

OCTOBER 2022

GCU

MAGAZINE



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George N. Juba,
Editor

Basil M. Wahal,
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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

**Tuesday, November 22, 2022 is the copy
deadline for the December 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.

Phone:

1-724-495-3400

1-800-722-4428

FAX: 1-724-495-3421

info@GCUusa.com

www.GCUusa.com





George N. Juba
President
CEO

Changes

Here in Western Pennsylvania, it is that time of year to once again witness the beginning of the fall season—with its incredible change in landscape as nature begins the transformation to its winter slumber. I have been traveling by vehicle over the last four weeks announcing to our lodge and district Officers the GCU’s new Fraternal Metamorphosis Program. I have observed firsthand this act of nature as each week the array of colorful trees that adorn our hills and mountains becomes more vibrant right before my eyes. What an astounding act of nature that God has created for us to enjoy!

Unfortunately, along with this incredible beauty nature does “rear its ugly head” at times as various natural disasters occur, volcano eruptions, tornadoes, blizzards, avalanches, earthquakes, torrential rains, forest fires with many more other occurrences that destroy property and take human lives. We recently witnessed the devastation caused by Hurricane Ian in Florida and the Carolinas. We encourage you to support the GCU’s Natural Disaster Relief Matching Funds Program as the GCU will match up to \$10,000.⁰⁰ of funds raised through the GCU Foundation Please visit the GCU’s website: www.GCUusa.com to make your tax-deductible donation through the GCU Foundation. The funds raised will be donated to Catholic Charities, The American Red Cross and The Salvation Army. I am sure you have seen the destruction

that occurred, especially on the west coast of Florida where families and individuals have lost everything. Please support our fund-raising efforts as it is going to take years to rebuild communities and businesses affected by this natural disaster. The American people are resilient and with your financial and spiritual support, individuals, families and business will eventually recover.

It also never ceases to amaze me how “nature itself” recovers from these natural disasters with very little human intervention. Forest fires are a great example along with how the Hawaiian Islands came into being through volcanic eruptions. I have been fortunate to visit Hawaii, truly the “Paradise of the Pacific”! There are so many areas in our “Great Country” and around the world that are truly masterpieces that are astounding as God is truly a “Master Creator”! I do hope that the easing of the threat of COVID-19 has allowed for you to travel this summer and get out to enjoy the “great outdoors.”

As the GCU celebrated its 130-year anniversary since its founding on February 14, 1892, many challenges have been faced over our history—as I have presented in my previous articles published in the *GCU Magazine* this year. Our current and past administrations are to be commended in addressing the various socioeconomic and financial market challenges and for making sound fiscal decisions to first and foremost protect the business our members and agents have placed with our Society.

The GCU is in the strongest financial position ever. This now allows for the Board to address an issue that has been a major concern, our fraternal structure. As I mentioned previously, I have been introducing the GCU’s Fraternal Metamorphosis Structure that will be a new beginning. This structure will focus on making more of a presence within the communities our members reside, supporting local volunteer and fundraising efforts in addition to providing family social activities, while continuing to support our Byzantine Catholic parishes. More details on the new GCU Fraternal Metamorphosis Program will be forthcoming.

We are extremely pleased to announce that **AM Best has assigned GCU a Financial Strength Rating of A- (Excellent) and a Long-Term Issuer Credit Rating of “a-” (Excellent).**

CONTINUED



BEST'S CREDIT REPORT

Best's Credit Rating Effective Date
October 04, 2022

Analytical Contacts
Stratos Laskarides
Senior Financial Analyst
Stratos.Laskarides@ambest.com
+1(908) 439-2200 Ext. 5340

Edward Kohlberg
Director
Edward.Kohlberg@ambest.com
+1(908) 439-2200 Ext. 5664

Information
Best's Credit Rating Methodology
Guide to Best's Credit Ratings
Market Segment Outlooks

GCU
AMB #: 009807 | NAIC #: 56693 | FEIN #: 25-0522060

Best's Credit Ratings	
Financial Strength Rating (FSR)	Issuer Credit Rating (ICR)
A- Excellent Outlook: Stable Action: Assigned	a- Excellent Outlook: Stable Action: Assigned

Assessment Descriptors

Balance Sheet Strength	Adequate
Operating Performance	Strong
Business Profile	Neutral
Enterprise Risk Management	Appropriate

The outlook assigned to these Credit Ratings is stable.

The ratings reflect GCU's balance sheet strength, which AM Best assesses as adequate, as well as its strong operating performance, neutral business profile, and appropriate enterprise risk management. The ratings reflect positive sales and membership growth, earnings trend and diversification efforts. GCU has recorded strong growth in operating earnings through management of the annuity spreads. This rating by AM Best will provide for additional distribution opportunities in supporting the continued growth and financial stability of the GCU.

The Board of Directors, Executive Officers, Department Managers and entire Support Staffs' dedication and conscientious efforts have led to this "excellent rating" by AM Best, the largest credit rating agency in the world specializing in the insurance industry. We pledge to our members and agents our continued commitment in offering competitive life insurance and annuity products supported by excellent customer service. Please review the AM Best Press Release located on page 3.

It is with heartfelt feelings that I announce to you that two members of the GCU's Board of Directors, Dorothy Foran and Barbara Kushner, have submitted to the Board their desire to retire from the Board effective October 1, 2022. I have known these two individuals forever as they brought various expertise to the Board. Their dedication

and commitment to the GCU was unwavering as they truly always made decisions in the best interest of the GCU and our Members. They will be truly missed! Thank you Dorothy and Barb for your years of service!

Change is always difficult! A part of my commentary in presenting the new GCU Metamorphosis Fraternal Program, I reminisce to my youth when Sundays were a day of attending church services; socializing in the church hall with fellow parishioners and paying GCU dues (premium) to the Lodge Secretary; visiting grandparents and family; taking a country ride and in the case of my family, playing a "chip and putt" golf course and stopping for some ice cream afterwards. These truly were the good old days. "Blue Laws" were in effect, stores and bars were closed, no youth sporting practices, truly a "day of rest"! May I suggest to you to "bring back the good old days," for at least one day over this fall season, attend church service, visit family and especially take that country ride to enjoy the colorful landscape that God has provided for us to enjoy!

As always, please contact me if you should have any questions or concerns!

GOODNESS IS GREAT!



National Directors Announce Retirements

Effective October 1, 2022 two long standing GCU Directors Dorothy Ann Foran and Barbara J. Kushner retired from the GCU Board of Directors.



Dorothy Foran joined the GCU Board in October 2000 after being elected to the position at the GCU National Convention in Louisville, KY. She was reelected at each successive convention and in the initial membership election

held in 2020. As a GCU Recommender she spent many years promoting GCU in the Hazleton, PA area and earned the Fraternal Insurance Counsellor designation in 1993. Dorothy was a very active lodge and district officer prior to joining the GCU Board. She currently resides in Hazleton, PA with her husband Deacon Lawrence Foran.



Prior to joining the Board, Barb Kushner was also very active in her lodge & district and was a sales agent for GCU. She was elected as GCU Second Vice President in July 1988 by the National Convention in Toronto, Canada and was reelected to that position at each successive Convention through 2004.

Barb was elected as a GCU National Director in 2007 to finish the term of National Director Judy Gula who replaced Secretary-Treasurer George Juba. George was elected by the Board to replace retiring National President Michael Roman. Barb was reelected to the Board at the 2008, 2012 and 2016 National Conventions and by the membership election in 2020. She resides in Canonsburg, PA with her husband Bill.

The entire GCU would like to thank Dorothy and Barb for their contributions to the success the organization has experienced while they served on the GCU Board. May God grant them health and happiness as they enter this new phase of their lives.

AM Best

OCTOBER 04, 2022 09:15 AM (EDT)

AM Best Assigns Credit Ratings to GCU**CONTACTS:**

Stratos Laskarides
Senior Financial Analyst
+1 908 439 2200, ext. 5613
stratos.laskarides@ambest.com

Christopher Sharkey
Manager, Public Relations
+1 908 439 2200, ext. 5159
christopher.sharkey@ambest.com

Edward Kohlberg
Director
+1 908 439 2200, ext. 5664
edward.kohlberg@ambest.com

Al Slavin
Communications Specialist
+1 908 439 2200, ext. 5098
al.slavin@ambest.com

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

OLDWICK - OCTOBER 04, 2022 09:15 AM (EDT)

AM Best has assigned a Financial Strength Rating of A- (Excellent) and a Long-Term Issuer Credit Rating of "a-" (Excellent) to GCU (Beaver, PA). The outlook assigned to these Credit Ratings (ratings) is stable.

The ratings reflect GCU's balance sheet strength, which AM Best assesses as adequate, as well as its strong operating performance, neutral business profile, and appropriate enterprise risk management.

GCU, formerly known as the Greek Catholic Union of the USA, is a fraternal benefit society that provides members with retirement products, life insurance, as well as a small closed block of Medicare supplement insurance. GCU is in its 130th year of operation since its founding on Feb. 14, 1892. GCU is domiciled in Pennsylvania, and the society's products are distributed to members through contracted field marketing organizations and independent agents.

The ratings reflect GCU's positive sales and membership growth, earnings trend and diversification efforts, but are partially offset by challenges in a competitive marketplace and a heavier interest-sensitive business profile. GCU has recorded strong growth in operating earnings through management of annuity spreads. Furthermore, unassigned funds continue to increase, resulting in an adequate level of risk-adjusted capitalization, as measured by Best's Capital Adequacy Ratio (BCAR), despite an increase in investment risk in recent periods.

Partially offsetting these positive rating factors is the society's limited business profile, as approximately 38% of its direct premiums are derived from Pennsylvania and deferred fixed annuities account for almost all of the company's net premiums and reserve liabilities. Additionally, the majority of fixed annuities have a relatively high guaranteed minimum crediting rate greater than or equal to 3% per annum, and so GCU gradually increased its risk appetite within the investment portfolio in recent years to offset spread compression. Sales of single premium whole life have increased in recent years, but remain only a modest proportion of overall premiums and currently provide little revenue diversification. AM Best notes GCU's product innovation efforts by launching a fixed index annuity product in October 2021, but AM Best believes that GCU's risk management capabilities for this growing product have not been fully tested. AM Best notes that the society has strengthened certain aspects of its risk management framework since the global financial crisis in 2008, including enhancements to its cyber risk management and the formalized documentation of operational procedures related to investments. AM Best will continue to monitor GCU's progress in strengthening its risk management capabilities. The high degree of competition currently in the annuity marketplace is also a headwind toward execution of the company's business plan.

This press release relates to Credit Ratings that have been published on AM Best's website. For all rating information relating to the release and pertinent disclosures, including details of the office responsible for issuing each of the individual ratings referenced in this release, please see AM Best's [Recent Rating Activity](#) web page. For additional information regarding the use and limitations of Credit Rating opinions, please view [Guide to Best's Credit Ratings](#). For information on the proper use of Best's Credit Ratings, Best's Performance Assessments, Best's Preliminary Credit Assessments and AM Best press releases, please view [Guide to Proper Use of Best's Ratings & Assessments](#).

AM Best is a global credit rating agency, news publisher and data analytics provider specializing in the insurance industry. Headquartered in the United States, the company does business in over 100 countries with regional offices in London, Amsterdam, Dubai, Hong Kong, Singapore and Mexico City.



Mitred Archpriest
John S. Kachuba
GCU Spiritual Advisor

Protection of the Most Holy Mother of God

In my last article, entitled “Life Goes On,” I wrote that from our infancy through old age, no matter what happens on our life’s journey, the Holy Spirit gives us the strength to make it through all the conflicts and problems which we meet along the road of life. During this journey of life, however, there are times we need protection, so who can we turn to for this protection?

