May 1. The event was held at Yough Lanes in



Bonnie Balas with basket cover she made. Bonnie with her mother Kay who celebrated her 92<sup>nd</sup> birthday in April.

CONTINUED

## Lodge 81 CONTINUED

Connellsville, PA. All who attended enjoyed the afternoon of family fun. Gerry Dorobish created a pictorial display of all the events in which the students engaged through the year. Marcia Harrer is planning summer get togethers for the ECF students.

On Sunday, May 8, a Mothers' Day breakfast was prepared by the men of the parish. Among those helping were GCU members Richard Harrer and Dennis Schifko. May birthdays were also recognized. Although Helen Ponzurick was unable to attend, she was recognized for her 95<sup>th</sup> birthday. God grant her many more years. St. John Social Ministry provided the decorations and the favors for the event.

A "Cemetery Clean Up Day" was held on Saturday May 14 at the St. John Parish Cemetery in Hopwood, PA. Parishioners and lodge members removed tattered flags from military graves and cleared & hauled overgrown brush from the fence which surrounds the cemetery.



Stephen Petruska cleaning debris at cemetery.

The second quarterly meeting was held on Sunday, May 15 after the Divine Liturgy. Availability to help at the annual Helping Hands Day at Mount St. Macrina on June 4 and plans for the upcoming Flag Day event to be held on Sunday, June 12 were discussed. Donations were proposed and accepted for use of a St. John meeting room and for materials needed for the Helping Hands Day. A summer food drive is being considered to benefit the Salvation Army. The next quarterly meeting is slated for Sunday, August 7 after the Divine Liturgy.

Bonnie Balas | VP and Publicity Coordinator

## Lodge 93

NORTHERN CAMBRIA, PA

### St. Anne's BCC Parish Expansion

April 19 was the Pizza & Hoagie Sale for St. Anne's BCC in Clymer PA. This easy dinner plan was sponsored by Lodge 93 and was the second "give a cook a break" fundraiser from Marianna's.

The success of this event is due to buyers having the choice of 9 varieties of 14 inch hoagies and 3 choices of pizza with all toppings vacuum sealed. In addition, the taste is outstanding and all products are guaranteed fresh. The funds generated from this event are used to assist with church expenses. Thank you is extended to the GCU Board of Directors for their continued support of these events.



Workers with stacked Italian hoagies.

### St. John's BCC Parish Matching Funds

When spring is knocking at the door signaling fresh starts and renewed energy it reminds us that basket raffles are ready to happen. Lodge 93 and the parishioners of St. John's BCC gathered up ribbons, baskets, containers and shopped for goodies to fill the themed baskets for the walk-through Spring Basket Raffle. This fundraiser was held April 30 and May 1 in the social hall. It was also the first fundraiser experience for newly appointed priest Fr. Roman Andriitso. All baskets were sanitized and wrapped. Winners did not need to be present for the drawing. Curbside pickup was arranged for winners to collect their baskets. A big thank you is extended to the workers who volunteered to deliver baskets. Homemade pies that were boxed, sealed and ready for dessert were available with other takeout items. Thank you to the GCU for the Matching Funds program and enabling St. John BCC to generate financial success.

Connie Strittmatter | Secretary-Treasurer & Fraternal Director



President Walter Rogal, parishioner Sandy Ference and Secretary-Treasurer Connie Strittmatter showing some of the items from the basket raffle.

## Lodge 151

NEW YORK, NY

### Easter Basket Blessing

Easter was celebrated at St. Andrew BC Church with a beautiful Liturgy that was attended by many parishioners. After Liturgy, Fr. Nicholas Daddona blessed the many baskets that were prepared by parishioners. It was great to see the Kanza family, Anna & Brian Greco and their sons Daniel & Michael.



Blessing baskets on Easter Sunday at St. Andrew.

### Congratulations

Lodge 151 President Marge Pajer would like to congratulate her 2 grandchildren on their graduation in May, Emma Lalley and Paul Mamay. Their stories and photos appear on page 13.



Glory to Ukraine.

### Sviachenne

“Christ is Risen! Indeed He is Risen!”

How glorious and eggstraordinary to have a parish community that works so diligently at keeping the tradition of the Sviachenne, (Communal Easter Meal), for over 60 years!

Pastor Fr. Zbigniew Brzezicki, blessed and presented Easter eggs; the tables were replete with horseradish, kielbasa and babka. Prayers and blessings then ushered in a race to the buffet table for the delicious Easter meal.

A special blessing was hosting 11 Ukrainian guests who were forced to leave Ukraine and come to America. They have been embraced by the parish family—adults, children and a new altar server.

Our heartfelt thanks to the GCU for its generosity!

Glory to Ukraine!

### 90<sup>th</sup> Jubilee of the Sisterhood

On Sunday, May 15, 2022, The Sisterhood of the Myrrhbearing Women at the Russian Orthodox Greek Catholic Church of Brooklyn, NY gathered with the faithful to celebrate the 90<sup>th</sup> Jubilee of the Sisterhood. It was an important milestone to honor the Sisters for their constant faithfulness, devotion and love of Christ’s Church.

A wonderful luncheon was prepared by the Sisters and Father Wiaczeslaw—traditional red eggs, kielbasa, ham, babka, porkchops, potatoes, green salad with cucumbers & sour cream and a beautiful Black Forest celebratory cake for dessert. Father Wiaczeslaw offered a toast to the Sisterhood with everyone singing, “Mnogaya Lyeta.” Guests received a Matroishka egg that symbolized the generations of women who are the Sisterhood—



Trustees and Ladies Guild of BVM Church.

grandmothers, mothers, aunts and godmothers.

Everyone participated in a “paper Easter Egg Hunt” and went home with a raffle prize compliments of the Sisterhood.

All the sisters received certificates in heartfelt



Celebrating the 90<sup>th</sup> Jubilee—certificates and gifts honoring Father Wiaczeslaw, Matushka Elzbieta, and all the Sisters.

thanksgiving for all they do as the Sisterhood and a palekh box of the Theotokos and Christ. A Sister painted beautiful portraits of the church that she so generously gave to each Sister! Congratulatory speeches were given by all the church’s organization officers.

## UPCOMING LODGE 151 EVENT

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

Sunday, September 18, 2022

With a special event

Time and location will be announced

Contact Marge at 516-307-1016 for more information.

CONTINUED

## Lodge 151 CONTINUED

In 1932, Matushka Millitza Buketoff established the Sisterhood to serve the church and provide financial help through many of its fundraising activities, so necessary during that time. It is a mission that all the Sisters continue today—generously giving of their time, talent and treasure! Each sister, according to her talents, gives in her inimitable way to help the parish—catering church events, decorating, cleaning, maintaining & cleaning church cloths, fundraising, decorating the Plascenitsza, working to preserve the richness of the Orthodox traditions and helping to make the church a loving Orthodox Church family. Whatever one sister does, she does on behalf of all! Father Wiaczeslaw, is the source of guidance, strength, and love for all. He has made the groups stewardship possible, always involved with all aspects of work with the Sisterhood. The sisters are forever thankful for all his prayers and all he does!

This is the day the Lord has made. We rejoiced and we're glad in it!



Members enjoying Comedy Night.

### Latkes and Laughs Comedy Night

The audience arrived from Bayside, Flushing, Hempstead, Laurelton to enjoy The Wilshire Comedy Group from Atlantic City, Staten Island and Forest Hills. GCU Lodge 151 celebrated together on May 21, 2022 at a performance of “Latkes and Laughs.” The lodge family relished an evening of dinner and comedy.

“Let your heart be merry” (Judges 19:6) ...and attendees did!

**Marge Pajer** | President

**Christine Hulak** | Treasurer

**Ann Kandrato** | President of the Sisterhood of the Myrrhbearing Women & GCU Lodge 151 Member



Judy Knight, Dave & Karen Muransky, Bill Campy, Francie & Dan Kovachik, Diana Danko, Ray Williams, Jackie Leson, Sharon MacDonald, Alice White and Barb Fleet.

