

GCU

MAGAZINE



Helping Hands at Mt. Saint Macrina



Northeast Ohio Constellation
Lake County Captains Baseball Game



Byzantine Family Day at Kennywood Park



Kids Day Pirate Game



Scranton/Wilkes-Barre Constellation
Thank You Social for Vets



Byzantine Family Day at
Knoebels Park



Nicholas running
the bases



Helping Hands at Holy Annunciation
Monastery



Laurel Highlands Constellation
Altoona Curve Baseball Game



Holupki Open Golf Outing

Helping Hands Day
Page 8 & 9

90th Annual Pilgrimage
Page 15

Byzantine Family Days
Page 41



Big Blue Devil Golf Classic for
the Richard P. Notari Scholarship Fund

Inside This Issue

Volume 132 | Issue 4 | August 2024

- 1 President/CEO Report**
- 2 New GCU COO Announced**
- 3 Product Knowledge**
- 3 Board Election Results**
- 4 CFO/2nd Quarter Financial Report**
- 6 Spiritual**
- 7 Estate Planning**
- 8 Helping Hands Day**
- 10 The Goodness of Community**
- 12 GoGive! / Our Members**
- 15 90th Annual Pilgrimage**
- 16 Corp. Community Event Coordinators**
- 18 Constellations**
- 21 Parish Matching Funds**
- 30 GCU Supported Parish Events**
- 40 Announcements**
- 41 Byzantine Family Days**
- 42 Sports**
- 44 Deceased Members**

Board of Directors

Fr. Valerian M. Michlik
Spiritual Advisor

Gregory N. Vladika
Chairman of the Board

George Kofel
Vice-Chairman &
Secretary to the Board

George W. Batyko

Melanie Basl

Lisa Gulibon

Michael W. Karaffa

David A. Oleksa

John W. Oslick

Maria Silvestri

John J. Urban

George N. Juba,
Editor

Basil M. Wahal,
Managing Editor

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

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

Postmaster

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

**Tuesday, September 24, 2024 is the copy
deadline for the October GCU
Magazine.**

Email copy to: bwahal@GCUusa.com or

Mail to: GCU Communications Dept.

Attn: GCU Magazine
5400 Tuscarawas Road
Beaver, PA 15009

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

Phone:

1-724-495-3400

1-800-722-4428

FAX: 1-724-495-3421

info@GCUusa.com

www.GCUusa.com



George N. Juba
President
CEO

Summers Past & Present

Summer is a time of the year that creates so many memories that can never be changed or discarded. As I stated in my past articles, my brother and I were very fortunate to be born into a very loving and caring family, not only our parents but our grandparents, aunts, uncles and cousins. No matter what challenges we are faced with, nothing can erase the memories created over the course of our lives.

The GCU was always a part of our family's summer activities as GCU's District 5 (Scranton, PA Area) Sokol Day held at Wimmers Grove was an event I always looked forward to as a youngster. "Sokol Day" featured a blend of traditional Eastern European foods, polka music and dance, providing members with a taste of their Rusyn heritage. Members of the various Lodges located within District 5 would be preparing food for weeks. Activities for all ages, such as softball games, horseshoes, egg & balloon throwing contests and bingo along with other children's activities ensured that everyone had a good time. Adult beverages were also served. I always looked forward to the birch beer on tap. We as a family attended the annual District 5 Golf Outing and also traveled to District 7's (New York/New Jersey Area) Golf Outings. Many times the GCU's National Golf Tournament was our family vacation. These events served as a reunion for many families—offering a chance to reconnect with old friends and make new ones. This communal atmosphere fostered a strong sense of belonging and pride in our shared cultural heritage. Unfortunately, GCU District 5's Sokol Day is long gone, but the memories created will last forever!

As the "GCU's Good Old Days" may never return, the various social, fundraising and volunteer events that are



planned throughout the various GCU Constellations continue. The GCU's new Fraternal Metamorphosis Program was the start of a new beginning focusing on attracting more members to participate in the events planned, not only within our Byzantine Parish Churches, but throughout the various communities our members reside in. The GCU has a long and proud history of promoting community, culture and mutual support among its members. Through its fraternal social events, GCU has successfully maintained a vibrant community spirit while honoring its rich heritage. These gatherings not only offer fun and fellowship but also reinforce the bonds that unite members across generations, ensuring that the values and traditions of GCU continue to thrive. We invite you to participate in the many volunteer, fundraising and social events planned in 2024. Please visit the GCU's website – www.GCUusa.com – and "click" on events to view the various activities scheduled. We invite you to also check out the August 2024 issue of the GCU's bi-monthly magazine as the fraternal section provides photos and activities held throughout the various Constellations. I recently attended our annual GCU and Byzantine Catholic Churches Day held at Kennywood Amusement Park located in the West Mifflin, PA area as a great time was had by all!