On October 1st of each year some Eastern Christian Churches celebrate the **Feast of the Protection of the Most Holy Mother of God**. This Feast can be traced back to the tenth century in Constantinople (now Istanbul). During the reign of Constantine VII, 913-959, the Saracens were trying to conquer Constantinople and had begun the decisive battle. The terror-stricken people gathered in various churches of the city to pray. In the Blachernae church near Constantinople, during the night services when the faithful implored the Mother of God for help, St. Andrew, the Fool for Christ’s Sake, and his disciple, St. Epiphanius, saw the Mother of God appear in a cloud and pray with outstretched hands together with the people. Then, at the close of her prayers, she removed her beautiful veil (*omophorion*) from her head and held it over the faithful as a sign of her unailing protection. The next day the city was freed from danger.

There are many ways God could have become a man, but he chose to be born of a woman who in her human nature, accepted completely the will of God, so that through her, God could enter our lives. In the Gospel story of the Marriage Feast at Cana, it was his mother, who interceded with Jesus, the second person of the Trinity, to make wine out of water, telling the stewards, and along with them, saying to all of us, “Do whatever he tells you.” As his mother, she began the story of Jesus’ mission, even though he had said, “My hour has not yet come.” This truly is power given to her by God. This is still Mary’s relationship with us. She is our protector and motherly intercessor. She is the mother of all believers. Our Lord, on the cross, gave her to his beloved disciple, John, and through him to all of

Our “life goes on” but now and then we need help. The next time that you face what seems to be an insurmountable problem, pray to Mary, the Mother of God to intercede for you to her Son, Jesus, to show you the way.

us. Her message to us is still “Do what my Son tells you.” This is why we can seek the protection of Mary, the Mother of God, and why we can sing, “Through the prayers of the Theotokos, O Savior, save us,” and why we can even pray, “Most Holy Theotokos, save us!”

Although this event took place a half a world away and more than ten centuries ago, the fact remains that “never was it known that anyone who fled to Mary’s protection, implored her help or sought her intercession was left unaided” (St. Bernard). In reading the lives of the saints we notice again and again that they acknowledged Mary the loving mother as their intercessor who consoled, comforted and protected them. This Feast of her Protection celebrates the power of Mary, who fights on behalf of Christians, and is a mighty protector of the People of God.

Our “life goes on” but now and then we need help. The next time that you face what seems to be an insurmountable problem, pray to Mary, the Mother of God to intercede for you to her Son, Jesus, to show you the way.

“UNDER YOUR PROTECTION we seek refuge, O Mother of God. Despise not our prayers in our necessities, but deliver us from all danger, O Only Pure, Only blessed One.” (*Believed to be the oldest known prayer to the Mother of God.*)



Atty. John J. Urban

Lessons in the Law

Can You Do Me a Favor?

I enjoy sharing on a regular basis—*Lessons in the Law*. The idea is to give you some insight on what you should be thinking about and how to make sure you have a valid estate plan.

Recently I was channel surfing the car radio and came across a program about estate planning. Since I have been working in this area for many years, I always want to hear what other people are saying about estate planning. I heard the presenter mention how the pandemic has caused three major problems in the estate planning area.

First, a recent study has shown that there are more people without wills than people having wills. The problem here is that if you don't have a will you must then follow your state laws. Your wishes may not be carried out and you may be surprised as to whom may inherit your estate.

Secondly, online wills became the source of many wills. The problem here is that many wills are not properly draft-

ed and more often than not, these wills are not executed properly and witnessed. Therefore, these wills are invalid.

Thirdly, many wills cannot be found. Many people hide their important papers in a safe place that is so safe no one can find them.

Now I ask you to do me a favor.

Please follow this checklist:

- ✓ Make sure your will is current and updated.
- ✓ Make sure your will has been signed in front of two or three witnesses as required by your state.
- ✓ Please tell your family or friends where your will is located.

If you do these three things, chances are your will is valid and can be probated properly upon your death.

Contact your attorney if you have any questions about the validity of your will.

Questions, comments or ideas about future articles—please contact John at jurban.gcu@gcuusa.com.

GCU Home Office Hours of Operation

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

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

The Home Office will be closed Thursday and Friday, November 24 & 25 in observance of Thanksgiving.

5400 Tuscarawas Road, Beaver, PA 15009



Giving

Our Lady of of Perpetual Help Byzantine Catholic Church Parish Expansion



Toms River, NJ. The 2nd Annual Garage Sale of Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church took place on Friday, August 19 and Saturday, August 20, 2022 in the church hall. Parishioners worked many hours collecting, pricing and setting up items for the sale.

This year a bake sale was added to the event. The bakers were busy making homemade cakes, cookies and breads for sale.

The sale was a success. Over thirty tables were filled with donated items including: household items, Christmas decorations, books, sports

equipment and much more.

Lunch was provided to the volunteer workers by Edward Bilavsky. He made tuna and egg salad sandwiches with fruit, drinks and cookies.

Maryann Sztica was the chairperson along with Mark & Mary Bannworth.

A huge thank you to the GCU for the Parish Expansion Matching Funds that will benefit the church's building fund. The Very Rev. Francis Rella is the church's pastor.

Mary Bannworth



GCU GoGive! Helps the Iron Workers Motorcycle Club

Youngstown, OH. On August 20, 2022, the Iron Workers Motorcycle Club, Chapter 207 held their Summer Raffle at Youngstown Harley-Davidson. Grant money from the GCU's GoGive Program helped defray expenses associated with the raffle. First place prize was a king size quilt made from Harley-Davidson t-shirts. Second and third place prizes were pillows made from t-shirts as well. Keepsake T-Shirt Quilts made the quilt and pillows. Keepsake T-Shirt Quilts (tshirtquilts.com) is a non-profit social purpose organization, all proceeds support their mission of creating jobs for deaf individuals in a communication barrier-free workplace. Proceeds from the Summer Raffle will benefit the Ohio Veterans Memorial Park (ovmp.org).

Mike Sklepko



Above are Club members selling raffle tickets.
At left is the quilt winner.



GCU GoGive! Helps Lodge 151 Provides Water for Walkers



The GCU GoGive program assisted at the St. Vincent dePaul walk on September 24. There were over 500 runners who participated. It was a beautiful day and everyone needed water. The grant provided the water. Two special GCU friends and Marge Russell helped give out the water and also participated in part of the run. Most Rev. Andrzej Zglejszewski, Bishop of Rockville Center thanked all the people who helped in assisting the poor by their participation in the walk. Rev. Jerry Ringerback thanked everyone for supporting the walk. It was a great day!

Marge Pajer | Lodge 151 President



Fr. Mykhaylo Prodanets & Mary Ann Evans.

Mary Ann Evans 90th Birthday

Mary Ann Evans, treasurer of Lodge 182, celebrated her 90th birthday on September 16, 2022 and was honored by St. Mary Byzantine Catholic Church, Kingston, PA, for her lifetime of dedication. A beautiful icon of Mary the parish patron saint, was presented to her by Father Mykhaylo Prodanets.

Mary Ann resides in Kingston, PA. She was married to the late John Evans

and has 3 children, Dr. John G. Evans (Colleen), Marlene Williams (Jonathan) and Laure Marcin (Jeffery). She has 5 grandchildren, Jonathan, Kristina and Meghan Williams, Dorianna Latona (Vincent) and Jason Marcin and 1 great grandchild on the way!

Mary Ann officially retired as an ECF teacher and advisor after over 50 years. She was the originator and writer of the Christmas Pageant performed at the parish each year on Christmas Eve.

She has been involved in the church since she moved to Kingston at age 16 with her parents, Professor John, cantor at St. Mary and Anna Wischak. She helped form the first Sodality and became Rosary Society president after her mother retired. Mary Ann still holds the office today. She met her husband John singing in the choir and he proposed to her at a Valentine's Day dance in the church hall. Her whole life has truly been St. Mary Church.

Mary Ann has also worn many hats in GCU Lodge 182 as well as in District 5.

Happy Birthday Mary Ann and wishing you many more healthy and happy years!

Adrianna Vladika & Josh Rigdon Wed

The Island House John's Island, SC was the setting on Friday, May 20 for the wedding of Josh Rigdon and Adrianna Vladika both of Mount Pleasant, SC. Ronald Possanza, uncle of the bride, officiated at the ceremony.

The bride is the daughter of National Director Gregory & Crystal Vladika, Mayfield, PA. The bridegroom is the son of Thomas Rigdon, Savannah, GA and Susan Laboy, Yulee, FL.

The bride is a graduate of Scranton Preparatory School and earned a bachelor's degree in psychology with a minor in criminal justice from the University of Scranton. She is an account manager for Motivated Marketing, Charleston, SC.

The groom is a graduate of White Oak High School, Jacksonville, NC, and earned his MRI certification from Greenville Technical College and certification in X-ray imaging from East Coast Polytechnic Institute. He is a Navy veteran and a solar energy consultant for Titan Solar Power.

The couple enjoyed a wedding trip to St. Martin and St. Bart's in the Caribbean.



Josh & Adrianna Rigdon.

“I Am The Servant of the Lord!”

Basilian Sisters Honored At Jubilee Celebration

Each year, the entire community of the Sisters of St. Basil sets aside time for community sharing and for updates by its leadership on issues of concern and interest to the membership. Community days are also a time when the anniversaries of entrance in religious life are celebrated. On Tuesday, July 19, the Feast of St. Macrina, Rev. Jerome Botsko, Monastery Chaplain, and Rev. Kevin Marks, concelebrated a Divine Liturgy of Thanksgiving. “I am the servant of the Lord!” These words stirred the hearts of the community as Father Kevin Marks, guest concelebrant and homilist, addressed the Jubilarians and the community in the Monastery Chapel at Mount St. Macrina. A servant of the Lord, stated Father, is a person open to listening to the Lord’s word, eager to do what is good. He went on to note that this is best exemplified in the life of Mary, the Mother of God, the first and best of all the disciples. These Jubilarians, as vowed religious, are servants in a unique way.

These Sisters have truly been “servants of the Lord,” offering a total of 405 years of a praying, healing and life-giving ministry to our Byzantine Catholic Church and beyond. Father Kevin encouraged the Jubilarians to continue being this eloquent sign, to let the holiness of God always shine through them. Finally, he offered to the Jubilarians the congratulations of Metropolitan William together with his own personal congratulations on this joyful occasion.

Diamond Jubilarian, Sister Bernarda Sevachko entered the community from St. Nicholas parish in Youngstown, OH. Her first 45 years of service were devoted to the teaching apostolate. The following 30 years, she had been active in pastoral and catechetical ministry for the five Byzantine Catholic parishes in the Youngstown area. There, her ministry was marked by her enthusiasm and unflagging energy. Following the completion of this ministry, Sister Bernarda returned to the Mount where she continues to offer service wherever needed with liveliness and vitality.

Celebrating 70 years of Ministry-Sister Dolores Ann Vanischak, Sister Valeria Evanyo and Sister Helen Schott. Sister Dolores Ann joined the Community from SS. Peter & Paul Church, Braddock, PA. Since 1984, she has been in charge of the Monastery Library. In past years, Sister Dolores Ann was very active in the Fayette County Chapter of the Multiple Sclerosis Society and served alternately as the society’s president and secretary for many years. Sister Valeria is a former member of St. John the Baptist Church, Pittsburgh, Pa. Following her assignments in teaching, Sister Valeria worked at the Vatican in the Secretariat of State and at the Generate in Rome. Later, she served in the Eparchy of Parma as secretary to the late Archbishop Basil Schott. Currently, Sister Valeria offers supportive services at Patronage of Our Lady Convent in Pittsburgh. Sister Helen entered the community from St. John’s Church in Hazleton, PA. Besides teaching and



Jubilarians with Sr. Susan Sisko, Provincial (center standing third from left) and Rev. Jerome Botsko, Monastery Chaplain, and Rev. Kevin Marks, who concelebrated the Divine Liturgy of Thanksgiving

health care ministries, she served in leadership as Councilor and then as Provincial for two terms. At Mt. Macrina Manor, she held the post of Director of Nursing, before returning to the Monastery as Health Director for the community.

