

APRIL 2022

GCU

MAGAZINE

Annual Report Issue

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The GCU Magazine
(USPS 227-900) (ISSN0895-5395)
Subscription Per Year: \$12
To Canada-Per Year: \$18

Periodical Postage Paid at
Beaver, PA 15009 and at additional offices

Postmaster

Send address changes to:
GCU Magazine
5400 Tuscarawas Road,
Beaver, PA 15009

Thursday, May 26, 2022 is the copy deadline for the June GCU Magazine.

Email copy to: bwahal@GCUusa.com or
Mail to: GCU Communications Dept.
Attn: GCU Magazine
5400 Tuscarawas Road
Beaver, PA 15009

Official publication of GCU,
Issued the 15th of February, April, June,
August, October, December.

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George N. Juba
President
CEO

Welcome to the GCU Annual Report Issue

My article in the February issue of the *GCU Magazine* informed you that 2022 marks the 130th anniversary of the GCU as our Society was founded on February 14, 1892. In addition to our anniversary, through the Grace of God and oversight of our Patron Saint, St. Nicholas of Myra, we can also celebrate the fiscal year of 2021 as being the most successful financial year in the history of the GCU.

GCU's total assets grew 9.7% in 2021 and now total \$2.4 billion. Surplus totals \$209.2 million representing a 14.6% or \$26.6 million increase. Net income after refunds and net capital gains/losses of \$33 million was recorded for year-end 2021, the highest ever recorded in the Society's history. A full detailed report and commentary by Chief Financial Officer Tim Demetres, is published on page 6. My sincere appreciation to our members and agents for the continued faith, trust and confidence you exhibit in the GCU—that is the cornerstone to the GCU's continued path of success!

In addition to the outstanding financial performance of the GCU in 2021, the GCU Holding Company, Inc. also experienced a substantial improvement. Seven Oaks Country Club, Inc. recorded the highest revenues in each area of the Club's revenue centers since it opened in 1978. Such revenue areas that experienced increases included dues, food & beverage sales, carts & green fees and golf pro shop merchandise sales reflecting an increase of \$988,200.⁰⁰ compared to year end 2020. Coupled with the controlling of expenses a net profit before depreciation of \$223,600.⁰⁰, was recorded. Please note that a Payroll Protection Plan Loan (PPP Loan) also assisted noting that this loan was forgiven. The improved financial position of Seven Oaks is attributed to the recent renovations to the Clubhouse and improvements to the golf course over the last several years. Unfortunately, the COVID-19 pandemic may have also played a role as families and individuals were seeking outdoor entertainment and a safe environment under the various concerns associated with this virus and restricted guidelines established by the Center for Disease Control and federal & state authorities.

The GCU Real Estate Company, Inc. also experienced activity in 2021 as three lots were sold. These lot sales

will improve the financial status of this subsidiary and will specifically have a positive impact on the balance sheet. Only seven lots remain in the Congressional Place single family development. Pinehurst Village, a multi-family home development within Seven Oaks, also experienced several sales in 2021. An additional four units are under construction with two units being pre-sold. This community is being constructed by Castlebrook Development. Additional information on the housing development will be presented in the June 2022 issue of the *GCU Magazine*.

Our Chief Operation Officer Scott Schuetz, will also be providing to you some insight of what is happening within the GCU, to better serve our members and agents, with a focus on the GCU's continued growth and digital transformation. Please review Scott's article on page 3.

Over the last several years, the GCU's Fraternal Programming on a National, Lodge and District level have been hampered by the COVID-19 pandemic. The safety of our members is first and foremost and decisions to suspend requirements were made in accordance with the Center for Disease Control (CDC) and federal & state guidelines. We will soon be giving the "green light" to our lodges and districts to return to a state of "business as usual"! We thank many of our lodges and districts that continued to provide fundraising and volunteer programming in support of their parishes and communities despite the pandemic challenges.

As we thought events couldn't get worse after experiencing the effects brought about by the worldwide pandemic, the war in Ukraine is now "center stage." We are once again witnessing death along with mass destruction of Ukrainian cities that I felt I would never see in my lifetime. It is heart-breaking to witness such devastation and the many families being displaced. Destruction not caused by a force of nature, but by Russian military invasion of this sovereign nation. This event certainly "hits home" as the very European roots of the GCU can be traced back to the first generation of immigrants migrating to the United States that came from the many villages located in the Carpathian Mountains of eastern Slovakia and western Ukraine.

In the last several years the GCU Foundation has solicited donations from our members to provide financial sup-

CONTINUED

port to many organizations that have supplied much needed humanitarian relief to families and individuals suffering losses due to natural disasters and other causes. The most recent effort was in assisting the victims of the tornadoes that swept through the states of Oklahoma and Kentucky and the surrounding area in early December. The GCU's Board of Directors also committed Matching Funds to the many fundraising programs implemented by the Foundation. Soon after the war in Ukraine began, the GCU Foundation once again launched a fundraising campaign to support the humanitarian efforts so deeply needed. We are so pleased to announce that through the generosity of our membership and the \$50,000.00 Matching Funds commitment of the GCU's Board of Directors, \$118,328.00 will be distributed amongst the Ukrainian Catholic Archeparchy, United Help Ukraine and the Slovak Greek Catholic Eparchy of Kosice. The funds raised for this effort are the most ever collected for a Special Match. On behalf of the GCU Board of Directors and the people of Ukraine, we thank you for your generosity!

As I announced in the last issue of the *GCU Magazine*, I will be presenting some "tidbits" of historical information in each of my articles. From our humble beginnings and noting a multitude of accomplishments and challenging events that occurred that GCU successfully navigated through, in celebration of the organization's 130th Anniversary.



Did You Know? Our Humble Beginnings

- The initial death benefit was set at \$400.00 per member.
- Annual conventions were held as delegates from each lodge attended setting the course of the GCU and its future. The Conventions were initially established as the supreme ruling body of the GCU.
- Discord among delegates at the sixth Convention held in Johnstown, Pennsylvania led to a faction of GCU defeated members running for office and members of three lodges establishing a new organization, the "Sobranije" or the United Societies of the U.S.A. founded on March 29, 1903.
- The official newspaper of the GCU was titled the "Amerikansky Russkij Viestnik" (ARV), in English the "American Rusin Messenger." This publication provided very informative articles that were beneficial to the arriving Rusin immigrants to the United States. The Kalendar (Yearbook) was an annual publication of the GCU. I recall in my youth, my Dad would ask my Mom if we received the "Viestnik"?
- The first editor of the GCU was Paul J. Zatkovich. The operations office, newspaper office and printing plant were located in Mahanoy City, Pennsylvania from 1892 through 1896. The entire operations moved to Scranton, Pennsylvania in 1896 and soon thereafter relocated again to New York City.
- After five years of existence, Greek Catholic parishes grew from one in 1894 to thirty-three in 1898 with 152 GCU Lodges established with 6,776 members.
- By 1902, GCU assets topped \$22,700.00.
- In addition to life insurance, the GCU also provided for the payments of disability benefits to eligible members that began to be paid in 1899.
- In 1902 the GCU fell upon hard times ten years into its existence as claims exceeded assets. Strong leadership under President Michael Yuhasz, initiated bylaw revisions and a strong membership campaign organized around the feast of St. Nicholas which were successful in revitalizing the GCU and saving the Society from insolvency.

(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.")

As we are in the midst of spring, enjoy the beauty of nature as it revitalizes itself from its winter slumber. This transformation is such an astonishing feat which only God could provide. ENJOY!

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

I would also like to take this opportunity to wish all of our membership a Blessed Easter.

Christ is Risen! Indeed it is Risen!

GOODNESS IS GREAT!

George



Scott Schuetz
Executive VP
COO

GCU's Growth & Digital Transformation!!!

The year 2021 was incredible for both business and financial growth at GCU! It was the Organization's best growth and financial year in its 130 year history!

- ✓ GCU grew its Assets to \$2.4 Million up 9%;
- ✓ Life Premium was up 174%;

- ✓ Annuity Premium rose 126%;
- ✓ Membership increased expanding our national footprint;
- ✓ The Company launched its first Fixed Indexed Annuity

- "Aquila X" in October.

It was also another great year of business adaptation for GCU. We continued to be in a truly unprecedented situation with the Coronavirus global pandemic affecting every aspect of our lives from our communities, our members, our producers, our team members and our partners.

During this year of great triumph, GCU's Leadership and Team Members rose to the occasion moving forward by being creative, innovative and agile. Credit for these results goes to the entire GCU Team, who demonstrated incredible adaptability, agility and commitment to serving the members and producers every day.

A new year is upon us, bringing with it great optimism, new opportunities, new challenges, and—I can confidently predict—new GCU milestones and accomplishments. The GCU strategy is unwavering, and it's delivering strong, balanced growth and value creation. GCU works diligently to adapt to new circumstances while transforming for the future. We continue to develop a more empowered, agile and accountable organization.

As a progressive financial institution, our Strategic Vision continues to be executed with success in Growth, Financial Strength, and Digital Transformation in a well-controlled environment. The GCU Strategy encompasses six key objectives:

- Grow Life Business!
- Grow Annuity Business!
- Continue to Design and Implement the New "OIPA" Strategic Administrative System Platform!
- Maintain / Improve our current KBRA Rating of A-!
- Continue to increase our profitability!
- Continue to Invest in you and your community!

GCU is committed to continue growing its Life & Annuity

Nothing we do is possible without "You" our strong member community. Members who are passionate enough to volunteer their time to a common effort and commitment to a cause.

We thank "You"...

business lines. As an organization, we are revamping and increasing our Life & Annuity Business to diversify product mix. We have successfully designed and implemented the "Aquila X" Fixed Index Annuity product on our new OIPA administrative system. With this product, we are receiving National Brand recognition in the Annuity Market space as one of the first fraternal organizations to have an Indexed Annuity in their product portfolio.

GCU continues investing in a new modern, agile administrative system to ensure a competitive advantage. Our new system is focused on delivering a "Wow!" member and agent experience to ensure ease of doing business with GCU. It is digital transformation in this modern era.

Finally, GCU is devoted to investing in **"You" & "Your" Community!** The Organization will continue to Invest in the Goodness of Community. Nothing we do is possible without **"You"** our strong member community. Members who are passionate enough to volunteer their time to a common effort and commitment to a cause. We thank **"You"** for your tireless hours and **"Your"** effortless contributions to charity.

I look forward to sharing GCU's 2022 successes and accomplishments. Our goal will continue to understand how we can evolve and better serve the members to strengthen the Organization's outstanding legacy.

Our members are the heart of GCU. We are grateful to **"YOU"** for your ongoing support. We simply say **"Thank You"** for everything!

Have a Great Spring! Much Success!

Scott



Privacy Policy

We appreciate your Membership with the GCU. The GCU is a Fraternal Benefit Society that has always been and will be committed to protecting the privacy of your personal financial and medical information. This will continue to be a matter of top priority for us.

We will not:

- disclose personal, non-public information about you to anyone other than our affinity partners and always, only as permitted or required by law.
- disclose personal medical information about you except as permitted by law or as you may authorize.
- sell lists of our members to any vendor of goods or services.

We will:

- restrict access to non-public personal information about you to those employees who need to know that information to provide products to you.
- maintain physical, electronic and procedural safeguards that comply with the federal standards to guard your non-public personal information.
- Remove your name and contact information from all affinity mailings at your request. You should make your request in writing to the GCU or call us at 855-306-0607.

We collect non-public personal information about you from the following sources:

- Information we receive from you on applications or other forms.
- Information from medical tests requested by us or from your medical services providers (medical Information collection applicable to some life and health insurance policies, not annuities).
- Information about your transactions with us (such as premium payments, loans, claims, etc.).
- Information we receive from consumer reporting agencies.

Our continued goal is to maintain complete, accurate and up-to-date records. You may contact us in writing at 5400 Tuscarawas Road, Beaver, PA 15009 or call 855-306-0607 to access, as provided by law, information included in your file. We will promptly correct any error in our information. To protect your privacy, you will need to identify yourself by providing your name, date of birth and Social Security Number.

Fraternally yours,

George N. Juba
President/CEO



Jeff Long
Sales Director

Do I Still Need Life Insurance After Retiring?

Many people think that they no longer need life insurance after retirement, because they bought it to protect their loved ones should the insured die during his or her earning years. To figure out if YOU still need it after retiring, ask yourself the following questions:

Will my spouse suffer an income loss?

- Although you might no longer be earning an income, you still need to consider any fixed income sources that might stop when you die. A surviving spouse will only be able to keep one social security check and depending on earnings during your working years, the loss of one social security payment could be close to 50% of your total. Additionally, if you have a pension from your employer, your spouse could lose even more income (*depending on the pension option you selected*).

Do you still have a mortgage or debts?

- While most people plan to have their house paid off before they retire, the reality is that many don't. If this is your situation, you need to make sure that you have a plan to take care of any debts which survive your passing. Do you still have a car loan? What about credit card balances?

Do you want to leave a legacy?