We welcome our newly appointed Chief Operations Officer Jeremy Stephenson to the GCU's Executive Staff. Over the course of his career, Jeremy has held numerous positions within the insurance services industry during the last twenty years. We look forward to his expertise and contributions towards GCU's continued success. I invite you to review the Board of Directors' announcement of Mr. Stephenson's hiring and his bio presented on page 2.

The 2024 election of the GCU's Board of Directors concluded on July 31, 2024 at 11:59 PM. All GCU adult benefit (insured members) members had the privilege to vote for candidates that will lead our Society over the next four years. The results of the election are presented on page 3. My personal congratulations to the candidates that have been elected. I look forward to working with the Board as we continue to **"Forge the Future of the GCU"** together! A special welcome to Ron Bednar as a newly elected non-incumbent Board Member.

CONTINUED



GCU CEO George Juba & Logan Valvano at Byzantine Family Day at Kennywood Park.

The GCU's 2024 Second 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 \$53 million totaling \$2.758 billion. Surplus declined by \$4.4 million primarily due to an asset valuation reserve adjustment of \$7.3 million as this required reserve provides capital for unexpected credit losses. A net income loss of \$1.2 million was also experienced due to the current high in-

terest 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!

The GCU's Fixed Rate Deferred, Fixed Indexed Annuity and Life Insurance Products are the "best in the business"! We invite you to share your GCU financial and fraternal experience with your families, friends and business associates—they too can reap the financial and fraternal benefits offered by GCU!

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

GOODNESS IS GREAT!

George

WELCOME NEW COO



Jeremy Stephenson
GCU COO

Jeremy Stephenson Named GCU COO

Jeremy Stephenson has joined the GCU Executive team as the Chief Operations Officer. He assumed the role in June 2024. Jeremy will oversee life insurance and annuity operations, driving efficiency, scalability and profitability. Jeremy leads strategic planning, operational management and team development efforts.

Before joining GCU, Jeremy accumulated over 20 years of experience in the insurance industry. He held key roles at companies such as Midland National Life Insurance (AKA Sammons Financial Group) and ING. His responsi-

bilities included overseeing various operational functions such as call centers, IT, mail rooms, back-office processing and business development.

Jeremy earned his MBA in Organizational Leadership from Excelsior University and holds multiple industry licenses—including his state insurance license, four securities licenses with FINRA and five designations from the Life Office Management Association (LOMA).

Recently relocating from Des Moines, IA, Jeremy now resides near the GCU Home Office in Beaver, PA.



Jeff Long
Sales Director

When Was the Last Time You Updated Your GCU Life Insurance Beneficiaries?

Life insurance helps protect your loved ones financially if something happens to you. A well thought out life insurance plan has helped many people in times of need, but it's essential to keep your beneficiaries up to date.

Here's why:

Reflecting Life Changes. Life events like marriage, divorce, having a child, or losing a loved one can change who you want to receive your life insurance benefits. Updating your beneficiaries ensures the right people are taken care of.

Avoiding Legal Issues. If your beneficiaries are outdated, it can cause legal problems and delays. For example, if a named beneficiary has passed away, it could complicate the payout process. Regular updates help avoid these issues.

Fair Distribution. As your family changes, so might your ideas about who should receive your benefits. By updating your beneficiaries, you make sure your life insurance proceeds go where you intend.

Meeting Financial Needs. The financial needs of your beneficiaries may change over time. Keeping your beneficiaries current ensures your life insurance supports those who need it most.

Protecting Your Estate. If your beneficiaries are not up to date, your life insurance proceeds might go to your estate and be subject to probate. This can delay the payout and might lead to extra taxes. Updating beneficiaries helps avoid this.

Conclusion. Regularly updating your life insurance beneficiaries is essential. It keeps your policy in line with your current wishes and helps avoid legal and financial complications. Review and update your beneficiaries, especially after major life changes, to ensure your loved ones are properly protected. Reach out to the GCU Call Center (855.306.0607)—they will be glad to assist you with updating your current life coverage or to open a new policy.