Celebrating 60 years of Ministry-Sister Elizabeth Jane Teply and Sister Ruth Plante. Sister Elizabeth Jane came to the community from St. Mary’s Church in Trauger, PA. After devoting her energies for over 30 years to teaching, Sister Elizabeth Jane moved on to parish ministry at St. John the Baptist Church in Uniontown, PA, a ministry very dear to her heart. Presently, Sister Elizabeth Jane devotes her time and energy to the Card Shop and Prayer Ministry.

Sister Ruth entered the community from St. John the Baptist Church, now located in Trumbull, CT. Like many in the community, Sister Ruth served as teacher and principal for a number of years. She then served in administration as a Councilor before being elected as Provincial for two terms, and an additional term in 2015. Currently, much of Sister Ruth’s energy and ministry is focused on managing the Religious Gift Shop at the Mount.

Each of the Jubilarians has actively served the Church in a variety of ways. Each Sister, by her fidelity and commitment witnesses to the Good News of Jesus, touching countless lives. At the festive meal following the Divine Liturgy, Provincial Sister Susan congratulated the Sisters and thanked them for their lives of prayer, witness, and service. Others offered personal tributes to each Jubilarian, highlighting the special and unique gifts each brought to her ministry.

Corporate Community Events Coordinators



Molly Kullen
Corporate Community
Events Coordinator
Western, PA

Pirate Baseball Game. GCU members and guests enjoyed an evening of baseball and fireworks at PNC Park on Saturday, August 20. It was a hot summer night watching the Pittsburgh Pirates take on the Cincinnati Reds. Unfortunately, the visiting Reds won the game 10 to 1.

The loss did not stop everyone from having a great time enjoying the ballpark food, watching the Fan Cam and cheering on the Pierogis in the classic Pierogi Race. The best part of the evening was the Zambelli Skyblast Fireworks Extravaganza show after the game. The fireworks lit up the city sky from multiple angles around PNC Park. GCU employee, Deanna Dodds said, "They were the best fireworks I have ever seen."

GCU sold 120 tickets, and each ticket had a \$10 loaded value which could be used at any concession stands or team store within PNC Park. If you are a Pittsburgh sports fan, GCU will have its very first member discount Pittsburgh Steelers outing on Sunday, November 13. The Steelers will face the News Orleans Saint. For more information, please visit the GCU website or call Molly Kullen at 724-683-3927.



GCU members and guests enjoying the Pirate game.

Manna Community Meal and Communicycle Event. The GCU sponsored a meal with Manna Community Meal and Communicycle on Thursday, August 25 in Aliquippa, PA.

Manna is a ministry of the House of Prayer Lutheran Church in Aliquippa, which seeks to feed the hungry in body, mind and spirit. Communicycle is an outreach bike ministry in Beaver County. Communicycle's motto is "every kid in my town has a bike."

Every Thursday evening in July and August, Manna and Communicycle partnered together and went to a different neighborhood in Aliquippa to serve a meal and do bike repairs for local children.

GCU volunteers were responsible for bringing and serving a light dinner to feed 70 people. The volunteers had a wonderful time meeting and spending time outside with the children in the community. Volunteers learned that many of the children that came had their first day of school that day!

A special thanks to GCU volunteers: Laura & Tim Seech, Kristin Kirkwood and Beth Verone!

For more information on Manna Community Meal and Communicycle, please visit their website below:

Manna Community Meal: <http://www.hoplutheran.org/manna/>
and Communicycle: <https://www.communicycle.org/>.



Communicycle bike repair.



Beth Verone, Tim & Laura Seech, Kristin Kirkwood & Addie from Communicycle.



Western, PA Upcoming Events

Rudolph The Rednosed Reindeer Jr.

Saturday, December 3, 2022 Show begins at 2 PM
Lincoln Park Performing Arts Center

\$15 GCU Members / \$22 Non-Members / \$10 Kids age 12 and under

Topgolf Outing

Saturday, January 14, 2023 2 PM-4:30 PM
Topgolf, Bridgeville, PA

Prices will be announced

Visit GCUusa.com for more information on these events
or contact Molly Kullen at mkullen@GCUusa.com or call 724-683-3927



Melissa Cohen
Corporate Community
Events Coordinator
North Eastern, PA

Camp Freedom. The GCU wants to get the word out to members about a wonderful year-round adventure camp. Camp Freedom, located in Carbondale, PA. The Camp provides outdoor recreation on 1,800 acres to individuals with disabilities, including Veterans & First Responders, their families and Gold Star families. The Camp Freedom property is almost totally wheelchair accessible. Activities are adapted to give every guest the opportunity to participate.



Camp Freedom.

Most activities are free! Contact Camp Freedom to learn more and to plan a visit.

GCU August Waterpark Event Series at Montage Mountain. The perfect way to cool off during the hot August weather was splashing in the pool and enjoying the waterlides at Montage Mountain Waterpark. The only thing hotter than the weather was the sizzling \$5 waterpark deal with the GCU! The GCU participated in an adult only night, kid's night, and a general swim all day. Regular priced tickets were \$30 for swim all day so it was wonderful to offer \$5 tickets to the water park events. Thank you to Brad Swisher, a GCU agent, for assisting at the GCU info table as well!



Kid's Night.



Some of the first members of GCU's Young Professionals Club at the adult night.



Binghamton Rumble Ponies. It was a beautiful evening on September 2 for baseball and fireworks at the Binghamton Rumble Ponies game! A Superhero Night promotion added to the fun.



Above: Lodge 47 Sec.-Treasurer Daria Shierly and friends at the game. At right: Superheroes!



Roba Family Farm. The GCU had a blast at Roba Family Farm on Saturday, September 10. Corn maze, wagon rides, pumpkin patches, cider, treats, a bonfire and all kinds of entertainment for all ages. Gate prices range from \$19.⁹⁵.

\$26.⁹⁵ depending on what month you go, so it was wonderful to offer \$10 tickets to members for either September and October visits.



Pumpkins galore! At right is Paul Batyko & his family at Roba Farm.

Scranton/Wilkes-Barre RailRiders Games. The GCU closed out the baseball season with two Scranton/Wilkes-Barre RailRiders games played on the September 16 and 18. There were fireworks after the game on Friday and fans even had a chance to meet Brian Baumgartner, the actor who played "Kevin" from the popular show based in Scranton, PA, "The Office."



Joan Jett Concert. Congratulations to our social media contest winner, George Gramata, who won two tickets in the front section of the Joan Jett Concert on September 26 at The Bloomsburg Fair.



Upcoming Events

Binghamton, NY Area Festival of Lights

November 21-January 1 5 PM-9 PM
Otsiningo Park Drive through lights display
\$5 per car for GCU Members (\$20 savings)
\$15 Season Pass for GCU Members (\$35 savings)

Jungle Bells Thanksgiving Eve Party
Wednesday, November 23, 2022 4 PM-9 PM
Animal Adventure Park
\$7 GCU Members (50% savings)

Northeastern, PA Area

Santa Christmas Tree Express - Honesdale Train Ride
Saturday, November 26, 2022 1 PM-3 PM
\$10 for GCU Members (50% savings)

Santa Express
Saturday, December 3, 2022
Black River & Western Railroad, Ringoes, NJ
Contact Melissa for ticket prices

Lightwire Theater Presents A Very Electric Christmas
Tuesday, December 6, 2022 5:30 PM
The F.M. Kirby Center for the Performing Arts
\$30 Tickets

Brunch With Santa
Sunday, December 11, 2022 11 AM-2 PM
Gravity Hall at Hotel Anthracite, Carbondale, PA
\$10 Adult Members / \$6 Kids
Must order through GCU for 50% off discounted tickets

Scranton/Wilkes-Barre Penguins vs Hershey Bears
Saturday, December 17, 2022 6:05 PM
Mohegan Sun Arena, Wilkes-Barre, PA
\$10 Tickets
Teddy Bear Toss Night to benefit Kids in need

Visit GCUusa.com for more information on all these events or contact Melissa Cohen at mcohen@GCUusa.com or call 878-207-2327

District 5

Golf Tournament | The annual District 5 golf tournament was held on the morning of Saturday, August 6 at Sugarloaf Golf Club. The 72 golfers enjoyed a perfect day for golf. The team of Matthew Montville, Bob Montville, Ray Black and Mike Elward had a low gross of 61 and took home trophies (engraved clocks), along with a monetary prize. First Flight Low Net 1st Place was Gary Norconk, Jim Gurnari, Frank Picchi and Jason Norconk. 2nd Place was Sue & Jerry Grohowski, Diane Grega and Mike Seman. 3rd Place was Charles Neary, Rick Neary, Mike Fiorelli and Ed Munley. Second Flight Low Net 1st Place was Craig Pezak, Michael Higgins, Gary and Corey Pezak. 2nd Place was Don Gulick, Kevin Mallloy, Chris Monahan and Joe Zaffarano. 3rd Place was Gary & Doreen Nobel, Denise Evans and Bob Faneck. Third Flight Low Net



A golf foursome at the outing.



Golf Champions-Matt Montville, Michael Elward, Ray Black and Bob Montville.

1st Place was Colby Gaugler, Rich Demarchis, Kyle Hammer and Dexter Herman. 2nd Place was Paul Dunda, Chris Brace, Bob Pipcho and Phil Vullo. 3rd Place was John Dolinish, Gina Keil, Anne Marie Neary and John Bubblo. Proximity prize winners were: Carl Smith, Andrew Schukraft, Sue Grohowski, Alyssa Procida, Collin Krokos, Phil Vullo, Jim Gurnari and Frank Picchi. Fourteen golfers hit the green on Hole 17, for a share in the Pot of Gold, Charles Neary, Ken Killino, Collin Krokos, Bob Pipcho, John Bubblo, Gary Norconk, Frank Picchi, Matthew Montville, Mike Seman, Carl Smith Jr., Joe Zaffarano, Brad Oravitz, Kevin Kneal and Mark Gegula.

The tournament concluded with the traditional pig roast with all the trimmings. Presentation of tournament winners and a door prize for all followed. Thanks goes out to the GCU Home Office for the grant for door prizes, GCU golf balls, sunscreen, hand sanitizers and the preparation of entry forms. Thanks also to the hole sponsors, prize donors and all of the participants. A special thank you to our Pot of Gold and Hole in One verifier, Ed Keil, whose team deserted him this year. Save next year's date, Saturday, August 5, 2023. Time is changed to an 8 AM shotgun.



Adopt-A-Highway cleanup.

Adopt-A-Highway | Finally, after a two year hiatus, the Adopt-A-Highway cleanup took place on Saturday, September 24 at 8 AM. It was a brisk fall day. The district was fortunate to recruit 17 golfers from Holy Redeemer High School to help with the cleanup. They were able to use this as a community service project. We can't thank them enough. Volunteers collected 13 bags of garbage, a tire, other car parts and some lumber—then enjoyed hoagies and drinks afterwards. Spring of 2023, will be the next cleanup. Volunteers are always welcome.

Gina Keil | President

District 15

Autumn officially arrived in the northern hemisphere on September 22. The season of football, "pumpkin everything," turkeys, fall foliage and giving thanks has begun. It is my least favorite time of the year. I do like football, pumpkins, turkey and especially bike rides and hikes with falling leaves and crisp temperatures. I do not like the shorter days and prolonged darkness. It saddens me quite honestly and I don't find Western Pennsylvania very attractive once the leaves have fallen from the trees.

