

JUNE 2024

# GCU

MAGAZINE

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Page 8  
*(Cover photo is from  
Emily Osifchin,  
age 13-21 winner)*

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**George N. Juba**  
President  
CEO

# A New GCU Celebration

**S**t. Nicholas of Myra, also known as Nicholas of Bari, is the patron saint of the GCU chosen because he was “a teacher of moderation, a model of faith and an example of virtue”! From the day it was founded, GCU honored its patron saint by celebrating his feast on December 6<sup>th</sup>. However, May 9<sup>th</sup> is observed in our Byzantine liturgical calendar as the “Translation of the Relics of Saint Nicholas the Wonderworker from Myra to Bari.” This commemoration was established in the life of the church when on May 9, 1087, the relics of Saint Nicholas were solemnly transported into the church of Saint Stephen, not far from the sea in Bari, Italy.

On Sunday May 5<sup>th</sup>, GCU members and faithful gathered at St. Nicholas Chapel adjacent to the GCU’s Home Office to honor our patron saint. This initial Spring St. Nicholas Day celebration was extra special as the replica of the Krasny Brod (Красный Брод) Icon of our Lady was also blessed



Board member John Oslick with Spiritual Advisor Fr. Val Michlik in front of the new icon.



Board members at reopening and dedication of the GCU Museum.

and enshrined within the Chapel. Following the festive Divine Liturgy a solemn reopening and dedication of the GCU’s Museum, that houses numerous artifacts and memorabilia pieces collected over the GCU 132 year history, also took place.

Our thank you to GCU Spiritual Advisor Fr. Val Michlik for organizing this event as he plans on making this celebration an annual event. A special thank you also to Archbishop William Skurla, Fr. Michael Huszti and to all that participated in the Hierarchical Divine Liturgy.

During the course of my GCU career, I have often prayed to St. Nicholas to provide to me the strength, wisdom and guidance in addressing the many challenges that occur. There is no doubt that the growth and success the GCU has experienced is certainly due in part to St. Nicholas and the GCU’s strong Byzantine Catholic beliefs.

As Memorial Day is recognized as the “official start of summer,” I invite you to make GCU a part of your summer activities by participating in the many fun social and volunteer events scheduled. Please visit the GCU’s website – [www.GCUusa.com](http://www.GCUusa.com) – as a full calendar of activities are listed under Events. I personally took part in the GCU’s National Bowling Tournament and witnessed fraternalism at its best as three fraternal benefit societies came together in Pittsburgh, PA—GCU, SCS (Slovak Catholic Sokols) and NSS (National Slovak Society). My congratulations to all the team and individual winners. I also enjoyed participating in the GCU’s Spring Golf Classic at Seven Oaks! We had a wonderful turnout of 100 golfers—the most in over 10 years for the event. Congratulations to all of the winning golfers as well. In addition to the various social and sporting events sponsored by the GCU, there are other numerous fraternal



Archbishop William Skurla at the Hierarchical Divine Liturgy.

CONTINUED



National officers of the three fraternal organizations that took part in the National Bowling Tournament in Pittsburgh, PA. From left: GCU President/CEO George Juba and NSS Life President/CEO Joseph Stefka and SCS President Larry Glugosh.

benefits and programs offered to each of our members. We invite you to participate in these as well:

- Go Give! Program
- Go Give! Direct Program
- Academic & Athletic Scholarships
- Student Debt Relief Program
- Art & Photo Contests
- Various Matching Funds Programs

The GCU's 2024 First Quarter Financial Report by our Chief Financial Officer, Tim Demetres is presented on page 4 for your review. We experienced continued asset growth as assets increased \$30.7 million totaling \$2.735 billion. Surplus declined by \$3 million primarily due to an asset valuation reserve adjustment of \$4.8 million as this required reserve provides capital for unexpected credit losses. A net income loss of \$1.3 million was also experienced due to the current high interest rate environment as GCU increased annuity crediting rates to remain competitive in the Fixed Rate Deferred and Fixed Indexed Annuity marketplace. Despite the current challenges facing many financial institutions, GCU continues to maintain a strong financial position. Our sincere thank you and appreciation for your continued support and trust in placing your life and annuity business with us!

In closing, my best wishes to you and your family for a safe, relaxing and fun-filled summer! Enjoy the beautiful and colorful summer landscape that God provides.

GOODNESS IS GREAT!

*George*



Jeff Long  
Sales Director

# Triple Advantage Annuity

**A**lmost every day someone asks me my opinion about interest rates. Are they going to go up, down or stay the same? I get the same kind of questioning about the stock market and if election results will have an impact on the markets. The fact of the matter is, NOBODY knows! It's easy to watch TV or get on the Internet and find out what all the "talking heads" are saying about rates and market direction. They hang on every word said by the Fed, trying to figure out what might happen, by what is being said or what was not being said. It's crazy, because often, everyone is wrong!

Rather than trying to guess the future, isn't it easier to look for something that is happening right now. GCU offers the TRIPLE ADVANTAGE ANNUITY. The Triple Advantage annuity has a guaranteed interest rate for 3 years!

**Right now, the 3-year interest rate is 5.15% for new applications of at least \$50,000.**

## Where are interest rates going? The fact of the matter is, NOBODY knows!

GCU also offers lower rates for smaller amounts, but rest assured that no matter what rate you get, it cannot drop below 3% after the initial 3-year interest rate guarantee. After the first contract year you can access 10% of your money penalty free and after the third contract year, you have full access to your money! Wouldn't it be nice to know that your great rate will be around for 3 years?

In addition to having a rate locked in for 3 years, don't forget about the other features that make annuities a great part of your retirement plan. Annuities are tax deferred, which means you don't have to pay taxes on the earned interest until you take it out of the account. Why pay taxes on money that you aren't using! Another feature of annuities is that they are the only investment that can generate an income that is guaranteed for your lifetime.

✦ **Locked in Interest rate for 3 years.**

✦ **Tax deferral.**

✦ **Lifetime income.**

**Maybe it is time to take advantage of the GCU Triple Advantage annuity!**

# First Quarter 2024 Financials



**Tim Demetres**  
Chief Financial Officer

Capital markets breathed a sigh of relief when the Federal Reserve announced it was pausing the raising of interest rates in the latter part of 2023. The rapid rise in short-term interest rates disrupted the financial markets and affected the life insurance industry. GCU is transitioning to this possible “new norm” with interest rates remaining higher for longer. As we increase annuity crediting rates, a positive benefit for our members, operating earnings will be challenged in the short term. Notwithstanding the high level of market volatility, GCU maintained its financial strength by growing total adjusted capital in a challenging environment. Our members trust GCU to be a Safe, Secure, and Stable community-based fraternal organization.

Highlights for the first quarter 2024 financial results are as follows:

GCU's total assets increased \$31 million to \$2.74 billion and surplus decreased \$3 million as of March 31, 2024 compared to December 31, 2023 mainly due to increasing the asset valuation reserve by \$5 million.

Income (loss) before net realized capital gains (losses) totaled (\$1.50) million for the first quarter 2024 compared to \$1.7 million reported in 2023. The net loss for the first quarter was primarily due to increasing annuity crediting rates and lower net investment income from outflows on annuity products. Net income (loss) after realized capital gains (losses) was (\$1.3) million in 2024 compared to \$2.0 million in 2023. Net realized gains was \$145 thousand in

2024 compared to \$258 thousand in 2023.

Total Assets ended the first quarter at \$2.74 billion compared to \$2.70 billion at the end of 2023. The change reflects increases in bonds, alternative assets, and derivative assets.

Liabilities grew relative to new life and annuity sales, net of outflows from surrender activity and totaled \$2.52 billion at March 31, 2024 compared to \$2.48 billion at year-end 2023. The \$34 million increase in total liabilities is due primarily to a \$29.2 million increase in life and annuity reserves and a \$4.8 million increase in AVR.

Total Income decreased \$8.4 million to \$119.6 million in the first quarter compared to \$128.0 million in 2023. Annuity new business sales decreased \$12.9 million. We experienced an increase in conversion activity, with members electing to convert their out-of-surrender contracts for new contracts that can grow in value faster from higher crediting rates. Net investment income increased to \$29.6 million.

Operating expenses, before the increase in reserves, totaled \$92.4 million versus \$100.6 million in 2023, a decrease of \$8.2 million or -8%. GCU disbursed \$11.2 million less in annuity benefits for death claims, full and partial surrenders compared to the prior year. Annuity exchanges increased \$4.1 million. General insurance expenses were \$412 thousand lower in 2024 when compared to 2023 primarily due to expense saving initiatives and the timing of when certain expenses are incurred.

The change in reserves totaled \$28.6 million in 2024 compared to \$25.6 million in 2023. Reserve changes are a function of premiums received, death claims, annuity benefits paid and interest accumulation.

Surplus at March 31, 2024 decreased \$3 million to \$218 million from \$221 million year-end. The net decrease in

## Summary of Financial Statistics

(000's omitted)	3/31/2024	3/31/2023	Change
Total Income	\$ 119,578	\$ 128,016	\$(8,438)
Total Expenses	120,990	126,213	(5,223)
Net Income (Loss) From Ops.	(1,487)	1,728	(3,215)
Net Income (Loss)	(1,342)	1,986	(3,328)
	3/31/2024	12/31/2023	Change
Assets	\$2,735,328	\$2,704,655	\$30,673
Asset Valuation Reserve	32,681	27,891	4,790
Interest Maintenance Rsrv.	14,803	15,134	(332)
Surplus (Net Worth)	218,266	221,307	(3,041)
Total Adjusted Capital (TAC)	251,101	249,353	1,749
Solv. Ratio by Total Adj. Cap.	110.1%	110.2%	(0.10%)

## Change in Surplus

(000's omitted)	
Beginning Surplus	\$221,307
Net Income/(Loss)	(1,342)
Change in Unrealized Gain/(Loss)	3,638
GCU Holding Company & Other	(520)
Changes in Non-Admitted Assets	(27)
Changes in Asset Valuation Reserve	(4,790)
Net Change in Surplus	(3,041)
<b>Ending Surplus</b>	<b>\$218,266</b>

surplus reflects an increase in net unrealized gains offset by the reduction for the net loss in the period and an increase to the asset valuation reserve.

Total Adjusted Capital (TAC), a risk metric used by regulators and rating agencies, increased \$2 million to \$251.1 million as of March 31, 2024, from \$249.4 million at December 31, 2023. TAC starts with surplus of \$218.3 million

and adds back the asset valuation reserve of \$32.6 million and one-half the dividend liability of \$150,000. The solvency ratios based on TAC was unchanged at 110.1% as of March 31, 2024. This ratio reflects GCU's consistency in financial strength.

Summer is close at hand, let the sun shine upon us all!  
Tim

## GCU STATEMENTS OF OPERATIONS

### Three Months 2024 vs. 2023

INCOME (000's omitted)	3/31/2024	3/31/2023	Change
Life Premium	\$ 2,286	\$ 2,781	\$ (495)
Annuity Premium	68,561	81,415	(12,853)
Annuity Exchanges	18,533	14,430	4,103
Accident & Health	92	102	(10)
Sub Total	89,473	98,728	(9,255)
Net Investment Income	29,616	28,577	1,039
Amort. of Int. Maint. Resrv.	332	403	(71)
Commission-Reinsurance	64	122	(58)
Other	94	186	(93)
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$119,578</b>	<b>\$128,016</b>	<b>\$(8,439)</b>

### EXPENSES

Death Benefits	\$1,029	1,289	\$(260)
Annuity Benefits Paid	65,245	76,395	(11,150)
Annuity Exchanges	18,533	14,430	4,103
Surrender Benefits	232	220	11
Accident & Health Benefits Pd.	91	102	(11)
Commissions	4,412	4,921	(509)
General Insurance Exp	2,557	2,969	(412)
Ins., Taxes, Licenses & Fees	74	186	(112)
Pension Expense	168	4	164
Int. on Contract & Dep. Accts.	88	91	(3)
Sub-Total	\$92,430	100,607	\$(8,177)
Increase in Reserves	28,560	25,606	2,954
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$120,990</b>	<b>126,213</b>	<b>\$(5,224)</b>
<b>Net Gain/Loss bef. Refunds</b>	<b>(1,412)</b>	<b>1,803</b>	<b>(3,215)</b>
<b>Refunds to Members</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>—</b>
<b>Net Gain/Loss after Refunds</b>	<b>(1,487)</b>	<b>1,728</b>	<b>(3,215)</b>
<b>Net Capital Gains (Losses)</b>	<b>145</b>	<b>258</b>	<b>(113)</b>
<b>Net Income/Loss</b>	<b>\$(1,342)</b>	<b>1,986</b>	<b>\$(3,328)</b>

## BALANCE SHEETS

### March 31, 2024 vs. December 31, 2023

ASSETS (000's omitted)	3/31/2024	12/31/2023	Change
Bonds	\$ 2,524,911	\$2,499,632	\$25,279
Preferred Stocks	17,222	17,144	78
Common Stocks	27,540	27,935	(395)
Alternative Investments	70,786	68,213	2,573
Cash/Short Term Investments	36,373	38,457	(2,084)
Mortgages	2,495	2,509	(14)
Certificate Loans	729	671	58
Derivatives	5,910	3,337	2,573
Real Estate - home office	15,757	15,858	(101)
Inv. Income Due & Accrued	32,124	29,716	2,408
Other	1,479	1,184	295
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$2,735,328</b>	<b>\$2,704,656</b>	<b>\$30,672</b>
<b>% Total Change Year to Year</b>	<b>1.1%</b>	<b>3.5%</b>	

### LIABILITIES

Life Reserves	\$ 96,051	\$ 94,568	\$ 1,483
Annuity Reserves	2,362,770	2,335,053	27,717
Accident & Health Reserves	133	126	7
Employee Pension Liability	6,806	6,880	(74)
Adv. Prem. & Fut. Rfnd. Resrvs.	351	350	1
Pending Investment Trades	8	559	(551)
Accounts Payable	1,196	1,233	(37)
Refund Accumulations	2,265	1,554	711
Asset Valuation Resrv.-AVR	32,681	27,891	4,790
Interest Maint. Reserve-IMR	14,803	15,134	(331)
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>\$ 2,517,063</b>	<b>\$2,483,248</b>	<b>\$33,715</b>
<b>Surplus Fund</b>	<b>218,266</b>	<b>221,307</b>	<b>(3,041)</b>
<b>Total Liabilities &amp; Surplus</b>	<b>\$2,735,328</b>	<b>\$2,704,655</b>	<b>\$30,673</b>
<b>Solvency Ratio*</b>	<b>110.1%</b>	<b>110.1%</b>	

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

Financial information is unaudited and presented on the statutory basis of accounting. Totals may vary slightly due to rounding.