GCU 2024 Board of Directors Election Results

Broadridge
51 Mercedes Way
Edgewood, NY 11717



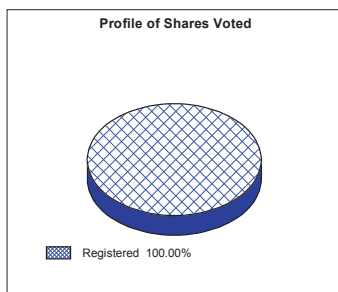
GCU

OFFICIAL FINAL RESULTS: 07/08/2024

AS REQUESTED, WE HAVE TABULATED THE VOTES CAST FOR THE ABOVE MEETING. THE RESULTS OF THIS TABULATION ARE AS FOLLOWS:

Voting Results as of: 07/08/2024

Voting Power:	Total:
TOTAL OUTSTANDING:	46,964
TOTAL SHARES VOTED:	5,878
% OF VOTED:	12.51%



IN ACCORDANCE WITH OUR CUSTOMARY PROCEDURES, WE HAVE EXAMINED THE PROXIES RECEIVED, BUT DO NOT GUARANTEE THE GENUINENESS OF THE SIGNATURES THEREOF, OR ASSUME ANY RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE LEGALITY OF ANY PROXY.

SINCERELY,

ANTHONY LAPOMA
DIRECTOR
VOTING SERVICES

MC9624-001-20240708-051042-0001



Tim Demetres
Chief Financial Officer

Second Quarter 2024 Financials

As seasons change so do the ebbs and flows of our economic environment. In the past two years, we experienced record high inflation, sharp increases in interest rates, and volatile global tension. That said, the U.S. economy has been stubbornly resilient. We come to expect change as inevitable. It appears we are on the cusp of another change. Consensus opinion points to the Fed lowering interest rates as soon as September. For retirees and investors alike, it may be time to speak with your advisor and lock these higher rates with GCU. Our primary goal is to maintain financial strength in changing rate environments. Our members trust GCU to “*do-the-right-thing*,” knowing their investments in annuity and life products will remain safe and secure for the long term.

The financial results for the six months ended June 30, 2024, as compared to the prior period in 2023 are as follows:

GCU’s total assets increased \$46.7 million to \$2.75 billion and surplus decreased slightly to \$216.9 million as of June 30, 2024. Total adjusted capital increased to \$252.2 million at June 30, 2024.

Income (loss) before net realized capital gains (losses) totaled (\$1.7) million for the six months ended June 30, 2024 compared to \$3.1 million reported in 2023. The net gain from operations was lower in 2024 primarily due to

increased crediting rates on annuity products. Net income (loss) after realized capital gains (losses) was (\$1.2) million in 2024 compared to \$2.7 million in 2023. We had \$403 thousand in net realized gains in 2024.

Total Assets increased from year-end through reinvestment of investment earnings into bonds and alternative assets. The market value of derivative assets increased due to the growth in value of the indices underlying our fixed index annuities.

Liabilities totaling \$2.53 billion on June 30, 2024, increased relative to new life and annuity premiums, net of outflows for surrender activity. The \$51.1 million increase in total liabilities primarily represents a \$43.1 million increase in life and annuity reserves, a \$7.3 million increase in Asset Valuation Reserve (AVR), reduced by \$765 thousand change in the interest maintenance reserve (IMR).

Total Income was \$230.8 million in the first half of 2024, a decrease of \$13.7 million compared to \$244.5 million in 2023. Annuity premium and exchanges decreased \$14 million from the prior year. Net investment income increased \$1.1 million to \$59.8 million.

Operating expenses, before the change in reserves, totaled \$190.0 million versus \$192.0 million in 2023, a decrease of \$2.0 million. Annuity surrenders and death claims decreased \$9.4 million in 2024 to \$131.8 million in paid benefits. We were successful in limiting the growth in general expenses which were \$0.5 million lower in 2024 when compared to 2023.

The change in reserves totaled \$42.8 million in 2024 compared to \$49.2 million in 2023. Reserve changes are a function of premiums received, death claims, annuity

Summary of Financial Statistics

(000's omitted)	6/30/2024	6/30/2023	Change
Total Income	\$230,781	\$244,500	\$(13,719)
Total Expenses	232,283	241,212	(8,930)
Inc. Bef. Real. Gains (Losses)	(1,650)	3,137	(4,787)
Net Income (Loss)	(1,247)	2,674	(3,921)
Balance Sheet Summary	6/30/2024	12/31/2023	Change
Assets	\$2,751,387	\$2,704,690	\$46,697
Surplus (Net Worth)	216,877	221,307	(4,430)
Asset Valuation Reserve	35,172	27,891	7,281
Interest Maintenance Reserve	14,369	15,869	(1,500)
Total Adjusted Capital (TAC)	252,204	249,353	2,851
Solv. Ratio by Total Adj. Capital	110.1	110.2	(0.1)
Financial Strength Rating - KBRA	A-	A-	
Financial Strength Rating - AM Best	A-	A-	