I shared these sentiments with a friend recently who continually posts photos of snowy landscapes on his Facebook page. He chuckled and said that he looks forward to the contemplative opportunities found in the fall and winter months. I find that my best contemplative opportunities happen on the golf course and they're usually not about golf.

Nevertheless, it's autumn and we'll be heading into winter soon. Now is the time to remember to reach out to shut-ins and the older folks in our communities and churches. Perhaps you might offer to rake some leaves, or take a warm bowl of soup or freshly baked chocolate chip cookies to an elderly neighbor or shut-in. Make a phone call or stop to watch TV with

someone; the dark evenings can be awfully long for those living alone. Anyone can make a world of difference to others with a kind gesture. As GCU members, we know that it's all about community and making each of our local communities a better place for all.

Bunco Luncheon | Held on Saturday, September 24, this year's Bunco Luncheon supported the District 15 Senior Award Fund and the community of veterans in the local area through a donation to Heroes Supporting Heroes. Once again, Kathy Kapaldo led the efforts to create an afternoon full of fun and prizes. Thank you also to Mary Elizabeth Olack, Cindy Cherico, Laura Seech, Pam Kapaldo, Mike Spanik and Chris Stack. We couldn't have done it without you!

Annual Golf Outing | The District 15 Annual Golf Outing was held on Sunday, October 2 at Seven Oaks CC. This year saw 17 foursomes competing in a 4-golfer scramble format. A full report will be included in the December issue of the *GCU Magazine*.

Black Dog Winery | An Afternoon at Black Dog Winery was scheduled for Sunday, October 16. Look for photos in the next issue of the *GCU Magazine*.

Finally, all of the officers of District 15 would like to wish District 15 members and lodge officers as well as the all GCU members a very Happy Thanksgiving.

Elizabeth Harbist | District President



President Elizabeth Harbist, event coordinator Kathy Kapaldo and Cindy Cherico.



Past GCU Director Martha Seech and Mary Elizabeth Olack at the Bunco Luncheon.

Lodge News

Lodge 17

OLD FORGE, PA

Flea Market

St. Nicholas Byzantine Catholic Church held a Flea Market on Saturday, September 17. On Sunday, September 18, all items were half price. On Saturday, September 24, customers could fill a box with items for a designated single price. This event was held in the church's social center, garage and parking lot area.

Countless hours of preparation made this event a huge success. GCU lodge members assisted throughout, but most were in the kitchen. Menu items included pirohi, haluski, wimpies, pizza and hot dogs. The crowds were endless and the food sold out early on the first Saturday. There was also a bake sale and 50/50 raffle. This was a GCU Matching Funds project with proceeds going towards the interior church painting and roof repairs. A special thanks to the GCU Home Office for the Matching Funds and raffle ticket printing.



Indoor Flea Market items.



Outside Flea Market items.

UPCOMING LODGE 17 EVENTS

Fall Helping Hands Day at Holy Annunciation Monastery

Saturday, October 29, 2022
9 AM

Contact Ed or Gina at 570-824-1264

Turkey Bingo

Sunday, November 6
1 PM

Admission \$5 with extra cards \$3

St. Mary Byzantine Catholic Church Hall
700 Oak Street, Taylor, PA 18517

This is a GCU Parish Matching Funds event.

Lecture

The Very Rev. Eduard Shestak, pastor of St. Nicholas Byzantine Catholic Church, held the second in a series of faith enrichment presentations at the church on Saturday, October 1.

The topic was the Saints, who they are and how did veneration of them begin. Refreshments, hosted by Lodge 17 followed in the Social Center.



Bake Sale volunteers.

Turkey Bingo

St. Mary Byzantine Catholic Church, will hold a Turkey Bingo on Sunday, November 6 at 1 PM in the church hall. Admission is \$5 with extra cards \$3. Twenty bingo games will be held including specials, with the prizes being turkey gift certificates. There will be basket raffles, a 50/50 raffle, a bake sale, and the kitchen will have items for purchase including: wimpies, hot dogs, pirohi, haluski and pizza. Lodge 17 will be assisting at the event. This is a Matching Funds project to help defray the cost of roof repairs.

Macrina Dolinish | Publicity Director



Some Kitchen Volunteers—Tammy Souter, Carol Granko, Ed Keil, Ed Dolinish, Toppo Zayac, Betty Ann Gatto, Fr. Eduard Shestak, Gina Keil and Eric Helbing.

Lodge 47

THE BUZZ FROM BINGHAMTON, NY

Community Hunger Drive

Multiple boxes of non-perishable foods weighing almost 600 pounds were recently delivered to CHOW (Community Hunger Outreach Warehouse) by GCU Lodge 47. In addition, on September 15, 2022 Janet Kumpon and Daria Shierly presented a donation in the amount of \$1,000.00 to CHOW Director Les Aylesworth.

CHOW was created in 1976 as a response to a lack of a coordinated effort to provide food to those in need. CHOW serves the Binghamton area free of charge and exists to end hunger through a network of over 100 emergency food programs.

Mr. Aylesworth was overwhelmed with the donation, which translates to 5,000 meals for the community. He wants everyone who generously contributed, to know that he is grateful for the partnership.

Since the pandemic began, hunger has been on the rise. CHOW received plentiful donations early on, but with rising food costs, many more local families are affected for the first time. The demand is greater than ever.

Lodge 47 is grateful to the GCU Home Office for the Matching Funds and to say thank you very much to everyone who helped make this

project a huge success by filling the barrel or offering a cash donation. The lodge is extremely thankful for all the efforts of the parishioners, family and friends of Holy Spirit Church, Binghamton and Ss. Peter & Paul Church, Endicott, NY. This combined food drive effort sent a strong message that fighting community hunger is a high priority!



Secretary-Treasurer Daria Shierly & Janet Kumpon making a donation to CHOW Director Les Aylesworth.



Parishioners, family and friends enjoying the food.



Parish Gathering

September is a time for new beginnings. Traditionally it marks the start of a new school year in our country;

the end of summer; the beginning of the new fall TV season & series premieres and of course, football.

September 1st is the start of the new Liturgical Year in the Byzantine Tradition. On Sunday, August 28, 2022, approximately 70 parishioners, family and friends of Holy Spirit Church, Binghamton, and Ss. Peter & Paul, Endicott, gathered to celebrate.

Following Liturgy, everyone got together to appreciate fellowship time outside on the side lawn as goodies including breakfast pizza, fruit, Danish, brownies, cookies, coffee, tea and more were happily enjoyed.

It was a beautiful and bright sunny day. A parish meeting was also on the agenda, led by Fr. Roman and Deacon Rich. Deacon provided financial updates related to both churches as well as the cemeteries, established priorities for projects in the works and others that are needed, had a Q&A session and concluded with a prayer.

The lodge would like to express its deepest appreciation to Steve & Kim Cruty, owners of Fuddy

Duddy Confectionary, for all their time and help with this event, along with all of the freshly baked cookies.

Thanks also to Pani Marianna for the wonderful pictures she shared. They definitely capture a sense of community and very happy smiles.

Thank you to Fr. Roman, Deacon Rich, and all parish trustees—your hard work and dedication have not gone unnoticed.

The GCU Home Office continues to provide invaluable service with Fraternal Grants and other assistance.

Daria Shierly | Secretary-Treasurer



Members at Liturgy.



Hannah Bridgland and Lodge Secretary John Marko.

Lodge 53

WILKES-BARRE, PA

Food Collection

Lodge 53 members and parishioners of St. Mary Byzantine Catholic Church in Wilkes-Barre, PA are collecting items to donate to the local food bank. They will collect non-perishable items until the end of the upcoming holiday season to help those in need in the local community.

John Marko | Secretary

Lodge 69

POTTSTOWN, PA

New School Year Breakfast

A breakfast was held for parishioners to start off the new School of Religion year. Eggs, pancakes, hash browns, sausage and desserts were on the menu. Some students even learned to make coffee and pancakes. A good time was had by all.

Nancy Harding | Secretary



Liz Schrack teaching her grandchildren Olivia & Alexandra to make pancakes.



Parishioners enjoying breakfast.

Lodge 81

UNIONTOWN, PA

Lodge 81 conclude the summer with many community as well as parish events.

Community

Gerry Dorobish engaged in many activities with the Uniontown Friends of the Library, Ladies of Charity, and Mount Macrina Religious Gift Shop. On July 13 Bonnie Balas represented St. John BC Church at a craft and vendor show selling crafts and cookbooks at the event which benefited the

Masontown Volunteer Fire Department.

Byzantine Catholic Day at Kennywood Park was thoroughly enjoyed by members of Lodge 81 and St. John Church. The Harrer, Mihalko and Morgan families, along with Father Vasyl Symyon, Julie Pillar, Joan Bridges and Bonnie Balas had a great time despite the rain.

A Liturgy and blessing service was held on July 22 at St. George Maronite Catholic Church at which Father Vasyl Symyon and Father Fraser concelebrated with Father Aaron. Joan Bridges and Bonnie Balas attended this event at which the relics of St. Sharbel were venerated.

The Fayette County Wellness Coalition held a fitness walk on Wednesday, August 17 at the Mount Macrina Monastery grounds. Sister Barbara Jean Mihalchick



Joan Bridges & Bonnie Balas at Mason-town Volunteer Fire Department event.

CONTINUED

Lodge 81 CONTINUED



Sr. Barbara Jean directing tour.

led the walk explaining the historical significance of Mount St. Macrina in the area. There were about 80 in attendance which included Gerry Dorobish, Linda Zungri, Joan Bridges, Julie Pillar and Bonnie Balas.



Bonnie Balas & Nadine Morgan at Helping Hands Day.

The final Helping Hands Clean Up Day to prepare for the Labor Day weekend Pilgrimage was held at Mount St. Macrina on Saturday, August 20. Gerry helped prepare the Religious Gift Shop, while Bonnie and others cleaned benches and more. At the 88th Annual Pilgrimage, Lodge 81 members assumed their usual roles: James Mihalko along with the Rubish family served as ushers, Christopher Kormanik helped with transport, Gerry Dorobish at the Religious Gift Shop, Marcia & Rich

Harrer assisted pilgrims with parking and Bonnie Balas managed candle lighting sales at St. Anne Shrine.

On Saturday, September 9, parishioners and Lodge 81 members went to support St. Nicholas BC Church's "Pulled Pork Luncheon." Mark Jesko, Bonnie Balas and Joan Bridges enjoyed lunch with the pastor Father Oleh.

Sunday, September 18 marked the 33rd Annual Rosary Walk with Uniontown's Catholic Churches. The Second Decade was led by Father Vasyl, while Matt Miner, Kathy Vensko and Bonnie Balas sang Marian Hymns before and after the Rosary recitation.



Blessing of flowers.

Parish

For the Feast of the Dormition, Stephen Petruska led the congregational singing, while Lodges 57 and 81 and parishioners joined for the blessing of flowers by Father Vasyl.

The St. John Social Ministry sponsored the Annual Parish

Picnic at St. John Church. Grilled foods and covered dishes, raffles, fellowship and games were enjoyed by all. Cathy Phillips and Bonnie Balas worked the raffle

ticket sales which yielded nearly \$300.⁰⁰. Local priests Father Oleh Seremchuk and family and Father Jerome Botsko, as well as Sisters Barbara Jean and Elizabeth Jane were invited and attended. Sister Barbara Jean was recognized as an August birthday celebrant.

On Wednesday, August 24, kitchen clean up took place at the St. John Social Hall to prepare for the upcoming pirohi making which include parishioners and Lodge 81 members.



Mike Patishnock & Robert Kraft at the church cleanup.