- Many people hope to leave assets for their children, grandchildren and even charities when they die. Life insurance is one of the best ways to make sure the people that you care about get the money that you want them to receive. The death benefit proceeds from life insurance have significant tax benefits which most assets won't provide to your beneficiaries.

How will your family pay for your funeral?

- This is one of the reasons most people have life insurance. Depending on where you live and what your final wishes are, a funeral could cost your family between \$10,000.⁰⁰ to \$15,000.⁰⁰. If you don't have life insurance to cover that cost, how will your family pay for it? Having life insurance will give you peace of mind, knowing that you won't cause a financial burden to your loved ones.



Snapshots of Life



Creating a Legacy

Is your legacy a "go-forward" strategy? Very few people like to think about what their family would do if the worst should happen, but it's an important topic to contemplate as part of a solid financial plan.

Term life insurance is an affordable way to provide protection for loved ones if the need for life insurance will only last for a certain period. This timeframe often coincides with:

- a mortgage payment,
- how long until a child's college funding needs to last,
- or how long a person is providing for their spouse with their income.

The loss of income and household contributions can be a severe hardship for a family. Everyday expenses like housing, utilities, food, childcare, education, and health care may be difficult or impossible to pay with a reduced household income. Life insurance death benefit proceeds can be set aside to pay for these ongoing expenses.

Life insurance is the perfect way to secure your family's future, no matter what.

GCU
Term Life Insurance

As you can see, the **need** for life insurance doesn't stop when you stop working. Call GCU if you want to make sure that you and your family are protected.



Tim Demetres
Chief Financial Officer

2021 Financial Results

A Year Highlighted by Financial Growth & Strength

The year 2021 was exciting for GCU in terms of growth, financial strength, and credit rating improvement to A-. GCU also introduced the Aquila X, a fixed indexed annuity product. GCU continues to grow with total assets exceeding \$2.4 billion and surplus surpassing \$209 million as of December 31, 2021.

Highlights of 2021

Income before net capital gains (losses) totaled \$32.8 million in 2021 compared to \$29.7 million reported in 2020. Net income after realized capital gains (losses) was \$33 million in 2021 compared to \$12.8 million in 2020. In 2020, we recognized \$16.9 million in impairments from certain energy related investments.

Total Assets increased \$213 million to \$2.414 billion in 2021 from \$2.201 billion in 2020. The increase in assets reflects continued growth in invested assets from new business activity and positive cash flows. We employ a diversified asset allocation strategy to generate appropriate risk adjusted returns in support of our life and annuity liabilities. A key objective of this strategy is to complement fixed income returns by modestly increasing exposure to alternative assets (investments in LLC's and limited partnerships), real estate and public equities to less than 5% of total invested assets.

Liabilities grew commensurate with increased life and annuity sales and totaled \$2.205 billion as of December 31, 2021 compared to \$2.018 billion at year-end 2020. The \$186.4 million increase in total liabilities is due primarily to a \$169.1 million increase in life and annuity reserves, a \$15.5 million increase in AVR, and a \$1.4 million increase in the IMR from deferred investment gains.

Total Income in 2021 grew to \$423.8 million, an increase of \$69 million compared to \$354.9 million in 2020. Life sales increased 75% from growth in our whole life single premium and final expense products. Annuity sales and exchanges increased \$51.9 million to \$291.6 million in 2021. Net investment income increased \$13.5 million to \$116.9 million from growth in invested assets and income earned from make-whole premiums on bond calls and tender offers.

Operating expenses, before the increase in reserves, totaled \$225.3 million versus \$190 million in 2020, an increase of \$35.3 million or 18.6%. Largely attributable to meeting the needs of our members, GCU paid \$30.1 million more in annuity benefits (death claims, full and partial withdrawals). Annuity exchanges decreased \$6 million. Commissions paid agents increased \$7.3 million commensurate with higher life and annuity sales. General insurance expenses were \$1.6 million higher in 2021 when compared to 2020 due to increased depreciation of EDP equipment and software. Pension expenses increased \$1.2 million due to employee attrition and pension distributions. The higher pension expenses were mostly offset by a decrease in the pension fund liability resulting

in a minimal impact to net income.

The increase in reserves totaled \$165.4 million in 2021 compared to \$134.9 million in 2020. Reserve changes are primarily a function of premiums received, death claims and annuity benefits, and interest accumulation.

Surplus grew to \$209.2 million in 2021 compared to \$182.7 million at year-end 2020. The \$26.6 million increase in surplus is attributable to the additions of net income and the change in unrealized gains of \$33 million and \$11.2 million, respectively, reduced by the change in AVR (\$15.5 million); (\$1.6 million) increase in non-admitted software development costs; and (\$0.5 million) reduction for GCU Holding Company's net loss.

Total Adjusted Capital (TAC) was \$233.2 million at December 31, 2021. TAC starts with surplus of \$209.2 million and adds back the asset valuation reserve of \$23.8 million and one-half the dividend liability of \$150,000. TAC is a financial strength measure closely monitored by rating agencies. The solvency ratios based on TAC were 110.7% and 109.5%, as of December 31, 2021 and 2020, respectively. These strong ratios reflect GCU's excellent financial strength.

Spring is here, Happy Easter!

Tim

GCU Balance Sheet Comparison

AS OF DECEMBER 31,

Assets (000's omitted)	2021	2020	Difference
Bonds	\$ 2,213,353	\$2,015,625	\$197,728
Preferred Stocks	23,125	40,562	(17,437)
Common Stocks	35,384	26,707	8,677
Cash//Short Term Investments	48,638	54,663	(6,025)
Mortgages	3,674	3,449	225
Certificate Loans	608	574	34
Derivatives	472	—	472
Real Estate	15,461	471	14,990
Investment Income Due & Accrued	27,575	26,134	1,441
Alternative Investments	45,062	31,950	13,112
Other	475	682	(207)
Total Assets	\$2,413,827	\$2,200,816	\$213,011
Percentage Total Change Year to Year	9.7%	10.4%	
Liabilities			
Life Reserves	\$ 81,792	\$ 75,154	\$ 6,638
Annuity Reserves	2,063,504	1,901,020	162,484
Accident & Health Reserves	131	177	(46)
Employee Pension Liability	6,869	7,464	(595)
Symposium Reserve	127	127	(—)
Advance Premium & Future Refund Reserves	368	356	12
Pending Investment Trades	1,666	1,730	(64)
Accounts Payable	1,140	961	179
Refund Accumulations	2,599	1,739	860
Asset Valuation Reserve-AVR	23,831	8,316	15,515
Interest Maintenance Reserve-IMR	22,558	21,124	1,434
Total Liabilities	\$2,204,585	\$2,018,169	\$186,416
Surplus Fund	209,242	182,648	26,594
Total Liabilities & Surplus	\$2,413,827	\$2,200,816	\$213,011
Normal Solvency	109.5%	109.1%	
Solvency Ratio*	110.7%	109.5%	

*Adds AVR and one half dividend liability to surplus
Financial information is unaudited and is presented on the statutory basis of accounting.

GCU Income Statement Comparison

YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31,

Income	2021	2020	Difference
Life Premium	\$9,695,999	\$5,553,181	\$4,142,818
Annuity Premium	276,696,381	218,822,916	57,873,465
Annuity Exchanges	14,919,390	20,929,792	(6,010,402)
Accident & Health	528,255	649,738	(121,483)
Sub Total	301,840,025	245,955,627	55,884,398
Net Investment Income	116,856,455	103,363,483	13,492,972
Amortization of Interest Maintenance Reserve	2,111,022	2,937,810	(826,788)
Commission Allowance for Reinsurance	1,476,321	1,872,452	(396,131)
Other	1,552,586	768,828	783,758
Total Income	\$423,836,410	\$354,898,200	\$68,938,210
Expenses			
Death Benefits	\$3,793,657	\$2,643,372	\$1,150,285
Annuity Benefits Paid	177,433,848	147,337,627	30,096,221
Annuity Exchanges	14,919,390	20,929,792	(6,010,402)
Surrender Benefits	488,871	496,783	(7,912)
Accident & Health Benefits Paid	475,678	514,576	(38,898)
Commissions	16,321,671	9,005,767	7,315,904
General Insurance Expense	9,858,036	8,263,419	1,594,617
Insurance, Taxes, Licenses and Fees	486,516	482,940	3,576
Pension Expense (Credit)	1,255,850	98,507	1,157,343
Interest on Contract and Deposit Accounts	281,433	235,295	46,138
Sub-Total	\$225,314,950	\$190,008,077	\$35,306,873
Increase in Reserves	165,354,693	134,942,153	30,412,540
Total Expenses	\$390,669,643	\$324,950,230	\$65,719,413
Net Gain from Operations before Refunds	33,166,767	29,947,970	3,218,797
Refunds to Members	326,412	278,922	47,490
Net Gain from Operations after Refunds	32,840,355	29,669,048	3,171,307
Net Capital Gains (Losses)	180,168	(16,851,138)	17,031,306
Net Income	\$33,020,522	\$12,817,910	\$20,202,611

Financial Report

Four Year Comparative Summary

YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31,

	2021	2020	2019	2018
Assets	\$ 2.41 Bil	\$ 2.20 Bil	\$ 2.05 Bil	\$ 1.89 Bil
Total Income	424 Mil	354 Mil	348 Mil	336 Mil
Total Operating Expense	390.7 Mil	325.0 Mil	316.2 Mil	310.3 Mil
Reserve Change - Life and Annuities	165.4 Mil	134.9 Mil	137.0 Mil	150.2 Mil
Income from Operations	32.8 Mil	29.7 Mil	31.7 Mil	25.6 Mil
Refunds to Members	(326,412)	(278,922)	(276,334)	(271,796)
Capital Gains (Losses)	180,168	(16,851,138)	(3,972,941)	(3,413,447)
Net Income (Loss)	33,020,522	12,817,910	27,712,796	22,182,736
Reserve - Interest Maintenance	22,558,432	21,124,000	21,539,184	22,582,928
Reserve - Asset Valuation	23,831,449	8,316,048	18,746,796	19,311,098
Surplus (Net Worth)	\$209,241,561	\$182,647,591	\$162,741,529	\$154,269,000



General Insurance Expenses

YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31,

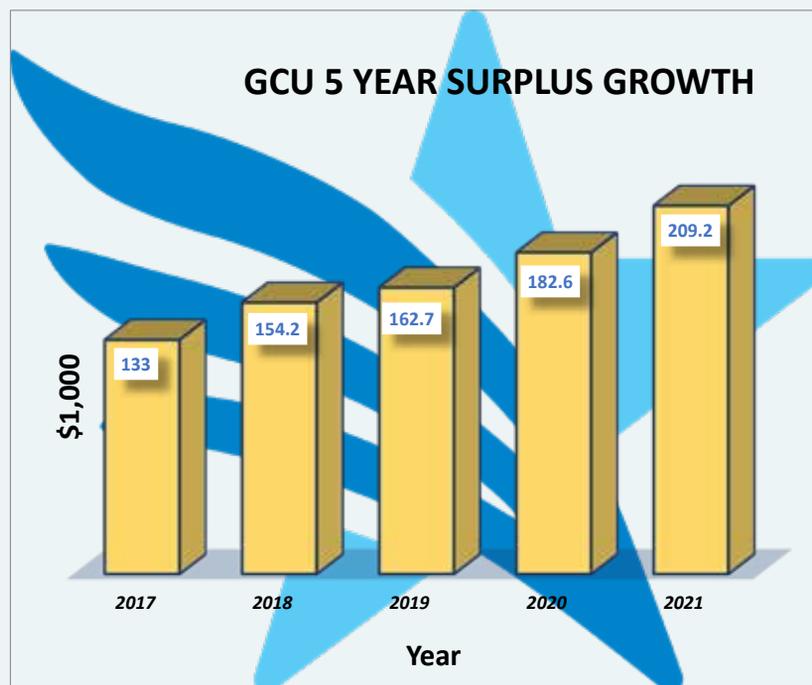
	2021	2020*	Difference
Rent	\$ 94,000	\$ 94,000	\$ —
Salaries & Wages	3,941,255	3,790,423	150,832
Employee Benefits	1,023,477	855,837	167,640
Legal Fees & Expenses	78,848	54,936	23,912
Medical Examination Fees	223,082	115,355	107,727
Fees-CPA, Actuarial and Banking	498,683	476,374	22,309
Board Meeting Expenses/Travel	95,710	93,579	2,131
Advertising	—	415	(415)
Postage & Phone	178,591	178,905	(314)
Printing & Stationary	129,506	93,998	35,508
Rental of Equipment	23,929	24,787	(858)
Books and Periodicals	1,554	2,306	(752)
Bureau and Association Dues	42,396	26,476	15,920
Cost or Depreciation of EDP Equipment & Software	1,546,101	442,364	1,103,737
Insurance Fees	221,331	93,144	128,187
Sundry General Expenses	271,020	134,223	136,797
Official Publication	47,877	46,607	1,270
Fraternal Activities	1,018,838	1,156,671	(137,833)
Data Processing Supplies/Exp.	406,969	538,437	(131,468)
Marketing Consultant Fees and Expenses	14,869	44,582	(29,713)
Total	\$9,858,036	\$8,263,419	\$1,594,617

*Certain amounts have been restated to conform with the 2021 presentation.