Fr. Valerian M. Michlik

GCU Spiritual Advisor

# Happy Birthday!

**W**hen the Day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind, and filled the whole house where they were sitting. Then there appeared to them divided tongues, as of fire, and one sat upon each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.

Acts 2:1–4

Dear Friends,  
Glory to Jesus Christ!

As I write this article, we are preparing to celebrate Pentecost Sunday. This major feast is known as the feast of the Descent of the Holy Spirit, Trinity Sunday, or the Green Holiday. In the “old country” this feast day is also called Русадля or Rusaľa. These last two titles have a pre-Christian origin amongst the Slavs.

What took place in the upper room in Jerusalem is also the celebration of the “beginning.” What beginning? The “birthday” of the Church as the presence among us of the Holy Spirit, of the new life in Christ, of grace, knowledge, adoption to God and holiness.

Friends, from its “beginning” in 1892 our GCU was always associated with our Byzantine Catholic Church. GCU lodges were born in Church halls and the GCU continues to be active in Byzantine Catholic Churches nationwide.

This year is significant for us as we will celebrate the centennial of the establishment of the Byzantine Ruthenian Catholic Church Exarchate in the United States (1924) and the golden anniversary of the dedication/consecration of the Byzantine Ruthenian Chapel at the Basilica in Washington, DC. (1974). Since then, our Byzantine Ruthenian Catholic Church in the United States has been dedicated to the Protection-Pokrov of the Mother of God.

Yes, a lot of time has passed since these significant events in the life of our Church. However, they are still very important for us as we look towards the future of the Church, especially since “You have to know the past to understand the present” (*Carl Sagan*).

But where do you and I stand in relationship to the “Church”? How important is it to you, my friend? I recall

one day when one of our daughters came home from school and I asked one of them: “So what did you learn today?” My daughter goes “Here is the church, and here is the steeple, open the door and see all the people.” And that of course was accompanied by her little fingers. This happened 20 years ago!

The Church is you and me, the people of God. The Church, or rather the Church of the faithful, embodies the Christian faith, projects Christian hope, and gives life to Christian love. In my previous parish assignment, we had a new Church sign built and underneath that sign it said, “All Are Welcome.” Believe it or not I did receive a few comments like: “Why are ALL welcome Fr. Val?” We the faithful, whether we are saints or sinners, we assemble together under the Church’s shelter to achieve repentance and forgiveness. Our Lord continues to call ALL of us: “Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.” (Matthew 11:28-30) From that first Pentecost in Jerusalem, in this Church, the truth is preserved, proclaimed, and shared sacredly among ALL the faithful.

As you read this article you might say “But what about my Church? The attendance is low, we have trouble paying the bills, we have no younger families/children in the parish, etc. Yes, we do have reasons to be discouraged. The statistics are gloomy. It’s easy for us to fall into decline narratives—believing things will only get worse. They can and probably will. Let’s be honest, our historical Byzantine Catholic Churches are not in areas that have booming economies.

Still, Our Lord continues to teach us: “For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them.” (Matthew 18:20) Even though our attendance may be low in a number of our Churches, we can still live the life of the Church to which we are called. But how?

Let our Byzantine Catholic Churches continue to provide a sense of belonging. Being part of a Church gives you a sense of belonging and acceptance, which can be difficult to find elsewhere. That is something our parishes and GCU always provided for our faithful. The sense of belonging is essential for us to survive.

Let our Byzantine Catholic Churches continue to foster

relationships. Especially in our smaller communities we can foster meaningful relationships and friendships that can last a lifetime. Sharing with someone in your parish your interests, passions and even struggles.

Let our Byzantine Catholic Churches continue to promote a ministry of service to our faithful and to the wider community. Even in our smaller communities working together with the GCU we can provide outreach programs, charity events and opportunities to serve others.

Let our Byzantine Catholic Churches continue to offer support and personal growth. Our Divine Liturgy and Divine Services are celebrated to bring you into communion with God. Our spiritual expression provides many Divine Services which are cycles of prayers for the day, the week and the year, commemorating various events in the lives of Jesus Christ and His Saints. Personal growth can also be achieved in our parishes through prayer groups, Bible studies, presentations and other programs that can help you deepen your faith, strengthen your character and grow as a person.

Friends, writing this article I recognize the hardships our "Church" is going through in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. When the GCU was established in 1892 the founders also recognized the hardships our faithful were facing in their lives. These were humble beginnings, but they took action! I might even add that they were inspired by the Holy Spirit.

As we celebrate Pentecost Sunday, the birthday of the Church, let us remember that the Holy Spirit vivifies the Church, impels it to carry out its mission and unifies it in love. Before you take action in your Church - in your parish, remember my friend to offer that beautiful prayer to the Holy Spirit:

Heavenly King, Comforter, Spirit of Truth  
 You are everywhere present and fill all things.  
 Treasury of blessings and Giver of Life,  
 Come and dwell within in us,  
 Cleanse us of all stain,  
 And save our souls O Gracious One.

The legacy of our Byzantine Catholic Church and the GCU, if anything, teaches us that humble beginnings with prayer, perseverance and action can help us overcome challenges and keep us moving forward. As we will celebrate this year's historical milestones of our Byzantine Catholic Metropolitan Church, let us call upon the Holy Spirit to inspire and guide our hierarchy, clergy, monastics-religious and beloved faithful for the benefit of the whole Church.



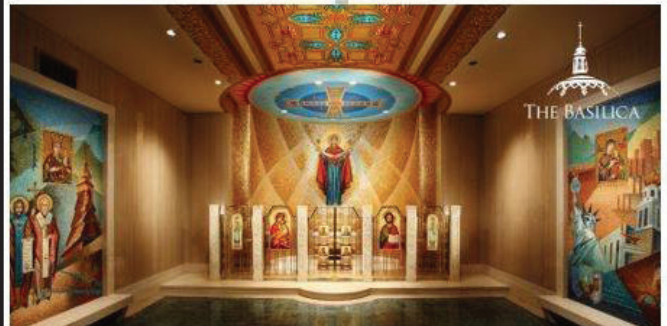
## THE DUAL ANNIVERSARIES

**1924 CENTENNIAL 2024**

ESTABLISHMENT OF  
 BYZANTINE RUTHENIAN CHURCH EXARCHATE  
 IN THE UNITED STATES

**1974 GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY 2024**

DEDICATION OF THE BYZANTINE RUTHENIAN CHAPEL,  
 WASHINGTON, DC  
 DEDICATION OF THE BYZANTINE RUTHENIAN CHURCH  
 IN THE UNITED STATES  
 TO THE PROTECTION OF THE MOTHER OF GOD



**JUBILEE WEEKEND CELEBRATION**  
**October 12-13, Washington, DC-Annandale, VA**

This year's theme was **"Invested in Family FUN!"**

## 2024 Art Contest Winners



First Place Age 6 & Under  
Thomas Tyminski, Whitehouse Station, NJ Lodge 8335

*Family Fun is walking with  
my family and looking at  
birds, bunnies and nature!  
God's Earth is beautiful!*



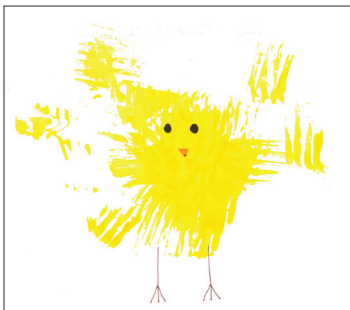
First Place Age 7-9 Mariah Cherevka, Munhall, PA Lodge 8344

*Camping with my Family.*



First Place Age 10-12  
Michaela Revilak, West Mifflin, PA  
Lodge 8344

*I like to go for a nature  
walk with my family.*



Second Place Age 6 & Under  
Kayden Lantigua  
Sugarloaf, PA Lodge 8344

*Easter Chick (made with my aunt) one of  
the animals I can visit at a farm.*

*I like to  
dance with  
and for my  
family.*



Second Place Age 7-9  
Scarlett Revilak  
Munhall, PA Lodge 8344



Second Place Age 10-12  
Victoria Como, Branchburg, NJ  
Lodge 8335

*Family Fun is being at the lake, sitting on the dock,  
talking and watching the sunset with my family.*

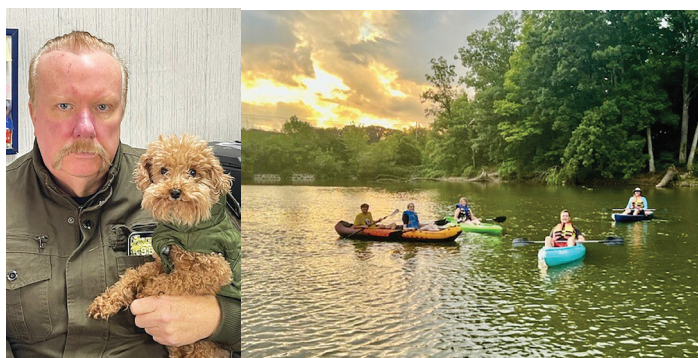
This year's theme was  
"Invested in Family FUN!"

# 2024 Photo Contest Winners



First Place Age 13-21  
Emily Osifchin  
Olney, MD  
Lodge 8324

*My brother, my 97 year old great-grandmother, and I at a flower garden. We are guiding her steps as it has gotten harder for her to walk, but we love spending time with her.*



First Place Age 22+  
George J. Charnie & Lucky, Weirton, WV Lodge 8357

*Cousins kayaking in 2024!*



Second Place Age 13-21  
Abigail Gula, Fort Myers, FL  
Lodge 8309

*My little cousins and I enjoyed our Friday evening at a Pittsburgh Pirates game all together! This game has a special place in my heart because not only was I at a baseball game, but most importantly we had fun together as a family!!*



Second Place Age 22+  
Payton Ambrose  
Atwater, OH Lodge 8341

*My young cousin was afraid of the goats. I picked one up and let him pet her. The goats are always amusing. Our family enjoys the mini farm animals.*

# 2024 Scholarships



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

The GCU Board of Directors Fraternal Committee would like to announce the awarding of 22 National Scholarships (20—\$2,000.<sup>00</sup> and 2—\$1,500.<sup>00</sup>) together with 25 Academic Performance Scholarships (21—\$1,500.<sup>00</sup> and 4—\$1,000.<sup>00</sup>). Awardees appear over the next three pages.

Fraternal Committee members include: GCU National Directors Melanie Basl-chairperson, Michael W. Karaffa, David Oleksa and Maria Silvestri and Spiritual Advisor Rev. Valerian Michlik.

GCU National Scholarship recipients must maintain a minimum 2.75 GPA and submit a collage showing them volunteering within their community focusing on “Community Service and You.” First place winner of the John Katana Memorial Collage Award was Dorothy Sidau who received an additional award of \$500.<sup>00</sup>. Rachel Parsons’ collage finished second and she received an additional 250.<sup>00</sup> award. Six of the national awardees also received an additional \$500.<sup>00</sup> award for maintaining a 4.0 GPA. They were: Noble Dresser, Rachel Parsons, Jason Rau, Sophia Rau, Austin Simons and Emma Suplizio.

Six APS Scholarship recipients have continued to maintain a cumulative 4.0 GPA and will receive an additional award of \$500.<sup>00</sup>: Julia Bates, Andrew Kibalo, Abigail Kutchma, Gabrielle Kutchma, Leah LaMont and Allison Meko.

Congratulations to all of the scholarship recipients!

## 4.0 GPA Winners



**Noble Dresser**  
Clairton, PA—L8344  
Penn State University  
Major: Labor and Human  
Relations



**Jason Rau**  
Glenshaw, PA—L8344  
Thiel College  
Major: Environmental  
Science & Cons. Biology



**Sophia Rau**  
Glenshaw, PA—L8344  
Duquesne University  
Major: Biochemistry and  
Forensics & Law



**Austin Simons**  
Beaver, PA—L8344  
Geneva College  
Major: Environmental  
Science



**Emma Suplizio**  
DuBois, PA—L8344  
Penn State University  
Major: Human Dev. &  
Family Studies

## The John Katana Memorial Volunteer Collage Winners



**Dorothy Sidau - 1<sup>st</sup>**  
Southfield, MI—L8326  
Lake Superior State University  
Major: Conservation Biology



**Rachel Parsons - 2<sup>nd</sup>**  
**4.0 GPA Winner**  
Jefferson Hills, PA—L8344  
Oklahoma City University  
Major: Musical Theatre



**Casey Allshouse**  
Clarksburg, PA—L8344  
Indiana University of  
Pennsylvania  
Major: History



**Evan Badger**  
Limerick, PA—L8344  
Penn State University  
Major: Aerospace  
Engineering



**Nicholas Borsh**  
La Crescenta, CA  
L8304  
Arizona State  
University  
Major: Sports Business



**Anthony DeProspo**  
South Park, PA—L8344  
Robert Morris  
University  
Major: Accounting



**Gabrielle Dwyer**  
Grafton, MA—L8323  
Bryant University  
Major: Undeclared



**Christopher Fullard**  
Pittsburgh, PA—L8344  
Penn State Greater  
Allegheny  
Major: Cybersecurity  
Analytics & Ops.