On Wednesday, August 31, Bernadette Karoffa, Veronica Dirda and

Genevieve Marszal from Lodge 57 and Joan Bridges, Bonnie Balas and many others joined to make 263 dozen pirohi to be donated for light lunch sales at the upcoming Pilgrimage.

The September Birthday Social held on Sunday, September 11 was hosted by Cathy Phillips and Bonnie Balas, who decorated and served refreshments. Although George Patchan of Lodge 81 was unable to attend, he was recognized as a September birthday celebrant.

The Lodge 81 Annual Food Drive took place on the weekend of September 17-18. Lodge 81 officers and members were on hand to collect an overwhelming amount of non-perishable food items in addition to nearly \$500.⁰⁰ in cash to be donated to the St. Vincent de Paul Food Bank. September 18, being Catechetical Sunday, catechists and lodge officers James Mihalko, Gerry Dorobish, Marcia Harrer and Bonnie Balas received a blessing and certificates from Father Vasyl.

The third quarter lodge meeting was held on Sunday, August 7 after Divine Liturgy. Donations were made to the Mount St. Macrina Pilgrimage and the upcoming 40th Annual Carpatho-Rusyn Celebration to be held on Sunday, October 30 at the St. John Parish. Discussion took place on the upcoming 16th Annual Car Show, and sponsoring a Veterans Day Liturgy for deceased and living veterans. Next quarterly meeting is scheduled for Sunday, November 7 after the Sunday Divine Liturgy.

Bonnie Balas | VP & Publicity



Lodge 81 officers/catechists holding certificates with Fr. Vasyl.

UPCOMING LODGE 92 EVENTS

15th Annual Stuffed Chicken Breast Dinner

Sunday, November 6, 2022

11:30 AM-1 PM

\$12 Take Out & Drive Thru ONLY - Dinner includes stuffed chicken breast, potatoes, vegetables and dessert.

LaSalle Auditorium Hall
309 First Avenue, Jessup, PA

Benefits Holy Ghost Church renovations

For ticket information: call Michaela Mancak at 570-489-1304; Greg Dick at 570-489-8723 or Tim Keller at 570-878-2481.

Children's St. Nicholas Celebration

Sunday, December 4, 2022

Time to be announced

Admission is FREE

LaSalle Academy Auditorium Hall
309 First Avenue, Jessup, PA



Workers Irene Shulick, Marilyn Yanoschik, Connie Strittmatter, Carol Olmstead and Irene Midock.

Lodge 93

NORTHERN CAMBRIA, PA

Trash to Treasures Sale

Visitors from all over the Clymer, PA community enjoyed one of the largest bargain bashes ever when St. Anne BC Church parishioners and Lodge 93 members held their annual Trash to Treasures sale, Basket Raffle and Bake Sale. The two day mega event on July 29 & 30, had shoppers waiting at the door of St. Anne's social hall to snap up furniture, household goods, appliances, decorations, jewelry, books, a variety of children items and even some freebies.

As bargains were sold new "treasures" were set out to be snatched up by savvy shoppers. Shopping seems to create a need for food, so a large area of floor space, where old and new friends mingled, enabled buyers to purchase a variety of lunch items, refreshments and fresh baked goods.

A highlight to the event was the Basket Raffle that offered a large collection of unique choices including cash, lottery, holiday themed decorations, food specialties, beauty, back to school and gift cards. All 40 baskets were sanitized and wrapped. Winners did not need to be present for the Saturday drawing. Curbside pickup was arranged along with delivery by volunteers.

"It was busy all day," said Irene Shulick, parishioner and member who worked the event. "I think this was one of our best-attended sales.

There were more people here today than I remember in the past. Maybe it's the economy—items moved quickly," she added.

Thanks to all who contributed their time, talent, treasures, and gifts.

Appreciation is extended to the GCU for the Parish Matching Funds program that benefits the church's monetary base.

Connie Strittmatter | Secretary-Treasurer



Jan Petro selling basket raffle tickets.

Lodge 109

LYNDORA, PA

Rummage/Ethnic Food Sale

On the weekend of September 16-18, lodge 109 co-sponsored a combination rummage/ethnic food sale with the Ladies Guild of St. John

the Baptist Byzantine Catholic Church. Matching Funds were used for this event so profits up to \$5,000.00 were doubled by the GCU Home Office, which was most appreciated. The income from this venture will be donated entirely to St. John's general operating fund to be used to help pay the bills for the coming winter months.

Janet Uram |
Secretary-Treasurer



Lodge 109 President Patty Kosar, presenting donation check to Deacon Paul Simko in the midst of volunteers who helped make the salad/bingo event a success.



Barb Nemuk and Lee Kradel chatting with Fr. Radko Blicchar before the food sale began.



The many items to choose from.

Lodge 144

DENVER, CO

Remembering 9/11

In honor of the brave men and women who proudly serve and protect our community GCU Lodge 144 was privileged to provide lunch for the Denver Police Department District 3 and the Denver Fire Department Station 2. Lodge 144 also provided stuffed animals to the police, which they carry in their vehicles for injured and traumatized children. Let us never forget the lives that were lost and the lives forever changed on that fateful day of September 11, 2001.

John W. Oslick



Pictured are fireman with Lodge 144 President Mary Ellen & GCU National Director John W. Oslick.

Lodge 151

NEW YORK, NY

Lodge 151 Book Donations

Lodge 151 is keeping busy. Lodge members Ann Kandratino and Chris Hulak did a GCU GoGive to provide books for children going to school. Thanks to their hard work it was a very successful.

It was “Summertime and All-the-Time Reading.” An English teacher’s mission, in and out of the classroom, is always to promote the love of books, reading and school.

An afternoon was booked at St. Raphael Church to distribute bountiful bags of books, never ending notebooks, plenty of pens & pencils and other sundry school supplies. In the courtyard of St. Raphael, a separate table was set up to have students and parents choose the books of their choice. These gifts were bagged in motivating totes—“Dig into Reading,” “Reading Makes You Bright” and “Chill Out and Read.” The books included donated novels, Look and Find books, the classics, non-fiction, Nancy Drew and Dr. Seuss all from Pre-K to high school.

Church family children were also gifted with a bag of books at The Russian Orthodox Church of the Transfiguration of Our Lord and The Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary. As one child said, “We can’t wait to go home and read!” It’s always TIME to read!



Veronica sends her love and thanks for her books!

St. Andrew Religious Instruction

On September 10, the children at St. Andrew BC Church started religious instruction. Sister Katarina will lead these classes once a month. The children were absolutely absorbed in the first day instruction. The children that participated and in the picture are Eliska Urehel, Mia Daddona, Tessa Esposito and Gabriella Bevhit. The children are young and excited to be with Sr. Katarina.



Above: Sr. Katarina with the children. Below: Fr. Nicholas Daddona blessing the children.



St. Andrew Matching Funds

St. Andrew parish held a matching funds event “The Akathist to the Great Martyr and Healer St. Panteleimon.” It was held on his special day July 28. Parishioners and Patricia Dietz attended this Liturgy. The prayers contained “Chosen faithful of Christ and gracious healer, who freely grants healing to the sick. We praise you in songs as our protector. As you stood steadfast with the Lord. Free us from all harm and sickness, who cry with love to you.” All in attendance received an anointing.

Upcoming Matching Funds Events

The following events will be GCU Matching Funds events. On Sunday, October 23, Resurrection BC Church will have an ethnic food luncheon and sale of ethnic food. St. Nicholas Orthodox Church will also be having an Oktoberfest luncheon with ethnic foods like pierogies, kielbasa and cabbage rolls. It is being chaired by Lodge 151 member, Laura and the pastor’s wife, Matushka Charlene. On Sunday, December 4, St. Mary BC Church in NYC will hold a St. Nicholas Day luncheon. St. Andrew BC Church in Westbury, NY also has plans for a St. Nicholas celebration.

Our Deepest Sympathy

We are saddened to announce that long time GCU member Betty Levkulich has died. She was in her late 90s when she passed. Her four older brothers John, George, Charlie and Steven all predeceased her. She had been in a nursing facility in Connecticut near her niece. Eternal Memory.

- Marge Pajer | President
- Christine Hulak | Treasurer
- Ann Kandratino



St. Panteleimon Day at Saint Andrew.

UPCOMING LODGE 151 EVENT

4th Quarter Meeting

Sunday, November 20, 2022

Time and location will be announced

The officers hope to see more members at this important meeting.

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

Lodge 182

KINGSTON, PA

Dr. John Evans Fraternalist of the Year

Dr. John G. Evans, athletic director for Lodge 182, was named the lodge's Fraternalist of the Year. He was honored with a framed certificate and monetary award. Dr. Evans is the son of Mary Ann Evans and the late John Evans of Kingston, PA. He resides in Plymouth, PA with his wife Colleen Evans. Dr. Evans also has a dental practice in Plymouth. John has been a member of Lodge 182 since birth and an active member for most of his adolescent and adult life. He has held offices in both Lodge 182 and District 5 and is truly the epitome of fraternalism. The members of Lodge 182 would like to thank John for his many years of service and dedication to the GCU.

Laure Marcin | Secretary



Barb Hauge placing footprints into the wet cement. Below is the finished walkway.



Lodge 351

INDIANA, PA

Ernest Mine Memorial

The Ernest Mine Memorial made some significant progress during the month of June. The sidewalks and some of the landscaping were completed with a grant from Indiana County Planning and Development. The work was done using the design plans of Tom R. Harley, Architects of Indiana, PA. Barb Hauge, who has been instrumental in the planning and design of the park, was on hand to help with creating footprints on the sidewalk indicating how the coal miners would stand and wait in line to pick up their paychecks at the Mine Office originally located on the site.

The foundation stones were left as a partial outline where the Mine Office once stood; however, there still needs to be additional landscaping work done to make the site safe for visitors. Once the final landscaping is completed, work will begin on completing additional work needed to complete the project. This includes metal silhouettes of miners that entered the mine that day, who are being memorialized at the site, educational informational signs about the mine disasters that occurred in Ernest in the early 1900's, several benches, and a memorial plaque with the names of the coal miners who lost their lives in the two mine disasters.

It has also been discussed to contact local artists to paint a mural depicting coal mining life on the side of a garage that stands on the site. This has been a worthwhile project and although it is not yet completed, members of Lodge 351 will continue to work with Ernest Borough and the Ernest Coal Mining Committee group to see this project to completion.

Patty Yamrick | Fraternal Director

Greater Hazleton Regional Lodge (GHRL)

HAZLETON, PA

Happy Fall Y'All!

Once again it is time for Mother Nature to change seasons—hopefully we will have spectacular fall foliage. The beautiful colors may not be as splendid this year due to a shortage of rain, time will tell. Either way, get out and enjoy the beautiful autumn days before Old Man Winter comes to call.

Parish Matching Fundraisers

A few of the parishes have had parish fund raisers and are very grateful for the GCU Parish Matching Funds. St. John BC Church had a very profitable Tricky Tray auction in August. A check was presented to Fr. Eugene Hradil and St. Michael BC Church had a Tricky Tray and food sale in September. If you are interested in having a parish fund raiser to help with expenses or whatever, give me a call for assistance with completing the required paperwork.



At left is Fr. Gregory Hosler and the workers from St. Michael's Tricky Tray sale and at right are St. John's Tricky Tray coordinators Victor & Cynthia Salnicky and Anita Keselicka.



Agnes Rohrbach presenting parish fundraising check to Fr. Eugene Hradil.

Veterans Day

Remember that Veterans Day is Friday, November 11. If you happen to know or see a veteran, give them a salute and a tip of the hat to let them know you are very grateful for their service to this country.

Family Picnic Day

St. John and St. Mary held a joint parish picnic on Sunday, September 18 to welcome the two parishes together under the guidance of Fr. Eugene Hradil. There was plenty of food and activities for the children and adults of the parishes. A video presentation of the two parishes was presented and also of Fr. Hradil's family from the Ukraine. An additional article appears below thanks to parishioner Edward Havrilla.