## Lodge 164

YOUNGSTOWN, OH

### Mother's Day Bingo

On Sunday, May 8, 2022 at St. Mary BCC Assumption Social Center, 138 bingo players attended and supported the Mother's Day fundraiser. Twelve lodge members and four non-members worked the event. Each player received a free bingo strip and a GCU kitchen measuring spoon giveaway. Twenty bingo games were played along with numerous tear-off games. Bingo sheet sales and tear-off games produced income of \$6,210.<sup>00</sup>. Food and beverages sales were \$370.<sup>00</sup>. Payouts of prizes totaled \$3,800.<sup>00</sup>. Other expenses were food costs of \$20.<sup>00</sup> and security officer-\$100.<sup>00</sup>. Net profits after expenses totaled \$2,660.<sup>00</sup> and with GCU Community Matching Funds total donations were \$5,320.<sup>00</sup>. Funds were divided equally among three local charities – The Rescue Mission of the Mahoning Valley; Our Community Kitchen and the Veterans Outreach—Trumbull & Mahoning Counties.

Thanks to the GCU for their support along with all those who made this fundraiser a success this year.

**Dr. Tom Sopkovich** | President



Bingo office workers—Fr. Richard Lambert (left), manager Don Danko with Dr. Sopkovich standing in back.

Lodge 182  
KINGSTON, PA

Annual Easter Egg Hunt

The annual Lodge 182 Easter Egg Hunt was held at St. Mary Byzantine Catholic Church on Palm Sunday, April 10, 2022 following the Divine Liturgy and the Easter Basket raffle. Although the weather was a little chilly and rainy, it by no

means intimidated the egg hunters. Each participant braved the weather to find their 7 eggs (one in each color hidden for each child) and then turned them in for their age specific prizes. Hot chocolate and coffee (for the adults) were the hits on this day. Cookies,



Easter egg hunt.

donuts, fruits and candy along with some other goodies were also enjoyed by the children and their

families. Many thanks to all who helped make this event successful.

Laure Marcin | Secretary



Easter egg hunt participants.



Adults who helped with the Easter egg hunt.

## GCU Student Debt Program Continues in 2022

The GCU Board of Directors realizes that many young members complete college with significant Student Debt and has approved continuation of the GCU Student Debt Program. The budget established will provide up to 50 awards in 2022. The program assists GCU members with a portion of their Student Debt. The program is open to both new applicants and to those that previously received less than the maximum four annual awards.

Members that qualify are eligible for four annual awards of \$1,000.<sup>00</sup> each. Members are required to apply annually to receive the award. Requirements include: GCU membership as of 12/31/2021 with a permanent life insurance certificate or annuity with a current balance of at least \$2,000.<sup>00</sup>. Proof of at least two years of payments on the student loan(s) and volunteer involvement will also be required. Complete details, program requirements and application are available at: [www.GCUusa.com](http://www.GCUusa.com)—Members—Member Benefits—Student Debt.

All applications must be completed online. Once membership requirements have been verified, the applicant will receive an email with the additional requirements. Awards are presented on a first come, first served basis, based on the date when all required information has been received and not initial application date.



## Lodge 254

HILLSBOROUGH, NJ

### Great Fast Celebration

St. Mary Byzantine Catholic Church in Hillsborough, NJ and Lodge 254 were busy with many wonderful events and activities. Father James Badeaux is pastor.

Sunday of Orthodoxy, the first Sunday of the Great Fast, was celebrated on Sunday, March 6, 2022. In attendance were many of the ECF children celebrating this Icon Sunday.

At the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy, the ECF children carried beautiful blessed icons in a procession around the church. Afterwards the children received blessings from Father Jim.



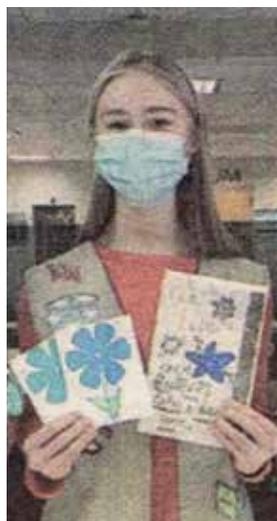
At the end of the Divine Liturgy, ECF students stand holding their icons after the Icon Procession with Father Jim, pastor of St. Mary BC Church, Hillsborough, NJ.



ECF students along with Father Jim on the last day of the ECF program.

### Member Doing Good

Tatiana Hlinka, a GCU member and Hunterdon, NJ Senior Girl Scout, participated in a recent National Girl Scout Project. Scouts wrote more than 100 get-well cards, letters and gifts of inspiration for patients at Hunterdon Medical Center, NJ. Tatiana is the daughter of Mikulas & Katarina Hlinka and granddaughter of Vasil & Hanka Hlinka.



Tatiana Hlinka

### End of Year ECF Program

The ECF Sunday School Program is very successful with student and parent participation.

At the end of the ECF school year program on Sunday, May 1, 2022, many of the students and families gathered together and celebrated with a delicious breakfast in the parish banquet center.

GCU Lodge 254 provided the delightful and generous breakfast for the lodge members and the parish families. The quarterly lodge meeting took place after the breakfast in the Fellowship Church Hall.

Elizabeth Pentz | Publicity

## UPCOMING LODGE 254 EVENT

### Bus Trip to Sight & Sound Theatre

Thursday, July 28, 2022

**\$135 GCU Members**

**\$150 Non-Members**

**\$100 for Children age 12 & under**

**Bus leaves St. Mary's at 7:30 AM (sharp) and will return around 8 PM**

After the show we will be dining at Shady Maple Smorgasbord in East Earl, PA

Sight & Sound Theatre  
300 Hartman Bridge Road, Ronks, PA 17572

For reservations or more info: Anna & Charlie Bazaral at 908-534-9784 or Elias Zareva at 908-647-3514



Helping Hands Day.

## Lodge 258 HERMITAGE, PA

### Fall Helping Hands

On November 4, 2021, the lodge wrapped up two years worth of Helping Hands work by lighting a bonfire! For two years, GCU members and parish volunteers trimmed trees, shrubs & bushes and picked up fallen branches caused by storms and created a large burn pile. Finally, the weather cooperated and the “grounds crew” was able to light the bonfire with all of the clippings and branches, just four days before the parish’s Patron Feast Day! Special thanks to Rich Will, Randy Tomko, Norbert Vasil, Bill Dzuricsko and Alyssa & Mike Vasil for all of their help in beautifying the church grounds. For the “grounds crew,” helping hands is a year round effort!!

### Founders’ Day Celebration

After the Saturday, February 12 and Sunday, February 13, 2022 Divine Liturgies, Lodge 258 celebrated GCU Founders’ Day by treating the parishioners of St. Michael Church to “grab and go” heart shaped cookies, as well as GCU ice scrapers, informational pamphlets and calendars. Happy 130<sup>th</sup> Birthday and Valentine’s Day! Fr. Kevin Marks is the pastor of St. Michael.



Founders’ Day.



Volunteers helping with the Ethnic food sale.



### Check Presentations

Recently a check was presented to Fr. Kevin Marks for the St. Michael Building and Maintenance Fund. The check represents the proceeds from the Lodge’s December 2021 Matching Funds Project. Lodge members (left to right) Alyssa Vasil, Lucy Mallick, Joan Walker and Bill Dzuricsko were on hand for the presentation along with Michael Vasil, who took the photos! Altar servers from the Gibbons and Siracki families along with Lector John Welch also joined the photo after the Sunday, February 13, Divine Liturgy.

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Building & maintenance fund check presentation.

### Lenten Ethnic Food Sale

On Sunday, March 6, parishioners and members of “SMART” gathered in the kitchen of the St. Michael Social Center to prepare cabbage, onions and noodles for halushki for the Lenten Ethnic Food Sale which was held on Wednesday, March 9. Lots of cabbage was cut to help make over 100 quarts of halushki! For months small groups of dedicated volunteers met and prepared many dozens of potato & cheese as well as sauerkraut pirohi to get ready for this annual food sale. Special thanks to all of the parishioners who put in a lot of time and effort to help raise funds for the parish!

## Lodge 258 CONTINUED

On Sunday, March 20, after the 9 AM Veneration of the Cross Divine Liturgy, GCU Lodge 258 presented a check to Fr. Kevin Marks for \$500.00 for Aid to Ukraine. The check will be added to all of the donations given to St. Michael Church and sent to the Eparchy of Mukachevo in Ukraine. We pray for peace in Ukraine.