**Taylor Jacobenta**  
North Royalton, OH  
L8341  
University of Cincinnati  
Major: Chemical  
Engineering



**Alyssa LaMont**  
Gilbert, AZ—L8302  
Grand Canyon  
University  
Major: Environmental  
Science



**Giavanna Opilla**  
Bridgewater, NJ—L8335  
Rutgers University  
Major: Nursing



**Maria Palasz**  
Naperville, IL—L8313  
Purdue University  
Major: Genetics



**Vasyi Polyak Jr.**  
Tarentum, PA—L8344  
Penn State University  
New Kensington  
Major: Computer  
Science



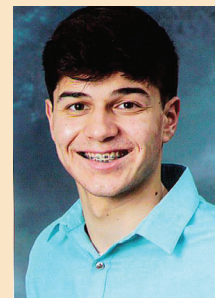
**Ivan Prodanets**  
Dallas, PA—L8344  
Penn State University  
Major: Electrical  
Engineering



**Stepan Prodanets**  
Dallas, PA—L8344  
Penn State University  
Major: Electrical  
Engineering



**Jack Soyka**  
Ebensburg, PA—L8344  
Saint Francis University  
Major: Criminal Justice



**Anthony Varlotta**  
Wexford, PA—L8344  
Penn State University  
Major: Undeclared

CONTINUED

# Academic Performance Scholarships

## 4.0 GPA Awardees

### Julia Bates

Morrisville, PA—L8344  
Gwynedd Mercy University  
Major: Early Childhood Educ.  
(Pre-K- 4)/ Spec. Educ. (K-12)

### Andrew Kibalo

Jersey City, NJ—L8335  
The College of New Jersey  
Major: Finance

### Abigail Kutchma

Cranberry Twp., PA—L8344  
Gannon University  
Major: Physician Assistant  
Studies

### Gabrielle Kutchma

Cranberry Twp., PA—L8344  
PennWest Clarion  
Major: Nutrition and Fitness

### Leah LaMont

Gilbert, AZ—L8302  
Grand Canyon Univ.  
Major: Government-Legal  
Studies

### Allison Meko

Punxsutawney, PA—L8344  
Pennsylvania State  
University  
Major: Marketing

### Timothy Allshouse

Clarksburg, PA—L8344  
Bucknell  
Major: Biology

### Gregory Batko

Venetia, PA—L8344  
Embry Riddle Aeronautical  
University  
Major: Aeronautical Science

### Thomas Betterly

Hazleton, PA—L8344  
St. Joseph's University  
Major: Mathematics-Secondary  
Educ.

### Matthew Bonaparte

Prosper, Texas—L8349  
Texas Tech University  
Major: Finance

### Danielle DeProspo

South Park, PA—L8344  
The Ohio State University  
Major: Architecture

### Demetrius Dolinich

Old Forge, PA—L8344  
Pennsylvania State University  
Major: Nutritional Sciences

### Macrina Dolinich

Old Forge, PA—L8344  
Marywood University  
Major: Early Childhood Education

### Sarah Eperesi

Mars, PA—L8344  
Slippery Rock University  
Major: Marketing

### Maura Gallagher

Moscow, PA—L8344  
University of Scranton  
Major: Kinesiology

### Aiden Kutchma

Cranberry Twp., PA—L8344  
Gannon University  
Major: Physician Assistant Studies

### Corey Pezak

Archbald, PA—L8344  
Villanova  
Major: Biology

### Riley Presloid

Punxsutawney, PA—L8344  
Indiana University of PA  
Major: Early Childhood Education

### Angelino Revilak

Munhall, PA—L8344  
Duquesne University  
Major: History and Pre-Law

### Olivia Roberts

Punxsutawney, PA—L8344  
University of Colorado Boulder  
Major: Communications

### Ryan Roberts

Punxsutawney, PA—L8344  
Penn State University  
Major: Business Management

### Kylin Rosnick

Pittsburgh, PA—L8344  
Chatham University  
Major: International Business

### Justin Scally

Moon Twp., PA—L8344  
Univ. of Pittsburgh Johnstown  
Major: Finance

### Gavin Skwirut

Latrobe, PA—L8344  
Baldwin Wallace Univ.  
Major: Finance + Digital Marketing

### Caroline Susco

Clifton, VA—L8354  
Virginia Polytechnic Institute and  
State University  
Major: Human Nutrition Foods  
and Exercise

# 2024 Athletic Scholarships

The GCU Board of Directors Fraternal Committee, is pleased to announce the winners of the 2024 Athletic Scholarship. The awardees were selected from 13 applicants for this year's awards. Livia Venditti of Potomac, MD & Zachary Presloid of Punxsutawney, PA will each receive a \$2,000.<sup>00</sup> scholarship to assist with their first-year expenses of post-secondary education.

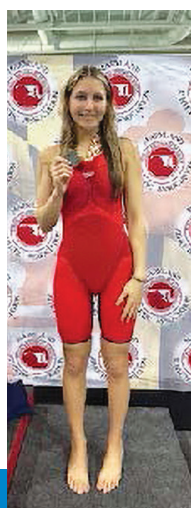
Livia excelled in swimming, was team captain and a Swimming USA Scholastic All American Team member. She is a volunteer with the Angels for Alyssa Foundation.

Zachary was an team member of the basketball, football and track teams and also a captain of the football team. He was D9 all conference 1<sup>st</sup> team cornerback. Zack is a regular volunteer for functions at his home parish of Ss. Cosmas and Damian Church.

Will you be the 2025 Athletic Scholarship awardee? On-line applications for high school senior athletes will be accepted at [www.GCUusa.com](http://www.GCUusa.com) beginning on October 1, 2024.



Livia Venditti



Zachary Presloid



**2025 SCHOLARSHIP**  
available in GCU October Magazine





Atty. John J. Urban

# Lessons in the Law

## Who Should Be My Executor?

**T**his is the question I often am asked. Who should be my executor? In most cases, if you are married you pick your spouse. If you are not married, usually you pick one of your children or a close friend.

One mom told me she has three children and then proceeded to tell me one child is in jail for theft, one child has filed bankruptcy two times and the third child lives out of the country and comes home for his Christmas present. Whom should she pick she asks me. I told her this is a case where she needs to ask one of her good friends to be the executor.

This is a common problem and you need to choose the right person or will have a disaster on your hands when the executor takes all the money.

What if you don't have a family member or friend you trust? What do you do? In some cases, your accountant, your attorney or even your bank can act as your executor.

If you choose an executor and the executor does not qualify to be the executor, then you can find that the probate court will appoint an administrator and the estate will incur additional bond fees in addition to the administrator fees.

If you have substantial assets or minor children, you may have to create a trust to avoid probate court and the bond costs. Again, trusts may be expensive to create, but the trust could save you thousands of dollars.

It is very important that you don't make these decisions without proper advice from an attorney experienced in these issues.

Questions, comments or ideas about future articles contact me at [jjurban.gcu@GCUusa.com](mailto:jjurban.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, July 4 in observance of Independence Day.** Regular business hours will resume on Friday, July 5.

5400 Tuscarawas Road, Beaver, PA 15009



## Community Matching Funds

WEST MIFFLIN, PA



Kim Kolesar, Ben VanKirk with his parents and West Mifflin teacher Ray West who organized the event.

### Teachers vs. Student Basketball Game Fundraiser

As a benefit to raise money for high school senior, Ben VanKirk who was diagnosed with Non-Hodgkins Lymphoma, the teachers played the students in a basketball game at West Mifflin High School. Donations at the door, basket raffles and a bake sale also contributed to the success of the evening. Thanks to the GCU



Teachers & students take photo together before the game.

Community Matching Funds program for the additional income for the event.

Kim Kolesar



From left: Ivanna Prodanets, Mike Cianciotta, Mykhaylo Prodanets and Stephen Kozich.

## Community Matching Funds

WILKES BARRE, PA

### Check Presentation

Parishioners of St. John BC Church held a Mirovanije collection through Great Lent and Myrrh-Bearers Sunday to collect the funds for St. Vincent dePaul Kitchen. Thank you GCU for the Community Matching Funds program that increased the success of the event.

Ivanna Prodanets | Byzantine Parish Coordinator

## Community Matching Funds

KINGSTON, PA

### St. Vincent dePaul Soup Kitchen

A collection for St. Vincent dePaul Soup Kitchen in Wilkes-Barre, PA was held every Sunday during the Lenten period at St. Mary Byzantine Catholic Church. A total of \$1,600.00 was collected and matched by the GCU. The donation was very much appreciated and will be put to good use helping to feed those in need. It was truly a gift of love to those in their time of need.

Laure Marcin | Byzantine Parish Coordinator



From left: Parish Coordinator Laure Marcin, St. Vincent dePaul Soup Kitchen Coordinator Mike Cianciotta and Fr. Mykhaylo Prodanets, pastor at St. Mary Church.

## Community Matching Funds

LORAIN, OH

### St. Nicholas Shoebox Almsgiving Project

The kickoff for the 19<sup>th</sup> Annual Almsgiving Project took place in February 2024 with a collection drive to



Filled shoe boxes.

fill shoe boxes with necessities for the children and adults who seek assistance from the St. Elizabeth Center. The St. Elizabeth Center is in Lorain, OH and houses the Catholic Charities Family Center. St. Elizabeth supported the basic needs of the most vulnerable. She was dedicated to works of charity.

A Bagel Social was held at St. Nicholas Parish on Sunday, March 17<sup>th</sup> to raise funds to purchase the shoe boxes and any supplies needed to fill them that were not already collected.

On Saturday, April 13<sup>th</sup> volunteers came together to sort the donations and assemble the boxes. Sixty shoe boxes were filled based on age (infant to age 13) and gender (boy or girl). Examples of items packed were shampoo, body wash, toothpaste, toothbrush, Kleenex, socks, underwear, Band-Aids and toys/books.

Thanks to Sue Druga for chairing this worthy project along with all who volunteered their time and money. Thank you to the GCU for the Community Matching Funds program that expanded its success.

Anne Dillon

## Community Matching Funds

BINGHAMTON, NY & ENDICOTT, NY

### Mercy House Donation

To celebrate the season of Lent, social outreach offered us the chance to help those in need. To practice Almsgiving, our churches (Holy Spirit and Ss. Peter and Paul) sponsored a donation drive for Mercy House of the Southern Tier. Their mission is to provide a home for those who are terminally ill, so they can live the final chapter of their journey with dignity and experience the unconditional love of God. Mercy House is fully funded by donations. It is a Community Care Shelter and receives no funding from the county, state or government. Parishioners collected items from the Mercy House "Wish List" and if there was anyone who wanted to participate but was unable, they could give me their contribution, and I did their shopping!

We extend a heartfelt THANK YOU to the parish families of Holy Spirit and Ss. Peter and Paul for their overwhelming generosity. A GCU Community Matching Funds check for \$2,000.00 made the event a huge success!

The parishes were sincerely, grateful for the GCU Matching Funds. A small group was able to meet on April 9 to deliver the Matching Funds check, four (4) - \$350.00 gift cards to local grocery stores and many other items from their "Wish List." Executive Director Linda Cerra was truly surprised with the amount we delivered. No TV crews. No local newspaper. That's who usually surrounds them when smaller donations are presented. She does not mind, but was extremely thankful for our generosity without

the fanfare. It is humbling to have the opportunity to help the local community with both parishes and I am

happy several parishioners joined in the presentation and photos.

Making the delivery extra special is the outdoor bench in front of Mercy House by the front flagpoles. Holy Spirit parishioner Ed DePersis joined Linda Cerra on the bench which was dedicated by Judy Dunlop in loving memory of her husband, Rev. Fr. Deacon Richard Dunlop, a devoted parishioner of Holy Spirit Church, member of Holy Name, and cantor and choir director for 17 years before being ordained to the Holy Order of Deacon on September 21, 2003.

Judy donated the bench after Deacon Richard's passing on February 24, 2014. Kurt Eschbach of Hopler & Eschbach Funeral Home, Binghamton, NY generously donated new flags for the flag poles at the same time.

Again, our deepest gratitude for the unselfish contributions and the support of GCU that they provide with the Matching Funds Program.

If you have a chance to check the Mercy House website and Facebook, our presentation pictures are posted. <https://mercyhousesoutherntier.com>.

Daria Shierly



Donation to Mercy House.



Donation to Mercy House.



The beautiful bench in memory of Rev. Fr. Deacon Richard Dunlop.

## Troop 4 Cub Scouts Pinewood Derby

**Munhall, PA.** Each Cub Scout receives a block of wood, 4 wheels and 2 axles to design a car for the race. A few of the parents brought sandpaper and tools to meetings to help the kids with their design. On Saturday, March 2 at Homestead Park United Methodist Church, the 2024 Pinewood Derby took place. They held a race of three car elimination. Each car raced 6 times. The times are kept for each heat and the winners received trophies. Lunch and drinks were provided. The boys also received badges for participation. Cub Scout Troop 4 enjoyed an afternoon of competition and the creativity that went into building their car. Thank you GCU for the GoGive! Program that assisted with supplies, food & beverages and awards for the event.

Martin Bovee



## Needleworkers Give Back

**Dublin, OH.** Pictured is a group of needleworkers and samples of the work they do for various charities, such as Linus, Gifts for Angels and My Very Own Blanket. The group meets weekly at Friendship Village of Dublin, located in Dublin, OH.

Thank you GCU for the GoGive! program which allowed us to purchase most of the fleece fabric for the blankets.

Bonnie Prots

## Pittsburgh Diocesan Cheerleading Tournament

**Munhall, PA.** Seven Catholic Elementary Schools in the Pittsburgh Area were hosted by the St. Therese School cheerleaders on March 23 at the Steel Valley High School. Over 2,000 people attended this tournament to determine the 2024 number one teams. There were four levels of competition. Pep squads, (kindergarten - 2<sup>nd</sup> grade) JV Non mount (3<sup>rd</sup> grade) JV Mount (4<sup>th</sup> - 6<sup>th</sup> grade) and Varsity (7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup>). Congratulations to all four of St. Therese squads who won first place in each category. Food was available, programs, t-shirts, auction baskets and a 50/50 fundraiser helped boost income from the event. Thanks to the GCU GoGive! program for providing the supplies for this event.