On Sunday, September 18, 2022, parishioners from St. Mary and St. John the Baptist Byzantine Catholic Churches in Hazleton held their first ever "Family Picnic Day" on the grounds of St. John's. In attendance were over 100 parishioners, including many children, also present were Fr. Gregory Noga, current Dean of the Mid-Pennsylvania Protokesbyterate and Fr. Peter Donish, retired pastor at St. Mary.

The day began with Parochial Vicar Fr. Eugene Hradil, leading participants in prayer for the abundance of food and the blessing Almighty God has bestowed on both parish families.

After everyone had their fill of

CONTINUED

UPCOMING GHRL EVENTS

Bus Trip to Wind Creek Casino

Sunday, October 23

11 AM-7:30 PM

Contact Agnes Rohrbach 570-454-4869

Fall Helping Hands Day at Holy Annunciation Monastery

Saturday, October 29

8 AM Liturgy

9 AM Chores will start

Sugarloaf, PA

Contact Agnes Rohrbach 570-454-4869

November Calendar Fundraiser

Benefits St. John's BC Church

St. Nicholas Dinner

Sunday, December 4

1 PM

Capriotti's, McAdoo, PA

Contact Agnes Rohrbach 570-454-4869

Notes

As always, GHRL tries to keep everyone updated on upcoming events, if you are computer savvy, check out the GCU website for event updates. If you have any questions, please feel free to call: 570.454.4869 or if you have something of interest please e-mail: agnes@ptd.net.

Here is wishing all GCU members and their families a very Blessed and Happy Thanksgiving. May God bless us all with good health, family and friends. If you have the chance, enjoy time with your family & friends and cherish the holiday.

Until next time, take care and May God Bless.

Agnes Rohrbach | Secretary & Activities Director

GHRL CONTINUED

food and desserts, Fr. Eugene, who had assembled 3 videos, each a photo presentation of the respective churches' history and an introduction of himself and his lovely family, were shown. Everyone was in awe of the high quality of each of the films.

Numerous games including basketball, bean bag toss and a ping pong table, were setup in the field behind the church for all to enjoy.

Fr. Eugene showed off his culinary skills on Saturday morning by cooking a test batch of the Potato Cake batter for all who came for setup

and preparation. On Sunday after performing his duties as shepherd of the parish leading the celebration of the Divine Liturgies, he jumped right in to help with cooking and distribution of food and desserts. He continued throughout the day meeting with everyone and taking pictures.

A huge word of thanks needs to go out to everyone who participated in setup, preparation, serving and cleanup. Without the cooperation of everyone it would not have been the success it was.

Edward Havrilla



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



Beth Ann Gulyasy & Fr. Michael Kunitz.

Matching Funds Check Presentation

During the great Fast, St. Pius X Church in Carrick held a Pirohi sale every Friday to benefit structural repairs needed at the church.

A Matching

Funds check in the amount of \$5,000.00 was presented to Father Michael Kunitz by Beth Ann Gulyasy to help defray some of the expenses. It is wonderful to be able to utilize the GCU Matching Funds program to help our parishes with church & community needs

Ice Cream Social

On Saturday, August 20 St. Pius X church celebrated it's patron Saint Pius X celebrating the date of his call to the Lord August 20,

1914 at the age of 79 with an ice cream social. The existing church building was dedicated May 19, 1974 which also commemorated the canonization of the parish's patron. Forty people attended and enjoyed cones or bowls of ice cream with lots of different toppings as well as Norma Langol's famous cupcakes. Panni Janine's birthday was also celebrated. A good time was had by all attending!



Members enjoying the ice cream social.

Murder Mystery Dinner

On Saturday, September 17 CPRL and its corresponding churches hosted a Murder Mystery Dinner with Mysteries Most Wanted

CONTINUED

CPRL CONTINUED

**UPCOMING
CPRL EVENT**

Children's Christmas Party

Sunday, December 4, 2022

11:30 AM

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

An afternoon of lunch, games,
entertainment, gifts and a visit from Santa.

Contact Kim Kolesar at 412-999-5715 or
email her at kak210@comcast.net

Theatre Company at St. John BC Church in the Run. Guests enjoyed a wonderful western themed dinner and show. However, only a few were able to determine who killed Montana Marie! It was a great evening of fraternalism and fun!

Melanie Basl | Publicity Director
Beth Gulyasy | Trustee



Members at the Murder Mystery Dinner.



Guys & Dolls Bowling Tournament.



Helping Hands Day at Ascension Church.



**Southeast Pittsburgh Regional Lodge (SEPRL)
CLAIRTON/MUNHALL**

Helping Hands Day

On July 27 & 28, 2022 Ascension Church in Clairton held their Helping Hands Days. Volunteers installed new flower boxes in the courtyard and filled them with dirt to prepare for planting. Small shovels were available for the children signed up to plant the flowers. They took their time selecting plants, digging, planting and watering the flowers. After everyone helped clean up, volunteers went to the rectory for pizza and snacks. Another target for a Helping Hands project was part of the church property in desperate need of weeding and cutting. Volunteers spent the next day working in the area to clean up trash, pull weeds and cut all of the grassy areas.

Farewell, Father Will

On August 14, 2022 GCU members, along with the Ss. Peter & Paul BCC parish family in Duquesne, PA., held a Farewell Breakfast for Father Will Rupp.

GCU member Bob Kacik, presented Father Will with farewell gifts from the Parish & Men's Clubs of Ss. Peter & Paul Church.

In the short time he was with at the church, Father Will became a beloved spiritual leader. May God grant the Priest Will many blessed and happy years.

Connie Kacey Smith



GCU members (from left): Bob & Judy Kacik, Father Will Rupp, Ann Berezna, Lori Hrico, Arlene Polivka, Claudia Stipetic and Peggy Anne Fodo.

CONTINUED

SEPRL CONTINUED

3rd Quarter Meeting & Upcoming Events

The lodge held their 3rd quarter meeting on Sunday, September 18 at Ascension Church. Plans were discussed on using the remaining 2022 Fraternal Grants and Matching Funds. Events on the schedule include St. John's Cathedral clothing collection a Community Matching Funds event. The donated clothing will be delivered in October. They will also hold the annual food drive in November, collecting non-perishable items for the Greater Pittsburgh Food

Bank. Clairton will be sponsoring a coat drive in October, collecting coats for the local Clairton Closet and for the City Mission. Both churches are making plans for Veterans Day and St. Nicholas events. The annual meeting has been set for Sunday, November 27 at noon at "Rock Bottom Restaurant" in the Waterfront.

Trish Roberts | President

UPCOMING SEPRL EVENTS

Annual Meeting

Sunday, November 27, 2022

12 PM-4 PM

\$10 per person-Lunch Buffet

Rock Bottom Restaurant & Brewery
171 East Bridge Street, Homestead, PA 15120
The Waterfront

Reservations must be received by
November 19, 2022

For Reservations: call Patty Bovee at 412-915-1547 or Trish Roberts at 412-244-7814

Northwest Pittsburgh Regional Lodge (NWPRL)

MCKEES ROCKS & GIBSONIA, PA



Members with some of the donations for Fisher House.

Fisher House Donation

This summer the NW Pittsburgh Regional Lodge in cooperation with three parishes had their fifth annual collection program for the Pittsburgh VA Hospital Fisher House. St. Andrew BC Church in Gibsonia, PA, Holy Ghost BC Churches in Northside-Pittsburgh and McKees Rocks all contributed to the collection effort. Fisher House provides accommodations and general living supplies for the families of those receiving treatment at the Pittsburgh VA Hospital. They have an ongoing need to replenish the supplies used.

Fighting Fore Roman

The 7th Annual Fighting FORE Roman Golf outing was held on August 20, 2022 at Quicksilver Golf Course in Midway, PA. The event drew another full course of golfers and many volunteers. For the first time, Roman played his first round of 18 holes at the outing! Over \$17,000.⁰⁰ was raised at this event. The proceeds will benefit the Neurofibromatosis Clinics Association, Inc. (NFCA) of Pittsburgh. The NFCA is a regional, non-profit organization dedicated to raising awareness about Neurofibromatosis (NF), a progressive genetic condition and maximizing quality of life for people with NF and their families in the Pittsburgh area by funding



John D'Amico, Roman Carr & Michael D'Amico.

clinical services, family programs and research to improve NF treatment and management. NWPRL has been a huge supporter of this golf outing and is thankful for the unwavering and dedicated support of this event!



Julia & George Mosko.



Helping Hands Day

A newly formed volunteer committee at Holy Ghost in McKees Rocks has taken up a deep cleaning of the church basement and classrooms. After some of the basic work was done a deep clean and painting day was scheduled for August 31. Thanks to all who came out to help and NWPRL for the financial support of the effort.

Steve Puluka |
Secretary-Treasurer

Pittsburgh South Regional Lodge (PSRL)

UPPER ST. CLAIR, PA

Annual Flea Market

St. Gregory's 11th Annual Flea Market was held on Saturday, August 6 in the church hall. A wide variety of items for sale once again attracted bargain hunters from all over the South Hills of Pittsburgh. PSRL members were among the hard-working parishioners during the set-up, pricing and staffing on sale day, providing lunch for the volunteers and cleaning up afterward. It was a week of wonderful fellowship along with the hard work of this fundraising project, making it a great success. Sincere thanks to the GCU for the Matching Funds Grant to benefit the church maintenance fund.



Flea Market check presentation. From left: Dorothy Mayernik, Fr. Valerian Michlik, Susan Ruglovsky (coordinator), Michael Pillar, Nancy Pillar, Michele Reese (coordinator).



Volunteers who offered their talents.



Lodge officers Michael Pillar, Dorothy Mayernik and Nancy Pillar.



School supplies that were collected.

Fall Outreach

The Fall Outreach Project of St. Gregory Byzantine Catholic Church, Upper St. Clair, PA made a contribution of school supplies for local children in need, from preschool through high school. Through the generosity of parishioners, the large GCU tote bags were filled with pencils, pens, highlighters, markers, crayons, glue sticks, rulers, scissors, notebooks, binders and backpacks. The school supplies were given to SHIM - South Hills Interfaith Movement for distribution. In addition, coordinators of SHIM's Youth Program were presented with a GCU Matching Funds check.

Dorothy Mayernik | Secretary

Lodge 625

CONEMAUGH, PA

Annual Picnic

The annual lodge/parish picnic was held at Holy Trinity Church on August 21, 2022 following Divine Liturgy. The lodge provided the main dish (chicken) and drinks. Members brought a covered dish to share. Thirty-seven people attended and shared an afternoon of fellowship and games that included bingo. Prizes were awarded to the winners of the bingo games and 2 door prizes donated by the Home Office were given away.



Members and parishioners at the picnic.



UPCOMING LODGE 625 EVENT

3rd Annual Slavic Dinner

Sunday, October 23, 2022

TAKE OUT ONLY

Time to be announced

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

This is a Community Matching Funds event. Distribution of these funds will be discussed at the lodge's November meeting.

New Fraternal Structure Introduced to Lodge

Officers of Lodge 625 attended the presentation for the new fraternal structure that will be implemented in 2023. While there are a number of questions regarding this new system, we look forward to working with the Home Office to keep the events the lodge has established over the years, in the new constellation system.

Georgia Lehman | Secretary-Treasurer

Lodge 644

AKRON & BARBERTON, OH

Fr. John Keblesh Memorial Golf Outing

Saturday, July 9 turned out to be a picture perfect day to "tee it up" at Coppertop Golf Course for the 15th Annual Fr. John Keblesh Memorial Golf Outing. The four person teams hit the links with a shotgun start and afterwards were rewarded with a BBQ dinner. All golfers, volunteers and guests also enjoyed the Chinese Auction, Lucky Wheel and Golf Ball Drop. Although there were many happy winners, St. Emilian BC Parish was the most grateful for everyone's generosity and hard work.