GCU Surplus Comparison

YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31,

	2021	2020	Difference
Beginning Surplus	\$182,647,529	\$ 162,741,529	\$ 19,906,000
Net Income	33,020,548	12,818,000	20,202,548
Change in Unrealized Gain/(Loss)	11,151,635	(600,000)	11,751,635
GCU Holding Company	(447,128)	(727,000)	279,872
Changes in Non-Admitted Assets	(1,615,622)	(2,016,000)	400,378
Changes in Asset Valuation Reserve	(15,515,401)	10,431,000	(25,946,401)
Net Change in Surplus	26,594,032	19,906,000	6,688,032
Ending Surplus	\$209,241,561	\$182,647,529	\$26,594,032



GCU Subsidiary Operations - Year 2021 *

	GCU Holding & Subsidiaries	GCU Holding Co.	GCU Real Estate Co.	Seven Oaks Country Club	GCU Agency Inc.
Equity, beginning of year	\$ 10,917,264	\$ 162,177	\$ 1,294,527	\$ 9,402,221	\$58,339
Prior period audit adjustments	38,685	—	—	38,685	—
Equity, adjusted beginning of year	10,955,949	162,177	1,294,527	9,440,906	58,339
Net Income (Loss)	(485,844)	(46,919)	(94,130)	(345,221)	426
Capital Contribution (Distribution)	3,020,000	—	—	3,020,000	—
Equity, end of year	\$13,490,105	\$115,258	\$1,200,397	\$12,115,685	\$58,765

*Financial information is unaudited and is presented in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles.

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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, May 30 in observance of Memorial Day. Regular business hours will resume on Tuesday, May 31.



Are You Enjoying the GCU Magazine?

The *GCU Magazine* is published on a bi-monthly basis in February, April, June, August, October and December. **All** members receive the April—Annual Report issue. If you have not been receiving the magazine and would like to, please email bwahal@GCUusa.com or contact the GCU Fraternal-Communications Department at 1-800-722-4428 ext. 3810.

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Mitred Archpriest
John S. Kachuba
GCU Spiritual Advisor

Some Customs & Traditions of “Easter”

For ten weeks now through prayers, liturgical services, and our personal fasting we have been preparing for the glorious day of Christ’s Resurrection, Pascha or Easter Sunday. Hoping that during Lent everyone had an opportunity to be cleansed from his or her personal sins, the Church now celebrates externally and with beautifully joyous ceremonies the final triumph and life-giving resurrection of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Various peoples, through their different customs and traditions, are now ready to celebrate the Glorious Resurrection of our Lord. I would like to point out a few of the customs, traditions, and liturgical actions, along with their meaning, which have been passed down to us from the Carpatho-Rusyn region of Eastern Europe, from which the GCU founders and ancestors came.

IS IT “EASTER” OR IS IT “PASCHA”? The term “Pascha,” in its traditional application, has several meanings: “Pascha,” the Greek form of the Hebrew word “pesach,” meaning “to pass over,” is a Jewish holy day, which commemorates the liberation of the Jews from Egyptian slavery and their crossing over the Red Sea into the Promised Land. Through Christ’s Resurrection we have passed from the slavery of sin and “from death to life,” and “from earth to heaven” (Jn. 5:24; 14:1). At Resurrection Matins we sing: “The Passover is the Lord’s Passover, since Christ our God has brought us from death to life and from earth to heaven” (Irmos of the First Ode). For us the word “Pascha” indicates the yearly commemoration of Christ’s glorious resurrection. In the Liturgy “Pascha” is described as the “feast of feasts and solemnity of solemnities” (Irmos of the Eighth Ode). In other words, Easter is simply called Pascha. The Easter Canon refers to Jesus Christ as our Pascha since He “willingly sacrificed Himself like a yearling lamb for all of us” (Troparion of the Fourth Ode). We use the similar term “Paska” for the bread we bless in our “Easter baskets,” representing Christ the living bread.

WHY DO WE STAND AND NOT KNEEL FROM EASTER TO PENTECOST? During all the liturgical services in church, and even in our private prayers at home we stand and do not kneel. Kneeling, [and prostrating] is a penitential posture. It is the position of a sinner seeking forgiveness. It

is not a position of adoration as it is in the West. Standing, the proper position of adoration in the East, is the position of giving praise and thanks to God. During the Paschal Season the time for repentance and fasting is over. It is the time of our salvation for “Christ is Risen!” We express our joy, thanksgiving, and adoration for this fact and the fact that we who have been “...baptized into Christ and put on Christ” have also risen with Him. It is for this reason that kneeling is improper during this holy season. To kneel is to imply that we do not accept the resurrection of Christ. By standing for all prayer, in church and at home, we are demonstrating in a bodily way that we believe that “Christ is risen from the dead, by death He trampled death and to those in the tombs He granted life.”

ICON OF THE RESURRECTION: All four Gospels are silent on the manner of Christ’s Resurrection. Nowhere in sacred Scripture is there a factual account of the event. Byzantine art is faithful to the Gospel and never presents this event, but it expresses what occurred before or after the Resurrection. The Icon of the Resurrection is either the “Descent into Hades” or the “Myrrh-bearing Women.” The Icon of the Descent into Hades shows Christ as the Life-giver. In it, Christ is seen trampling the gates of Hades and taking Adam and Eve by the hands and drawing them to life.

BLESSING OF EASTER BASKETS: One of the most popular customs is to bring to the church hall, or other appropriate place, the food that we have fasted from during Lent. For those who keep the traditional “strict fast” it would mean any meat or dairy products that they fasted from for the forty days. Some of these foods could include **EGGS**—Brightly decorated eggs (pysanky) are a symbol of the New Life that is ours in Christ. **PASKA** (Easter Bread)—A sweet, yeast bread rich in eggs, butter, etc.

CONTINUED



Atty. John J. Urban

Lessons in the Law

Cryptocurrency

Bitcoin, digital assets, cryptocurrency, digital wallets, coins etc.—we can't escape hearing about this new investment whether there is a TV commercial or an ad in a newspaper or magazine. Many questions are being asked by clients who have entered this arena of cryptocurrency.

If you are in this type of investment, make sure your estate planning documents have the correct wording to transfer, sell or manage these assets.

The IRS does not view cryptocurrency as currency. Depending how it is used it could be income or it could be a long-term capital gain. Valuing the worth of this investment could be tricky and expensive.

Cryptocurrency can cause at least three nightmares. The first is that owning this investment is just plain down scary because of volatility in the market. Second, can you

Valuing the worth of this investment could be tricky and expensive.

title this investment to avoid probate? No one is quite sure of this answer because of the newness of this investment. Finally, the word "ghostlike" is used to describe where is this investment located. You receive a digital wallet that can be devastating if you lose it or forget the access code.

The point here is that if you are involved in this type of an investment make sure you know what you are doing and make sure you have your estate planning documents updated for this investment. For more information about cryptocurrency and estate planning contact your attorney.

SPIRITUAL

Symbolic of Christ who is our True Bread. **HAM**—Celebrates the freedom of the New Law which came into effect through Jesus' resurrection, in distinction to the Old Law which forbade certain meats. Lamb or veal are also used. **CHEESE** (Cirec or Hrutka)—A custard-type of egg cheese shaped into a ball having a rather bland but sweet taste indicative of the moderation that Christians should have in all things. **HORSERADISH**—It reminds us of the bitterness and suffering of Christ which culminated in the Resurrection. **BUTTER** (Shaped into a figure of a Lamb)—The lamb is the ancient Passover food by whose blood the Israelites were saved. Jesus is our Paschal (Passover) Lamb by whose blood we are saved.

I have presented some of the traditions of the Slavic peoples whose ancestors came from the Carpatho-Rusyn region of Eastern Europe. I am sure that in your own families you have other traditions and customs. Those who have come from other nationalities will have their own customs and traditions. All of these are important to us, and the joining together of the various customs allow us to relive and celebrate the magnificent event of Christ's Resurrection that has given us eternal life.

Giving

St. Nicholas Byzantine Catholic Church Parish Expansion

Dunellen, NJ. St. Nicholas Byzantine Catholic Church’s pirohi makers gathered together on Friday, March 11 and again on Saturday, March 12, 2022. The event took place in the church hall. There were eighteen workers on Friday, who prepared the potato and cheese filling and shaped the filling into balls. On Saturday, twenty-three workers came out to pinch the filling in the dough and cook them. They made 234 dozen of pirohi. The delicious dumplings sold out very quickly. The sale is a major fund raiser for St. Nicholas Church. The workers are very dedicated to the church. Mr. Michael Majorczak is the organizer of this hardworking group that just keeps on going. Fr. Jim Badeaux is pastor at St. Nicholas Church.

Mary Bannworth



Workers preparing the potato and cheese filling.



The pinchers showing off their work.

Holy Trinity Byzantine Catholic Church Parish Expansion



Tom Oslick with boxes of collected shoes.

Wall, PA. Holy Trinity Byzantine Church held a Soles-4-Souls fund raiser from January 1 to February 28, 2022 to assist in creating opportunities for women in developing nations to start and sustain a business.

Under the guidance of Linda & Tom Oslick boxes for collection were put in Holy Trinity Church, Resurrection Church and Merola Barber Shop with the help of GCU members from both parishes. Over 310 pairs of gently worn shoes were collected and sent to Souls-4-Souls. A big thank you to all who helped make this an overwhelming success.

Tom & Linda Oslick

Remembering Our Seniors in Nursing Homes

Aliquippa, PA. The St. Helene's Guild women's group of SS. Peter & Paul Ukrainian Catholic Church wanted to remember local seniors in nursing homes with a surprise Christmas gift. They got together in December 2021 to fill & deliver non-slip Cozy Socks with items recommended by the nursing homes of Rochester Manor and Villa in Rochester, PA and West Hills Health and Rehabilitation Center in Coraopolis, PA. Thanks to the GCU's GoGive Program funding, they were able to fill the socks to overflowing with personal care items and treats such as hand cream, nail files, back scratchers, lip balm, crackers, cookies, candy, exercise balls and puzzle books. The delivery also included crocheted lap blankets to keep the legs of wheelchair patients warm.

Andrea Roby



Organizing the personal care items.



Non-slip socks filled with goodies!



Vivian Zdranik, Helen Medianowsky, Olga Karmazyn and Andrea Bernola.

OUR MEMBERS



Father Kevin Marks with the birthday girl Lucy Mallick.

Lucy Mallick Celebrates 90th Birthday

On Sunday, March 13, 2022 after the 9 AM Divine Liturgy, Fr. Kevin Marks gave a special blessing and a beautiful floral arrangement to longtime parishioner Lucy Mallick, who celebrated her 90th birthday on March 15! Lucy has served the parish as an assistant cantor, SMART team helper and as a collection counter. With Lodge 258, Lucy and Joan Walker organize and mail out the weekly Sign-A-Card Ministry cards. Lucy is still very active at St. Michael Church and Fr. Kevin thanked her for all of her dedicated years of service and told her that she is our "Betty White" and that we want to see her make it to 100!

After receiving her blessing for her 90th birthday, Lucy Mallick posed for photos with Fr. Kevin Marks and fellow cantors and Lodge 258 members, Bill Dzurisko and Joan Walker. Special thank you to Alyssa Vasil and her father, Michael J. Vasil, for taking and sharing their photos of the event!

Bill Dzurisko |
President



Lodge 258 President Bill Dzurisko, Fr. Kevin Marks, Lucy Mallick and Lodge 258 Secretary Joan Walker.



GCU

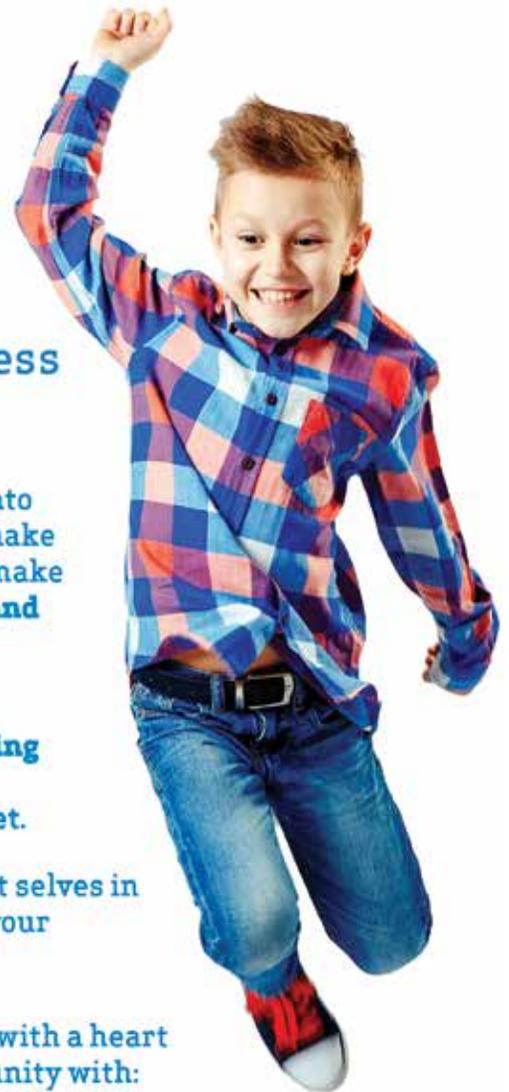
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District 5

Looking Forward | It is so nice to start having group activities again. Hopefully, this is the end of the pandemic. We look forward to Helping Hands Day, the District 5 Golf Tournament, Baseball Tailgate, Annual Meeting and St. Nicholas Scholarship Brunch. Unfortunately, there will not be a Junior Bowling Tournament this year.