Change in Surplus

(000's omitted)	
Beginning Surplus - Beginning	\$221,307
Net Income	(1,247)
Change in Unrealized Gain/(Loss)	4,923
GCU Holding Company & Other	(744)
Change in Pension Asset/Liability	—
Changes in Non-Admitted Assets	(80)
Changes in Asset Valuation Reserve	(7,281)
Net Change in Surplus	(4,430)
Ending Surplus - Current Period	\$216,877

benefits paid and interest accumulation.

Surplus on June 30, 2024 decreased \$4.4 million to \$216.9 million versus \$221.3 million at year-end. The changes in surplus reflect the increase in unrealized gains offset by the net loss additional funding to the AVR.

Total Adjusted Capital (TAC), a risk metric used by regulators and rating agencies, increased \$2.9 million to \$252.2 million as of June 30, 2024, from \$249.4 million at December 31, 2023. TAC starts with surplus of \$216.9 million and

adds back the asset valuation reserve of \$35.2 million and one-half the dividend liability of \$155,000. The solvency ratios based on TAC was 110.1% on June 30, 2024 and 110.2% at December 31, 2023. GCU strives to maintain stability of financial strength in high interest rate environments.

Beautiful summer days will soon give way to vibrant autumn color. Enjoy the seasonal change and best wishes to all! Tim

GCU INCOME STATEMENT

Six Months 2024 vs. 2023

INCOME (000's omitted)	6/30/2024	6/30/2023	Change
Life Premium	\$ 4,763	\$ 4,939	\$ (176)
Annuity Premium	124,542	146,685	(22,142)
Annuity Exchanges	40,459	32,570	7,889
Accident & Health	189	206	(17)
Subtotal	169,954	184,400	(14,446)
Net Investment Income	59,781	58,687	1,094
Amort. of Int. Maint. Resrv.	734	805	(71)
Commissions-Reinsurance	121	232	(110)
Other	191	375	(184)
Total income	\$230,782	\$244,500	\$(13,717)

EXPENSES

Death Benefits - Life Ins.	\$ 2,087	\$ 2,396	\$ (310)
Annuity Benefits Paid	131,754	141,125	(9,371)
Annuity Benefits Exchanges	40,459	32,570	7,889
Life Insurance Surrenders	341	543	(203)
Accident/Health Benefits Paid	175	198	(23)
Commissions	8,654	8,652	2
General Operating Exp.	5,504	5,916	(412)
Ins., Taxes, Bank & Audit Fees	206	339	(133)
Pension Expense	170	109	61
Int. on Contract & Dep. Accts.	176	178	(2)
Subtotal	189,525	192,026	(2,501)
Changes to Reserves	42,759	49,186	(6,427)
Total Expenses	\$232,284	\$241,212	\$(8,929)
Net Gain/Loss Bef. Refunds	(1,502)	3,287	(4,789)
Refunds to Members	148	150	(2)
Net Gain/Loss after Refunds	(1,650)	3,137	(4,787)
Net Realized Gains/(Losses)	403	(463)	866
Net Income	\$ (1,247)	\$ 2,674	\$(3,921)

BALANCE SHEETS

June 30, 2024 vs. December 31, 2023

ASSETS (000's omitted)	6/30/2024	12/31/2023	Change
Bonds	\$ 2,541,113	\$2,499,632	\$ 41,481
Preferred Stocks	16,771	17,144	(373)
Common Stocks	27,268	27,935	(667)
Alternative investments	73,254	68,213	5,041
Cash//Short Term Investments	35,456	38,457	(3,001)
Mortgages	2,826	2,509	317
Certificate Loans	700	671	29
Derivatives	7,498	3,337	4,161
Real Estate	15,660	15,858	(198)
Inv. Income Due & Accrued	29,365	29,716	(351)
Other	1,476	1,218	258

Total Assets **\$2,751,387** **\$2,704,690** **\$46,697**

Total Change Year to Year **1.7%**

LIABILITIES

Life Reserve Fund	\$ 98,218	\$ 94,568	\$ 3,650
Annuity Reserve Fund	2,374,532	2,335,053	39,479
Accident Health Resrv. Fund	134	126	8
Employee Pension Fund	6,898	6,880	18
Adv. Prem. & Fut. Rfnd. Resrvs.	352	350	2
Pending Investment Trade	1,622	559	1,063
Accounts Payable	1,120	1,267	(147)
Refund Accum. and Other	2,092	1,554	538
Asset Valuation Resrv. - AVR	35,172	27,891	7,281
Interest Maint. Reserve - IMR	14,369	15,134	(765)