Bill Dzuricko | President



Lucy Mallick, Joan Walker, Fr. Kevin Marks and Bill Dzuricko.

## Lodge 271

ORLAND, PARK, IL

### Sports and Spirituality!

GCU Lodge 271 held its annual Super Bowl and March Madness fundraisers to start the 2022 calendar year. The events not only raised funds for the church but also resulted in a mix of community fun, jesting and even a little spirituality.



### Annual Easter Egg Hunt

Looks like Spring, so once again it was time for the Annual Easter Egg Hunt on St. Thomas Day at Annunciation Byzantine Church on April 24.

Even the rain couldn't stop the children hunting for eggs. Lodge President Ken Krown, heads the event and explains the simple rules, "Once you collect your eggs line up and receive more goodies!" It is always a good time here at Annunciation Byzantine Church. Until next year, see you then.

Vicki Blidy | Vice President

### *The Jelly Bean Prayer*

**RED** is for the blood HE gave,

**GREEN** is for the grass HE made.

**YELLOW** is for the sun so bright,

**ORANGE** is for the edge of the night.

**BLACK** is for the sins we made,

**WHITE** is for the grace HE gave.

**PURPLE** is HIS hours of sorrow,

**PINK** is for our new tomorrow.

A bag full of jelly beans

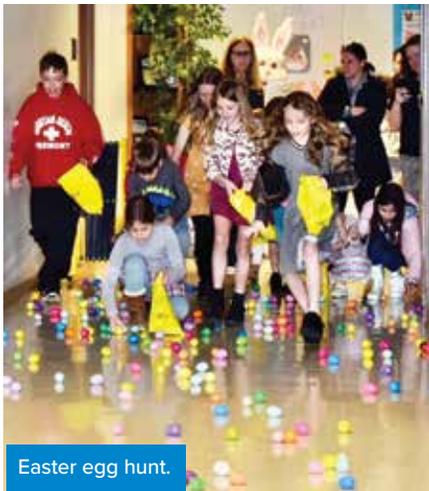
COLORFUL & SWEET,

Is a prayer, is a promise,

Is an Easter Treat!



Ken Krown with the kids before the Easter egg hunt.



Easter egg hunt.

## Lodge 302 BRECKSVILLE, OH

### Easter Egg Hunt

Lodge 302 sponsors an Easter Egg Hunt every Spring. This year, over 20 children participated in collecting eggs filled with candy. Many prizes were given as well as an appearance by the Easter Bunny.



Members showing off their artwork.

### Painting With a Twist

This event has been so popular over the years that the lodge sponsored a Springtime themed event in late April. A smaller crowd than usual, but still a fun evening for the ladies who painted flowers with a patriotic twist.

### Memorial Day Service and Luncheon

Every Memorial Day weekend, the lodge honors those members who died and served this country. After Liturgy a Panachida and flag raising took place with two GCU lodge members raising the stars and stripes while local teens played Taps. Afterwards, all were invited to a light luncheon prepared by lodge members.

Christine Bratnick | Publicity Director



Veterans in attendance at the Memorial Day Service.



Laurel Tombazzi, chair of the Eastern European Congress of Ohio presents a check to Bishop Milan Lach, SJ, of the Eparchy of Parma. Proceeds from a "Humanitarian Aid for the Peoples of Ukraine" 50/50 fundraiser took place during Ohio's Eastern European Month celebration on Saturday, April 30. The check will be sent to Bishop Nil Lushchak, Apostolic Administrator of the Eparchy of Mukachevo, Ukraine. Laurel is a lifelong member of GCU Lodge 302.

## UPCOMING LODGE 302 EVENT

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

Sunday, August 7, 2022

Following the 10 AM Liturgy

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

## Lodge 321

BRADENVILLE, PA

St. Mary BC Church recently held two very special events.

### Solemn Reception for Blake Shetler

The first was the solemn reception of the Eucharist by Blake Shetler, son of Kelli Shetler. His teacher was Mrs. Helen Kennedy and pastor is Rev. Joseph Borodach. GCU Lodge 321 presented Blake with a gold Byzantine Cross on a chain to mark this momentous occasion. Congratulations to Blake and his family!



Parishioner Ellie McDonald, altar server Alex Chappel, Blake, and his sister, Devin Shetler. At right: Teacher Mrs. Helen Kennedy, Blake Shetler and Fr. Borodach.



### Honoring Mothers and Fathers

Instead of just celebrating Mother's Day, GCU Lodge 321 honored mothers and fathers on May 7 and 8 after the Divine Liturgies. All parishioners were invited to Strawberry Shortcake Socials. On Saturday, those in attendance were treated to cake and coffee or tea. On Sunday, in addition to cake and coffee, donuts and drinks were available for the children.

Mothers received carnations and prayer cards of Mary, the Mother of God. Fathers received St. Joseph medals. Approximately 60 people attended the events.

Medals and prayers cards were given to Fr. Joe to distribute to parish shut ins.

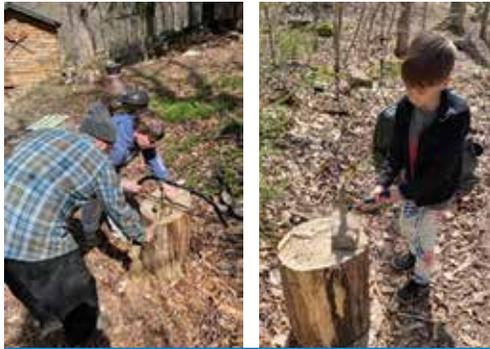
Laurene Kristof | President

## Lodge 351

INDIANA, PA

### Father & Son Fishing / Camping Trip

Lodge 351 held a father & son fishing/camping trip on the weekend of March 31, 2022, for those who were interested in the outdoors. In attendance were John Kowalski, Stephen Kowalski, Nicholas Kowalski, Graeme Kowalski and Stryker Little. The group trekked to the Allegheny National Forest (located in the northwestern



Nick Kowalski showing Stryker and Graeme how to cut and chop wood.

corner of PA), rented a cabin and then proceeded to not only enjoy the beautiful scenery, nature and landscapes, but also to interject some lessons in outdoor cooking, geology, wood cutting, ax safety and plant identification. They even took time for some fishing in the streams.

The Allegheny National Forest is a wonderful place to explore. Nicholas Kowalski gave a detailed lecture on the Northern Unglaciated Allegheny Plateau which is where the forest is located. The group learned that this forest is home to one of the old-growth forests still in existence in Pennsylvania and that the forest is considered to be a protected scenic area known as Hearts Content. Building a campfire, cooking, and just sitting around breathing in the fresh air made



Being out in Nature—Graeme Kowalski and Stryker Little.

for a wonderful ending for a grueling day of educational activities and fun. As an added bit of excitement, a bear shuffled by the group—far enough away to be safe and close enough to marvel. It will only be a matter of time for this group to plan another outdoor adventure. Maybe they will just have to return to explore more of the Allegheny National Forest. They had just a glimpse of all this natural outdoor area has to offer in the brief time they spent there.

Patty Yamrick | Fraternal Publicity

## Greater Hazleton Regional Lodge (GHRL)

HAZLETON, PA

Once again, the mountain scenery is a sight to behold, with all its greenery and wildflowers blooming, spring has finally arrived. The temperatures are crazy, the other day it was 90 degrees and the following week everything returns to normal except the dreaded COVID-19 problems.

### With Sympathy

Deepest condolences are wished to one of the lodge's bowlers, Janice Moyer. She lost her father (George Rovnack) on Sunday, May 1 and her husband John on Thursday, May 5. He was also a member of the GCU bowling league. Blessed repose and eternal memory to both.

### Chicken Dinner Fundraiser

Ss. Peter & Paul BC Church in Minersville, PA had a parish fundraiser on Sunday, May 15 in the parish hall. The takeout chicken dinners were a fundraiser for renovations to the hall kitchen. There are more fundraising activities planned for later on in the summer & early fall.

### Congratulations

Congrats to all of the students who are graduating from high school and college. Best of luck in your future endeavors.