Patricia Bovee



## 2<sup>nd</sup> Stand Summit

**Gibsonia, PA.** On Saturday, May 4, The Stand Coalition hosted over 100 people at Church at the Heights for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Stand Summit. During the event, attendees heard from experts in the fields of public policy, public safety, medicine, faith and more on what is at stake during the November elections. Amy Travis is founder of the Stand Coalition. Her mission is to help inform voters of critical issues impacting our country. She is the author of nine books on faith and politics, in-

cluding her latest, "A Conservative's Survival Guide for Election Season and Beyond." To kick off the event, Lisa Daggs, recording artist from Nashville, TN performed the National Anthem. Throughout the day, attendees heard panel discussions addressing "Restoring Faith in the Next Generation," "Faith and Politics," "Faith in Action," and "The Truth About Policing." Additionally, Dr. Mark LoDico spoke about



Founder of the Stand Coalition, Amy Travis.

the marijuana crisis affecting millions of Americans. Many confirmed that the most impacting moment of the day came when Detective Amy Dice from the Pittsburgh Bureau of Police spoke on how to identify predators in the community and online and how to keep our children safe.

The panel of officers also addressed tips on situational awareness and spoke about how to protect your home, yourself and your family. Please look for more information on Stand Summits in your area and how you, too, can take a stand for faith, family and freedom.

Dave Ennis



Young adults.



Rose Tennant.

# GIVE BLOOD

*You can make a difference.*

**American Red Cross**

**GCU BLOOD DRIVE**

When:

**MONDAY, JULY 29, 2024**

Where:

**SEVEN OAKS COUNTRY CLUB**

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

*Degree options are offered both online and on campus.*

Catholic • Ecumenical • Flexible  
Affordable • Prestigious • Spiritually Enriching  
Rooted in ancient Christianity

*To begin M.A.T. program in upcoming fall semester, application deadline is July 20.*

*Students have a choice of four different M.A.T. focus areas:*

- Chaplaincy
- Dogmatics
- Liturgy
- Sacred Scripture

[www.bcs.edu](http://www.bcs.edu)



## Betterly Siblings Receive Degrees

The Betterly siblings all received college degrees within the 2023-24 academic year. Stephen Betterly (left) graduated from Pennsylvania State University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Information Sciences and Technology. Emily Betterly (center), who previously received her undergraduate degree in Early Childhood and Special Education from Misericordia University, returned to her alma mater to receive her Master of Science

degree in Education. Thomas Betterly (right) graduated with honors from Saint Joseph's University with his Bachelor of Science degree in Mathematics-Secondary Education. Thomas will be attending the University of Notre Dame to pursue his Master of Science degree in Education. They are all members of GCU Lodge 8344 and have been recipients of the GCU National Scholarship. Congratulations!

**Judy Betterly**



From left: Fr. Miron Kerul-Kmec, Jeffrey, Mary & Nicholas Brayer, Katherine Harbist holding Alexander; Jeffrey Mikus.

## Welcome to the World and to the GCU!

Alexander John Brayer received the Mysteries of Initiation during Divine Liturgy at St. John Chrysostom Church in Pittsburgh, PA on Sunday April 21. Alexander is the infant son of Jeffrey & Mary (Harbist) Brayer and the brother of 3-year-old Nicholas. His godparents are Katherine Harbist and her fiancé, Jeffrey Mikus. Alexander's maternal grandparents are GCU Compliance Director John Harbist and his wife, Elizabeth (Tihey) Harbist. His great-grandparents are Frank & Marianne Harbist. Alexander joins the rest of the Harbist Family as a GCU member. Following Divine Liturgy parishioners and guests enjoyed refreshments in the social hall.

**Elizabeth Harbist**

## Rev. John J Cigan Dual Celebration

Holy Ghost Byzantine Catholic Church in Jesup, PA, parishioners, friends and family, along with Bishop Kurt R. Burnette celebrated the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Ordination and Retirement of Rev. John J. Cigan.

A Liturgy of celebration was held at 3 PM on Sunday, May 12, 2024. Following the Liturgy, a reception and dinner was held at the Club at the Highlands in Archbald, PA.

Parishioners and friends will miss Father John and wish him our prayers and best of health for the future.

**Michaela Mancak** | Byzantine Parish Coordinator at Holy Ghost



Pictured from left: Daniel Banicky, Rev. Robert Lozinski CSC, Rev. Edward Cimbala, Very Rev. Gregory Noga, Jeremy Barket, Bishop Kurt R. Burnette, Very Rev. Eduard Shestak, Rev. John J. Cigan, Rev. Leonard Martin SJ, Deacon Edward Quinn, Very Rev. Richard Lambert and Timothy Keller.

# Corporate Community Events Coordinators



**Casey Bush**  
Corporate Community  
Events Coordinator  
Western PA

**Special Olympics Track & Field.** GCU staff members volunteered at the special Olympics Track & Field Tournament on Friday, April 26 at Geneva College, Beaver Falls, PA. Volunteers assisted with time keeping

and officiating games. Awards were given to all participants! Congratulations to all that participated in the games this year!



Volunteers Isabella, Casey & Mitch with one of the athletes.

## Upcoming Events

### Byzantine Family Day at Kennywood Park

Thursday, July 25 Park opens at 11 AM  
West Mifflin, PA

### American Red Cross Blood Drive

Monday, July 29  
Seven Oaks Country Club, Beaver, PA

### Pittsburgh Pirate Game Firework Extravaganza Night

Pirates vs Reds (Section 125)  
Saturday, August 24 6:40 PM  
PNC Park, Pittsburgh, PA

### Charity Golf Scramble

Monday, September 23  
Seven Oaks Country Club, Beaver, PA

### Pittsburgh Steelers Game

Sunday, November 17 vs Baltimore Ravens  
Acrisure Stadium, Pittsburgh, PA

### "Daniel" Sight & Sound Theatre Bus Trip

Saturday, November 9  
(Lancaster) Ronks, PA  
Bus pick up at Home Office, Beaver, PA

*Dates and times are subject to change.  
Visit [GCUusa.com](http://GCUusa.com) for more information  
on these events*

*or contact Casey Bush at  
[cbush@GCUusa.com](mailto:cbush@GCUusa.com) or call 724-683-3927.*

**Footloose the Musical.** On Saturday, April 27, GCU Members attended Footloose the Musical at Lincoln Park Performing Art Center, Midland, PA. The members enjoyed some refreshments before the show in the Blackbox Theater. Everyone highly enjoyed the upbeat fast paced musical. It was very entertaining!



GCU Home Office staff:  
Casey and Nicole.



**Melissa Jaggars**  
Corporate Community  
Events Coordinator  
Eastern PA,  
NY, NJ, MD, MA, CT, DE, VA, NC, SC, GA, FL



Chief Executive Officer Allison Koppel, Melissa Jaggars and AFD Director of Members Engagement & Communications Kate Chillinsky.



Melissa with AFA  
Managing Director  
Kendra.



**The American Fraternal Association Fraternal Symposium.** It was a pleasure to attend The American Fraternal Association's Fraternal Symposium in Oak Brook, IL once again. (Last year I attended the symposium and presented GCU's Fraternal Metamorphosis program to our fraternal friends). The AFA put on a wonderful event with several wonderful speakers and networking opportunities.

CONTINUED



GCU agent Jonathan Miller speaks at the TWF WOW event.

**Twilight Wish Foundation.** GCU loves to support the causes that our agents are passionate about. Jonathan Miller, a GCU sales agent, is a board member and chair of the Twilight Wish Foundation's Annual Week of Wishes Fundraiser. GCU matched Jonathan's generous sponsorship contribution and I was happy to be in attendance to support this wonderful cause on behalf of GCU.

Twilight Wish Foundation grants wishes to senior citizens and does wonderful work in the communities they serve nationally. I look forward to continuing our relationship with Twilight Wish Foundation and supporting the causes our agents are passionate about. I encourage you to reach out to me if you're a GCU sales agent with a passion for helping the community. GCU's Agent Match program is such a nice benefit to take advantage of.



TWF WOW event group photo.



Melissa at the designer bag bingo.

**Designer Bag Bingo.** GCU was a sponsor of Twilight Wish Foundation's Designer Bag Bingo event at Ann's Choice Senior Living Community in Warminster, PA. The evening was a huge success, and I had a great time trying my luck at bingo next to TWF's Founder, Cass Forkin. Neither of us won a handbag, but we had a great time. All of the volunteers put a lot of time and effort into organizing a wonderful event and we look forward to supporting future Twilight Wish Foundation events. TWF

makes the world a nicer place for seniors to age through wish granting. Learn more about this wonderful organization at [www.twilight-wish.org](http://www.twilight-wish.org).



The great crowd.



## Upcoming Events

### Sight & Sound Trips: "Daniel"

**Scranton/Wilkes-Barre/Hazleton, PA**

#### Bus Pickups

Saturday, August 10  
(Lancaster) Ronks, PA

**Westbury, NY/Robbinsville Twp., NJ/King of Prussia, PA**

#### Bus Pickups

Saturday, August 24  
(Lancaster) Ronks, PA

### Golf Outing

#### Holupki Open

Saturday, July 13 10 AM  
White Birch Golf Course

### End of Summer Golf Tournament

Sunday, September 8 1:30 PM Shotgun  
Blue Ridge Trail Golf Club, Mountain Top, PA

### Overnight Travel Trips

#### Kalahari Poconos Indoor Waterpark

Friday & Saturday, August 2 & 3

#### Atlantic City, NJ Airshow

Monday - Wednesday, August 12 - 14  
Overnight hotel block available-Contact Melissa

### 20<sup>th</sup> Ann. of Wildwoods '50s, '60s & '70s Weekend

Friday - Sunday, October 18-20  
Wildwood, NJ

Dance Party, Classic Car Show, Street Fair & Concerts  
Overnight hotel block available-Contact Melissa

### Northeast, PA

#### Pittston to Jim Thorpe Train Ride

Saturday, July 20  
"The Switzerland of America"

### Scranton RailRiders vs Worcester Red Sox

GCU Community Night  
Friday, July 26 6:35 PM  
PNC Field, Wilkes-Barre, PA

### Long Island

#### Barbra Streisand Tribute

Sunday, June 30 Time TBA  
Elmont Memorial Library Theatre, Elmont, NY

### New Jersey

### Trenton Thunder vs West Virginia Black Bears

**Faith & Family Night**  
Saturday, July 20 6 PM

### GCU Community Volunteer Weekend

Saturday, September 14  
Sunday, September 15

**Tickets to ALL events must be purchased in advance.**

Visit [GCUusa.com](http://GCUusa.com) for more information on all these events  
or contact Melissa Jaggars at  
[mjaggars@GCUusa.com](mailto:mjaggars@GCUusa.com) or call 878-207-2327.

# Constellations

## UPCOMING BEAVER CONSTELLATION EVENT

### Annual Golf Outing

Sunday, September 29, 2024

Shotgun Start 12:30 PM

4 Person Scramble Format

\$75 Members

\$95 Non-Members

Buffet Dinner Only \$40

Seven Oaks Country Club

132 Lisbon road, Beaver, PA 15009

Contact: Elizabeth Harbist at 412-913-1446 or eharbist@gmail.com for more information.

## Hazleton Constellation

### Meals on Wheels Honored

On Saturday, April 27, 2024 the GCU Hazleton Constellation honored Meals on Wheels of Greater Hazleton with a luncheon at the Pines. Anita Masteller, MOWOGH Executive Director, was presented with a \$500.<sup>00</sup> donation from GCU. Anita, MOW volunteers, and GCU Hazleton Constellation members enjoyed lunch together and look forward to partnering with Greater Hazleton Meals on Wheels in the future.



Above: Check donation made to MOWOGH Ex. Director Anita Masteller. Below: Members at the luncheon.



### Congrats to Three of Our Own

The Betterly siblings all received college degrees within the 2023-24 academic year. The Hazleton Constellation is very proud of all of you. A complete story appears on page 19.

Melissa Jaggars | Corp. Community Events Coordinator

## UPCOMING HAZLETON CONSTELLATION EVENT

### Halupki Open

Saturday, July 13, 2024

Volunteers needed - please contact Melissa

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

Contact: Melissa Jaggars at 878-207-2327 or mjaggars@GCUusa.com.

## Illinois Constellation

### Moonlit Pines Charitable/Social Event

On Saturday, May 18 the Illinois Constellation held a Charitable and Social event for Moonlit Pines. Lisa Chagoya, founder and director, presented on the charitable and social works of Moonlit Pines in Manhattan, IL. After the presentation, Lisa joined the Illinois Constellation attendees for a social dinner at Fox's Pizza in Mokena, IL.

Note: The original plan was to meet and tour the Moonlit Pines farm however, due to heavy rains the preceding days, the tour was postponed.

**Lawrence Lattuca** | Illinois Constellation Coordinator



Above: Check presentation (from left): Paul & Karen Kamzic, Constellation Coordinator Larry Lattuca, Moonlit Pines Founder/Director Lisa Chagoya, Karly, Ken & Karen Krown.



At left: Social Dinner (from left): Karen Krown, Ken Krown, Karly Krown, Paul Kamzic, Karen Kamzic and Moonlit Pines Founder/Director Lisa Chagoya.

## Indiana Constellation

### Gabriel's Horn Lunch and Learn

On Sunday, May 18, the Vice President of Gabriel's Horn Women's Shelter spoke to members of the Indiana Constellation about homelessness and what the organization is doing in the community to combat it.

**Michelle Earp** | Indiana Constellation Coordinator



Vice President of Gabriel's Horn Grace Steorts accepting check from Indiana CC Michelle Earp.

## Laurel Highlands Constellation

### Cambria County Backpack Project

The Constellation's first volunteer project for the year was assisting the Cambria County Backpack Project on April 1, 2024. Volunteers packed 307 weekend meals for area school children. With support from the GCU Home Office we also presented Director Kristen Villarrial with a check for \$250.00.



Volunteers at the Cambria County backpack project.



Director Kristen Villarrial receiving a check from Constellation Coordinator Georgia Lehman.