Total Liabilities **\$2,534,510** **\$2,483,383** **\$ 51,127**

Surplus Fund 216,877 221,307 (4,430)

Total Liabilities & Surplus **\$2,751,387** **\$2,704,690** **\$46,697**

Solvency Ratio **110.1%** **110.2%** **-0.1%**

*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

This Little Light Of Mine I'm Gonna Let It Shine

Growing up we never went on a family vacation. Once school was over, you played at home, helped around the house, sometimes we did a road trip to visit family, friends and occasionally we would end up swimming at Hickory Run State Park. When I lived in the “old country-stary kraj,” we would play in the woods, swim in the river or ride our bikes to the Domaša Lake. These are the memories I have from my childhood.

There is one memory however that I share from both continents: catching fireflies in our back yard. This was always an evening activity that I enjoyed with my friends, and there are several lessons we can learn from enjoying this summer activity.

In Slovakia fireflies or lightening bugs are called “Svätojánske mušky” which basically means “St. John’s flies.” You might be asking why do they call them St. John’s flies? Keep in mind that back in the day, our faithful living in what we call the “old country-stary kraj,” lived out their faith on a daily basis. The day began and ended with the church bell ringing in the villages. The Divine Liturgy, Sacraments and Sacramentals-Blessings were celebrated. As part of observing the Liturgical year, the fields were blessed, honey, fruit, flowers/herbs were also blessed. This was the “ethos” of our people, keeping in mind “Bez Boha, ne do poroha - Without God, you can’t even get as far as the threshold.” So naming fireflies after a saint would almost be expected, since these amazing flying, light-producing insects emerge around the Nativity of St. John the Baptist celebrated on June 24th.

Fireflies are a hallmark of the summer and the twinkling flashes of light add a touch of magic to our evenings throughout the U.S. They LIGHT UP the darkness around us.

Friends, we need only read the news to see evidence that darkness has been increasing all around us. In Pittsburgh it seems like daily we witness domestic violence, gun violence and drug overdose deaths—political violence is increasing as well.

In the midst of all this and so much more, the world is in need of light. As we look into the history of the GCU it is quite evident that this organization provided so much “light” to our people facing hardships and trials in life. What about you and me in this 21st century. Can we be a LIGHT? The answer is absolutely.

In Matthew 5: 14-16 our Lord says: “You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lamp stand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.”

Based upon those verses our Lord gives us a solution to today’s world’s darkness: you and me, our families, our parish communities, our holy church and the GCU. Even with the overwhelming darkness surrounding us (as often it seems) we are called daily to be the light that shines for others, to help people see God and find love, peace, hope and happiness in the midst of hopelessness.

As a parent I recall our daughters coming home from school one day singing the song “This Little Light of Mine.” This beloved hymn, written by Harry Dixon Loes in the early 20th century, sings about the light in each individual and how, whether standing up alone or joining together, each little bit of light can break the darkness of this world.

To break the darkness in our world we must first understand and recognize darkness, especially when it tries to sneak into our own hearts. This darkness reveals itself in a life that opposes God; for example, we choose darkness when we choose to be resentful instead of forgiving, or deceitful instead of truthful.

You are called to choose to live a life full of light instead. By embracing light and breaking away from the darkness of this world we restore our joy, trust and ability to love in relationships. The light of Christ relieves anxiety and helps us be at peace.

We need that peace in our world today, we need that

CONTINUED





Atty. John J. Urban

Lessons in the Law

August is “National Make A Will Month”

I just finished reading my AARP Magazine and found out that August is “National Make a Will Month.” For me that triggered an idea for this article and for all of us to answer the following questions. I have read that less than 40% of adults have Wills in place.

Questions to consider:

- Do you have a Will?
- Do you know where the original Will is located?
- When was the last time you reviewed your Will?
- Do you have the correct beneficiaries named in the Will?
- Do you have the correct Executors named in the Will?
- Have your assets changed that could affect your Will?
- Have some of the beneficiaries named in the Will died?
- Did you properly provide for your minor children?
- If you are divorced, did you remove your ex-spouse from the Will?
- Have you reviewed your Will with any of your beneficiaries?
- Have you told your beneficiaries where the Will is located?
- Can your beneficiaries access the area where your Will is located?
- Do you want to name a charitable organization as a beneficiary?