### Helping Hands Day (HHD) at Holy Annunciation Monastery

HHD was held on Saturday, June 18. Liturgy was offered at 8 AM and then at 9 AM it was time to assist the Sisters with their many chores. There is always plenty to do.

### Happy Independence Day!

As the nation gets ready to celebrate the country's 246<sup>th</sup> birthday, let us reflect on this great nation and hopefully have the chance to spend time with friends and family in honor of the celebration!

### Note

There have not been any inside activities or bus trips planned as of yet, because the local area is back in the danger zone for the COVID-19 virus. Lodge members will be informed as soon as anything is planned.

Here is wishing all fathers, grandfathers, godfathers and uncles, both living and deceased a very Happy Father's Day. Keep them in your prayers!

Please keep all of the victims of the Ukraine in your prayers and may God bless each and everyone as they try to defend their country from all the fighting.

As always, GHRL and the GCU try to keep everyone updated on the upcoming activities. If you are computer savvy, check out the GCU website or if you have any questions, you can reach Agnes at [agnesr@ptd.net](mailto:agnesr@ptd.net) or call 570-454-4869.

Until then, take care and May God Bless!

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



Anne Berlitz, Carol Shemansky, Bob and Charlotte Stefanik.

### Bowling News

The bowling season came to a conclusion at the end of April and a banquet was held on Wednesday, May 4 at Top of the 80's Restaurant. The Cents Team (Charlotte & Bob Stefanik, Anne Berlitz and Carol Shemansky) were this year's champions. Cash awards were presented to all teams. The sad news is that Bowl-Arena, the league's home for over 30 years, closed at the end of May. The lodge would like to thank them for all their help over the years with the children's bowling tournaments, the blind doubles and for their courtesy to everyone at all times. Best of wishes to the Pecora family on their retirement. It will be one place that will be sadly missed.

## UPCOMING GHRL EVENT

### 43<sup>rd</sup> Annual Holupki Open

**Saturday, July 9, 2022**

**10 AM Shotgun Start**

White Birch Golf Course  
660 Tuscarora Park Road, Barnesville, PA 18214

Applications & Hole Sponsorships are available on line at [GCUusa.com](http://GCUusa.com) or contact Agnes at 570-454-4869 or email [agnesr@ptd.net](mailto:agnesr@ptd.net).

Bring a friend!

## Central Pittsburgh Regional Lodge (CPRL) GREENFIELD, CARRICK & SOUTHSIDE-PITTSBURGH, PA

### Easter Egg Hunt

On Sunday, April 10, GCU CPRL held an Easter Egg Hunt/ Easter Bunny visit after Palm Sunday Liturgy at St. John Chrysostom Church hall. Sixteen children, four preteen/teenagers and many adults were in attendance.

The party started as the pizza arrived. The three varieties of Big Jim's pizza were delicious; there were also individual bags of snacks and a variety of Pastries-ala-Carte cookies. A special thank you goes out to District 15 for donating a tray of festive cupcakes. There was plenty of everything so everyone could go back for seconds.

A few games for the adults as well as the Left/Right game for children was played first. As children watched a Snoopy episode on TV, the eggs were hidden both inside and outside of the hall. Each child was given an Easter basket and picked 20 candy-filled eggs. Some of the eggs had a special paper tucked inside them; those children who found them won a toy of their choice.



Enjoying time with the Easter bunny.

Lastly, the Easter bunny paid a visit (thank you Beth Gulyasy). Two-year old Karly kept going back to visit the Easter bunny; she couldn't spend enough time with the bunny.

Upon leaving, many adults and children stated it was a fun afternoon. Thank you to everyone who helped make it a success.



Volunteers at the Hot Metal meal.

### Community Dinner

On Thursday, April 21, GCU CPRL prepared dinner for The Table at Hot Metal Faith Community, 2700 Jane Street, South Side-Pittsburgh. The former Lodge 28 would chair this dinner annually and wanted to continue the tradition; however, due to the pandemic, the dinner was temporarily halted. When it restarted, there was a distribution with to-go containers only. Now, it is back to inside service.

Approximately 35 people came to sit down or pick up a take-out container. The dinner consisted of a buffalo chicken hoagie with all the trimmings, a blessed hard-boiled Easter egg, red grapes, a bag of chips and cookies for dessert. Several people thanked the volunteers for providing this meal.

CPRL plans to do this again next year to a hopefully bigger crowd. Please consider giving up 3 hours of your day to help this worthy cause and to feel fulfilled and inspired.



CPRL donated the Community Matching Funds to different organizations. One distribution of the check donation was to Source Church of Pittsburgh for their vacation bible school summer program.

### Pirohi/Haluski Sale

St. Pius X BC Church in Carrick held a Pirohi/Haluski Sale every Friday during the Great Fast to benefit structural issues in the church's bell tower.

Due to the pandemic, the parish chose to sell frozen pirohi this year and was quite pleased with the response & support of the community.

The volunteers prepared 1,073 dozen pirohi with fillings such as potato & cheese, sauerkraut, cottage cheese and the beloved lekvar! Sixty pints and 85 quarts of haluski also were sold.

Volunteers were extremely dedicated and spent a lot of time every week cooking the fillings, rolling & pinching the dough and counting & bagging the finished product. Everyone was rewarded with a Giant Eagle gift card which was only a small token to thank them for their hard work & efforts.

CONTINUED



### Craft/Vendor Event

On Saturday April 30, St. Pius X Parish held a Crafter/Vendor event. There were 17 crafters and 8 vendors who secured a table for the sale. There were also bake sale & food items for purchase.

Many thanks to those who helped make this a success. They are as follows: Pre-event set-up team: Tom Kalka, Bob Langol, Andrea Panchura, Beth Gulyasy and of course the event's magnificent planner-Pat Geary. The wonderful volunteers who helped the day of show included: Gerda Bosack, Ann Danchanko, Bonnie Ewanick, Helen Ference, Kim Kolesar, Dave & Elaine Lewis, Cindy McAnulty, Andrea Panchura, Bernie Rusinko, Jeanne Stefanac and Angie Warhola. A special thank you to the GCU for the posters, flyers & grant money to help us with advertising and groceries for the event!

**Kim Kolesar** | Trustee

**Beth Gulyasy** | Trustee

## UPCOMING CPRL EVENTS

SUBJECT TO CHANGE

### Gene Tarabek Memorial Golf Open

Monday, July 25

9:30 AM Shotgun

**\$70 GCU Member**

**\$100 Non-Member**

**\$29 Dinner Guest**

**Open to all Districts & Lodges!**

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

Info call John Miller 412-576-4328 or email at  
j.miller121253@gmail.com

### Fun Day at Seven Oaks Pool

Monday, July 25

**Pool open from 10 AM - 5 PM**

**\$10 per person**

**\$29 for adults & \$14 for kids 10 & under for dinner after golf (around 3 PM)**

At this time it is unclear if the new Pool facility will be available.

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

Info call John Miller 412-576-4328 or email at  
j.miller121253@gmail.com

## Southeast Pittsburgh Regional Lodge (SEPRL)

CLAIRTON & MUNHALL, PA

### Helping Those in Need

It was a busy Lenten season for SEPRL which used a Regional Fraternal Grant to provide help to two families in the West Newton, PA area. The Mantle Mission identified a family with three children who had been homeless and recently acquired a residence but had nothing to set up housekeeping. A second family was getting back on their feet after the loss of their father. St. John BC Cathedral and Ascension BC Church parishioners were generous in their donations of housekeeping supplies, bed sheets, towels, appliances and more.

On Saturday, April 9, Reverend Andrew Deskevich, Patty Bovee and Trish Roberts packed up two vehicles with donations and drove out to the Mission to meet family members. The appreciation was evident as the three lodge representatives assisted them to pack up their cars. In addition, Easter baskets filled with age appropriate toys and candy, were given to each of the children.



Patty Bovee and Trish Roberts delivering to Mantle Mission.

### Annual Easter Egg Hunt

At Ascension BC Church, the annual Easter Egg hunt was held in the auditorium for the children on Palm Sunday. The weather was not cooperative outside, so volunteers hid the eggs indoors. The Easter Bunny surprised everyone arriving in time to help the children find the hidden eggs, hand out treat bags and take photos. Afterwards, Father Ivan Mina invited families to the rectory and the lodge provided a pizza lunch for everyone.