CONTINUED

## UPCOMING LAUREL HIGHLANDS CONSTELLATION EVENTS

### "The Gambler" Kenny Rogers Tribute

Saturday, August 24, 2024

7 PM

\$22 GCU Members

\$32 Non-Member Guests

\$12 Kids

Registration Deadline is August 2 / Only 25 seats available

Arcadia Theater, 1418 Graham Avenue, Windber, PA 15963

### Bus Trip to See Daniel

Saturday, October 19, 2024

8 AM Leave from Holy Trinity Church

12:30 PM Lunch at Hershey Farms

3 PM Show

10:30 PM Return to Holy Trinity Church

\$135 GCU Members \$100 Child Members

\$155 Non-Member Guests \$120 Child Non-Members

Registration Deadline is September 6 / Only 33 seats available

Sight & Sound Theatre, (Lancaster) Ronks, PA

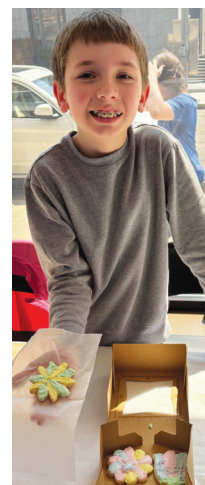
Contact: Georgia Lehman at 814-242-2083 or email her at [gjlehman56@gmail.com](mailto:gjlehman56@gmail.com) for additional information on any of the events listed.

### Cookie Decorating Class

On April 20, 2024, GCU members and guests attended a cookie decorating class, held by Chad Lamb of Lambcakes Bakery. Eight members and guests attended and learned several techniques on decorating cookies. Each attendee created 6 of their own masterpieces to take home and enjoy.

Georgia Lehman | Laurel Highlands

Constellation Coordinator



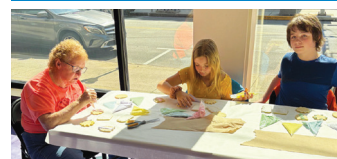
Dylan Lehman showing off his creations.



Chad Lamb addressing those who attended the cookie decorating class.



Paulette Grove and Kathy Russin.



Vickie Svencer with Lilly and Archer.

## UPCOMING PHILADELPHIA CONSTELLATION EVENTS

### Summer Cleanup

Saturday, July 13, 2024

9 AM-12 PM

Holy Trinity in Philadelphia &  
Our Lady of Perpetual Help in Levittown, PA

### Phillies vs Marlins

Wednesday, August 14, 2024

### Sight & Sound Bus Trip

Saturday, August 24, 2024

### Fall Golf Tournament

Monday, September 9, 2024

10 AM Shotgun

Middletown Country Club, Langhorne, PA

Contact Stephen Bachovin at 215-370-1757 or email him at [sbachovin@comcast.net](mailto:sbachovin@comcast.net)

## Philadelphia Constellation

### Topgolf Outing

On Sunday, May 19<sup>th</sup> the Philadelphia Constellation Topgolf event was held at the Philadelphia Topgolf venue in Northeast section of the city. We had a full house with two teams of 6 golfers of various levels of experience. After the scores were tallied, we had 12 winners, and a great time was had by all.

There is talk of making it a reoccurring event.

Stephen J. Bachovin | Philadelphia Constellation Coordinator



Golfers and guests at the Topgolf event.

## Pittsburgh Constellation

### Duckpin Bowling

An afternoon of Duckpin bowling was held at Glassport Lanes on Sunday, April 28. A nice group from the Pittsburgh Constellation gathered to try something new, but yet an old sport. All enjoyed lunch as well as socializing during the event.

Kim Kolesar | Constellation Coordinator



Constellation members enjoyed an afternoon of duckpin bowling.



One of the happy volunteers at Back Mountain Food pantry accepting our donation.

## Wilkes-Barre/Scranton Constellation

### Back Mountain Food Pantry Donation

Non-perishable food items were collected at the Wilkes-Barre/Scranton Constellation St. Nicholas Luncheon and donated to the Back Mountain Food Pantry in Trucksville, PA. A big thank you to all who attended and donated. Your gifts were greatly appreciated!

### Early Mother's Day Celebration

The Wilkes-Barre/Scranton Constellation held an early Mother's Day celebration at the Rustic Kitchen Bar and Bistro in the Mohegan Sun Casino, Wilkes-Barre, PA on Sunday, May 5, 2024.

The menu included red wine, a panzela salad, Beef Wellington with roasted root vegetables and fingerling potatoes and for dessert strawberry champagne cake.

Chef Kim McLendon, as always, was extremely entertaining and informative, giving excellent professional cooking tips, as well as putting on a great show! The staff was excellent as well as the food!

The women in attendance were honored with red roses and the men also received a small gift. A great time was had by all! This is one show that can be seen multiple times and never be the same. Thanks to all who participated and attended.



Laure Marcin, Chef Kim and Melissa Jaggars.

### Highway Cleanup

The Wilkes-Barre/Scranton Constellation held a Highway Cleanup on Saturday May 31 at 10 am. The weather though a little warm, to say the least, was sunny and nice. Our small group of 9 people worked diligently on this Memorial Day weekend to assist in cleaning up our community's highway. A total of 16 bags of garbage were collected along with some very unusual items (hubcaps, car floor mats, a very large poster, etc). Everyone worked extremely well together in the true form of fraternalism!

The crew was rewarded with hoagies, chips, cold waters and cookies for their valiant efforts. A small raffle was held. Many thanks to those who gave up their Saturday morning to help out! A special thanks to Jonathan Williams and Nina Parma who drove all the way from New Jersey!!

Laure Marcin | Wilkes-Barre/Scranton Constellation Coordinator



Volunteers (from left): Valerie Monick, Gina Keil, Colleen Evans, Ed Keil, Jonathan Williams, Dr. John G. Evans, Marlene Williams, Nina Parma and Laure Marcin.

### Upcoming Event

End of Summer Golf Tournament

Sunday, September 8 with a 1:30 PM shotgun start. Blue Ridge Trail Golf Club Mountain Top, PA. Contact Laure at 570-466-5941 or email her at laure64@live.com.

# Parish Matching Funds

## St. Mary Byzantine Catholic Church

YOUNGSTOWN, OH

### Donation to Sisters of St. Basil—Mt. Saint Macrina

During the Lenten season, donations were collected at St. Mary BC Church in Youngstown, OH for the Sisters of St. Basil at Mt. Saint Macrina in Uniontown, PA. The GCU Parish Matching Funds program allowed St. Mary parish to double their donation to the Sisters.

Dave Muransky | Byzantine Parish Coordinator

**Easter Sale!**

**POTATO PANCAKES**  
**PIROHY**  
**PALACINKA**  
**PIZZELLES**

Join us for  
LUNCH  
Sat. Mar 23rd  
12pm til 2pm  
Eat-in  
OR  
-- call to Pre-Order --

pick up Sat. Mar 23rd  
11am til 2 pm  
at St. Mary's Byzantine  
Church in Herminie  
7 Second Street 15637

pick up Mon. Mar 25  
11am til 1 pm  
at the Norwin Chamber  
of Commerce in Irwin  
321 Main Street

**Pre-ORDER FORM** (412) 206-1608

# of items	\$ per Serving
[ ] Potato Pancakes	\$ 2
[ ] Dozen Pirohy in butter, onions	\$10
[ ] Palacinka - sweet cheese	\$ 2
[ ] Kolachy - nut, apricot (5 x 6)	\$10
[ ] Pizzelles - plain (10) in box	\$10
Your Total →	

Pre-orders sold cold, not heated.  
To Pre-order for Pick-Up,  
CALL (412) 206-1608  
by Tuesday March 19

**Limited Supply KOLACHY**

a Church Fundraiser

## St. Mary Byzantine Catholic Church

HERMINIE, PA

### Potato Pancake Brunch and Easter Sale

St. Mary BC Church held its 2<sup>nd</sup> Potato Pancake Brunch on Saturday, March 23 along with its annual Easter Haluski and Pirohi Sale. Profits from the event were matched by the GCU Parish Matching Funds program.

Michael Pochan | Byzantine Parish Coordinator

## Holy Spirit Byzantine Catholic Church

BINGHAMTON, NY



Volunteers busy at work.

### Paska Baking & Sales

Spring was in the air this past March along with the delicious smell of freshly baked paska. Parishioners, family and friends of Holy Spirit Byzantine Catholic Church and Ss. Peter & Paul Byzantine Catholic Church gathered to make traditional paska as part of an annual Holy Spirit Church fundraiser.



From left: Audrey Karl-Kalb, Anne Marie Zevan, Carol Dey and Vicky Dennis.

A very special THANK YOU to everyone who generously volunteered their time and talent to make this event a success! The Holy Spirit parish family is very grateful to the GCU for the opportunity to participate in the Matching Funds Program.

Daria Shierly | Byzantine Parish Coordinator

## St. John Byzantine Catholic Church

POTTSTOWN, PA

### Check Presentation

A GCU Parish Matching Funds check for the recent bake sale was presented to Father Nick de Prospero by Parish Coordinator Alex Riebe. Fr. Nick included the following in the church bulletin: "Grateful thanks to the GCU for



Fr. Nick de Prospero accepting the Matching Funds check from Parish Coordinator Alex Riebe with Deacon Ed Quinn in the background.

their donation of \$3,000 in Matching Funds for our recent bake sale. We encourage all of our parishioners to become members of GCU. There are ample pamphlets in the church vestibule describing how to join. Please show your gratitude by at least reading over the literature and the *GCU Magazine* also located there."

Alex Riebe | Byzantine Parish Coordinator

## St. John Byzantine Catholic Church

LYNDORA, PA



Array of salads and desserts.

### Salad Bingo

St. John's Ladies Guild held their annual Salad Bingo on Saturday, April 13. As usual the parish hall was filled to capacity. A delicious array of salads and desserts, along with bingo games, a basket raffle and a 50/50 drawing were all part of the 3 hour event. Thanks GCU for the Parish Matching Funds!

John Pocchiari | Byzantine Parish Coordinator



Above are a few of the basket raffle items and at left is the capacity crowd.



## St. Mary Holy Protection Byzantine Catholic Church

MORGANTOWN, WV

### Easter Baking

St. Mary Church held its Annual Easter Bake Sale on Wednesday, March 27. All baking ingredients were donated. The sale included: nut, poppy seed and apricot rolls, paska (with or without raisins) and chocolate Easter eggs (peanut butter, coconut or black walnut filling). Thank you to all who donated their time and talents to make this year's sale a success. Thank you to the GCU for the additional income through the Parish Matching Funds program.

Robert Johnson | Byzantine Parish Coordinator



Etta Foldi, Denise Sabol, Debbie McDonnell, Karen Valko, Barbara Lash and Elaine Cottle. In the back is Mike Sivulich and Kenny Imlej.

## St. Nicholas of Myra Byzantine Catholic Church

WHITE PLAINS, NY

### Easter Baking

St. Nicholas of Myra Church did their Easter baking on March 21 & 22 for their annual sale. We thank those who volunteered as well as those who purchased the delicious items and the GCU for the Parish Matching Funds.

Ann Kachmar | Byzantine Parish Coordinator



Mike Sivulich with the finished cakes (kolache).

## Holy Trinity Byzantine Catholic Church CONEMAUGH, PA

### 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Cash Bash

On April 13, 2024, Holy Trinity Byzantine Catholic Church held its 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Cash Bash. Over 400 tickets were sold with over 140 people attending the event and over 125 take-out meals also prepared. Thanks to everyone who made this event such a success, especially the GCU Home Office who printed the tickets and provided Parish



Cash Bash kitchen crew.

Matching Funds. Proceeds totaled over \$5,000.<sup>00</sup> and with the GCU Match, Father Robert Oravetz was presented with more than \$8,000.<sup>00</sup> from the event for the parish.

Georgia Lehman | Byzantine Parish Coordinator



BPC Georgia Lehman presenting a check to Fr. Robert Oravetz.



Cash Bash crowd.



GCU members Monica Gazzo and John Fisher joined forces with GCU's Parish Coordinator Arleen Jama (capturing the moment) to extend a helping hand to Fr. Vitalii. Together, they proudly presented him with a work-in-progress GCU Parish Matching Funds check aimed at achieving our fundraising goal of \$3,000.<sup>00</sup>.

## Ss. Peter & Paul Byzantine Catholic Church BRADDOCK, PA

### (Lenten Project) Give Up and Donate

Ss. Peter & Paul Church held a Lenten Project (Give Up and Donate) which kicked off on the first day of the Great Fast, and truly exemplified the spirit of selflessness and generosity that characterizes our parish community. Throughout the Lenten season, parishioners were challenged to give up small indulgences in order to make a meaningful difference in the lives of others. Whether it was forgoing dinners out, skipping the latest movie release, or resisting the urge to purchase items we didn't truly need—each sacrifice was a step towards a greater good. Thanks to parishioners' unwavering support and dedication, their collective efforts resulted in \$755.<sup>00</sup> for the parish! The generosity will undoubtedly make a tangible impact on the lives of individuals and families who require assistance during these challenging times. Thank you.

Arleen Jama | Byzantine Parish Coordinator

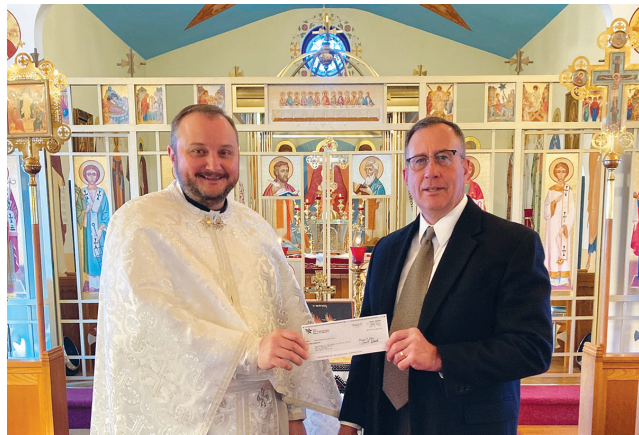
## Patronage Mother of God Byzantine Catholic Church

BALTIMORE, MD

### Slavic Food Festival

The rainy weather did not keep people away from attending Patronage Church's Slavic Food Festival on Saturday, March 23. The parish sold holupki, kolbasi, pirohi, potato pancakes, hrudka, halushki, several varieties of kolache, pascha and many homemade baked good donations from parishioners. The religious article table featured icons, crosses, books, Pysanky supplies and items for the Easter Basket. Patronage Church is truly grateful and appreciative for the continued support of the GCU's Parish Matching Funds. Very Rev. Vasyl Symyon is the administrator.