As you can see, there are many questions that need to be answered and reviewed. There is a report that states that 50% of Wills are out-of-date and/or problematic.

I suggest to my clients that they review their Wills and estate planning documents every 5 years or when there is a life-changing event.

Even though August is “National Make a Will Month,” let’s add to that statement “... And the Month to Review and/or Update Your Will.” I have seen many Wills fail because they are out-of-date or just plain wrong. Many people try to write their own Wills and many people fail at this task. Please contact an attorney well versed in this area of the law.

Questions, comments or ideas about future articles contact me at jurban.GCU@GCUusa.com

THIS LITTLE LIGHT OF MINE

peace in our lives, in our families, in our society and in our country. Choosing the light takes courage, but it’s the best decision we can make because it brings that peace!

The founders of the GCU understood the significance of light in their lives. Did they learn this from watching Svätójánske mušky-St. John’s flies? Maybe. You my friend when you see fireflies in your back yard, think about your calling to produce that light, that love, that peace that can break the darkness of the world.

Holy Annunciation Monastery Sugarloaf, PA



Group photo at Helping Hands Day 2024 Sugarloaf, PA.

On Saturday, June 8 the annual Helping Hands Day was held at Holy Annunciation Monastery in Sugarloaf, PA. We had fantastic weather and a nice turnout of volunteers to help with both indoor and outdoor activities. There was something to do for all ages and skill levels. The outdoor volunteers did gardening, clearing of rocks & brush, lawn mowing and weed whipping.

Volunteers that stayed indoors helped create boxes and prepped bakery supplies. GCU National Director George Kofel and GCU Corporate Community Events Coordinator Melissa Jaggars presented a \$500.00 check to Mother Maria for the Holy Annunciation Monastery.

Save The Date! Our next Helping Hands Day is **Saturday, September 28, 2024** and we would love to see both new and familiar faces!



Check presentation to Mother Marija from GCU Director George Kofel and Corporate Community Events Coordinator Melissa Jaggars.



Mt. Saint Macrina

Uniontown, PA



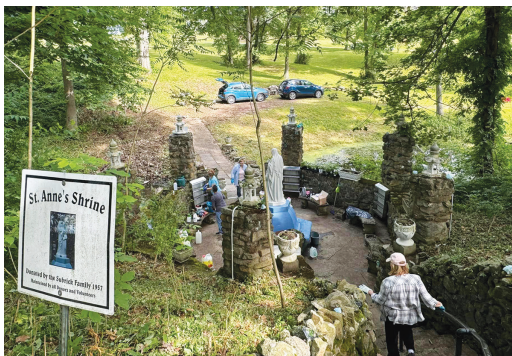
Group photo at Helping Hands Day 2024 in Uniontown.

On Saturday, June 1, 2024 GCU members and in the Southwestern Pennsylvania area, along with parishioners from local Byzantine Catholic churches joined together to assist the Sisters of St. Basil in Uniontown, PA. The volunteers came together for Helping Hands Day at Mt. St. Macrina to beautify the grounds of the monastery.

The day was under the direction of Sr. Joanne Lickvar. There was plenty to accomplish. Some cleared debris that accumulated over the winter. Other volunteers also planted

flowers in their numerous flower beds spread across the property. Trees were pruned and areas prepared for the pilgrims who will attend the annual Pilgrimage over Labor Day weekend.

If you missed the chance to help on June 1, there will be an additional day of preparation for the Pilgrimage on Saturday, August 17, with a rain date of August 24. If you have questions or would like additional information, please email GCU Fraternal-Communications Director Basil Wahal at bwahal@GCUusa.com.





Committee members from left: Domenica Argonish, John M. Argonish, Kamryn Notari, Dr. Rob Notari, Nikole Jeffers and Diane Notari.

Community Matching Funds

DRUMS, PA

The Richard P. Notari Scholarship Fund

The Richard P. Notari Sr. Scholarship Fund recently held its annual fundraiser, the Big Blue Devil Golf Classic, at Blue Ridge Trail

Golf Course. The event funds scholarships for students in the Old Forge School District.

Maria Calogero



Richard Notari Scholarship Tournament check presentation (from left): Very Rev. Eduard Shestak, Diane Notari, Madelyn Lesneski, Joseph Sopp and Gina Keil.

Community Matching Funds

INDIANA, PA



GCU Agent Jody Claypool from Infirst Financial Advisors, LLC presenting a check for \$1,000.00 to Saltsburg Councilman Pete Deforno. Thank you GCU for the Agent Matching Funds from our fundraising efforts to install a new playground for the children in our community!