Fr. Andrew with loyal volunteers at the craft show.

### Craft Show

On April 23, St. John Cathedral hosted a craft show with over 40 vendors. The parish also sold Kolache, cookies, candies and bird feeders at the St. John's table. There were jewelry tables, a pysanky table, a wood working table, a ceramic table, several cookies tables, a wreath table and many other craft items for sale.

The Cathedral Kitchen served two dinners for take-out or dine-in—a lasagna dinner or a Baba plate that consisted of haluski, kielbasi, pirohi and stuffed cabbage.

A lottery ticket and gift card tree were also auctioned off.



The kitchen crew.



Easter egg hunt group.

Trish Roberts | President

Patty Bovee | Treasurer & Publicity Director

## Northwest Pittsburgh Regional Lodge (NWPRL)

MCKEES ROCKS & GIBSONIA, PA

### Youth Group Candy Sale

The annual Holy Ghost youth group candy sale for the Paschal season was on again this year. Sarris Candy is always a hit with the parish and the community. The sales support the Youth Group preparations for the biennial Youth Rally originally organized by the Metropolitan church moved to July 2022. Holy Ghost Youth Group candy sale received \$550.00 in GCU Matching Funds. NWPRL has consistently supported the youth of the parish attending the ByzanTEEN Rally. The Youth Group is looking forward to this summer's trip.

### Pirohi Project

Holy Ghost McKees Rocks Pirohi have long been recognized as among the best in the Pittsburgh area. For the 2022 season the team returned for the annual Great Fast sales on Fridays. Gratitude is expressed to all who sacrificially participated in this project. Holy Ghost Pirohi project received \$4,450.00 in GCU Matching Funds. The NWPRL was pleased to sponsor the fundraiser for Parish Matching Funds extending the benefit for the church.

Steve Puluka | Secretary-Treasurer



Volunteers helping with the pirohi project.



Baby items collected.

## Pittsburgh South Regional Lodge (PSRL)

UPPER ST. CLAIR, PA

### Baby Book Bags Program

The Lenten Project at St. Gregory Byzantine Catholic Church was to assist the Literacy Council of Southwestern PA. Parishioners donated items for their "Baby Book Bags Program," which provides new mothers with tote bags that are filled with children's story books, activity books, crayons, small stuffed toys and information about why reading to babies is important. The collection was coordinated by Andrea Cencich and presented to executives of the Literacy Council, along with a check from the GCU for Community Matching Funds.

Dorothy Mayernik | Secretary



Brandi B. Miller (left) Executive Director Literacy Council of Southwestern PA and Kris Drach (right) President of the Board of the Literacy Council of Southwestern PA.

## Lodge 625 Happenings

CONEMAUGH, PA

### Cash Bash 2022

Lodge 625 third Annual Cash Bash was held April 2, 2022. There was a



The Cash Bash work crew.

great turnout and everyone had an enjoyable evening. With the support of GCU Matching Funds, the lodge presented over \$10,000.00 to Holy Trinity Byzantine Catholic Parish. The lodge and parish are grateful to the GCU Home Office for making Parish Matching Funds available for this event.



Secretary-Treasurer Georgia Lehman, Fr. Robert Oravetz and President Rita Hull at the proceed presentation from the Cash Bash.

### Helping Hands Day

On May 28, the lodge held its annual Helping Hands Day at Holy Trinity Byzantine Catholic Church. Members worked on projects around the parish and rectory grounds—planting and cleaning up around the area. Thanks to the Home Office for making the Helping Hands Fraternal Grant available for this project.

### Looking Ahead

Looking forward, the lodge will once again participate in the annual Jackson Heritage Festival in July. The lodge will be selling pirohi, halushki, halupki and gobs. The 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Slavic Dinner is scheduled for October 23, 2022.

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

Georgia Lehman | Secretary-Treasurer

**GIVE BLOOD**  
*You can make a difference.*

**American Red Cross**

**GCU BLOOD DRIVE**

When:  
**MONDAY, AUGUST 1, 2022**  
**TIME: 12 PM - 5:30 PM**

Where:  
**SEVEN OAKS**  
**COUNTRY CLUB**  
132 Lisbon Road, Beaver, PA 15009

Registration information available at [GCUusa.com/events](http://GCUusa.com/events)

# For Your Information

## Events

### 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Fr. Keblesh Memorial Golf Outing

Saturday, July 9  
2 PM

Coppertop Golf Club  
5740 Center Road, Valley City, OH 44280  
Contact Event Coordinator Paul L. Fogle  
216-410-0695 or pobby004@gmail.com

### GCU Family Day at Kennywood Park

Thursday, July 28  
10 AM

**\$25 Ride all day ticket age 4-64**  
**\$22 Senior ticket 65+**  
**\$17 Lunch ticket age 11+**  
**\$10 Kids lunch ticket ages 3-10**

West Mifflin, PA

Order your tickets and pay with a debit or credit card at [www.GCUusa.com](http://www.GCUusa.com)

### GCU Blood Drive

Monday, August 1  
12 PM - 5:30 PM

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

Sign up at [www.GCUusa.com](http://www.GCUusa.com)

Contact GCU Community Events  
Coordinator Molly Kullen at  
724-495-3400 ext. 3927 or  
[mkullen@GCUusa.com](mailto:mkullen@GCUusa.com).

### GCU/SCS/FCSU Golf Tournament

August 12-14, 2022

Treasure Lake Golf Resort  
DuBois, PA

Applications are available at  
[www.GCUusa.com](http://www.GCUusa.com) and pay with a debit  
or credit card .

Contact Chris Chamberlain at  
724-495-3400 est. 3810.

### Charity Golf Scramble

Monday, September 26, 2022  
10 AM Shotgun Start

**4-Person Scramble**  
**\$100 per golfer or \$380 per 4some**

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

Benefits the Greater Pittsburgh  
Community Food Bank

Applications are available at  
[www.GCUusa.com](http://www.GCUusa.com) and pay with a debit  
or credit card .

Contact GCU Community Events  
Coordinator Molly Kullen at  
724-495-3400 ext. 3927 or  
[mkullen@GCUusa.com](mailto:mkullen@GCUusa.com).

## Available

### Carpathian Cookery Cookbook

Having sold nearly 20,000 copies, the cookbook has entered its 21<sup>st</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 & Slavic foods, other ethnic dishes, and many other tried-and-true recipes of St. John's parishioners. There is a variety of paska bread and kolache (filled roll) recipes, as well as meatless dishes and Lenten recipes, suitable for the Great Fast, as well as the Pre-Christmas Fast. The cost of the cookbook is \$14.<sup>00</sup> plus \$4.<sup>00</sup> postage and handling (\$18.<sup>00</sup>). If ordering from Canada, please send a \$28.<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, please include your phone number when ordering. Call 724-438-1382 (M-F 9 AM-3 PM please leave a message) or email [carpathiancookery@gmail.com](mailto:carpathiancookery@gmail.com).

### Discount Amusement Park Tickets for 2022



Discounted Amusement Park tickets for the 2022 season are available to GCU members for online purchase. Parks include: Kennywood Park, West Mifflin, PA; Knoebels Park, Elysburg, PA; Hershey Park, Hershey, PA. Visit the GCU website at [www.GCUusa.com](http://www.GCUusa.com).



As our Church continues its journey, our future is marked by one thing above all: hope. Our foundation remains the same as the past: Jesus Christ. With Jesus Christ and hope, we believe our Church has a wonderful future. We will continue to strengthen our parishes and missions to better serve the faithful throughout the Eparchy of Parma.

On Saturday, October 22, 2022, the Byzantine Catholic Eparchy of Parma Foundation will host the “Evening of Hope” at the Holiday Inn Cleveland South Independence. Father Jason Charron will be the Keynote speaker. Father Charron has been a priest in the Ukrainian Catholic Church since 2008, and currently serves in two parishes, as well as in a bi-ritual capacity with the Diocese of Pittsburgh. He has worked in education at the primary, secondary, and post-secondary levels for ten years. Father Charron teaches Theology at Franciscan University of Steubenville, Homiletics at Ss. Cyril and Methodius Seminary, Pittsburgh. Father Jason also serves as a member of the Presbyteral Council of his eparchy, the Eparchy of Saint Josaphat of Parma. Father Jason and his wife, Halyna, are parents to seven children.