Dennis Kotula | Byzantine Parish Coordinator



Check presentation to Fr. Vasyl Symyon by Parish Coordinator Dennis Kotula.



**Check Presentation.** Pictured are members of St. Mary's congregation that volunteered their time to help in the roll production and sales. Byzantine Parish Coordinator Larry DeChurch presents a GCU Parish Matching Funds check in the amount of \$3,000.<sup>00</sup> to Judy Holli-day. Judy was coordinator for the Easter roll sale. Renee Vargo (front left) coordinated the gob sale at the Hoodlebug Festival and Cookies-by-the-Mile sale held at Christmas. 2<sup>nd</sup> row: Diane Petras, Andrea Nicolo, Sylvia Miller, Vicky DeChurch and Keith Ewing. 3<sup>rd</sup> row: Barb Rado, Bev Kokolis and Marian Ewing. Additional members of the congregation (not pictured) assisted in the roll preparation and sale.

## Holy Protection of Mary Byzantine Catholic Church

HOMER CITY, PA

### Easter Roll Sale

Volunteers from Holy Protection of St. Mary congregation made nut, apricot and poppy seed rolls for sale to the congregation and community. Easter paska bread was also made and sold to the community. These sales received GCU Parish Matching Funds.



The many nut, apricot and poppy seed rolls.

Larry DeChurch | Byzantine Parish Coordinator



## St. Joseph Byzantine Catholic Church

BRECKSVILLE, OH

### Men's Club Reverse Raffle

The Men's Club of St. Joseph Parish held a Reverse Raffle on Friday, April 26. Many parishioners attended and the event was a success. St. Joseph parishioners would like to thank the GCU for matching the event's profits.

Nancy Fredrick | Byzantine Parish Coordinator



## St. Mary Byzantine Catholic Church

HAZLETON, PA

### Pirohi Sale

A pirohi sale was held on Friday, March 15 at St. Mary Byzantine Catholic Church for the parishioners for Lent. Frozen and cooked pirohi were available for purchase. Thanks to all the volunteers who helped prepare for this sale and to the GCU for the Parish Matching Funds that helped increase profits for this project.

**John Hoppey** | Byzantine Parish Coordinator

## St. Nicholas Byzantine Catholic Church

LORAIN, OH

### Lenten/Easter Food Sales

Throughout the months of February and March, dedicated parishioners and GCU members of St. Nicholas Parish along with community members worked to make over 700 dozen pirohi, more than 250 nut & poppy seed rolls and over 250 paska. This fundraiser was kicked off with a pirohi drive-through sale on Wednesday, February 14 that was advertised to the community. The fundraiser culminated with the donation of the remaining paska to the parish for blessing and

distribution during Mirovanije. A Paschal Artos had been baked and was blessed on Easter Sunday. Fr. Andrew Nagrant cut and distributed the Artos at the parish brunch celebration on Thomas Sunday. We are so thankful to all the people who worked to make this fundraiser a success and to the GCU for the Parish Matching Funds program.

**Anne Dillon** | Byzantine Parish Coordinator



Fr. Andrew with the Artos.



It took many volunteers—from the kitchen to traffic control to make the sale a success.

## Nativity of Our Lord Byzantine Catholic Church

EAST BRUNSWICK, NJ

### Flea Market

On Saturday, April 13, Nativity Parish held a Flea Market to benefit the maintenance program. Profits from the event received Parish Matching Funds. Thanks GCU for the added income!

**Maryann Szticza** | Byzantine Parish Coordinator



A large variety of items for sale.

## St. Mary Byzantine Catholic Church

MARBLEHEAD, OH



On Sunday, April 21 Parish Coordinator Joan Washburn presented a GCU Matching Funds check to Fr. Joseph Repko, pastor of St. Mary BC Church, for the Mid-Winter Feast fundraising event held in February 2024.



## Resurrection Byzantine Catholic Church SMITHTOWN, NY

### Presentation of Checks

Parish Coordinator Joanne Marcus is shown presenting a GCU Parish Matching Fund check and \$1,000.<sup>00</sup> donation check to Father Vald Budash and Deacon Robert Knapp.

Joanne Marcus | Byzantine Parish Coordinator

## St. Mary Byzantine Catholic Church SCRANTON, PA

### Night at the Races

A Night at the Races Fundraiser was on Saturday, April 13 to benefit the parish. We had a great crowd and all had a great time. This was a GCU Parish Matching Funds event.

### A Big Thank You

St. Mary's parishioners would like to thank the GCU for the \$1,000.<sup>00</sup> donation, the \$500.<sup>00</sup> Gift Card for social events and for the Matching Funds Check. We greatly appreciate the GCU for giving financial support to the parish.

Barbara Shimkus |  
Byzantine Parish  
Coordinator



Pictured are Fr. Roman Vasylynka, parochial vicar, Parish Coordinator Barbara Shimkus and parishioners, Brian McGoff, Stephen Pendrak, MaryLou Kukulya, David & Denise Fueshko & Lisa Kondash.



Fr. Vasyl Kopyn (visiting from Ukraine) cleaning our floor.

## St. Mary Byzantine Catholic Church WEIRTON, WV

### St. Mary Altar Society Pirohi, Paska & Nut Roll Sales

The St. Mary Altar Society held 3 events throughout Lent making our homemade goods. The sales were very successful and we thank GCU for their Parish Matching Funds program.

Marilyn Charnie | Byzantine Parish Coordinator



David Romanyak, Gloria Suchko, (sitting) John Sinsel and Pani Anhelina Kopyn (light blue).



Scott Winwood & Fr. Vasyl Kopyn.



Faye Hvizdak and Emanuel Kopyn.



Benjamin Kopyn and John Lesho.



John Lesho & Michelle Gugalielmo.

## Cathedral of St. John the Baptist MUNHALL, PA

### Spring Craft Show

St. John Cathedral held its annual Spring Craft Show on Saturday, April 13. Over 40 vendors sold wooden items, 3-D items, wreaths, crocheted & knitted items and jewelry. Several hundred people attend the event throughout the day. In addition to the crafts, stuffed cabbage,

dumpling haluski, pirohi, lasagna and hamburgers were also available for purchase. Thank you GCU for the Parish Matching Funds.

Patricia Bovee | Byzantine Parish Coordinator



Guests young and old enjoyed shopping at the show.



Joe Bilock, Anna Marie Miller, Bob Hildebrand and Doug Duda cooking for St. John Craft Show.



Fr. Andrew Deskevich accepts the GCU Matching Funds check from Parish Coordinator Patty Bovee.

## St. Michael Byzantine Catholic Church PITTSBURGH, PA

### Check Presentation

Thank you GCU for the \$1,000.00 donation to St. Michael Byzantine Catholic Church. Church manager Michael Moran is shown presenting the check to Fr. Andrii Dumnych.

Nancy Stout | Byzantine Parish Coordinator



## St. Mary Byzantine Catholic Church WINDBER, PA



GCU Matching Funds check is presented to Father Ivan Rusin from Parish Coordinator Theresa Valko from the parish's Easter baking fundraiser.

## St. Basil the Great Byzantine Catholic Church

STERLING HEIGHTS, MI

### Easter Fundraising Events

The parish held a few Matching Funds events this past Lenten season. The Pascha Project Palm Sunday raffle raised a total of \$1,826.<sup>00</sup>. Thanks to the GCU Parish Matching Funds program for doubling this amount for the parish!

Anita Cipa | Byzantine Parish Coordinator



St. Basil Parish Coordinator Anita Cipa presents a Matching Funds check to Fr. Mychail Rozmarynowycz.

## St. Joseph Byzantine Catholic Church

TORONTO, OH

### 2024 Lenten Paska/Potica Sale

St. Joseph Parish held its annual Paska/Potica Sale which benefits the needs of the church. Orders were placed and filled through the end of April. The sale also receive GCU Parish Matching Funds to help increase profits.

Nancy Doerr | Byzantine  
Parish Coordinator



Check presentation (from left): Joe Sopp, Rev. Dr. Eduard Shestak, Madlyn Lesneski and Gina Keil.

also included a basket raffle, door prizes, food and bake sale coordinated and staffed by many GCU members. Thank you to the many folks who participated and helped. Thanks to the GCU for providing the promotional fliers and Parish Matching Funds, which will be used for the church's new roof.

Maria Calogero | Byzantine Parish Coordinator

## St. Nicholas Byzantine Catholic Church

OLD FORGE, PA

### 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Ham Bingo

St. Nicholas Byzantine Catholic Church held its 11<sup>th</sup> annual Ham Bingo on March 17, 2024. The prizes for the 20 games included hams and rings of kielbasa. The event



The nice crowd at the Bingo.

## St. Mary-Holy Protection Byzantine Catholic Church

LATROBE, PA

### Super Bingo

On Sunday, April 14, St. Mary-Holy Protection Church held a very successful Super Bingo in the parish hall. The event benefited the church's building and maintenance fund. In addition to lots of bingo games, there were instant, a silent auction, 50/50 raffle, lottery tree and chances to win a gas grill, lawn chairs, big screen TV, outdoor table and chairs. The parish is most grateful



Matching Funds check presentation (from left): Fr. Paul-Alexander Shutt, OSB, Nancy Shultz, Marlene Harhai, James Basinger and Marge Hulyk.

for the additional funds provided by the GCU Parish Matching Funds Program.

Rev. Paul-Alexander Shutt, OSB | Byzantine Parish Coordinator



Workers at the Super Bingo.



Fr. Roman Andriitso accepting the GCU Matching Funds check from Walter Rogal.

## St. John the Baptist Byzantine Catholic Church

NORTHERN CAMBRIA, PA

### Spring Basket Auction

St. John's annual Basket Auction was held on Saturday, April 27 and Sunday, April 28, 2024. The auction features items donated by parishioners and local businesses.

There were special raffles and food available. All proceeds benefited the church and the event received GCU Parish Matching Funds.

Sandra Ferrance | Byzantine Parish Coordinator



So many baskets to choose from.

## St. Stephen Byzantine Catholic Church

NORTH HUNTINGDON, PA

### Ham Bingo

St. Stephen Parish hosted its annual Ham Bingo on March 17, 2024. Both parishioners and local patrons enjoyed the afternoon. Bingo, paint stick games, a very generous 50/50 raffle and a basket auction appealed to



GCU Parish Coordinator Connie Kacey Smith, (center) presented Father Vasyl Yakubych with a GCU Matching Funds check in the amount of \$3,000.<sup>00</sup>. Participating in the presentation were GCU member Julee Lindberg, bingo coordinator, and faithful altar server, Cameron Polczynski.

our attendees. In addition to the games, delicious haluski, kolbassi and desserts were available for guests to purchase.

The event also received GCU Parish Matching Funds.

St. Stephen Parish is very grateful for the continued generosity of the GCU.

Connie Smith | Byzantine Parish Coordinator



Ham Bingo attendees include: Mary Cvejkus, Mike Pochan, Florence Wackowski and Mary Heckel.



GCU member, Kurt Novotnak busy selling 50/50 tickets.



The Ham Bingo was very well attended by both parishioners and local patrons.



Fr. Vitalii Stashkevych and Parish Coordinator Barbara Wahal.

## St. Elias Byzantine Catholic Church

MUNHALL, PA

### St. Elias Fish Fry

St. Elias BC Church had another successful and record-breaking Lenten Fish Fry season. It was held on the first six Fridays of Great Lent. Many thanks to our faithful volunteers and loyal customers who showed up to support the event week in and week out and to the GCU for the Parish Matching Funds.

Barbara Wahal | Byzantine Parish Coordinator

## Ss. Peter & Paul Byzantine Catholic Church

PUNXSUTAWNEY, PA



Nikki Rake of Ss. Peter & Paul Byzantine Catholic Church recently presented Father Vasyl Kadar with a GCU Parish Matching Funds check. The check was matched from the annual Lenten Pirohi Sales. It will be used for church renovations. We are very thankful to the GCU and appreciate all they do.

Julie Brocius | Byzantine Parish Coordinator

## St. Therese Byzantine Catholic Church

ST. PETERSBURG, FL

### St. Patrick's Day Party/Dinner

St. Therese parish celebrated St. Patrick's Day on Sunday, March 17 with a party/dinner. All enjoyed the food and fellowship.

### Easter Bake Sale

A bake sale was held at the church before Easter. Everyone stocked up on the ethnic goodies and assisted the parish as well. Both of these events qualified as GCU Parish Matching Funds events.

Charles Allan Hunt | Byzantine Parish Coordinator



Bakers Connie Sernulka and Jeanine Hvozdoch.



David Koscho, Kristin Koscho and Kristin Moss.



Parish Coordinator Allan Hunt presenting Matching Funds check to Pastor Very Rev. Robert Evancho. The check was from the Chili Cook-off, St. Patrick's Day lunch, & the Easter Bake Sale fundraisers.

## Our Lady of Mount Carmel CYO

PITTSBURGH, PA

### Godspell

For three days, March 15-17, the CYO parish youth performed the musical "Godspell" at St. Teresa Church in the West View section of Pittsburgh. All profits will be distributed between Project H.O.P.E. and the Diocesan Mission in Chimbote, Peru. The youth worked tirelessly



Kim Kolesar (left) presents a check to the producer of the musical Elizabeth Wells.

to give excellent performances while the professional band enhanced the experience. The profits were boosted by the GCU Non-Byzantine Parish Matching Funds program.

Kim Kolesar

## Our Lady of Lourdes & St. Jude Roman Catholic Churches

EAST PALESTINE & COLUMBIANA, OH

### Sarris Candy Fundraiser

The parishes combined in a joint Sarris Candy fundraiser over the Easter season. A profit of \$344.<sup>20</sup> in sales was then matched by GCU. Thank you for supporting our parishes.

Chris Chamberlain



OLOL & St. Jude Pastor Fr. Chad Johnson, Chris Chamberlain and Deacon Chris Evans.

# GCU Supported Parish Events



## St. George Byzantine Catholic Church

ALIQUIPPA, PA

### St. George Feast Day Celebration

St. George BC Church's Annual Feast Day celebration was held on Sunday, April 28 starting with Divine Liturgy. Parishioners from St. George and St. Mary churches attended the Liturgy celebrated by Father Christiaan. A delicious brunch followed that was prepared by members of the church. The brunch was financed thru the generosity of the GCU's Byzantine Parish Social Program.