Annual Hockey Outing | Having missed the annual hockey outing last year due to the pandemic, it was great to get together on Saturday, March 19, 2022 at the Mohegan Sun Arena in Wilkes-Barre Township, PA with the Wilkes-Barre/Scranton Penguins facing off against the Utica Comets. The district had 70 people purchase tickets. The game was a St. Patrick's Day celebration with the Penguins dressed in green and the Penguin mascot, Tux, wearing a kilt. Attendees received a green St. Patty's Penguin's Rally Towel, a value meal voucher from McDonald's, a hot dog, chips and drink.

The Comets took an early lead, but the Penguins bounced back. There were a few fights. Excitement lasted to the end, where the Comets tried to even the score. The Penguins were victorious, 3-2. A special events subsidy was provided by the Home Office, as well as 3 Target gift cards won by CharLeigh Miner, Paul Batyko III and Phil Batyko. Hand sanitizers and calendars were provided by the Home Office. We thank them for all they do for the district.



Front: Sarah Tanana, Ali Sluko, Dylan Burnett and Deb Sluko. Back: Marge & John Hlavaty and Mariellen & Andy Sluko.



The Miner Family-Scott, Jozshua, Charleigh and Karen with Ed Keil in the background.



The Pezak Family-Sean, Joann and Paul.

Deepest Sympathy | District 5 wants to extend their deepest sympathies to the family of Paul Suche who passed away on February 22, 2022. Paul was a past President of District 5 and ticket chairman for the annual St. Nicholas Scholarship Dinners and Brunches for many years. He was an active participant at the ski weekends, hockey games, attended junior bowling tournaments and played in annual golf tournaments to name a few. He will be sadly missed. Blessed repose and eternal memory!

May you have a very Blessed Easter Season!
Christ Is Risen! Indeed He Is Risen!
Please pray for peace in the Ukraine!

Ilona Dolinish | Publicity Director

Note: It is with deep sadness that we learned, shortly before this magazine went to press, that Ilona Dolinish had passed away. We offer our condolences to her family at this difficult time. God grant her blessed repose and eternal memory.

District 15

It's a cloudy morning as I write this report just in time for the March 25 deadline. I can hear the birds chirping and the whistle from a train on the banks of the Ohio River not far from my home in Moon Township, PA. It's peaceful here; I don't take peace for granted these days.

Thoughts & Prayers For Ukraine | In the first week of Russia's invasion of Ukraine, I watched for reports and updates with hopes that the conflict would end quickly and that the troops would return to their own country. My husband, John, our children and I have many friends with family still in Ukraine—mostly in and around Lviv. Some hiding in the basements of their homes; some have fled to safety in Poland; and still others of whom we know nothing.

Friends and family attended peace rallies here in Pittsburgh; made monetary donations; flooded Facebook pages with sunflowers and details about Ukraine's right to sovereignty; and my son John, has helped pack boxes of supplies for the people of Ukraine. Like many others, I followed the story of Rev. Charest, the local priest who traveled to Ukraine in the first weeks of the war to rescue 22 children from an orphanage and I said a prayer of gratitude upon reading of his success.

The images of the refugees, many of them children, haunt me. Forced to leave their homes, schools and jobs for the unknown. Will they reach safety? How will they be received? Will they be able to find peace in a new country?

I am inspired by the courage of the Ukrainian people and was reminded of the courage of my grandparents, who also fled Eastern Europe for the unknown. John and I have talked about just that in recent weeks. How incredibly blessed we are to have had grandparents with the courage to leave their homeland for the unknown. GCU was founded by people with that kind of courage over 130 years ago. We are all blessed! Because of the courage of my grandparents, I can write this article on a peaceful, albeit cloudy morning in a Pittsburgh suburb, while war rages in the homeland of my ancestors. I don't take that for granted either. Slava Ukraine.



Peace rally in Pittsburgh, PA.

On behalf of the members, District 15 officers voted to donate \$1,000.00 to the GCU Special Board Matching Funds for Ukraine project.



Junior Bowlers.

Junior Bowling Tournament | On a lighter note, Kathy Kapaldo organized the District 15 Junior Bowling Tournament this year in the absence of a district athletic director. Twelve children ranging in ages from 2 to 17 enjoyed a pizza lunch and bowling on Sunday, March 20. Seventeen-year-old Ethan Alleman bowled 180, 214 and 208 games for a 602 series. Ethan, who lives in Chippewa, PA, is a member of Lodge 994 and a junior at Blackhawk High School. He is the son of Brian & Marianne Alleman. Congratulations, Ethan! Many thanks to Laura Seech and Kathy Kapaldo for making sure the kids, their parents and grandparents enjoyed the afternoon.

Adult No-Tap Bowling Tournament | The District Adult No-Tap was planned for Saturday, April 9. A full report will be included in the June issue of the *GCU Magazine*.

Looking Forward | After consulting with Sister Patti Young at the Sisters of St. Joseph in Baden, PA, it was decided to hold a Christmas in July party for the retired Sisters this year. Warmer weather and hopefully lower COVID numbers should ensure a more enjoyable celebration for all. A specific date hasn't been selected yet, but will be announced via eblast and in the *GCU Magazine* once it has been chosen. Volunteers for this annual gathering with the Sisters are always welcome!

Annual Ladies Luncheon & Bunco at Seven Oaks on Saturday, September 24.

Annual Golf Outing—officers are still working on a date, stay tuned!

Last year's **Wine Tasting Luncheon** at Black Dog Winery was so popular that plans are in the works to host another this year. Thanks to the feedback from the guests, the district has decided to move the event to an afternoon in October.

District officers join me in wishing all of GCU members a Blessed and Joyous Easter.

Christ is Risen! Indeed, He is Risen!

Elizabeth Harbist | President

Lodge News

Lodge 57

BROWNSVILLE, PA

Pirohi Making

The pirohi workers of St. Nicholas Byzantine Catholic Church and members of Lodge 57 have been busy filling pirohi orders throughout the Lenten season. The proceeds from the sale will help with church repairs. Helping (at right) are: Leslie Maczko, Genevieve Marszal and Melody Yeardie. Preparing the potato filling (far right) are: Bill Maczko, Lodge 57 Chaplain Father Christopher Burke, Secretary Melody Yeardie, President Elect Genevieve Marszal and Treasurer Becky Thomas.

Bernie Karoffa | Publicity Director



Some of the hard workers who made the pirohi sale a success.



Above are the winners of the cake competition and at right are members and parishioners enjoying some sweet treats.

Lodge 77

LORAIN, OH

February Fun Event

Lodge 77 held a Fun February Event on Super Bowl Sunday in St. Nicholas Church hall. The event included a Valentine Bake Sale and 50/50 fundraiser to raise money for future lodge activities. A Cake Competition for the children of the lodge and St. Nicholas parish also took place. Categories included Best Super Bowl, Best Valentine and Most Original. There was a silent auction with the highest bidder being awarded that cake. Everyone had a great time enjoying a sweet treat and rooting for their favorite team.

Anne Dillon | Treasurer



Lodge 81

UNIONTOWN, PA

Community/Greater Community

GCU Lodge 81 officers who are also ECF teachers held a “Souper Bowl” Collection. Marcia Harrer organized this event with the ECF students after the Divine Liturgies on Super Bowl weekend. Through the generosity of the St. John parishioners, \$610.00 was collected and donated to the Community Action Agency. Bonnie Balas and Marcia Harrer met with the agency’s officials to present the greatly appreciated donation.

Since the onset of the Russian invasion of Ukraine, a Rosary has been recited each Sunday at 5 PM at the Mount Macrina Lourdes’ Grotto. Father Vasyl Symyon, pastor at St. John BC Church, many parishioners, GCU members, and members of local Catholic churches have been in attendance.

A surprise birthday celebration recognizing Gerry Dorobish on her birthday was held on February 16 at the AMVETS Center. Many friends attended with well wishes and to honor her for the many community activities in which she engages.

Stephen Petruska was able to sell over 200 boxes of Girl Scout cookies. This was done to help his niece, Makayla Boes, who is a member of St. Gregory BC Church in Upper St. Clair, PA. Good going, Stephen!

Throughout Great Lent, Bonnie Balas offered pysanky classes at St. John Church hall to the Uniontown community. Joan Bridges and Mark Jesko assisted the participants.



Student Rita Marella with teacher Bonnie Balas.



Bonnie, Project Manager Loretta Thresher, Marcia and CEO of Community Action Agency Jim Stark.



Members at Rosary for Peace at Mt. Macrina.



Gerry at her surprise Birthday party with a friend and Sister Ruth Plante.



Steve with Joan Bridges and Bonnie distributing Girl Scout Cookies.



Marcia with ECF students at Souper Bowl Collection.

Parish

At the January Birthday social Joan Bridges and other parishioners were recognized. The February Birthday social recognized Father Vasyl, Gerry Dorobish, Bonnie Balas, and others. Stephen Petruska was recognized at the March birthday social. Bonnie Balas, Kathy Vensko and Paulette Mehalik were hostesses for March social.

The primary fundraiser for the St. John Parish is the weekly pirohi project. On February 10 the pirohi workers honored Father Vasyl for



Joan Opachko Bridges making pirohi with Fr. Vasyl.

his February 13 birthday with a cake and a covered dish buffet. Father Vasyl assists in pirohi making with many parishioners, non-parishioners and GCU members.

As part of the ECF classes peruse the *GCU Magazine* reviewing their photos that appear in the publication. The ECF teachers assist the students with projects during Lent that pertain to the Byzantine traditions, themes of Lenten Sundays and Sunday Gospels. Special crosses were prepared by each student which were blessed by Father Vasyl on the 3rd Sunday of Lent.

On Sunday, February 27, a Fashengy was held following Forgiveness Vespers. Cathy Phillips and Bonnie Balas were part of the

CONTINUED

Lodge 81 CONTINUED



Ida Morganosky, Gerry and Marcia at parish clean up day.

planning/serving/decorating committee. The Social Ministry Committee prepared an Easter theme basket for a raffle to benefit St. John Social Ministry. Stephen Petruska has continued his cantoring at weekend Divine Liturgies and at the weekday Presanctified Gifts Liturgies.

To prepare for parish renovations, a Clean Up Day was held on Saturday, February 19. Lodge 81 members and many parishioners participated in this project.

The quarterly meeting was held on Sunday, February 20 after ECF classes. Plans were discussed for the involvement of Lodge 81 members in the 15th Egg Eggstravaganza, which received a GCU Fraternal Grant. Discussion also included sponsoring the ECF end of year party and a memorial Liturgy for Father Vasyl's mother, Eva, who passed away in Ukraine on February 12. A donation was made to the Archeparchial appeal for the Ukraine Relief Fund. The next quarterly meeting is scheduled for Sunday, May 15 following the Sunday Divine Liturgy.

Bonnie Balas | Vice President & Publicity Coordinator

Lodge 93

NORTHERN CAMBRIA

St. Anne's Hoagie and Pizza Fundraiser

Lodge 93 sponsored a Parish Matching Funds project at St. Anne BCC in Clymer, PA where Father Wesley Mash is the pastor.

Pizza and hoagies might be two of the easiest dinner plans. The bready, cheesy, hand-held delicacy has been a staple of the American diet since the early 1900s and more recently along with many varieties of hoagies, has become a great fundraiser.

This "give a cook a break" fundraiser took advanced orders for Marianna's pizzas and hoagies with all the works. Buyers had a choice of 9 varieties of 14 inch hoagies and 3 choices of 12 inch pizzas for pickup or delivery.

This moneymaker was created by the DelGrosso Family Companies located in Tipton, PA. The company established Marianna's as a way to help organizations. Marianna's offers fresh, quality products prepared daily from the kitchens of DelGrosso Foods.

This event will be sponsored again in April.

Thank you to the GCU for the continued support of the parish and its parishioners.



St. Anne volunteers.



Father Pyo and Father Andriitso.

New Priest Appointed to St. John BC Church

The welcome mat was set out to celebrate the arrival of Fr. Roman Andriitso as the new pastor at St. John BCC in Northern Cambria, PA. Father Andriitso is from the Diocese of Mukachevo Ukraine. He will also serve as the administrator of Ss. Peter & Paul BCC in Patton, PA.