We need your support to help our Eparchy accomplish its goals. Please consider one of the sponsorship levels for the 2022 “Evening of Hope.” All sponsors and attendees will receive parking, dinner, cocktails, fund-a-need and more.

Your gift will directly impact the four established eparchial funds for 1) development of parishes; 2) promotion of vocations and seminary education; 3) the eparchial pension fund for priests; and 4) works of the apostolate.

A detailed sponsorship and event registration form may be found on the Eparchy of Parma website at [parma.org](http://parma.org). If you are interested in becoming a sponsor, please do not hesitate to contact us. Contact Judith Matsko at 216.741.8773 x1225 or [jmatsko@parma.org](mailto:jmatsko@parma.org) with any questions you may have. Thank you in advance for your consideration and your generosity.

Thank you to our very generous sponsor as of May 1, 2022.





Present

**THE 67<sup>th</sup> INTERNATIONAL**

# GOLF

*Tournament*

**@ Treasure Lake Golf Resort**  
DuBois, PA

**APPLICATION & FEE DEADLINE**  
**JULY 15, 2022**

**FRIDAY, AUG 12, 2022**  
THRU  
**SUNDAY, AUG 14, 2022**

**USGA 36 Holes**  
MEN - 5 FLIGHTS  
WOMEN - 1 FLIGHT

<b>Full Golf Package</b>	Double Occupancy	Fairfield Inn	Hampton Inn
	Package Fee:	\$ 265.00	\$ 265.00
	Entry Fee/Tournament Expense:	\$ 30.00	\$ 30.00
	<b>TOTAL DUE:</b>	<b>\$ 295.00</b>	<b>\$ 295.00</b>
<b>Full Golf Package</b>	Single Occupancy	Fairfield Inn	Hampton Inn
	Package Fee:	\$ 385.00	\$ 385.00
	Entry Fee/Tournament Expense:	\$ 30.00	\$ 30.00
	<b>TOTAL DUE:</b>	<b>\$ 415.00</b>	<b>\$ 415.00</b>
<b>Golf Only Package</b>	Package Fee:	\$ 130.00	
	Entry Fee/Tournament Expense:	\$ 30.00	
	<b>TOTAL DUE:</b>	<b>\$ 160.00</b>	
<b>Banquet Only</b>	Banquet Fee:	\$ 25.00	
	<b>TOTAL DUE:</b>	<b>\$ 25.00</b>	
<b>Non-Golf Package</b>	Double Occupancy	\$140.00	\$140.00
<b>Non-Golf Package</b>	Single Occupancy	\$265.00	\$265.00

All hotel reservations to be made directly through the Fairfield Inn & Suites, DuBois, PA, 814-371-2260 or Hampton Inn, DuBois, PA, 814-375-1000




**2022 PIRATE OUTING**

**1909**  
**1925**  
**1960**  
**1971**  
**1979**

**PIRATES**

**CINCINNATI REDS**

**SATURDAY, AUGUST 20, 2022 - 7:05PM**  
**SKYBLAST FIREWORKS EXTRAVAGANZA NIGHT**  
**MEMBERS: \$19 - INCLUDES \$10 LOADED VALUE**  
**NON-MEMBERS: \$29 - INCLUDES \$10 LOADED VALUE**  
**SEC: 321**

Tickets Available @  
[GCUusa.com/events](http://GCUusa.com/events)




Register online at  
[GCUusa.com/events](http://GCUusa.com/events)

## Charity Golf Scramble

Monday, September 26, 2022

10 AM Shotgun Start

Seven Oaks Country Club

4 Person Scramble

No handicap required

\$100 per golfer or \$380 per foursome

Deadline: Friday, September 16

Benefits Greater Pittsburgh  
Community Food Bank

# Deceased Members

(Lodge-Member-City-State)

- 8344 Julie Adams, Sewickley, PA  
8360 Mary G. Akehurst, Anderson, SC  
8316 Leonard D. Andeway, Richland, IA  
8358 Clarice Andrykowski,  
Port Washington, WI  
8344 Glenn R. Arters, Birdsboro, PA  
8359 Armelda C. Baker, Canton, NC  
15 Cyril Banko, Lebanon, PA  
66 Joseph Baranko, Athens, GA  
8358 Jane K. Barnes, Green Bay, WI  
8344 Audrey L. Barrington, Imperial, PA  
994 Kathleen M. Basanese,  
West Hartford, CT  
8344 Alfred M. Beer, Ford City, PA  
NPRL Mary A. Beightley, Beaver Falls, PA  
SPRL Anne Birchok, Pittsburgh, PA  
8326 Owen T. Blanchard, Charlevoix, MI  
15 Mary Breccia, Allentown, NJ  
81 Richard Brezenski, Claysville, PA  
945 Barbara Butkewicz, Lebanon, OH  
8344 Rosemarie A. Butz, Bloomsburg, PA  
57 Helen Ciccarelli, Monessen, PA  
8344 Mary C. Ciuca, Vandergrift, PA  
8360 Marcelle Cobb, Simpsonville, SC  
8358 Ruth D. Coenen, Kaukauna, WI  
SPRL Carole A. Collins, Bethel Park, PA  
8344 Ronald E. Coulter, Saltsburg, PA  
8344 Helen Craig, Ligonier, PA  
945 Laurence O. T. Czibik, Scranton, PA  
8344 Kathryn E. Dayton, Elverson, PA  
644 Theofane G. Deamon, Canton, OH  
8344 Ralph DeBacco, East Brady, PA  
8344 Thelma J. Deemer, Salina, PA  
CPRL Lloyd DeJidas, Pittsburgh, PA  
8309 Helen DeMarco, Tampa, FL  
994 Therese B. DeMatteis, Aliquippa, PA  
8344 Dianne L. Detweiler, Telford, PA  
999 C. Randall Dicken, Wilsonville, OR  
8344 Thomas Dietrich, Sellersville, PA  
SPRL Bernard J. Ducar, Whitaker, PA  
109 Ann Marie Eddy, Ford City, PA  
15 Roger Embley, Hamilton, NJ  
250 Betsy Evans, Paw Paw, MI  
8326 Theodore Evans, Longs, SC  
20 Ethelyn S. Faig, Philadelphia, PA  
8344 Mary S. Filanowski, Washington, MA  
254 Marilyn Fiure, Manville, NJ  
8344 John R. Folk, Bunola, PA  
NPRL Victor Franc, Baden, PA  
8344 Thomas Francis, Fombell, PA  
8344 Francis Funtal, Finleyville, PA  
66 Josephine A. Glorioso,  
Valparaiso, IN  
271 Yvonne Goodrich,  
Burns Harbour, IN  
271 Thomas Grecek, Orland Park, IL  
8326 David W. Grogg, Gladwin, MI  
8344 James E. Gross, Baden, PA  
8358 Viola A. Gruber,  
Wisconsin Rapids, WI  
8344 Jeane Guella, Coraopolis, PA  
GHRL Monica Gurzenda, McAdoo, PA  
8344 Edith Hahn, Williamsport, PA  
CPRL Andrew Halapin, W. Mifflin, PA  
8310 James A. Hall, Grantville, GA  
211 Doreen Hallowich, Archbald, PA  
GHRL Michael Hashin, Minersville, PA  
182 Bernadine Havrilla, Shavertown, PA  
8344 Louise Hawk, Pittsburgh, PA  
8344 Louise Heeter, Hollidaysburg, PA  
NPRL Dorothy Heintzinger,  
Allison Park, PA  
8327 Jo Ann M. Heinz, Lakeville, MN  
8344 Lorraine S. Heiser, Pittsburgh, PA  
PSRL Helen Mae Horwatt,  
Canonsburg, PA  
665 Margaret Hreha, Brick, NJ  
164 William Hritz, Aurora, OH  
69 Natalie Hufhand, Appomattox, VA  
8344 Betty J. Hughes, Warren, PA  
53 Christopher Hughes,  
Wilkes Barre, PA  
8304 Hugh E. Hughes, Sun City, AZ  
340 Pearl Hyduchak, Surprise, AZ  
8344 Patricia N. Jachimowicz,  
Greensburg, PA  
8344 Walter V. Janosek,  
East Stroudsburg, PA  
442 Agnes Janosko, Canfield, OH  
8344 Louise E. Johnson, Orefield, PA  
8344 Melvin Johnston, Indiana, PA  
8344 Ronald E. Johnston,  
Williamsport, PA  
8359 Calvin J. Jones, Hope Mills, NC  
340 Robert J. Junda, Clifton, NJ  
321 Adam J. Karafinski,  
East Vandergrift, PA  
8344 Donna L. Ketterer, New Galilee, PA  
8344 Vivian M. Kightlinger, Meadville, PA  
8327 Duane S. King, Richfield, MN  
302 Patricia Knauf, Salem, OH  
CPRL Nicholas Kolesar, Pittsburgh, PA  
62 Evelyn H. Kopas, Rossiter, PA  
8358 Keith A. Krenz, Marshfield, WI  
644 Althea R. Krohmer, Akron, OH  
302 James L. Kurilec, Brook Park, OH  
8344 Evelyn Lack, Greensburg, PA  
8344 Glee E. Lang, Butler, PA  
8354 Karen Lentz, Virginia Beach, VA  
8358 John J. Lindh, Madison, WI  
258 Carol A. Lloyd, Mercer, PA  
8359 Lloyd W. Lundy, Asheboro, NC  
8344 John R. MacDonald,  
Ellwood City, PA  
CPRL Irene Maniglia, Pittsburgh, PA  
8344 Joan Marinkovits, Northampton, PA  
8344 Clifford Marsh, Hillsdale, PA  
8344 Elizabeth Marucci, Republic, PA  
8304 Eleanor McCune,  
Rancho Cucamonga, CA  
8359 Margaret McKita, Rocky Mount, NC  
69 Ann Mehallick, Pottstown, PA  
999 Carol Merkle, Tucson, AZ  
62 Steve Metro, Sagamore, PA