Kathy Kapaldo | Byzantine Parish Coordinator



## Ss. Peter & Paul Byzantine Catholic Church

BEAVER MEADOWS, PA

### ECF End of Year Egg Hunt

As part of Ss. Peter & Paul Church's ECF students end of year celebration, an Easter Egg Hunt took place on the rectory grounds on Saturday, April 27. Thanks to the GCU for sponsoring the egg hunt.



Michael Komishock | Byzantine Parish Coordinator

## Ss. Peter & Paul Byzantine Catholic Church

BRADDOCK, PA

### Coffee Donuts Social (Fr. Vitalii's Birthday)

Parishioners gathered for a coffee and donut social to celebrate Fr. Vitalii's birthday after Liturgy on Sunday, April 7. Laughter and sugary treats filled the air as we honored a beloved friend, mentor and pastor who has a special love of cream filled donuts! Thank you GCU Parish Social Grant for a special day.

Arleen Jama | Byzantine Parish Coordinator



Fr. Vitalii enjoying his donut, so is his daughter Eleonora (at left).

## St. Emilian Byzantine Catholic Church BRUNSWICK, OH

### First Reconciliation

Congratulations to Biborka Boksay and Marco Gillombardo as they receive the sacrament of reconciliation. Family and friends attended the event and enjoyed a reception for the children after Liturgy. Thanks to the GCU Parish Social Grant Program for assisting with this event.

Natalie Washlock | Byzantine Parish Coordinator



Back row: Deacon John Petrus & Fr. Peter Boksay. Front row: Mary Lee Heiman, Marco Gillombardo, Biborka Boksay & Lorrie Sirocky.

## St. Michael Byzantine Catholic Church FLUSHING, MI

### ECF End of Year Ice Cream Social

An end of year ice cream social funded by the GCU Parish Social Grant was held on Sunday, April 28 for all ECF students. We look forward to seeing the students in the fall.

Pat Chartier | Byzantine Parish Coordinator



ECF students enjoying the ice cream.

## Holy Spirit & Ss. Peter & Paul Byzantine Catholic Churches

BINGHAMTON & ENDICOTT, NY

### Welcome Father Steven Galuschik

On April 7, 2024, the parishes of Holy Spirit and Ss. Peter and Paul Byzantine Catholic Churches hosted a festive Welcome Brunch in the Holy Spirit Parish Center for new pastor Very Reverend Steven Galuschik.

Father Steven officially began his new assignment for both parishes on Palm Sunday, transferring from All Saints Byzantine Catholic Church in North Fort Myers, FL.

Over seventy parishioners, guests and neighboring clergy attended the event which was organized by the trustees of both churches. The parishes of the Holy Spirit and Ss. Peter and Paul are grateful to the GCU for the Parish Social Grant program which made the event possible.

Daria Shierly | Byzantine Parish Coordinator



Very Rev. Steven Galuschik meets with parishioners and friends.



## St. Therese Byzantine Catholic Church

ST. PETERSBURG, FL

### Ice Cream Sundae Event & Coffee Social

On Sunday, May 5 a coffee social & ice cream sundae event was held to celebrate the last day of religious education classes. Everyone had a great time.

Charles Allan Hunt | Byzantine Parish Coordinator



Adults serving ice cream are Justine Noth, Laura Hall, Theresa & Mike Thrasher.



Kids lined up for their ice cream treat.

## Holy Trinity Byzantine Catholic Church

SYKESVILLE, PA

### Coffee Social After Sunday Liturgy

On Sunday, January 28, parishioners and friends gathered after Liturgy for a coffee social. All who attended enjoyed the fellowship.

Teresa Kennis | Byzantine Parish Coordinator



Bright Monday family dinner.

## Ss. Peter & Paul Byzantine Catholic Church

PUNXSUTAWNEY, PA

### Bright Monday Parish Family Dinner

Following Divine Liturgy on Bright Monday, members of the parish gathered together to celebrate with a family dinner. Everyone enjoyed the delicious food and wonderful fellowship time.

### P & P Angels Potluck Social

P & P Angels met in May and enjoyed a potluck dinner together for their final meeting until the fall. A wonderful time was had by all. Preparations for the upcoming church festival in June were discussed.

### First Reconciliation Parish Family Gathering

On Sunday, May 18 the parish family celebrated with Father Vasyl, Kvita and his family for a light dinner following Liturgy to celebrate their daughter Uliana's First Reconciliation. Everyone enjoyed the evening and the delicious food.

Julie Brocious | Byzantine Parish Coordinator





Theodore Wiestling, Rev. John Cigan and Evalyn Shander.

## Holy Ghost Byzantine Catholic Church

JESSUP, PA

### 1<sup>st</sup> Corporate Communion

Holy Ghost Church officially welcomed Theodore Christopher Wiestling and Evalyn Marie Shander with a short reception after receiving their 1<sup>st</sup> Holy Communion on Sunday, May 5, 2024. Rev. John J. Cigan, pastor at Holy Ghost wished Theodore and Evalyn a lifetime of friendship with God.

Michaela Mancak | Byzantine Parish Coordinator

## Holy Wisdom Byzantine Catholic Church

FLANDERS, NJ

### St. Thomas Sunday Dinner

A catered dinner was held to celebrate Pascha, this replaced the monthly potluck dinner thanks to the GCU Parish Social Grant. All enjoyed the food and fellowship.

Fr. Jack Custer | Byzantine Parish Coordinator



## St. Nicholas of Myra Byzantine Catholic Church

POCONO SUMMIT, PA

### Annual Paschal Fellowship Meal

Parishioners of Saint Nicholas of Myra Church closed out the Paschal Feast by enjoying the annual Paschal Fellowship Meal on the 6<sup>th</sup> Paschal Sunday – the Sunday of the Man Born Blind. Guests from Georgia and Texas who attended the Divine Liturgy, were invited to join the parishioners in this joyous celebration. The menu included traditional Paschal Basket items: ham, kielbasi, paska, hrutka, red beets & horseradish and homemade nut and poppy kolache for dessert. The Very Rev. Michael Salnicky is pastor. St. Nicholas of Myra parish is located five minutes from the Kalahari Resort and Conference Center in the Pocono's.

Alberta Folsome | Byzantine Parish Coordinator



Paschal fellowship meal.

## Our Lady of Wisdom Byzantine Catholic Church

LAS VEGAS, NV



Coffee social.

### Coffee Social

The parish of Our Lady of Wisdom has been enjoying the coffee socials held after Liturgy. Over the past few months, it has been a joy to gather and share good brew and good conversation. Thank you GCU for offering financial help for social events.

Robert Rosales | Byzantine Parish Coordinator





Women & kids on St. Patrick's Day.

### St. Patrick's Day Celebration

Ascension of Our Lord Parish surprised the ladies at Liturgy with green silk carnations on Sunday, March 17. Afterwards, shamrock sugar cookies were shared with everyone to celebrate St. Patrick's Day.

### Easter Egg Hunt, Craft, Lunch

An Easter Egg Hunt, crafts and a luncheon were held on Palm Sunday at Ascension of Our Lord Church.

## Ascension Byzantine Church

CLAIRTON, PA



Fr. Ivan Mina with the kids; Scarlett doing an Easter craft and Theo finds an egg.



The Easter Bunny arrived early to hide eggs in the courtyard on a beautiful sunny day. He greeted everyone after Liturgy and then led the children to search for colored eggs. After their bags were filled

with treats, he joined the children decorating wooden eggs and building a paper Easter basket craft. Everyone was ready to eat by then and enjoyed having lunch with Father Ivan Mina and his family.

### Mother's Day Celebration

The moms of Ascension Parish were recognized on Mother's Day, Sunday, May 12 with carnation corsages as they came into the church. Afterwards a few moms gathered outside to chat about their plans for the day. Thanks to the GCU Parish Social Grant for assisting with funding these events.

Trish Roberts | Byzantine Parish Coordinator



The mothers with their corsages.



So much fun finding eggs!



Michael Marshall holding Rosie Marshall.

## Nativity of the Mother of God Byzantine Catholic Church

DUBOIS, PA

### Easter Egg Hunt

The parish held an Easter Egg Hunt for the youth. All enjoyed finding candy filled eggs. Refreshments were served after all the eggs were found.

### Mother's Day Celebration

Using some of the GCU Parish Social Grant funds the Nativity of the Mother of God parish celebrated Mother's Day with their annual luncheon. Many parishioners and guests enjoyed a delicious meal and some lucky moms won some great prizes!

Grace Marshall | Byzantine Parish Coordinator



The winners of the flowers: Seated (from left): Mary Shemucha and Michelle Balog-Romeo. Standing (from left): Natalia Banyk, Katelynn Chestnut, Marianna Lendel, Debbie Marshall, Dawn Cekovsky, Linda Waddell and Marilyn Wesdock.

## Holy Trinity Byzantine Catholic Church

CONEMAUGH, PA

### Mother's Day Social

On May 12, 2024, Holy Trinity Church hosted its annual Mother's Day social hour following Divine Liturgy. We helped support Birthright of Johnstown with their annual carnation sale during the event. This event was once again a success. Thanks to the GCU Parish Social Grant program for assisting with this event.

Georgia Lehman | Byzantine Parish Coordinator



Sydney Trice, Fr. Burke and Hunter Trice.

## St. Mary Assumption Byzantine Catholic Church

NEW SALEM, PA

### Easter Treats

On Easter Sunday, following Liturgy, parishioners and visitors of St. Mary Assumption Church, received small treat bags. Inside each bag were a variety of Easter chocolates, a holy card of the Resurrection icon and a pamphlet explaining the icon. Two young parishioners, Sydney and Hunter Trice, helped distribute these treat bags. Thank you, GCU Parish Social Grant for assisting in the funding.

Bernadette Karoffa | Byzantine Parish Coordinator



St. Nicholas (aka Kenny Imlej) giving Nicky Sivulich a gift. The gals in the back are (from left) Debbie McDonnell and Pat Sivulich.

## St. Nicholas of Myra Byzantine Catholic Church

WHITE PLAINS, NY

### Feast of St. Nicholas

St. Nicholas paid a visit to the parishioners as they celebrated the Feast of St. Nicholas. The children of the parish were presented gifts (generously sponsored by the GCU Parish Social Grant) from St. Nicholas. Pastor Father Ihor Vorontsov and Subdeacon Michael Sivulich participated in the festivities.

### Parish Luncheon

A parish luncheon was held on Sunday, March 17 after Liturgy. All enjoyed the fellowship.

Ann Kachmar | Byzantine Parish Coordinator

## St. Basil the Great Byzantine Catholic Church

STERLING HEIGHTS, MI



Gisella Thomas with the Easter Bunny (Ava "Max" Moore).

### Pascha Project and Palm Sunday Celebration

Following the Palm Sunday Liturgy, members from St. Basil the Great paraded across the parking lot to the banquet hall with palms and pussy willows in hand to attend the annual Palm Sunday breakfast co-hosted by the St. Macrina Guild and the GCU. As breakfast was enjoyed, Pascha bread orders were picked up by parishioners. These traditional home-made breads are baked each year by parish volunteers. To complete the day, a visit by the Easter bunny was enjoyed by all the children,

along with basket raffles. The community feel of our church family certainly was present at this Palm Sunday celebration.

Anita Cipa | Byzantine  
Parish Coordinator



Members of St. Macrina Guild selling freshly baked Pascha: Mary Kay Slaby, Parish Coordinator Anita Cita and Christine Karl.



The Easter Bunny with the group of attendees.



Church Council member Mike Nihem pulling tickets for the Easter raffle and Gisella Thomas watching.



Teachers, parents and students enjoying the end of year party.

## St. John the Baptist Byzantine Catholic Church

UNIONTOWN, PA

### ECF End of Year Party

St. John the Baptist Church held an end of the year pizza party for ECF students, parents and teachers on Sunday, May 5. The children also received a gift to use at Dairy Queen. Everyone enjoyed a great day of food and fun. Thanks to the GCU Parish Social Grant for assisting.

Stephen Petruska Jr. | Byzantine Parish Coordinator

## St. Mary Byzantine Catholic Church

KINGSTON, PA

### Easter Egg Hunt

St. Mary Church in conjunction with the GCU held an Easter Egg Hunt on Palm Sunday, March 24, 2024. The hunt followed the Divine Liturgy and Basket Raffle.

ECF students and parish children hunted for the eggs on the rectory lawn and then returned them each for a prize in the parish hall.

Refreshments were served to the children and their families including donuts, hot chocolate and coffee donated by Dunkin', cookies donated by Bakery Delight, fruit, cupcakes, juice boxes and pastries. A great time was had by all!

Many thanks to the GCU and the volunteers who helped make this event a huge success.

Laure Marcin | Byzantine Parish Coordinator



## Holy Protection of Mary Byzantine Catholic Church

HOMER CITY, PA

### Pentecost Sunday Dinner

A Pentecost dinner was held at Holy Protection Church to celebrate Pentecost Sunday. The gift card that was received from the GCU helped to finance this event. We all had a wonderful time and great food. Thanks to the GCU for the wonderful gift.

Larry DeChurch | Byzantine Parish Coordinator



## Resurrection Byzantine Catholic Church

SMITHTOWN, NY



### St. Thomas Day

On Sunday, April 7 Resurrection Church held a St. Thomas Day parish luncheon! We celebrated the parish children who volunteered at the recent spaghetti dinner, with an ice cream cake & Easter Egg Hunt! It was a wonderful gathering.



Joseph Caston, Christina Murfitt and Aiden Finland.

### Communion Sunday

The celebration of 3 young parishioners' first confessions and first Holy Communion was held on Sunday, May 19, 2024. They all received a personal Bible from Father Vladyslav Budash, Deacon Bob and teacher Mrs. Knapp.

The GCU Parish Social Grant assisted with these events.

Joanne Marcus | Byzantine Parish Coordinator



Miraculous "Mary, Helper of Mothers" Icon visiting St. John Church. It is beloved by mothers, grandmothers and especially women struggling with infertility and difficult pregnancies. Several miraculous births have been attributed to devotion to Mary through this icon.