A pizza party was held to welcome the new religious leader along with his wife Olesya and children Anastasia (12), Sofia

(8) and Theodore (5). The parishioners and the Northern Cambria community look forward to his leadership and getting to know his family.

Farewell wishes and a big thank you were extended to Father Edward Pyo for his faith-filled life and dedicated service. Father Pyo has been a tremendous source of light and joy for the congregation.

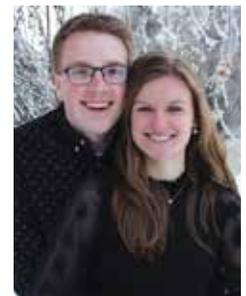
Mihalow-Kinney Engagement

Gary & Rose Mihalow of Patton, PA are happy to announce the engagement of their daughter Taylor Mihalow to Paul Kinney the son of Michael & Pauline Kinney of Dysart, PA.

The couple began dating while attending Cambria Heights High School in Patton.

Taylor is a member of Lodge 93 and graduated in December 2021 from Saint Vincent College in Latrobe, PA with a Bachelor of Science in Health Science and a Minor in Biology. Paul is anticipating his graduation in May 2022 from West Virginia University in Morgantown, WV with a Bachelor of Science in Industrial Engineering.

A 2024 wedding is planned.



Paul Kinney & Taylor Mihalow

Connie Strittmatter | Secretary-Treasurer

Lodge 109

LYNDORA, PA

Fasengy Celebration

On Sunday, February 27, Lodge 109 played host to an old world Rusin custom of Fasengy, a pre-Lenten celebration of fun & frivolous behavior. The event was complete with dancing to ethnic music, ringing bells, blowing

horns and eating decadent foods and desserts usually given up during the Great Fast. Some people also wore their silly hats, beads and costumes to better set the mood. A happy time was had by all.

Janet Uram | Secretary-Treasurer



Matching Funds check presentation made to Fr. Radko from the St. Nicholas fundraiser. Front Row: Janet Uram, Fr. Radko, Pat Kosar & Helen Musko. Back Row: Liz & John Pocchiari, Mike Dancisin, Deacon Paul Simko and Bob Kosar.



Fasengy party-goers lining up for refreshments.



Kids learning some dance steps from the adults.



Our Lady of Czestochowa Icon.

Lodge 151

NEW YORK, NY

1st Quarterly Meeting

Lodge 151 held its 1st quarterly meeting and happy to greet GCU member Tony Messino and his wife Pat. Hopefully additional members will attend the next meeting. Lodge officers really miss seeing everyone!

Our Lady of Czestochowa

As part of St. Andrew the Apostle Church in Westbury, NY continuing adult education program, Sr. Katarina OSB presented the topic on Our Lady of Czestochowa on Sunday, February 20. The history of the miraculous Icon of the Black Madonna was shared with the parishioners. Sr. Katarina told of our Lady's intercessions on behalf of the faithful in Poland and her protection against the invasions by heretics and conquering armies. As recent as September 14, 1920 Our Lady of

Czestochowa saved the people of Warsaw from invasion by the Russian Army in the Miracle of Vistula. Over the centuries, millions of pilgrims have traveled to her shrine to give thanks for help provided and to

CONTINUED



Sister Katarina's talk at St. Andrew Church.

Lodge 151 CONTINUED

pray for intercessions on their behalf. Some St. Andrew parishioners shared their own experiences when visiting the shrine in Poland. Sr. Katarina from the Order of St. Benedict was born in Poland and shared her deep love for Our lady of Czestochowa who is now a Patron Saint of the Polish people. We pray to Our Lady of Czestochowa to protect and care for all Ukrainians fleeing to Poland for safety and freedom.

Support of Ukraine Orphanage

When Father Vladyslav shared his feelings and actions he took in response to the invasion of Ukraine, he had hoped others would join him. The response though has been much wider than he imagined. Being here in Smithtown NY, while his country and hometown of Chernihiv, where his parents still live, were under attack, father felt he had to act in some way to help. He contacted a fellow priest he knew who is in Ukraine and quickly decided to help provide support for an orphanage there, which has become a place of refuge for women and children from the war zone. Father sent them his entire salary for the month to help support them. The parish shared father's letter on their Facebook page. Soon the local Rotary stepped forward with a large donation for the orphanage. Next, the teachers and staff at the school where father's children attend here on Long Island took up a collection for the cause. All the while, parishioners and Facebook followers also stepped up to help.

Still torn by the violence he saw, Father felt compelled to do more, so he wrote to local elected officials, urging them to take stronger decisive action to help end the violence and death occurring in Ukraine. One elected official asked Father's permission to share his letter with one of the New York newspapers. This resulted was an article being published, sharing father's actions. Which in turn lead to more people contacting the parish and donating to the orphanage. Finally, from the newspaper article, the Long Island cable news network took note. They interviewed Father Vladyslav and aired a short story about father, his parents still in Chernihiv, the violence and destruction and Father's efforts to help the orphanage. Through this even more people on Long Island were reached and touched, resulting in still more people sending support for the orphanage. Currently, the parish has provided over \$23,000.⁰⁰ to the orphanage.

2nd Quarterly Meeting

At this time the second quarterly meeting will be held on Sunday, June 5 in Queens, exact time and place will be announced. For more information call Marge at 516-307-1016. Lodge 151 wishes everyone A Happy Easter.
Christ is Risen! Indeed He is Risen!



Holy Icons Blessing

On March 7, Sunday of the Holy Icons Byzantine churches commemorate the restoration of the Holy icons by the 7th Ecumenical Council at Nicea in 787 AD. There was an icon procession by parish children, as they held an icon. Each child and all present received a

special blessing. Today the icons in the Ukraine are being destroyed by Russian bombing, a country populated by Eastern Catholics. Almost 1/3 of the priests and their families presently serving in our Eparchy are from the Ukraine. Let's continue to pray for the Ukraine and its people.

Ukraine

It is the bitterest winter of their discontent.

The exploitation and murderous actions in Ukraine have rallied the world to send support and prayers for this nation.

Lodge 151 also rallied to donate to the matching funds of the GCU. Members Marge Russell, Russell Pajer, Nancy Lalley, Suzanne Mamay, Patty Torrente, Lisa Szpylka, John Szpylka, Janet Khan, Janelle Lo-Hing, Christine Hulak, Marilyn Cofnuk, Will Cofnuk, James Hulak, Ann Kandratino, Mary Ellen Kandratino, Dennis Walsh, Cathy Walsh, Marie Dzadik, Laura Muhlfeld and Jean Schwarsin all contributed to the cause.

We pray for the soldiers and Ukrainian fighters left to protect their homeland.

We pray for the neighboring countries who have welcomed these refugees.

We pray for those children and caregivers remaining in hospitals.

We pray for the innocent civilians who have died.

"Dear God, there is so much danger in the world today, so much darkness and fear. Please send a miracle into every country and every home, into every mind and every heart, may the power of Your spirit activate holiness and peace." Marianne Williamson

Marge Russell | President

Christine Hulak | Treasurer

UPCOMING LODGE 164 EVENTS

Mother's Day Bingo Fundraiser

Sunday, May 8

Doors open at 5 PM

Bingo begins at 6:30 PM

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

Flag Day Celebration

Sunday, June 12

Following the 10:30 AM Divine Liturgy

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

Father's Day Bingo Fundraiser

Sunday, June 19

Doors open at 5 PM

Bingo begins at 6:30 PM

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



Cook Karen Muransky cleaning up.

Lodge 164 YOUNGSTOWN, OH

Founders' Day Celebration

On Sunday, February 13, 2022 Lodge 164 celebrated GCU Founders' Day with a hot buffet luncheon. Fourteen members and seven guests enjoyed Chicken Francaise, mixed vegetables, browned potatoes, salad, coffee & tea and fancy cupcakes for dessert.

Dr. Tom Sopkovich | President



Guests being served by Dave, Karen and Jackie.



President Tom Sopkovich, Cantor Dan Kovachik and Treasurer Sharon MacDonald presenting the \$200.00 donation for Easter to St. Mary BCC at the 2nd Quarter Meeting on April 3, 2022.

Lodge 182 KINGSTON, PA

Christmas Pageant 2021

Lodge 182 in conjunction with the ECF students and teachers at St. Mary Byzantine Catholic Church, Kingston, PA held their annual Christmas Pageant before the Divine Liturgy on Christmas Eve. The play depicted the events leading up to and including the night Jesus was born. Thankfully, the cast keeps growing in numbers every year. The very talented ensemble received a standing ovation this year.



Lora Seasock helping Guilianna Saltalamacchia, Ivanna Prodanets in the background.

Thank you to all who gave their time and effort into making this event a



Row 1: John Kurilla (Little Drummer Boy), Guilianna Saltalamacchia (Head Angel), Catarina Saltalamacchia (Angel), Antonina Prodanets (Angel), Olivia Saltalamacchia (Angel). Row2: Macrina Pochatko (King 1), Stepan Prodanets (King 2), Paul Seasock (King 3), Jack Wright (Shepherd), John Seasock (Joseph), Julianna Pochatko (Mary), Ivanna Prodanets (Angel Gabriel), Amelia Nesgoda (Shepherd), Sophia Nesgoda (Shepherd), Colleen Evans (Shepherd with Camel), Father Mykhaylo Prodanets. Row 4: Rich Nesgoda (St. Nicholas).

success, especially the teachers (directors) Laure Marcin, Lora Seasock,

Marlene Williams, Barbara Zelnick and narrator Jason Marcin.



Row 1: Bernard Shinko, Mary Ann Evans, Bernie Shinko & Colleen Evans. Row 2: Mary Ann Savage, Dorianna Latona & Marlene Williams. Row 3: Meghan Williams & Laure Marcin. Missing from the photo but attended Dr. John G. Evans.

Holiday Party & Meeting

The lodge finally was able to get together for their holiday party and meeting at Theo's Metro Restaurant, Kingston, PA on Monday, March 21, 2022. A fun time was had by all and yes, members actually got some work done. Plans for future events were made.

Laure Marcin | Secretary



March Luncheon.

Lodge 268

MINGO JUNCTION, OH

Fellowship Luncheons

On Sunday, February 13 and March 13, Lodge 268 along with St. John the Baptist Byzantine Catholic Church held its fellowship luncheons. The luncheons were to help increase attendance and to enjoy fellowship through the long cold winter months. Everyone had a wonderful time and the lodge hopes to do it again. Thanks to the GCU for the Fraternal Grant.

Making Pirohi

Lodge 268 along with St. John the Baptist Byzantine Catholic Church made pirohi on Saturday, March 12, 2022. Members enjoyed a great day of fellowship working for the church. Even though there was a lot of snow that day and a late start everything went smoothly. It was exciting to have two members come from Alabama to help with the project, Mike & Angie Kendrach. Thanks to the GCU for the Parish Matching Funds.

Carla Gasser | President



Members working hard.



GCU members Karen Lloyd & Carla Gasser making noodles with the leftover dough. Nothing goes to waste.

UPCOMING LODGE 302 EVENTS

Painting with a Twist

Thursday, April 28, 2022

7:00-9:00 PM

15225 Pearl Road, Strongsville, OH

Contact: Jean Karaffa at jmk0724@aol.com

2nd Quarter Meeting

Sunday, May 22, 2022

Following the 10:30 AM Liturgy

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

Memorial Day Service & Luncheon for Veterans

Sunday, May 29, 2022

Following the 10:30 AM Liturgy

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



Members enjoy playing various games during the event.

Lodge 302

BRECKSVILLE, OH

Game Night 2022

This popular event, which is held every Spring for the adults of the lodge, had a lower attendance than usual, but fun and laughter still filled the room for the evening.

The lodge provided the food catered by a local restaurant and members brought appetizers, desserts and games. The lodge held a drawing of two names from members at the Game Night to attend the upcoming Eastern European Congress of Ohio Banquet/Fundraiser. The lodge will help sponsor this event on Saturday, April 30. The members who won are Michael Andrako and Alan Bratnick. Congratulations!

Christine Bratnick | Publicity Director

Lodge 351

INDIANA, PA

Non-Perishable Food & Clothing Drive

The month of December was a flurry of activity for Lodge 351. Members held a month long non-perishable food and clothing drive. Monica Kowalski and Kate Little took a load of non-perishable food to assist a food drive held at St. Bernard Catholic Church in Indiana. The remainder of the food collected was donated to the United Methodist Church Food Pantry in Creekside, PA. The clothing collected was delivered to the St. Vincent de Paul Thrift Store in Indiana.

St. Nicholas Celebration

On Sunday, December 5, 2021, in anticipation of the St. Nicholas Holy Day, Lodge 351 prepared gift bags to be distributed to the parishioners of St. Jude Byzantine Catholic Church. Included in the bags, was a small bag of chocolates to represent the bags of money that St. Nicholas would give young women who needed a dowry. The children of the parish also received a drawing of the Nativity to color. This is always a fun and enjoyable event for both the adults and children of the parish.



Kate, Isabelle & Addy Little.



John Kowalski & Stryker Little assembling outdoor Nativity Scene.



Stryker Little in front of indoor Nativity.