- 697 Beverly J. Miller, Wellsburg, WV  
 SPRL Martha Miller, Claysville, PA  
 8344 Virginia Miller, Grindstone, PA  
 8344 Betty Lou Mohler, Sewickley, PA  
 8304 Ardyce Moyer, El Cajon, CA  
 8344 Mary Louise Muffley, Bethlehem, PA  
 8358 Berneice Murphy, Plain, WI  
 69 Martha Nagy, Stowe, PA  
 8337 William Nichy, Lancaster, NY  
 8358 Pearl M. Olson, Stratford, WI  
 644 Dale G. Onderak, Stow, OH  
 8344 Ann C. Oprisu, New Galilee, PA  
 8344 Dorothea Papas, Aliquippa, PA  
 GHRL Michael Papesh, Coaldale, PA  
 GHRL Marie Pavell, Hazle Township, PA  
 8344 Barbara V. Peace, Apollo, PA  
 8354 Betty Penman, Schwenksville, PA  
 8344 James F. Pershing, Ligonier, PA  
 8304 Christopher Petruska, Bellflower, CA  
 8344 Charles R. Pilchard, Beaver, PA  
 999 Gerald D. Piper, Mill Creek, WA  
 8337 Gloria Jean Plavchan, Pleasant Valley, NY  
 8344 Goldie Poholsky, New Castle, PA  
 8358 David Rhyner, Wausau, WI  
 8358 Joan M. Robinson, Osseo, WI  
 860 Laura M. Rock, Washington, MI  
 8344 Rosemary Rogers, Springville, PA  
 8327 Donna M. Rohwer, Dodge Center, MN  
 8344 Josephine Ross, King of Prussia, PA  
 GHRL Nancy Roth, West Palm Beach, FL  
 8324 Paul Ruszin, Ocean City, MD  
 258 Carol Ann Sabol, Farrell, PA  
 8344 Frank Safko, Johnstown, PA  
 92 Josephine Safko, Jefferson Twp., PA  
 8344 Gladys J. Santee, Orwigsburg, PA  
 999 Agnes E. Schmidt, Tucson, AZ  
 254 Dorothea Schmidt, Port Reading, NJ  
 8344 Jane A. Schweibinz, Palmerton, PA  
 NPRL Paula J. Scott, Colver, PA  
 GHRL Eugene Sheeto, Beaver Meadows, PA  
 401 Geraldine Shirey, Marion Center, PA  
 66 Marjorie M. Skorupa, Highland, IN  
 8344 Emma Skrovanek, Breinigsville, PA  
 8344 Thomas A. Slagle, McKeesport, PA  
 8344 Susan Slivka, Berwick, PA  
 211 Joan Smargiassi, Scott Twp., PA  
 8341 David Andrew Smith, Toronto, OH  
 8309 William Sohl, Hawthorne, FL  
 PSRL Virginia Sovich, Frederick, MD  
 8344 Ruth Stark, Pittsburgh, PA  
 250 Mary Anne Stehney, Livonia, MI  
 211 Paul Suche, Eynon, PA  
 18 Adam Sweda, Auburn Hills, MI  
 8315 Ahmed I. Syed, Dyer, IN  
 8344 Arthur W. Talansky, East Stroudsburg, PA  
 999 Luis Tan, Phoenix, AZ  
 8344 Joseph Tanski, Pittsburgh, PA  
 8326 Sharon S. Teesdale, Dimondale, MI  
 8344 Patricia A. Thomas, Pottsville, PA  
 8344 Alice Tomassoni, Warren, PA  
 8344 Dorothy Troska, Seward, PA  
 8344 Jacqueline M. VanArsdale, Hatfield, PA  
 360 James VanSuch, Columbus, OH  
 8335 Robert J. Vasel, Wimauma, FL  
 8344 Clara B. Vonada, Howard, PA  
 77 Anna Ruth Walski, Las Vegas, NV  
 8344 Catherine A. Warfield, Philadelphia, PA  
 8344 Stanley Wass, Clarksburg, PA  
 8344 Kathryn K. Weller, Hummelstown, PA  
 8315 Willie E. Whitfield, Merrillville, IN  
 8344 Elsa Williams, Hollsopple, PA  
 8335 Joseph A. Winkelspecht, Pedricktown, NJ  
 8344 Joseph J. Yankuskie, Homer City, PA  
 258 John Yohman, Transfer, PA  
 8354 Elizabeth Yurchik, St. Leonard, MD  
 10 Helen Zaiden, Valencia, PA  
 8344 Lucy Zito, Tampa, FL

*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*

# Remembrances



**Roger L. Embley**

National Director 2000-2016

Roger L. Embley, 85, of Hamilton, NJ, fell asleep in the Lord on Sunday, April 24, 2022, at the Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital in Hamilton, NJ.

Born and raised in Trenton, NJ, Mr. Embley resided in Hamilton for over 65 years. He received his Bachelor of Arts degree from Duke University and did his post graduate work at Northwestern University. Mr. Embley worked in the field of Banking and Finance. He served as Vice President and Senior Trust Officer for the Broad Street National Bank of Trenton. He retired in 1997.

Devoted to his community, Mr. Embley was a longtime member of the Hamilton Rotary Club where he received the Paul Harris Fellow Award for service. He served as president of GCU District 7 and then was elected a GCU National Director from 2000 to 2016. Mr. Embley was a member of the Boy Scouts of America Washington Council, served on the Board of Directors of the Hamilton YMCA and was a member of the Mercer County Estate Planning Council. Devout in his faith and to his church, Mr. Embley was a cantor and a trustee

at the Assumption of the Virgin Mary Byzantine Catholic Church of Trenton and also served as the president of the church's Men's Club.

A proud Duke alumnus, he was an avid Blue Devils basketball fan and enjoyed watching the games with family and friends.

Predeceased by his parents, George

## Rosemary Salera Tomko

Members of St. Gregory Church in Upper St. Clair and Pittsburgh South Regional Lodge (PSRL) are saddened by the loss of Rosemary Salera Tomko, who served for many years as the lodge publicity director. She passed away on May 5, 2022 at the age of 86. Rosemary is survived by her beloved husband of 62 years John W. Tomko, president of PSRL; son John B. Tomko; daughter Jennifer (Nate) Kehm; and grandsons Corey, Justin & Michael Kehm.