Golfers Sam & Andy Blike.



Group photo of the last meeting of GCU Lodge 644 members.

3rd Quarter Meeting

The New Era Restaurant in Akron, OH hosted the 3rd quarterly meeting of GCU Lodge 644 on Thursday, August 9, 2022. Sadly, this was the final meeting of the lodge. Those present, voted to send a letter to the Home Office requesting to merge Lodge 644 with Lodge 302. Dinner conversations centered around remembrances of former meetings, events and members now past.

Susan Irving | President



Golf Ball Drop.

Lodge 697

WEIRTON, WV

Tommy Charnie recently presented the initial check from his GCU Matching Funds Fundraiser to Nataliaia Turianyyn. The fundraiser is to assist in bringing and relocating Ukrainian Refugees to Weirton, WV. The first family has arrived. The priest/husband/father will be returning to Ukraine to help with the war efforts. He and his family are extremely grateful for the generosity extended to them.

The second family is due to arrive soon. Tommy along with Dan McCune, Janet Winwood and John Greco will continue their efforts in raising money to bring additional families to the community.

Donations are still being excepted. Checks should be made payable to GCU Lodge 697 and mailed to: Tommy Charnie, 3649 Collins Way, Weirton, WV 26062.

Tommy along with McCune, Winwood and Greco would like to thank everyone for their support. They along with the families from Ukraine are also very thankful for the GCU Community Matching Funds.

Marilyn Charnie | President



Tommy Charnie giving a Matching Funds check to Nataliaia Turianyyn.

UPCOMING LODGE 860 EVENT

Annual Fall Reunion Dinner

Sunday, October 23, 2022

12:30 PM Social Hour

1 PM Catered Buffet Dinner

\$12 Adults

\$6 Kids age 5-12

FREE Kids under age 5

Open to members and non-members

ALL are welcome

Saint Nicholas Byzantine Catholic Church

23300 King Drive

Clinton Township, MI 48035

Any lodge member celebrating his or her 75th birthday in 2020-2022 will receive a complimentary ticket. All tickets must be reserved in advance.

Contact George Nagrant at 248-542-5278 or gnagrant1@yahoo.com

Statement of Ownership, Management & Circulation

1. Title of Publication: The GCU Magazine
2. Publication No. 227900
3. Date of Filing: September 12, 2022
4. Frequency of Issue: Bi-Monthly
5. No. of Issues Published Annually: 6
6. Annual Subscription Price: \$12.00
7. Location of known office of publication: 5400 Tuscarawas Road, Beaver, PA 15009-9513.
8. Names and complete addresses of Publisher, Editor and Managing Editor: Greek Catholic Union of the USA, 5400 Tuscarawas Road, Beaver, PA 15009-9513
9. George N. Juba, 5400 Tuscarawas Road, Beaver, PA 15009-9513
Basil M. Wahal, 5400 Tuscarawas Road, Beaver, PA 15009-9513
10. Owner: GCU, 5400 Tuscarawas Road, Beaver, PA 15009-9513
11. Known Bondholders, Mortgagees, and other Security Holders owning or holding 1% or more of total amount of Bonds, Mortgages or other Securities: None
12. The purpose, function, and non-profit status of this organization and the exempt status for Federal Income Tax purposes have not changed during preceding 12 months.
13. Publication Title: GCU Magazine
14. Issue Date for Circulation Data Below: August 2022
15. Extent and Nature of Circulation: GCU Members + Subscriptions

	Average No. Copies Each Issue During Preceding 12 Months	Single Issue Nearest to Filing Date
A. Total No. Copies Printed	11,689	6,003
B. Paid Circulation		
1. Sales through Dealers and Carriers, Street Vendors and Counter Sales	0	0
2. Mail Subscriptions	11,330	5,703
C. Total Paid Circulation	11,330	5,703
D. Free Distribution by mail, carrier or other means	0	0
E. Total Free Distribution	0	0
F. Total Distribution	11,330	5,703
G. Copies not distributed	359	300
H. Total	11,689	6,003

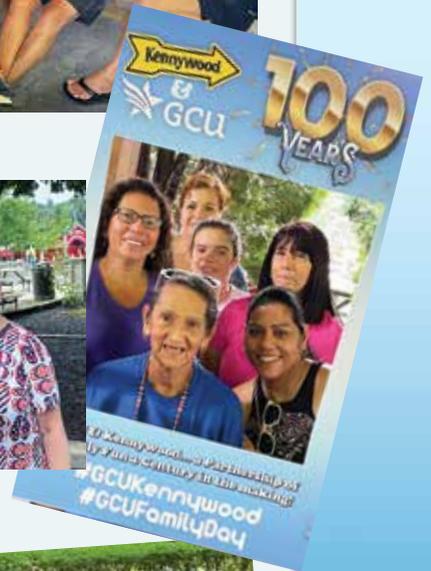
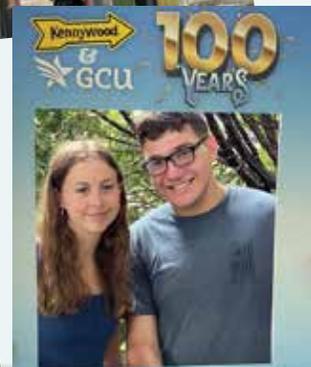
16. Publication of Statement of Ownership: October 2022

17. I certify that the statements made by me above are correct and complete.

-s- Basil M. Wahal, Managing Editor



100 YEARS



For Your Information

Events

65th Annual St. Nicholas Charity Dinner

Sunday, December 4
Moleben at 3 PM
Social Begins 4 PM
Dinner at 6 PM

St. John the Baptist Cathedral
 Center, Munhall, PA

Benefits the Byzantine Catholic
 Seminary

Mount St. Macrina House of Prayer Schedule

Tuesday Evening for Men

October 25-*"Brothers in Christ, Brothers in Prayer"*

6:30 PM-8 PM

By Fr. James Tringhese

\$35 Offering | Register by October 20

Thursday Morning Bible Study

November 3, 10, 17 & December 1

"Introducing the Psalms"

10 AM-11:30 AM

By Sister Melita Marie, OSBM

\$15 Offering per session or \$55 for all 4 sessions Register by October 27

Christmas Preparation Retreat

December 10-*Title & Presenter TBA*

Conference, Confessions, Prayer Service,
 Lunch

9:30 AM-12:30 PM

\$40 Offering | Register by December 3

Call to Register: 724-438-7149

Mt. St. Macrina House of Prayer

10 West Main Street

PO Box 878

Uniontown, PA 15401-0878

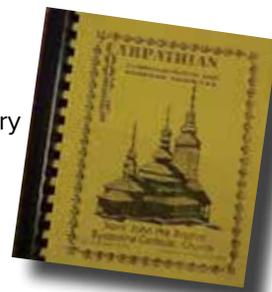
Email: hpmsm@verizon.net

Website: sistersofstbasil.org

Available

Carpathian Cookery Cookbook

Having sold nearly 20,000 copies, the cookbook has entered its 20th printing and was requested by the Library of Congress to be in their ethnic cooking collection. The 330-page cookbook has a new look and features a protective plastic cover. The book includes sections on Christmas and Easter customs and recipes, traditional Rusyn and Slavic foods, other ethnic dishes, and many other tried-and-true recipes of St. John's parishioners. There is a variety of paska bread and kolachi (filled roll) recipes, as well as meatless dishes and Lenten recipes, suitable for the Great Fast, as well as the Pre-Christmas Fast. The cost of the cookbook is \$14.⁰⁰ plus \$5.⁰⁰ postage and handling (\$19.⁰⁰). If ordering from Canada, please send a \$30.⁰⁰ U.S. Postal money order payable in U.S. dollars to reflect the difference in the exchange rate and postage cost. To order please send a check or money order to: Ethnic Craft Club, St. John Byzantine Catholic Church, 201 E. Main Street, Uniontown, PA 15401, call 724-438-1382 (M-F 9 AM-3 PM please leave a message) or email carpathiancookery@gmail.com.



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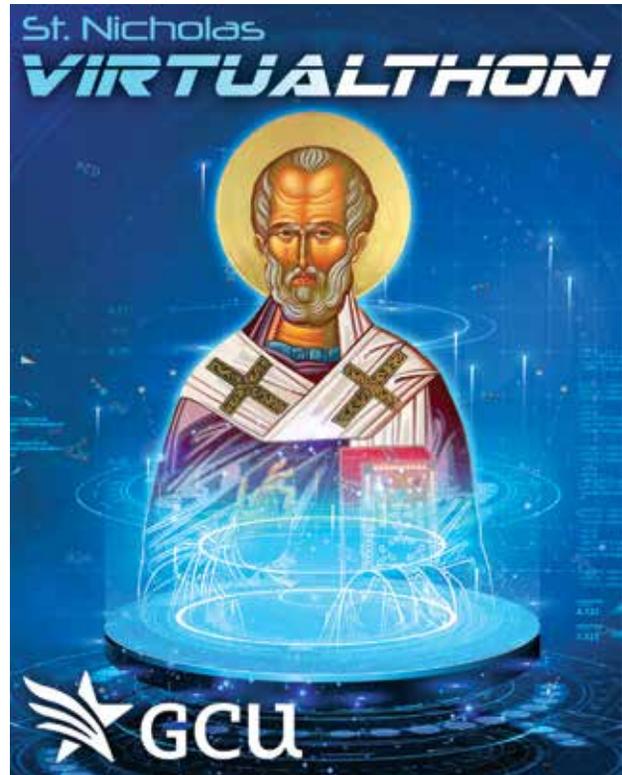
www.bcs.edu



St. Nicholas Virtualthon

A GCU Community Outreach Event to Benefit the Ss. Cyril & Methodius Seminary

The St. Nicholas Celebration to benefit Ss. Cyril & Methodius Byzantine Catholic Seminary is planned for Sunday, December 4, 2022 at St. John Cathedral Center in Munhall, PA. In an effort to provide a way for those who would like to support the Seminary, but are too distant to attend the event in person, the GCU Board of Directors has once again instituted the St. Nicholas Virtualthon—A GCU Community Outreach Event to Benefit the Ss. Cyril & Methodius Byzantine Catholic Seminary. This is a Matching Funds event with the GCU Board pledging to match up to \$5,000.⁰⁰ in total donations. If you would like to donate to this effort, please visit the GCU website to pay by credit card at www.GCUusa.com or if you prefer to pay by check, please make payable and mail to: St. Nicholas Virtualthon, 5400 Tuscarawas Road, Beaver, PA 15009. Donations received by Monday, November 21, 2022 will be acknowledged in the program booklet for the event.



2022 Year End Processing Cut Off Dates for Withdrawals, Distributions, Cash Surrenders

GCU is in the process of planning for your year-end processing to assure that each request is addressed in a timely and efficient manner. **GCU has established a cut-off date of Wednesday, December 14, 2022** for receiving: Annuity Partial Withdrawal (including RMD & Inherited IRA distributions), Annuity Cash Surrender and Life Insurance Cash Surrender requests for processing by Tuesday, December 27, 2022. This includes requests received via fax, emails, web requests & mail via courier or the US Postal Service. ***Please note that a W-9 Form will need to be completed and forwarded with any requests for withdrawals or surrenders.***

If the information is received and in good order by the end of business on Wednesday, December 14 it will be processed by Tuesday, December 27 for the 2022 tax reporting period.

If requests and all documentation are received after close of business on December 14, the GCU will work to complete the request by December 27, but cannot guarantee processing before year end.