Christmas Season Decorating

Members of Lodge 351 were on hand to help with the Christmas decorating of St. Jude Church. Although it took a while to organize, the decorating finally began the week of December 12. John Kowalski used his time and talent to build a Nativity stable inside the church. The easy to assemble stable was complete with a light that shown on baby Jesus. It added to the overall beauty of the Nativity scene that has been a part of the church's decorations for years. Katie Little and her children Addy, Stryker, Zoe & Isabelle were on hand to help decorate the trees inside the church and in the Breezeway. Ray & Ellen Kulis as well as Mitch & Terry Cook also helped with the decorations. Stryker Little & John Kowalski did an excellent job of assembling the outdoor Nativity Scene. During the long winter nights in Ernest, PA the lighted Nativity scene was a reminder to everyone driving through town of the true meaning of Christmas.

Miner's Memorial Update

Another exciting development was the opportunity to have in hand the drawing of the Miner's Memorial that members of Lodge 351 have been working on with the Borough of Ernest, Upstreet Architects and Indiana County Planning and Development. A complete Architectural Rendering is now in progress thanks to the generous donations and Community Matching Funds from the GCU. Lodge 351 is looking forward to planning the final stages of this project. Funds obtained by the Ernest Borough Council

to develop the site of the Old Mine Office through the Indiana County Office of Planning and Development, will be used to tear down the existing building to lead the way for the next stage of development of the memorial. Additional funding is required to complete the project and Lodge 351 is looking to use GCU Community Matching Funds to assist. The project will honor the miners who lost their lives in two mine explosions at the Ernest Mines.

Patty Yamrick | Fraternal Publicity
Director

Greater Hazleton Regional Lodge (GHRL)

HAZLETON, PA

“Spring Forward” was on Sunday, March 13 and lo and behold Northeastern PA accumulated 9 more inches of snow. The following weekend was the first day of Spring and still no signs of the season. Sooner or later the doldrums of winter will be gone and some beautiful weather with flowers blooming and the sweet sound of birds singing will arrive.

Welcome Fr. Eugene Hradil

On Tuesday, February 8, Fr. Eugene Hradil and his family arrived from the Ukraine to take the helm of two parishes—St. John BC Church and also St. Mary BC Church in Hazleton. He has taken up residence in the parish house at St. John. Best of wishes Fr. Eugene on your assignment as parochial vicar of both parishes!



Fr. Peter Donish & Fr. Eugene Hradil.

Happy Retirement Fr. Peter Donish

On Sunday, February 20, a retirement dinner honoring Fr. Peter Donish and a welcome dinner for Fr. Eugene Hradil was held at St. John’s Parish Hall. Over 140 guests attended the buffet dinner with home baked goodies generously donated by some of the parishioners. Parish Administrator Fr. Gregory Noga welcomed everyone to the affair and wished Fr. Peter a very blessed and happy retirement and thanked him for his many years of service. A warm welcome was also extended to Fr. Eugene and his family.

Parish Fundraisers

St. Michael BC Church in McAdoo, PA had two Pre-Lenten sale parish fundraisers for expenses incurred by the parish. The sales featured all types of Lenten foods and homemade soups.

St. Mary BC Church in Hazleton also applied for a parish fundraiser for expenses that included new mixers and dough makers to be used for the April 1 pirohi sale.



Check presentation to Fr. James Demko by Claire Lorince.

Matching Funds Event

The February Matching Funds project was a calendar fundraiser that was held for Ss. Peter & Paul Church in Beaver Meadows, PA to assist with heating repairs. The calendar sale was a success and a check was presented to Fr. James Demko by Claire Lorince.

Lottery Calendar Sale

The Matching Funds project for June will be a lottery calendar for a community project. The recipient will be Meals on Wheels of Greater Hazleton. All representatives of the parishes received calendars to sell—let’s make this another great sale. The calendars make a great gift for Mother’s Day or Father’s Day.

Pray For Ukraine

Let’s not forget what is going on in the Ukraine, please keep them all in your prayers and May God Bless and watch over them as they defend their country. When your church is open, stop in and say a prayer or light a candle to show your support and concern.

UPCOMING GHRL EVENTS

Byzantine Day at Knoebels Park

Sunday, June 12
10 AM

Elysburg, PA

Contact Agnes Rohrbach 570-454-4869

Spring Helping Hands Day at Holy Annunciation Monastery

Saturday, June 18
9 AM

Sugarloaf, PA

Contact Agnes Rohrbach 570-454-4869

Note

Since there will not be another *GCU Magazine* before Mother’s Day, take the time to remember all Mothers (both living and deceased) in your prayers and thoughts. On Memorial Day take a moment out to say a prayer for all our fallen heroes and all that have helped us through these last 2 years of this terrible pandemic.

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

GHRL hopes all GCU members have a very Blessed and Happy Easter! Christ is Risen! Indeed He is Risen!

Until next time, take care and May God Bless.

Agnes Rohrbach | Secretary & Activities Director

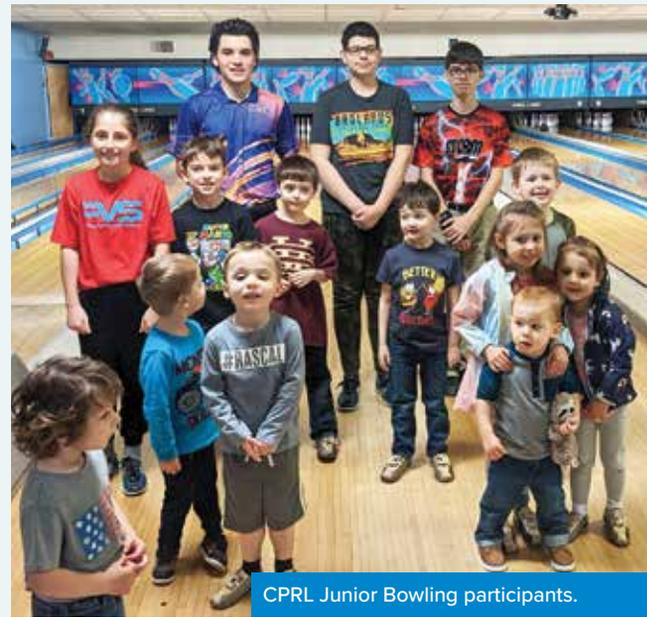
Central Pittsburgh Regional Lodge (CPRL) GREENFIELD, CARRICK & SOUTHSIDE-PITTSBURGH, PA

Adult & Junior Bowling Tournaments

CPRL held their annual Adult Bowling Tournament on Sunday, February 20. The lodge also held a Junior Bowling Tournament on Sunday, March 20. Both events were held at Coral Lanes in West Mifflin, PA.



Adult Bowling Tournament participants.



CPRL Junior Bowling participants.

UPCOMING CPRL EVENTS

Spring Arts & Crafts Vendor Event

Saturday, April 30, 2022

9 AM-3 PM

+ Ethnic Food & Bake Sale

St. Pius X Church

2336 Brownsville Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15210

Questions: Call the Church at 412-881-8344

Benefits St. Pius X Church

Make It Take It (Wooden Artwork)

Saturday, May 21, 2022

3 PM

Payment & Deadline is April 21

St. John Chrysostom Church

506 Saline Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15207

Contact Melanie Basl at 412-849-2944 or visit

GCUusa.com under Events

Community Fundraiser

During the first quarter of 2022, CPRL and church members of St. John the Baptist-South Side, St. John Chrysostom-Greenfield and St. Pius X-Carrick were busy collecting records (albums and 45's), along with shoes and new clothes with tags still on, for this year's Community Matching Funds fundraiser.

After the first quarterly meeting in March, everything was gathered and collected for counting. The records were donated to the Whitehall Library; the shoes were sent to Soles4Souls and the new clothes were given to the City Mission. The donations will help each of the organizations continue with their mission to help and provide assistance to those in need.

A dollar amount was assigned to the items. Due to the huge amount of donated old records that had been collecting in people's attics and basements, the maximum amount of \$7,500.00 was met (and far exceeded). This amount was then divided among several local non-profit organizations. Each of the three former lodges of the combined regional lodge chose these recipients: Source Church of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh DeafBlind Lions Club, St. Paul's Monastery Food Bank, Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank, Sisters of St. Basil and the Highmark Caring Place. All of these groups do wonderful work and help people in need in the community.

Melanie Basl | Publicity Director

Kim Kolesar | Trustee



UPCOMING SEPRL EVENTS

2nd Quarter Meeting

Sunday, June 5, 2022
12 NOON

Ascension Church Hall
318 Park Avenue, Clairton, PA 15025

Southeast Pittsburgh Regional Lodge

CLAIRTON & MUNHALL, PA

Looking Forward

The SEPRL first quarter meeting was held on Sunday, March 6 at St. John Cathedral. Planning for the upcoming year took place during the meeting. Activities and events coming up early this year include the annual Easter Egg hunt and children's program on Palm Sunday at Ascension Church, collecting needed household items and making Easter baskets for a homeless family and their children with a grant from GCU in April. Recognitions for Mother's and Father's Day at St. John Cathedral and Helping Hands events in May and June at both churches. Ascension Church will be collecting eyeglasses for Matching Funds for the Clairton Lion's Club during the spring to support their 100th Anniversary this year. St. John parish has scheduled their spring craft show on Saturday, April 23 as a Matching Funds event for the church.

Trish Roberts | President



Lodge 625 Happenings

CONEMAUGH, PA

130th Anniversary Social

On Sunday, February 13 following Divine Liturgy, Lodge 625 hosted a social to celebrate the 130th Anniversary of the GCU. Thanks to the Home Office for the giveaways for this event. Members and guests appreciated the hand sanitizers and tape measures.

2nd Annual Cash Bash

Lodge 625 held its 2nd Annual Cash Bash on Saturday, April 2. The GCU Home Office approved the event for Parish Matching Funds. With last year's and this year's events the lodge has donated more than \$20,000.00 to Holy Trinity Parish.

Helping Hands Day

On May 21, the lodge will hold its annual Helping Hands Day at Holy Trinity Byzantine Catholic Church. Volunteers will be working on some projects surrounding the parish grounds. Thanks to the Home Office for making the Helping Hands Fraternal Grant available for this project.

Looking Forward

Lodge 625 members are looking forward to participating in the annual Jackson Heritage Festival in July selling pirohi, halushki, halupki and gobs. This event is approved as a Community Matching Funds event.

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

Georgia Lehman | Secretary-Treasurer

Lodge 697 WEIRTON, WV

Community Bread Basket Donation

Lodge member Tommy Charnie presented Tara Sheperd of the Community Bread Basket (CBB) the final check of \$5,000.00 for his Brooke High School Honors Senior Project. The check was a GCU Community Matching Funds from Lodge 697. The total amount Tommy raised for the Community Bread Basket was \$11,100.00. Tommy has now started another fundraiser in conjunction with Ss. Peter & Paul Ukrainian Orthodox



Tara Sheperd and Tommy Charnie.

Church in Carnegie, PA where he is collecting donations for Ukraine. If anyone is interested in donating items for Ukraine, please contact Tom at 304-670-5900.

Lodge President Marilyn E. Charnie presented Tara Sheperd of the Community Bread Basket with a \$1,000.00 donation from the GCU



Tara Sheperd and Marilyn Charnie.

Holiday Food Bank donation program. The CBB would like to express their gratitude for the generous donations the GCU has given them. The donations will come in handy to purchase food for the hundreds of families the agency services.

Marilyn Charnie | President



Fr. Joseph Repko (at left) presents the "Least of My Brethren" donation check to Fr. Ronald DeHondt, pastor of St. Margaret of Scotland parish. Also pictured are St. Nicholas parishioners Cynthia, Subdeacon Phillip & Sarah Dinsmore. Photo by Jim Van Kula.

Lodge 860

CLINTON TOWNSHIP, MI

Helping Local Homeless Shelter & Food Pantry

On Sunday, January 30, 2022, members of Lodge 860 and St. Nicholas Byzantine Catholic Church came together for the parish's 17th Annual "Least of My Brethren" luncheon. This is a special luncheon held in the church hall where people enjoy a wide variety of delicious homemade soups and chili, donated by the parishioners. It is always a wonderful opportunity to socialize and strengthen relationships within the parish and lodge community. Even more importantly, this is a luncheon where free-will donations are collected to help the homeless and less fortunate in the local community—the "Least of Our Brethren," to whom our Lord Jesus Christ refers to in the Gospel of Matthew. Lodge 860 co-sponsored the event this year and was able to secure Community Matching Funds from the Home Office so that all donations would be doubled. This year the lodge is very pleased and grateful to report that a total of \$593.00 was raised at the luncheon, which when matched by the Home Office meant that the total donation was \$1,186.00 to the food pantry at St. Margaret of Scotland Catholic Church in nearby St. Clair Shores, MI.