Karen Pavlick presenting the check to Debbie Vick, mother of Jaime Vick-Moran.

Community Matching Funds

MURRYSVILLE, PA

Jaime Vick-Moran Memorial Fund

Tenth Annual Jaime Vick-Moran Golf Outing

On Saturday, June 8, the 10th Annual Jaime Vick-Moran Golf Outing was held at Rolling Fields Golf Club, and the weather surely cooperated! The event sold out with 37 foursomes (148 golfers) and another 60 people attending and participated in the dinner afterwards. In addition to the 92 raffle baskets available there were various other fundraisers. Attendees could try their luck at Survivor Ball, a 50/50 drawing, Putting Contest, Move It On Up, Beer-a-Mid and Bourbon Pull. Some of the lucky winners even donated part of their proceeds back to Jaime's fund! The event was a huge success and raised over \$40,000.00. The Jaime-Vick Moran Memorial fund was created in Jaime's beautiful memory to honor her courage and bravery in battling leukemia on three separate occasions. The fund's proceeds will be donated to various non-profits, including educational scholarships established in Jaime's memory, Children's Hospital, and Make-a-Wish. GCU Community Matching Funds contributed to help with the success of this wonderful event.

Karen Pavlick



A few of the basket raffle items.

Community Matching Funds

GREATER JOHNSTOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT

Youth Cheerleader Basket Raffle

On June 23, 2024, the Laurel Highlands Constellation hosted a basket party to benefit the Johnstown Trojan Rec. Youth Cheerleaders. Twenty-one girls participated in the event, that was supported by over 200 attendees. There were 118 baskets and 26 large raffle prizes donated by local businesses, family and friends. The event profited over \$5,000.00 and with the additional support of the \$2,000.00 GCU Community Matching Funds Grant over \$7,000.00 was raised. The funds will be used by these young ladies to support their training and competitions for the coming season. Our thanks to the GCU Board of Directors and Home Office for making these funds available.

Georgia Lehman



Georgia Lehman with the cheer team.



The girls help with the baskets.



GCU check presentation to Billy Muchal, president of the Jessup Hose Company #2 by Michaela Mancak. Pictured from left: Jim Anderson Jr., Tony Snyder, Charlotte Perini, Billy, Michaela, Steve & Donna Pitoniak, Gary Pezak, Dominick Perini and Ronald Mancak.



Michael Mancak in charge of running the pizza stand.

Community Matching Funds

JESSUP, PA

32nd Annual Carnival Jessup Hose Co #2

GCU member Michael Mancak took charge of running the pizza stand at Jessup Hose Co. #2's annual carnival from May 22 through May 26. This year pizza was made in-house to help create a bigger profit. The GCU Community Matching Funds program was a Platinum Sponsor for this year's event.

Michaela Mancak

Community Matching Funds

BLUE BELL, PA

Week of Wishes-Twilight Wish Foundation

Our annual event to raise awareness of Twilight Wish Foundation's mission and to raise funds to benefit low-income seniors. The fundraiser also received GCU Agent Matching Funds to assist with the success of the event.

Jonathan Miller | GCU Agent



Jonathan Miller (left) with others at the TWF WOW event.

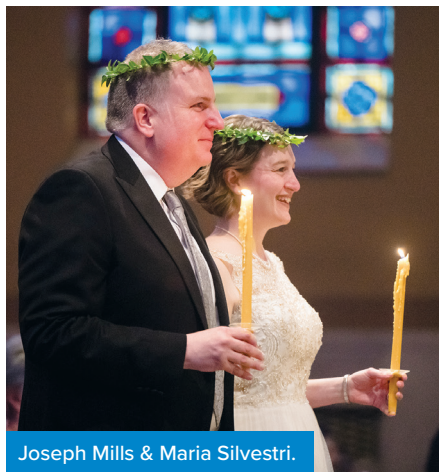
Pittsburgh DeafBlind Lions Club Pasta Dinner

Pittsburgh, PA. A benefit pasta dinner was held on Saturday, May 11 at St. John Baptist Byzantine Catholic Church in Southside-Pittsburgh. All proceeds were donated to local Lions charities which benefit USA and International disasters, hearing and vision needs. Thanks GCU for the GoGive funds which assisted with the supplies for the dinner.