Should you have any questions, please call the Member and Agent Service Staff at 855-306-0607.

2022 GCU Holiday Closings

Thanksgiving

Thursday, November 24
Friday, November 25

Christmas

Friday, December 23
Monday, December 26

New Year's

Friday, December 30
Monday, January 2, 2023

Deceased Members

(Lodge-Member-City-State)

- 8309 Mary Lou Acker, Citra, FL
8344 Julia A. Antonazzo, Johnstown, PA
8344 Katherine A. Ashley, White Oak, PA
18 Joseph E. Baluch, Connellsville, PA
8344 Jody Baran, Kingston, PA
302 Shirley R. Beard, Salem, OH
8344 Arthur Bell, Apollo, PA
8344 Angeline Belsar, Monessen, PA
8344 Donna L. Betton, Ligonier, PA
8304 Kenneth Blades, Ramona, CA
8344 Catherine Blaney, Pittsburgh, PA
994 Anna M. Boes, Beaver Falls, PA
66 Mary Bontrager, Goshen, IN
271 Martha Borodayko, Chicago, IL
8344 Carol Brosneck, Imperial, PA
8304 Paul L. Bruckler, Highland, CA
8304 Joan E. Buck, Tustin, CA
8354 Ida Mae Carbaugh, Richmond, VA
8327 Arlene L. Carlson, Roseau, MN
8344 Norma Carlson, Snow Shoe, PA
10 Howard E. Catley, Aliquippa, PA
92 Wanda Chekan, Jessup, PA
8344 Ethel R. Chiriano, Bensalem, PA
8344 Nathan Chirsan, Monroeville, PA
8344 Marian A. Chismire, Baden, PA
8309 Doris J. Choiniere, Crawfordville, FL
8344 Richard L. Confer, Warren, PA
81 Emmy Culyba, Latrobe, PA
8344 Vincent P. Curtin, Pittsburgh, PA
994 Theodore J. DeMatteis, Aliquippa, PA
8344 Charles Dibilio, Nazareth, PA
8344 Katherine E. DiPaolo, Harleysville, PA
316 Richard Dornich, Newark, DE
8344 Lola Dresman, Point Marion, PA
8324 Joseph Ducar, Baltimore, MD
69 Barbara Eckert, Bechtelsville, PA
8344 Robert Eddy, Creekside, PA
8344 Patricia J. Esposito, Brockway, PA
77 Helen Evansco, Lorain, OH
8344 Eileen L. Faust, Harrisburg, PA
8309 Francisco Fernandez, Sebring, FL
8344 Marie N. Flower, Reading, PA
CPRL David Foremsky, Monroeville, PA
8344 Marilyn Frederick, Souderton, PA
8337 Marta Garcia, New York, NY
8304 William C. Gaston, Inglewood, CA
8344 Donald J. Gaus, Allison Park, PA
8344 Burnell A. Gency, Charleroi, PA
211 Mary Goldovich, Jessup, PA
8341 Nancy Granville, Streetsboro, OH
57 Ronald Greenawalt, Rostraver Township, PA
8344 John Guarino, Schwenksville, PA
8324 Albina Hanyok, Elkton, MD
8357 Joseph P. Haight, Brecksville, OH
8344 Randy Hepler, Lower Burrell, PA
8344 Ann Hillibush, Coaldale, PA
8344 Harold L. Holloway, Perkasio, PA
8344 Geraldine Hricik, Greensburg, PA
442 Joseph Hritz, Boardman, OH
8344 Peter Hrycko, Rostraver Township, PA
NPRL Dolores Hudanick, Hillard, OH
66 Dolores J. Hurlburt, Chesterton, IN
8344 Mary Husway, Frackville, PA
GHRL Eleanor Jengeleski, Springfield, NJ
8315 Carol A. Johnson, Cedar Lake, IN
8344 Patricia A. Jordan, Munhall, PA
8344 Marion Kachel, Mohnton, PA
8344 Diane Keppel, Stroudsburg, PA
8344 Lorraine B. Kilmer, Philadelphia, PA
8344 Mary Kirkham, Duncansville, PA
8344 Virginia Klein, Richboro, PA
8344 Joseph Kobal, Beaver, PA
442 Gregory J. Kopchak, Florissant, MO
442 Marilyn S. Kopchak, Florissant, MO
66 Andrew J. Kopko, Palm Desert, CA
999 George Koszty, Melrose, FL
8344 Flora B. Kreider, Lancaster, PA
8344 Rosina Kwiecinski, North Huntingdon, PA
8344 S Kathryn Landis, Telford, PA
NPRL Mary Larrick, Ambridge, PA
8304 John M. Law, Los Alamitos, CA
8327 David C. Lees, Sun City West, AZ
8344 Dolores M. Leitmeyer, Harleysville, PA
8341 James A. Long, Carrollton, OH
CPRL Julia Lopata, Cecil, PA
8344 Roseann Lopiano, Saylorsburg, PA
SPRL John Lubarski, Pittsburgh, PA
945 John Mackie, Scranton, PA
8344 Bonnie L. Manon, Marion Center, PA
8344 Joan Marinkovits, Northampton, PA
8344 Leo F. Martin, Levittown, PA
8309 Beverly McCarthy, Inverness, FL
8341 Mary Ann McGuire, Lisbon, OH
8309 Anthony J. Mendola, Clearwater Beach, FL
10 Nancy Mignanelli, Aliquippa, PA
18 Edward P. Mihalik, Smithfield, PA
8344 Shirley A. Milnes, New Castle, PA
8344 Kenneth Moelk, Monroeville, PA
GHRL E. Kathleen Moro, Beaver Meadows, PA
7 Alice Munchak, Rome, GA
625 Joseph E. Myers, New Paris, PA
8344 Florence Nestarick, Ringtown, PA
8344 Viola Noble, North Cambria, PA
8359 William L. Oates, Matthews, NC
8344 Mary Ann O'Neill, Zelenople, PA
10 James Ordons, Los Gatos, CA
8344 Elsie J. Ortz, Freeport, PA
GHRL Harry R. Overdorf, Loganton, PA
8341 Matthew Pacak, Solon, OH
8313 Elvina D. Pearce, Aurora, IL
8357 Christy Pescho, Amsterdam, OH
665 Mary Petrusky, Linden, NJ
57 Gloria J. Phillips, Fredericktown, PA

CPRL Eugene E. Pido, Pittsburgh, PA
 NPRL Thomas Puzniak, Sarasota, FL
 8344 Dorothy A. Rainski, Tarentum, PA
 8344 Bonnie L. Raraigh, Avonmore, PA
 8315 Dale E. Robinson, Lansing, IL
 211 Thomas Rosemergy, Jermyn, PA
 994 Melvin J. Royba, Beaver, PA
 18 Mildred Rubish, Perryopolis, PA
 8344 Lois A. Rush, Sewickley, PA
 8341 Cheryl Ryen, Saint Clairsville, OH
 8358 Audrey J. Sajdak, Brookfield, WI
 8358 Lawrence Schantz, Madison, WI
 10 George R. Seech, Aliquippa, PA
 8344 Dorothy E. Shenkle,
 Jefferson Hills, PA
 351 Catherine Shimmel, Indiana, PA
 8344 Barbara Silvestri, Vandergrift, PA
 PSRL James Simmons, Mc Donald, PA
 8357 Barbara J. Simpson, Toronto, OH
 442 Thomas L. Sluss, North Canton, OH
 8344 Irene Slysz, Hatfield, PA
 999 Marjorie Smith, Tucson, AZ
 8313 Sue E. Solcani, Chicago, IL
 360 Mary M. Starr, Campbell, OH
 SPRL Lizabeth Stevenson, West Mifflin, PA
 8304 Judy Stolte, Woodland Hills, CA
 8344 Sandra L. Styer, Terre Hill, PA
 8359 Cleveland Suggs, Fayetteville, NC
 302 Veronica Surniak, Fairview Park, OH
 CPRL Mary Szczepanski, Verona, PA
 8344 Hazel Taydus, Warren, PA
 360 Andrew R. Tirpack, Campbell, OH
 994 Joseph N. Trgovac,
 New Brighton, PA
 999 Mary J. Vail, Edmond, OK
 57 Elizabeth Weido, New Salem, PA
 8344 Leila A. Welborn, Delmont, PA
 8344 Ruth White, East Stroudsburg, PA
 8344 Hazel Wigfield, Jeannette, PA
 8341 T. J. Wine, Massillon, OH
 8344 Shirley M. Yacynych, Hollsopple, PA
 336 Michael Yanoscsik, Mentor, OH
 8341 Bernard Yarosik, Mansfield, OH
 151 Allen Yurko, Red Bank, NJ
 GHRL Cecelia M. Zahay, Freeland, PA
 CPRL Mary A. Zak, Washington, PA
 20 Doris Zigari, Brick, NJ
 235 Brian F. Zito, Wethersfield, CT
 268 Betty M. Zorne, Toronto, OH
 254 Margaret Zujkowski,
 Hillsborough, NJ

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



2022-2023 GCU Scholarship Programs

GCU is pleased to announce the scholarship opportunities and requirements for the 2022-2023 scholarship program. Visit www.GCUusa.com under Member Benefits for more information.

Online scholarship applications will be available October 1, 2022 - December 31, 2022.

Membership Requirements for all GCU Scholarships

To be eligible for all GCU scholarships, the student must be a member of the GCU by December 31, 2021 with either:

- ★ a permanent life certificate or
- ★ an annuity with a minimum balance of \$2,000.⁰⁰

Membership requirements must be maintained throughout the application and award process in order to receive any scholarship award.

Opportunities for College Students

The National Scholarship is a \$2,000.⁰⁰ award for members five years and longer; members under five years \$1,500.⁰⁰ award:

- ★ are attending college (or other post-secondary education) as a full-time student
- ★ maintain a 2.75 GPA
- ★ meet all application and eligibility requirements

Along with an online application, applicants must submit:

- ★ Collage of volunteer activity
- ★ photo
- ★ letter of recommendation from a parish priest, college chaplain or other clergy
- ★ Fall 2022 grade transcript (unofficial transcript accepted)

The Academic Performance Scholarship is a \$1,500.⁰⁰ award for members five years and longer; members under five years \$1,000.⁰⁰ award:

- ★ previously received the National Scholarship
- ★ maintain a 3.3 GPA as a full-time student
- ★ meet all application and eligibility requirements

This award can be received a total of four times; does not have to be consecutive years.

Along with an online application, applicants must submit:

- ★ Fall 2022 grade transcript (unofficial transcript accepted)

Opportunity for High School Athlete Seniors

The Athletic Scholarship is a \$2,000.⁰⁰ award for one male and one female member who:

- ★ are high school seniors
- ★ participated in at least one organized sport
- ★ participated in at least one community service or volunteer activity
- ★ maintain a 2.3 GPA
- ★ will be seeking a degree program in the following academic year

Along with an online application, applicants must submit:

- ★ letter of recommendation from coach/instructor/organizer of each sport participated in
- ★ letter of participation from organizer of at least one volunteer activity participated in
- ★ school photo
- ★ current grade transcript
- ★ photo of student participating in sporting activity or in sports uniform

Applications for any of the above scholarships must be completed and submitted online in one session by 11:59 PM EST on **December 31, 2022** to be eligible.

Once the online application is received and membership requirements are verified, the student will receive an email within 10 business days confirming acceptance of the application and requesting supporting documents be submitted by Tuesday, January 31, 2023.

Applicants will receive a confirmation of receipt email for supporting documents.

All email correspondence will be done through applicant's email address **PLEASE DO NOT CALL.**

The GCU Scholarship Committee will meet in April 2023 Applicants will receive an acknowledgement email by the first week of May 2023 informing them if they received a scholarship award.



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