Packing & Delivering Lunches

A few short weeks later on Sunday, February 20, 2022, Lodge 860 and St. Nicholas Church once again worked side by side to pack 100 bag lunches and delivered them to the homeless shelter at St. Margaret of Scotland Church. With the help of a

Community Service Fraternal Grant from the Home Office, Lodge 860 was able to cover the cost of all of the food, drinks and other supplies needed for the lunches. The bags were assembled and packed after

CONTINUED

Lodge 860 CONTINUED

the Sunday Divine Liturgy and taken to the homeless shelter later that same afternoon.

It was during this visit that Fr. Joseph Repko, pastor of St. Nicholas Church and Chaplain of Lodge 860, was able to present the \$1,186.00 donation check from the “Least of My Brethren” luncheon.

A huge thank you goes out to all lodge and parish members that helped to support these very worthwhile events to aid the needy within the community.

George S. Nagrant | President



Lunch-packers take a short break to pose for the camera. Pictured (L to R) around the table are: Mary Ann Jaskolski, Joanne Mozuras, Ben Kingstrom, Sarah Dinsmore, Cindy Dinsmore, Emily Marszalec, Evelyn Nagrant, John Sanders, Karen Sanders, Karen Kaufman, David McGraw and Laura Nagrant. *Photo by George Nagrant.*



Assembling the sandwiches for the bagged lunches are (L to R): Peter Swanney, Emily Marszalec, Evelyn Nagrant, Laura Nagrant and Fred Marszalec. *Photo by Val Marszalec.*



Lodge 999 PHOENIX, AZ

Americare Hospice Fundraiser

On Saturday, March 5, Lodge 999 held a fundraiser for Americare Hospice. A steak dinner with dessert was served. There were additional fundraisers including a silent auction and a 50/50 drawing held that evening. The evening ended with dancing to classic music by a local DJ. With GCU Community Matching Funds the event raised over \$8,100.00 for the hospice.

Joanie Mahar | President



Silent Auction items.

For Your Information

Events

National Bowling Tournament

Friday, May 13 & Saturday, May 14

Brookgate Lanes
14950 Snow Road
Brook Park, OH 44142

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

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

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

Helping Hands Day at Mt. Saint Macrina

**Saturday, June 4
9 AM**

Uniontown, PA

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

GCU Golf Classic

**Monday, June 6
9:30 AM Shotgun Start**

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

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

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

Byzantine Day at Knoebels Park

**Sunday, June 12
10 AM**

Elysburg, PA

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

Spring Helping Hands Day at Holy Annunciation Monastery

**Saturday, June 18
9 AM**

Sugarloaf, PA

Contact Agnes Rohrbach
570-454-4869

GCU Family Day at Kennywood Park

**Thursday, July 28
10 AM**

West Mifflin, PA

Additional info to follow in the June Magazine or order your tickets with a credit card at GCUusa.com

Available

Carpathian Cookery Cookbook

Having sold nearly 20,000 copies, the cookbook has entered its 21st printing and was requested by the Library of Congress to be in their ethnic cooking collection. The 330-page cookbook has a new look and features a protective plastic cover. The book includes sections on Christmas and Easter customs and recipes, traditional Rusyn & Slavic foods, other ethnic dishes, and many other tried-and-true recipes of St. John's parishioners. There is a variety of paska bread and kolache (filled roll) recipes, as well as meatless dishes and Lenten recipes, suitable for the Great Fast, as well as the Pre-Christmas Fast. The cost of the cookbook is \$14.⁰⁰ plus \$4.⁰⁰ postage and handling (\$18.⁰⁰). If ordering from Canada, please send a \$28.⁰⁰ U.S. Postal money order payable in U.S. dollars to reflect the difference in the exchange rate and postage cost. To order please send a check or money order to: Ethnic Craft Club, St. John Byzantine Catholic Church, 201 E. Main Street, Uniontown, PA 15401, please include your phone number when ordering. Call 724-438-6027 (M-F 9 AM-3 PM please leave a message) or email carpathiancookery@gmail.com.

Discount Amusement Park Tickets for 2022



Discounted Amusement Park tickets for the 2022 season are available to GCU members for online purchase. The parks include Kennywood Park, West Mifflin, PA; Knoebels Park, Elysburg, PA; Hershey Park, Hershey, PA. Visit the GCU website at www.GCUusa.com.



BYZANTINE CATHOLIC SEMINARY
OF SAINTS CYRIL AND METHODIUS
FORMING LEADERS FOR THE CHURCH

22nd Annual Saints Cyril & Methodius Lecture

The Rev. Dr. Radu Bordeianu will deliver both in person and through livestream the 22nd annual Ss. Cyril & Methodius Lecture of the Byzantine Catholic Seminary entitled “*The Church as a Family*.”

Saint John Chrysostom wrote that “the house is a little Church.” Indeed, Christian upbringing begins in the family, where the spouses are priests for each other and they dedicate their children to God. As any other family, the Church has many types of members. Some are active in their parishes, some hold different beliefs (mixed marriages), some are only culturally Christian (they are no longer active, but identify with a certain church), while others are “nones” because they do not belong to any church. In a deeper sense, however, all are members of the diverse family that is the Church.

The public is welcome to register for and attend this lecture on Thursday, May 12 at 7 PM at Saint John Cathedral Center in Munhall, PA. The lecture will be livestreamed via the Seminary website (www.bcs.edu) and recorded for future access by the public on the Seminary YouTube archive. The Seminary website also has registration information for those who plan to attend in-person. This event is free but due to space limitations, registration for in-person attendees is required by Thursday, April 28.

Fr. Radu Bordeianu is an Associate Professor of Theology at Duquesne University and assistant priest at Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church in Pittsburgh. His research focuses on ecumenical dialogues and various teachings on the Church. He is the author of *Dumitru Staniloae: An Ecumenical Ecclesiology* (2011, Romanian translation 2022), and the editor of *It is the Spirit Who Gives Life: New Directions in Pneumatology* (2022). He served as President of the Orthodox Theological Society of America and is currently a member of the North American Orthodox-Catholic Theological Consultation – the official dialogue between the two churches. He is a co-convenor of the Christian-Jewish Dialogue in Pittsburgh and is involved in local ecumenical dialogues.

The annual lecture series is sponsored by the Byzantine Catholic Seminary of Ss. Cyril & Methodius in Pittsburgh, PA, a community of mentors, teachers and students living and working in an ecumenical environment of Christian unity, integrity and missionary spirit.

Founded in 1950, the Byzantine Catholic Seminary is a free-standing, English speaking theological seminary, welcoming all those seeking the knowledge possessed by the Eastern ecclesial traditions. The Seminary is authorized to grant the Master of Arts in Theology and Master of Divinity degrees by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and is accredited by the Commission on Accrediting of the Association of Theological Schools.

Questions, please contact Ivan Chirovsky at 412-321-8388x36 or email office@bcs.edu.

Deceased Members

(Lodge-Member-City-State)

- 8344 Marian E. Ahner, Lehigh, PA
8344 Sonia L. Alderfer, Mancungie, PA
8344 Joanne Anthony, Ford City, PA
8326 Janet E. Arens, Hastings, MI
8326 Carmen J. Auriemma, Gaylord, MI
665 Irene Babish, Colonia, NJ
10 Glenn Baird, Crescent, PA
8337 Francis H. Baldwin, Phoenix, NY
8344 Richard Balliet, Duncansville, PA
8344 Martha Banda, Johnstown, PA
697 Clondell Barkley, Stuebenville, OH
8341 Emily A. Barnes, Bonita Springs, FL
994 Charles Batto, New Brighton, PA
999 Jacqueline Bauer, Arlington Hts., IL
8344 Frances M. Baum, East Stroudsburg, PA
8359 Edna Beglin, Waxhau, NC
8344 Christine S. Bell, Jenkintown, PA
8344 Zachory Bennett, Burgettstown, PA
8344 Pauline K. Benovitch, Pittsburgh, PA
CPRL Sanford Bergad, West Mifflin, PA
92 Joseph Berkan, Jessup, PA
8344 Florence M. Berrang, Altoona, PA
SPRL Edward Bich, Harrison City, PA
8344 Lucille Biseda, Monessen, PA
945 Paul Bistran, Scranton, PA
CPRL Walter Bitters, Pittsburgh, PA
8324 Elaine Blaettler, Washington, DC
442 Irma J. Blank, Struthers, OH
8344 Jeanette Eve Bliss, Charlottesville, VA
8344 Marjorie A. Blum, Butler, PA
8344 Judy D. Boyer, Rural Valley, PA
8313 Marion Boyle, Montgomery, IL
8344 Eileen Bresuciak, Blawnox, PA
15 Constance Brown, Fairless Hills, PA
625 Leona Bukowski, Johnstown, PA
8344 Howard Burkhammer, Altoona, PA
8344 Martin G. Buterbaugh, Clymer, PA
8344 Caroline A. Carlson, Snowshoe, PA
8341 Darlene V. Carothers, East Palestine, OH
17 Henry Castner, White Haven, PA
NPRL Debra Ann Charochak, Coraopolis, PA
8344 Thomas J. Cherok, Beaver, PA
8344 Scott E. Cherry, Duncansville, PA
8344 Della G. Chieski, Coraopolis, PA
10 Vincent Cipolla, Aliquippa, PA
8358 Tadeusz Cisek, Greenfield, WI
999 Nancy D. Clark, Gilbert, AZ
8304 Shirley Clarke, Palm Springs, CA
994 Patrick J. Cody, Industry, PA
8344 Anna Colavincenzo, Pittsburgh, PA
8358 Ruth Cornette, Luxemburg, WI
8344 Thomas Cox, Cresson, PA
8357 Madeline A. Cupelli, Morgantown, WV
GHRL William Dagostin, Sugerloaf, PA
GHRL Dorothy D'Angelo, Hazle Township, PA
8344 James DeCoske, Johnstown, PA
302 Cecilia Dellenbaugh, Boynton Beach, FL
8344 Mahlon T. DeLong, Walnutport, PA
CPRL Norita DeMeo, Pittsburgh, PA
8344 Ruth A. Detwiler, Shelocta, PA
302 Mary Jane Dietz, Cleveland, OH
8344 Mary M. Dippolito, Sewickley, PA
8344 Anthony DiSciullo, McKeesport, PA
8344 Stuart J. Dockeray, Hatboro, PA
8344 Hildegard Donley, Wampum, PA
697 Ann Duboy, Steubenville, OH
302 William M. Dudy, Solon, OH
665 Marian Dunich, Lanoka Harbor, NJ
CPRL Charles Dunlap, Pittsburgh, PA
10 Richard J. Dzvonar, Aliquippa, PA
8344 Lucy J. Eck, Wexford, PA
81 Robert Ehko, Charleroi, PA
271 Lois Elliott, Rosemont, IL
8304 Bernard Esposito, Lake Forest, CA
302 Sallie L. Ethridge, Cleveland, OH
15 George Evans, Hemet, CA
8344 Janice Ewart, Pittsburgh, PA
302 Anita Fadorsen, Macedonia, OH
8344 Phyllis Fallon, West Mifflin, PA
235 Virginia Ferencz, Ansonia, CT
66 Anthony Ferraro, Indianapolis, IN
860 Marcia A. Finn, Washington, MI
8344 Joan S. Firehammer, Fredericksburg, VA
8358 Gregg Fitzpatrick, Milwaukee, WI
CPRL Betty Jean Folk, Pittsburgh, PA
8344 Gladys M. Franks, Monroeville, PA
GHRL—Greater Hazleton Regional Lodge
CPRL—Central Pittsburgh Regional Lodge
SPRL—Southeast Pittsburgh Regional Lodge
NPRL—Northwest Pittsburgh Regional Lodge
PSRL—Pittsburgh South Regional Lodge
8358 Arthur E. Fraske, Stevens Point, WI
8344 Mary E. Fries, Souderton, PA
302 Mary Frizek, Newburgh Hts., OH
999 Helen Furka, Phoenix, AZ
15 Nicholas Fyfitch, McKees Rocks, PA
8358 Romayne L. Gallagher, Delavan, WI
10 Frank Garbinski, Linesville, PA
302 Charles Gaskey, Brook Park, OH
SPRL William Gawlas, Pittsburgh, PA
644 Janet Gegick, Carnegie, PA
8344 Donna J. Giannetto, Apollo, PA
8304 Virginia M. Gilbreath, Banning, CA
66 Sally A. Gold, Dyer, IN
268 Harold Goodin, Cumberland, OH
69 Stephen J. Gramata, Pottstown, PA
8344 Ann Groom, Coraopolis, PA
10 Martha C. Gropp, Aliquippa, PA
994 Donna M. Gula, Silver Spring, MD
945 Sophie Gula, Scranton, PA
8360 Donald Guzi, Rock Hill, SC
8309 Loretta M. Haddle-Bennett, Ocala, FL
8359 Doris A. Hall, Iron Station, NC
8344 Sarah J. Harris, Sewickley, PA
8316 Eloise M. Hauptert, Fairfield, IA
GHRL Susan T. Havrilla, Hazleton, PA
8344 Gladys Hodgens, Youngstown, OH
8309 Andrea Holiday, Palatka, FL
8304 Margaret Holston, Spokane Valley, WA
302 Elizabeth R. Holt, Copley, OH
8344 Ruth Hutton, Weston, PA
442 Ernest Ianni, Canton, OH
SPRL Lillian Irha, Glen Allen, VA
CPRL Denise A. Jacobs, West Mifflin, PA
8344 Alexander Jalso, Ligonier, PA
8331 Joyce Johnson, Mesa, AZ
8344 Beryl Jozwiak, Pittsburgh, PA
53 Matthew June, Morrisville, PA