Rosemary grew up in the Oakland neighborhood of Pittsburgh and was a graduate of the University of Pitts-

burgh, earning a Master's Degree in Speech-Language Pathology. She retired as director of the Speech Therapy Department of St. Francis Hospital in Pittsburgh. Rosemary was a very active member of St. Gregory parish since the 1970s—as an ECF teacher in the early years, a volunteer on fundraiser & hospitality committees, a member of the Bethany Ministry to the sick & homebound and a dear friend to all.

Panachida and Christian Burial services were offered by St. Gregory's pastor Father Valerian Michlik. Eternal memory and blessed repose.

Eternal memory and blessed repose.

## A Tribute to Father Robert Karl

*"For I am already being poured out as a \*drink offering, and the time of my departure is at hand. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not only to me but also to all who have loved His appearing."* (Saint Paul's Second Epistle to Timothy 4:6-8) *"A drink offering is a wine, water, or oil offering poured over animal or grain sacrifices at the conclusion of both Jewish and pagan rites."* (The Orthodox Study Bible) **Father +Robert Karl** turned 92 years old on Sunday 1 May 2022. He

would have been ordained to the Priesthood of Jesus Christ for 65 years on 19 May 2022. He died on Tuesday 3 May 2022. The last time I saw Father +Bob was on 2 April 2022 at the funeral of Father +Ron Borsuk. Of course I did. I saw Father +Bob at every event, affair, meeting, and most funerals in the Archeparchy of Pittsburgh. I always got a big hug with a jovial "Stefan! How are ya? How's mom? How's the family?" It seems not an exaggeration to say, Father +Bob knew everyone and everyone

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knew Father +Bob. He reminded me of Bishop +John Bilock, of blessed memory. Once they met you, these two Greek Catholic priests never forgot you. Someone said to me yesterday, "Father +Bob was the best kind of priest and there's none other like him." I wholeheartedly agree. There is no denying that many of us lost a friend, a father figure, an exemplary priest.

*"And we urge you, brethren, to recognize those who labor among you and are over you in the Lord and admonish you, and to esteem them very highly in love for their work's sake. Be at peace among yourselves. Now we exhort you, brethren, warn those who are unruly, comfort the fainthearted, uphold the weak, be patient with all. See that no one renders evil for evil to anyone, but always pursue what is good both for yourselves and for all. Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise prophecies. Test all things; hold fast what is good. Abstain from every form of evil."* (Saint Paul's First Epistle to the Thessalonians 5:12-22) I still remember the first time I met Father +Bob. I was a teenager. We had gone from Saint John Chrysostom in Greenfield to Holy Ghost in McKees Rocks to play volleyball. Father +Bob's clerical shirt was unbuttoned at the collar, he was smiling and laughing and hugging on everyone. He was pastor at Holy Ghost and also the Director of the Office of Religious Education. It was a great time in the life of our Church. He along with other directors had initiated and written the God With Us series of Eastern Christian Formation for elementary students. He was the driving force behind a Byzantine Catholic summer camp. He set up and put into motion the religious education office. I met a great group of people from the various parishes and even I was asked to be a part of the Catechist Formation Committee. Bishop +Kurt made a great point about Father +Bob yesterday. He said Father +Bob could be equally joyful and distressed about our Church because he cared so deeply about our Church. At every meeting, he had comments to make, even after his retirement. He was involved and engaged and truly cared for the Gospel he had received and which he spent his life preaching and teaching.

*"When I was a child, I spoke as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child; but when I became a man, I put away childish things. For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part, but then I shall know just as I also am known."* (Saint Paul's First Epistle to the Corinthians 13:11-12) It's funny how you sometimes remember something that someone said to you. Father +Bob used this very passage from Saint Paul, probably more than once; that's why it's memorable. He challenged us to be serious and mature about our faith. I also remember him saying, "Life is a mystery to be lived, not a series of problems to be solved." I was trying to think of which category he fit into. I couldn't do it. I think the success of Father +Bob was that he didn't just talk about his faith. He didn't just preach and teach the Gospel. He lived his faith. He lived the Gospel of Jesus Christ. I love Saint Paul, especially when he says, I don't want to make this about me, so let me tell you about myself. I don't ever remember Father +Bob talking about himself. Above all the good things I and others can say about him, he was humble. I think he would've been a good bishop; but he served God, the Gospel, and the Church by being a good priest.

*"And the grace of our Lord was exceedingly abundant, with faith and love which are in Christ Jesus. This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am chief. However, for this reason I obtained mercy, that in me first Jesus Christ might show all longsuffering, as a pattern to those who are going to believe in Him for everlasting life. Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, to God Who alone is wise, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen."* (Saint Paul's First Epistle to Timothy 1:14-17) I saw Father +Bob approach the sacramental Mystery of Confession at various times, especially when we were on retreat. What makes some men great is their ability to see that they have not only strengths but also weaknesses, that they have knowledge but they don't know everything, that they strive to do good but also know they are sinners. Father +Bob knew he was a vessel through whom God could work. It was as the Lord told Ananias about Paul in a vision: *"Go, for he is a chosen vessel of Mine to bear My Name before Gentiles, kings, and the children of Israel. For I will show him how many things he must suffer for My Name's sake."* (Acts of the Apostles 9:15-16)

*"Am I not an apostle? Am I not free? Have I not seen Jesus Christ our Lord? Are you not my work in the Lord? If I am not an apostle to others, yet doubtless I am to you. For you are the seal of my apostleship in the Lord."* (Saint Paul's First Epistle to the Corinthians 9:1-2) There are only a few of us who have left the comfort of Western Pennsylvania to follow in the footsteps of Father +Bob in the missionary fields of Texas. However, none of us can compare ourselves to his zeal and the foundation he laid. I believe he spent five years as pastor of Saint John Chrysostom in Houston while also traveling to Dallas and San Antonio and New Orleans. Then he spent another five years as pastor at Saint Basil in Dallas/Fort Worth. When he returned to Pennsylvania he served a variety of parishes. That's why Father +Bob knew everyone and everyone knew Father +Bob. He was a friend, a father figure, an exemplary priest. I could go on, but I will close with a few more words from Saint Paul that remind me of Father +Bob. *"Are they Hebrews? So am I. Are they Israelites? So am I. Are they the seed of Abraham? So am I. Are they ministers of Christ? - I speak as a fool - I am more: in labors more abundant, in stripes above measure, in prisons more frequently, in deaths often...Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in needs, in persecutions, in distresses, for Christ's sake. For when I am weak, then I am strong."* (Second Epistle to the Corinthians 11:22-23 and 12:10)

To a friend, a Father, and an exemplary priest, grant, O Lord, blessed repose and eternal memory! Christ is Risen!

**Father Stephen J. Wahal**



# AQUILA X

## FIXED INDEXED ANNUITY

### The Aquila X is a ten year annuity which earns interest in two ways:

1. A fixed rate that is guaranteed for the first year. The fixed rate is guaranteed to be at least 1.0% while the annuity is in effect. The rate will be declared at the beginning of each contract year. Please contact GCU for current rate.
2. The Barclays Zorya index is measured based on the returns over a 1-year period or a 2-year period. The value of this annuity also may grow through indexed returns. The amount of the index-linked interest depends on how the Barclays Zorya Index performs. Each index period is measured independently, so you get the advantage of resetting to the current index values each time. The Barclays Zorya Index creates a diversified portfolio by combining US Equities and Fixed Income. The Index seeks to enhance return and manage risk exposure by adjusting the portfolio's assets allocation on a monthly basis. The Index aims to maintain its annual volatility level at or below 5%.

**ACCESS  
TO YOUR  
MONEY**

In the first 10 contract years, you can withdraw money from your annuity once a contract year without paying a surrender charge. The most you can withdraw each year without paying a surrender charge is 10% of the total account value. The minimum withdrawal amount you can take is \$500 and you must maintain at least \$2,000 in the annuity to maintain it.

To learn more, please contact GCU Sales Director Jeff Long at 724.683.3099 or email [jlong@GCUusa.com](mailto:jlong@GCUusa.com)

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