## St. John Byzantine Catholic Church

TRUMBULL, CT



Palm Sunday Children's Egg Hunt.

Thanks to the GCU Parish Social Grant program for assisting St. John Parish with the Palm Sunday Easter Egg Hunt.

Lillian Baron | Byzantine Parish Coordinator

# For Your Information

## Events

### Byzantine Family Day at Kennywood Park

Thursday, July 25, 2024

11 AM Divine Liturgy

12:30 PM Catered Lunch

\$27 Ride All Day Ticket (*Good 7/25 only*)

FREE ages 3 & under

\$20 Kids Lunch Ticket (ages 3-10)

\$25 Adult Lunch Ticket (ages 11+)

FREE for kids age 2 and under

West Mifflin, PA

Order & pay on the GCU Website under events or Contact Chris at 724-495-3400 x 3810

### GCU/SCS Golf Tournament

Friday, August 9-Sunday, August 11

Friday is a practice round

Saturday & Sunday Tournament Play

8 AM Shotgun Start

Entry deadline is July, 12

Treasure Lake Golf Resort

DuBois, PA 15801

Applications are available on the Events Section of the GCU Website.

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

### Charity Golf Scramble

Monday, September 23, 2024

9:30 AM Shotgun Start

Seven Oaks Country Club  
Beaver, PA 15009

Benefits the Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank

Applications will be available soon on the Events Section of the GCU Website.

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

### GCU Blood Drive

Monday, July 29, 2024

11:30 AM - 5 PM

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

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

Contact GCU Community Events Coordinator Casey Bush at 724-495-3400 ext. 3927 or [cbush@GCUusa.com](mailto:cbush@GCUusa.com).

## Available

### Carpathian Cookery Cookbook

Having sold over 20,500 copies, the cookbook has entered its 22<sup>nd</sup> printing and was requested by the Library of Congress to be in their ethnic cooking collection. The 330-page cookbook has a new look and features a protective plastic cover. The book includes sections on Christmas and Easter customs and recipes, traditional Rusyn and Slavic foods, other ethnic dishes, and many other tried-and-true recipes of

St. John's parishioners. There is a variety of paska bread and kolachi (filled roll) recipes, as well as meatless dishes and Lenten recipes, suitable for the Great Fast, as well as the Pre-Christmas Fast. The cost of the cookbook is \$14.<sup>00</sup> plus \$6.<sup>00</sup> postage and handling (\$20.<sup>00</sup>). If ordering from Canada, please send a \$38.<sup>00</sup> (\$14 + \$24 postage) 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 BC Church, 201 E. Main Street, Uniontown, PA 15401, call 724-438-1382 (M-F 9 AM-3 PM leave message) or email [carpathiancookery@gmail.com](mailto:carpathiancookery@gmail.com).



### Discount Amusement Park Tickets for 2024



Discounted Amusement Park tickets for the 2024 season are available to GCU members for online purchase. Parks include: Kennywood Park, West Mifflin, PA; Knoebels Park, Elysburg, PA and Hershey Park, Hershey, PA. Visit the GCU website at [GCUusa.com](http://GCUusa.com).



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\$25 ADULT LUNCH (ages 11+)



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**SATURDAY, AUGUST 24, 2024**

**FIREWORKS**

**6:40 PM - SEC. 125**

**Order Tickets**

**GCUusa.com**

**More Info**

# Deceased Members

(State Lodge-Member-City-State)

- |   |   |  |
|---|---|--|
| 8344 Marilyn L. Anderson—South Park, PA     | 8344 Glenn R. Donaldson—Greensburg, PA      | 8341 Lucy L. Haught—Steubenville, OH         |
| 8344 Anne Anestis—McDonald, PA              | 8344 Lorraine Draghi—Export, PA             | 8344 Agnes Herbenick—Uniontown, PA           |
| 8358 Grace L. Annoye—Casco, WI              | 8344 Catherine Jane Drass—Hastings, PA      | 8344 Margaret Hlavaty—Jefferson Twp., PA     |
| 8344 Thelma Bakori—Finleyville, PA          | 8302 Betty A. DuBois—Mesa, AZ               | 8329 Stanley Paul Hmiel—Saint Louis, MO      |
| 8358 Thomas Barke—Neenah, WI                | 8344 Russell Duker—Gibsonia, PA             | 8313 JoAnn Hogg—Belleville, IL               |
| 8327 Bernice L. Barth—Thief River Falls, MN | 8344 Gustave Ebeling—East Stroudsburg, PA   | 8344 Betty J. Holinda—Beaver, PA             |
| 8327 Clement J. Besch—Kasson, MN            | 8344 Dorothy J. Ellsworth—Pittsburgh, PA    | 8344 James W. Hollowood—Moon Twp., PA        |
| 8344 Anna M. Bishop—Harleysville, PA        | 8359 Anna Elsner—Cornelius, NC              | 8344 Constance Hosko—Scranton, PA            |
| 8344 Irene Block—Springdale, PA             | 8344 Eugene E. Everson—Norristown, PA       | 8344 Betty Hoyson—Berwick, PA                |
| 8357 Robert Blofeld—Huntington, WV          | 8344 Betty B. Fasnacht—Warren, PA           | 8344 Louis E. Hudecek—Gibsonia, PA           |
| 8315 Gregory O. Bolden—Merrillville, IN     | 8309 George Fencik—Knoxville, TN            | 8344 Duane F. Hunt—Saylorsburg, PA           |
| 8344 Mark Boll—Manheim, PA                  | 8341 William P. Fergus—Lake Milton, OH      | 8344 Dorothea M. Ihnat—Royersford, PA        |
| 8358 Delbert R. Bornitz—Greenfield, WI      | 8344 Helen Fialkovich—Dubois, PA            | 8344 Walter Jaap—Latrobe, PA                 |
| 8315 Richard P. Bowling—Indianapolis, IN    | 8309 Paul Fish—Nokomis, FL                  | 8344 Mary Jagggers—Oil City, PA              |
| 8344 Vincent J. Bransfield—Philadelphia, PA | 8341 Deborah J. Fitzgerald—Columbus, OH     | 8344 Joseph J. James—Dixonville, PA          |
| 8359 Louise Brayboy—Rowland, NC             | 8344 Dennis M. Foust—Sarver, PA             | 8358 Judith A. Jazdzewski—Mosinee, WI        |
| 8335 Elsie Butchko—Toms River, NJ           | 8344 Elmer Fox—Rochester, PA                | 8313 Leona Jernberg—Carmel, IN               |
| 8344 Philomena R. Buterbaugh—Pittsburgh, PA | 8344 Domenic Frasca—Pittsburgh, PA          | 8358 Carol J. Jochimsen—Medford, WI          |
| 8344 Lois Helen Cerra—Pittsburgh, PA        | 8344 Edward J. Freno—Indiana, PA            | 8341 Margaret Joyce—Niles, OH                |
| 8344 Eleanor Chekan—Pittsburgh, PA          | 8310 Joseph Galamba—Cordele, GA             | 8344 Annette M. Kaleita—California, PA       |
| 8341 Susan Cochrane—Lynchburg, OH           | 8344 Patricia M. Galbreath—Ellwood City, PA | 8344 Robert G. Kaltenbaugh—Johnstown, PA     |
| 8344 Dorothy A. Coombe—Weatherly, PA        | 8359 Victor K. Ganim—Greensboro, NC         | 8358 Delfred F. Kann—Marshfield, WI          |
| 8344 Nelliejune Cooter—Emmaus, PA           | 8313 Della E. Garrett—Fairview Heights, IL  | 8344 Carol Kapuschinsky—Hazle Twp., PA       |
| 8344 Beatrice M. Coyne—Carnegie, PA         | 8344 Ernest F. Gash—Doylestown, PA          | 8304 Devona J. Karber—Simi Valley, CA        |
| 8344 Shawn L. Cronkhite—Clairton, PA        | 8344 Huston Gauden—Brownsville, PA          | 8335 Nicholas Kavcsak—Phillipsburg, NJ       |
| 8354 Basil C. Culyba—Fairfax Sta., VA       | 8344 Peter Gazdik—Houston, TX               | 8344 John P. Kelly—Greensburg, PA            |
| 8313 Arnold Daley—Oglesby, IL               | 8344 Barbara Geeting—Bellefonte, PA         | 8358 Lois J. Kennedy—Oak Creek, WI           |
| 8349 Patricia A. Daly—Pasadena, TX          | 8341 Maryann Glovinsky—Marblehead, OH       | 8344 Thomas M. Kluck—Hazle Twp., PA          |
| 8344 Robert L. Dandar—N. Versailles, PA     | 8344 Joseph H. Graham—Lehighton, PA         | 8358 Lou Ann Kluever—Fredonia, WI            |
| 8344 Teresa Danko—Audubon, PA               | 8306 Lester Graham—East Hartford, CT        | 8341 Marsha Knauss—Euclid, OH                |
| 8313 Jerome DeBeir—St. Charles, IL          | 8344 Jane B. Grimm—Beaver, PA               | 8344 Theresa Konecny—Peckville, PA           |
| 8310 Kathleen A. Debranski—Woodstock, GA    | 8344 John N. Groves—Baltimore, MD           | 8315 John Konicki—Knox, IN                   |
| 8344 Ronald L. Destefani—Lederach, PA       | 8344 Carl Haines—Bobtown, PA                | 8315 Mary Ann Kopil—Valparaiso, IN           |
| 8354 Margaret Dewey—Midlothian, VA          | 8344 Shirley D. Hammel—Valencia, PA         | 8341 Bernadette Kovach—Dublin, OH            |
| 8313 Joan Dietmann—Orland Park, IL          | 8344 Sylvia Hanna—Pittsburgh, PA            | 8341 Elaine Koval—Willowick, OH              |
| 8344 Barbara J. Dietrich—Hamburg, PA        |   | 8326 Beverly A. Kovalcik—Rochester Hills, MI |

8344 Mary Kovalsky—Fayette City, PA	8310 Barbara Pelosi—Kennesaw, GA	8344 Rosalie Smith—Hastings, PA
8326 Alice Kubek—Hastings, MI	8341 Evelyn R. Pence—Euclid, OH	8326 Wesley D. Snider—Brutus, MI
8344 Dolores A. Kurtanich— Sharpsville, PA	8326 Penny Pepera—Manistee, MI	8344 Carl E. Snyder—Reading, PA
8344 John W. Lanctot—Darlington, PA	8344 Andrew Petro—Pittsburgh, PA	8313 Vincent H. Sommer—Orland Park, IL
8344 Arthur G. Lazar—Lyndora, PA	8344 Alice Phillis—Monaca, PA	8327 Dallas Sponberg—Minneapolis, MN
8304 Janet Leeder—San Diego, CA	8326 Debra Pickutoski—Roseville, MI	8344 Melvin Stanko—Slickville, PA
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8344 Nancy J. Lenz—Ebensburg, PA	8306 Frances Poppa—Bridgeport, CT	8344 Patricia Stewart—Beaver, PA
8344 Leslie J. Lewis—Sheffield, PA	8359 Carolle Price—Hope Mills, NC	8313 Daniel Stiegel—Chicago, IL
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8344 Kevin Lippold—Pittsburgh, PA	8344 Allen E. Prugh—Shelocta, PA	8327 Melva J. Stokes—Lake Crystal, MN
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8313 Lorraine A. Lundberg—Chicago, IL	8344 Leah Reinmiller—Landisville, PA	8304 Ruth E. Sunday—La Mesa, CA
8344 Robert Maha—West Mifflin, PA	8344 Irene Resetar—Monessen, PA	8344 Edward R. Sweeney—Blairsville, PA
8359 Polly Mangum—China Grove, NC	8304 Thomas D. Reynolds— Rancho Mission Viejo, CA	8344 Josephine Sychak—Butler, PA
8326 Kenneth D. Marchione—Roseville, MI	8344 Sandra J. Richter—Orwigsburg, PA	8344 Peter Tay—Pittsburgh, PA
8344 Charity A. Mariotti—Butler, PA	8344 Vincent D. Ritzert—Butler, PA	8344 Wayne R. Tepke—Gibsonia, PA
8325 Nancy Marttila—Boston, MA	8359 James P. Robertson— Greensboro, NC	8358 Marieane Thiessenhusen— Elm Grove, WI
8344 Linda McElfresh—North Apollo, PA	8306 Donald E. Russell—Thomaston, CT	8326 Stephen E. Turchanik— Houghton Lake, MI
8344 Sandra L. McIlwain—Indiana, PA	8344 Mary Salamon—Moon Twp., PA	8349 Joseph Turek—Rowlett, TX
8344 Janet McKibben—Pittsburgh, PA	8344 Antima Sanchez—Spring Valley, NY	8344 Anthony A. Vallentini— Walnutport, PA
8341 Victor Mender—Steubenville, OH	8344 George G. Saunders—Monaca, PA	8344 John J. Vogel—Zelienople, PA
8358 Charlotte Millard—Delavan, WI	8326 Gerald N. Schmidt—East Jordan, MI	8344 Marie Wagner—Bloomsburg, PA
8306 Evelyn Miller—Milford, CT	8344 Robert Schneider—Homestead, PA	8359 Esther L. Waller—Lawndale, NC
8341 James Miller—Hubbard, OH	8326 Roy Schubert—Roseville, MI	8352 Marc W. Walt—Redlands, CA
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8341 Karen Ann Muransky— Youngstown, OH	8344 Mayme F. Shultz—Apollo, PA	8333 William Yedinak—Reno, NV
8344 Karen Nemyo—Thornhurst, PA	8344 Rita Shuster—Baden, PA	
8326 George Nice—Kalkaska, MI	8359 David Sippel—Fayetteville, NC	
8344 Ann Ochkie—Pittsburgh, PA	8358 Anna Skibicky—Sun Prairie, WI	
8318 Elmer Papp—Shawnee, KS	8344 Charles W. Smith—Beaver Falls, PA	
8344 Evelyn Pasternak—White Oak, PA	8344 Eleanor Smith—Latrobe, PA	
8344 Natalie Pavlovich—Pittsburgh, PA		



How is your crystal ball working these days?



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