CONTINUED

Deceased Members

(Lodge-Member-City-State)

8341	M. Martha Kacmarek, Warren, OH	15	Stanley Marciniak, Brick, NJ	10	Jane Prajsner, Aliquippa, PA
271	Robert M. Kacmarek, Littleton, MA	93	Christine Martin, Myrtle Beach, SC	8327	Marjorie Pratten, Eagle Lake, MN
360	Elizabeth Jean Kana, Campbell, OH	258	Jeanne Matson, Erie, PA	17	Anna Prebish, West Wyoming, PA
999	Elizabeth J. Kapsos, Sun City West, AZ	8324	Anne Mattiello, Frederick, MD	302	Michael Prischak, Olmsted Twp., OH
994	Helen Karpoff, Arbutus, MD	8344	Dorothy R. McCarthy, Warren, PA	625	Magdaline Prudhoe, Johnstown, PA
GHRL	Mary Louise Kaschak, Hazleton, PA	8344	Agnes McDougal, Bronx, NY	302	Raymond A. Pucci, Streetsboro, OH
10	Margaret Kasper, Ambridge, PA	8344	Terri L. McManus, Canonsburg, PA	8344	Sylvia A. Rainer, Glenolden, PA
319	Lyndall E. Kliemann, Gaylord, MI	8344	Helen M. McMillen, Marion Center, PA	999	David Rank, Sun City West, AZ
81	George Klotz, Dunbar, PA	8344	Russell Measel, Monaca, PA	8313	Raj K. Rawal, Naperville, IL
8341	Agnes Knapik, Warren, OH	18	Ronald Mehallick, Connellsville, PA	10	Margaret Raychevich, Monaca, PA
994	Robert J. Knoll, Ambridge, PA	235	Joan Mehta, Monroe, CT	8344	Yolanda Reday, Monessen, PA
CPRL	Arlene Kolesar, Pittsburgh, PA	15	Anna Mekosh, Warrington, PA	81	Dorothy Resetar, Uniontown, PA
182	Clare M. Kopicki, Kingston, PA	10	Elizabeth Meshanko, Ambridge, PA	8358	Arlene Ritchie, Greenfield, WI
8327	Donna M. Koralewski, Brooks, MN	8344	Michael Mesler, New Salem, PA	8341	Julia Rohaly, Warren, OH
8341	Donald Korman, Brookpark, OH	8344	Frances J. Meyer, Rural Valley, PA	994	Philomena Rossi, Aliquippa, PA
8344	Joseph Koromaus, Freedom, PA	10	Dian Millman, Cranberry Twp, PA	8344	Sally Roth, Allentown, PA
8358	Rosemary E. Kos, Franklin, WI	8344	JoAnn L. Minett, Ellwood City, PA	PSRL	Dorothy Rusinko, Bethel Park, PA
8304	John Kovach, Lk. Havasu City, AZ	8359	James H. Mitchell, Elizabethtown, NC	8326	Suann Sager, Clare, MI
316	Ellen Kravchak, Easton, PA	8344	Mary K. Mock, Ebensburg, PA	SPRL	Delphine Schaff, West Mifflin, PA
8344	Mary Kriesher, Lost Creek, PA	8344	Edward Monico, Ligonier, PA	8358	DaWayne I. Schatzka, Westfield, WI
8344	David J. Kudlock, Gibsonia, PA	319	Alice Eileen Morris, Holt, MI	8344	Elva B. Scherling, Pittsburgh, PA
442	Larry D. Kyser, Columbiana, OH	8358	Beverly J. Moscinski, Wisconsin Rapids, WI	8358	Barbara A. Schreck, Milwaukee, WI
8344	Irma Lang, Stroudsburg, PA	8344	Norma Moser, Butler, PA	8327	Janice A. Schreck, Rogers, MN
340	Andrew Lech, Colonia, NJ	8341	Margaret M. Muha, Phoenix, AZ	271	Alice Schuessler, Springfield, MO
250	Kimberly Ann Leder, Sterling Hgts., MI	8304	Evelyn L. Mulvihill, Lake Forest, CA	8358	Merlin J. Schuh, Freedom, WI
268	John V. Lemerand, Sylvania, OH	109	Barbara Musko, Marion, OH	8344	Irene C. Schurer, Tarentum, PA
GHRL	Elizabeth Leskie, Delouth, GA	8358	Joyce Neese, Sheboygan, WI	8344	Joseph W. Semler, Allison Park, PA
8344	Ronald G. Lezanic, Indiana, PA	8344	Alice G. Noga, Cresson, PA	8344	Zesta Shankle, Cowansville, PA
8327	Dorothy M. Lindvig, Rochester, MN	GHRL	Richard Novotney, Sussex, NJ	994	Ratnakar Shetty, Beaver, PA
360	John M. Lisko, Campbell, OH	18	Jacqueline A. Occhuzzo, Greensburg, PA	GHRL	Jean Shimanski, Hazleton, PA
66	Margaret M. Litzelman, Avon, IN	8327	Elaine N. Olsen, Anoka, MN	69	Helen Shoemaker, West Barnstable, MA
8344	Maria Livanos, Washington, PA	GHRL	Martha Osif, Hazelton, PA	254	Kevin Shutack, Hamilton Township, NJ
8358	Irene Luehring, Appleton, WI	PSRL	Peggy A. Palmieri, Pittsburgh, PA	7	Anna Shvedowsky, Montauk, NY
302	Joyce Lukerchine, Medina, OH	8344	Dolores Parker, Carnegie, PA	8344	Bernice Singmaster, Ashland, PA
860	John MacDonald, Warren, MI	8344	John Pavlik, Irwin, PA	77	Margaret Skrepich, Lorain, OH
8358	Willard E. Mackin, Appleton, WI	SPRL	Mary Pavlik, North Huntington, PA	8358	Lawrence Slattery, Wisconsin Rapids, WI
8357	Anthony C. Macre, Weirton, WV	8304	Cynthia G. Petlansky, Ventura, CA	SPRL	Clare G. Smay, Warwood, WV
GHRL	Michael J. Maguschak, Weatherly, PA	18	George Petrosky, California, PA	271	Arthur V. Smith, Freeburg, IL
8344	Sandra Mahoy, Export, PA	8349	Angeline Pistella, Mansfield, TX	8358	Chester P. Smith, Stevens Point, WI
994	Sandra L. Mahoy, Export, PA	8344	Mary T. Postupak, Allentown, PA	8344	Franklin D R Smith, Jeannette, PA
8359	Willie Mance, Charlotte, NC	321	Helen Pottinger, Latrobe, PA	8313	Verna E. Smith, Aurora, IL
NPRL	Catherine S. Mancuso, Pittsburgh, PA	8304	Allan Powell, Long Beach, CA	8344	Thomas A. Smullen, Pottsville, PA
8344	Olga Manfredo, Pittsburgh, PA				
NPRL	Joseph Marchak, Parma, OH				

CONTINUED

- 8344 Ronald Spero, Valencia, PA
8309 Helen Stagi, Kissimmee, FL
8344 Doris Stamm, Grove City, PA
109 Janet Stetzer, Butler, PA
8344 Beverly J. Stewart, Rural Valley, PA
250 Marguerite A. Stieler, Sterling Hts., MI
8304 Karen E. Stone, Laguna Hills, CA
8304 Darrilyn Story,
Rancho Cocamonga, CA
8344 Mildred L. Stratigos, Pittsburgh, PA
999 John Sudimack, Sun City West, AZ
235 Dorothy Swerko, Rocky Hill, CT
77 Phyllis A. Szabo, Lorain, OH
8344 Eleanor Szuchy, Ambridge, PA
8344 Dolores C. Tegnalia,
Rostraver Twp., PA
8344 Barbara E. Trail, Indiana, PA
8344 Nancy Trybus, New Florence, PA
CPRL Donna A. Turko, Turtle Creek, PA
8304 Frances J. Van Buskirk,
West Hills, CA
8358 Marion Van Enkevort, Green Bay, WI
8348 Carla Van Maldeghem,
Johnson City, TN
8359 Joan M. Van Name, Chapel Hill, NC
336 Joseph Vargo, Parma, OH
8304 Josephine Vargo,
Thousand Oaks, CA
10 Lewis Villa, Crescent, PA
8349 Ronald Waldenmyer, Jarrell, TX
8344 Mary S. Ware, Souderton, PA
8358 Albert Wee, Viroqua, WI
8344 Helen L. Wesolowsky,
Masontown, PA
8327 Clayton M. West, Fertile, MN
8344 Nancy E. Whipple, Palmyra, PA
8344 Dorothy White, New Kensington, PA
8324 Raymond F. White, Pittsville, MD
8320 Carolyn Williams, Mayfield, KY
211 Ann Rose Wozniak, Eynon, PA
8335 John J. Wright, Rahway, NJ
8305 Dennis Wyatt, San Jose, CA
8304 Robert Yarosik, Anaheim, CA
10 Richard R. Yasick, Bordentown, NJ
8304 William Yee, Monrovia, CA
CPRL Edmund M. Young, Pittsburgh, PA
8344 Gloria Zanardini, California, PA
109 Gene Zarnick, Butler, PA
8344 Kathleen Zinsser, New Brighton, PA
8344 Rose H. Zvonik, Johnstown, PA

Remembrances

John Figler

John Figler, age 92 of Natrona Heights, PA passed away at home on July 19, 2021, following an extended illness. He was born February 18, 1929, in Creighton, PA to the late John & Susan (Kotora) Figler, Jr. John lived most of his life in Natrona Heights. He was a printer for former Carnegie Institute, retiring in 1993. Prior employment included the University of Pittsburgh, Greek Catholic Union and PPG Industries in Creighton. John was a veteran of the Korean War era, serving in the Army. He was a member of Ss. Peter & Paul Byzantine Catholic Church, Tarentum, PA; GCU District 1 President; the Tarentum Eagles, where he was a past auditor;

life member of Brackenridge American Legion and member of Natrona Heights VFW. John graduated in 1947 from East Deer High School and attended the University of Pittsburgh. John was very active in his church as a council member, former Holy Name Society member and many other organizations, including the model ship society and was a former Scout master, Birdville Troop 186.

Survivors include his children, John M. (Margaret) Figler, of Tarentum and Sandra J. Recker, of Duncansville, PA. Also surviving are nine grandchildren, one great-grandchild and a daughter-in-law, Nancy Figler, of Huntington, WVA. Besides his parents, he was pre-

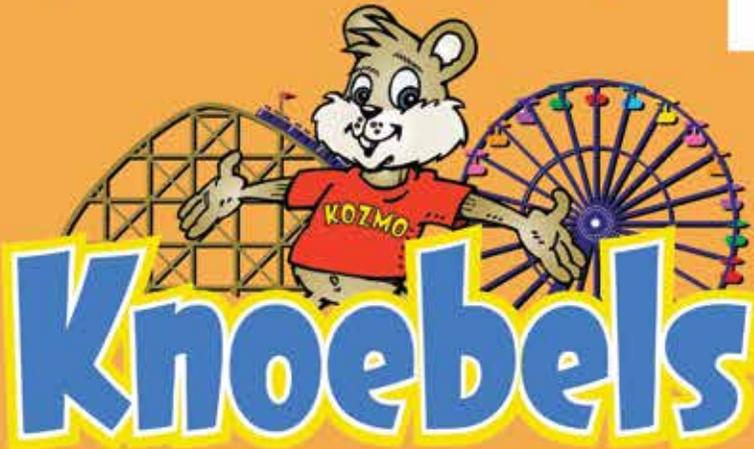
ceded in death by his wife, Julia (Semko) Figler; son, Robert J. Figler; and two sisters, Anna Mae Figler and Helen Troyan.

A Divine Liturgy of Christian Burial took place at Ss. Peter & Paul Church, Tarentum. Burial was in Our Lady of Hope Cemetery Frazer Township, PA with military honors by the Army and Vandergrift Memorial Unit.

Eternal memory and blessed repose.

GCU

Byzantine Family Day



**10TH ANNUAL
SUNDAY, JUNE 12, 2022**

Ticket Booklets—\$16 each (\$4 Value)
KIDS LUNCH (ages 4 & under)—FREE
LUNCH (ages 5 & up)—\$10/person
Information and order forms available
on the GCU Website



GCU & Kennywood...
a partnership of family fun a century in the making!

**THURSDAY
JULY 28**

RIDE ALL DAY!
\$25 (ages 4 to 64)
\$22 SENIOR (ages 65+)
\$10 KIDS LUNCH (ages 3-10)
\$17 ADULT LUNCH (ages 11+)

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ORDER TICKETS

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Additional info to follow in June GCU Magazine or available on GCU Website