Barbara Rebovich

OUR MEMBERS

Silvestri and Mills Wed on May 25



Congratulations to GCU National Director Maria Silvestri and Joseph Mills who were married on Saturday, May 25, 2024, at St. John Chrysostom Byzantine Catholic Church in Pittsburgh, PA. The wedding was concelebrated by Rev. Miron Kerul-Kmec, Jr. and Rev. Paul Var-chola West.

Joseph Mills & Maria Silvestri.

Christopher Kormanik Graduates With Honors



Christopher Kormanik.

On May 12, 2024, Christopher Kormanik graduated with honors from West Virginia University with a bachelor of science degree in mechanical engineering. During his senior year, he accepted an offer from Valero, Inc. and was assigned to their St. Charles Refinery in New Orleans, LA. Christopher is the son of Richard & Lisa Kormanik of Mason-town, PA and attended St. Mary (Assumption) Byzantine Catholic Church in New Salem, PA. He has also been a faithful volunteer since elementary school at the annual Labor Day Weekend pilgrimage hosted by the Sisters of St. Basil the Great (Mt. St. Macrina Monastery) in Uniontown, PA.

Suzanne Mamay Retires After 32 Years of Teaching



Sister Patricia, mom Marge celebrate with Suzanne.

GCU member Suzanne Mamay retired after 32 years of teaching in the New York City schools. She was very dedicated to her profession and taught kindergarten and pre-K for many years. A retirement party was held on June 20 for her and others that also retired at the end of the school year. Her family, friends and coworkers wish her lots of luck in the future.

Marge Russell



Birthday Wishes to Dorothy Foran

Former GCU National Director Dorothy Foran celebrated her 77th birthday on June 22. A party was held in her honor. Pictured with Dorothy (Dots) is friend and GCU member Sharon Horvath.

John M. Nonnemacher

Ryan Pajer Graduates

A special congratulations to GCU member Ryan Pajer who graduated from Quinnipiac University in Connecticut. The son of Diane & Russell Pajer he majored in Civil Engineering. His family is very proud of all his accomplishments. Best of luck in your future.

Marge Russell



Above: grandmother Marge Pajer Russell, Ryan Pajer and father Russ Pajer.

At left: grandmother Marge Russell, dad Russ, sister Ashley, Ryan, mom Diane, Joanne Jesberger and godfather Ronald Jesberger.



Joseph & Marion Bodnar.

Bodnar's Celebrate 65 Years of Marriage

Mr. & Mrs. Joseph D. Bodnar recently celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary. They were married on June 20, 1959. Mr. Bodnar was a longtime president of former Lodge 33 and auditor for former Lodge 15.

Joseph and Marion are parents to three children; Joseph A. Bodnar, Elizabeth Myatovich and Annemarie Callahan. Four grandchildren; Dr. Joseph M. Bodnar, P.T., Dr. Ryan A. Bodnar, P.T., Kiera and Dylan Myatovich and a great granddaughter, Sloane.

They are parishioners of The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Byzantine Catholic Church in Trenton, NJ, where Fr. Yuriy Oros is administrator.

Joe Bodnar

Basilian Sisters Celebrate Jubilarians

Uniontown, PA. This year, the Sisters of St. Basil had a signature celebration on Pentecost Sunday, May 19 joyfully commemorating the 75th Jubilee of Sister Theodosia Alishofski, Sister Theresa Bavol and Sister Petronilla Puhak.

Like many who came before them, Sister Theodosia, Sister Theresa, and Sister Petronilla served as teachers in parish schools for most of their lives in the community.

Sister Theodosia Alishofski, OSBM

Sister Theodosia came to the community from St. Mary BCC in Freeland, PA. For over 50 years, she was a teacher and principal in many schools staffed by the Sisters of St. Basil. Because of her many years in ministry, many of those to whom she ministered continue to keep in touch with her. She responds faithfully to those who do.

A talented artist, Sister Theodosia studied iconography, and several of the icons she has written adorn the monastery chapel and corridors.

Sister Theodosia most recently served in parish ministry in Wilkes-Barre, PA and surrounding parishes. While visiting the sick was the primary focus of this ministry, Sister was also involved in catechetical education in the parish.

Sister Theresa Bavol, OSBM

Sister Theresa entered the community from St. Mary BCC in Trenton, NJ. She also was in the teaching ministry in the parish schools of the Metropolia for over fifty years—mostly teaching primary and lower elementary grades. She also served in parish ministry in her home parish of St. Mary and at St. Therese in St. Petersburg, FL. Sister Theresa also brought her artistic talents to bear in teaching art to her students in Florida. Her unique gifts are always in demand for community celebrations.

Upon arrival at the Monastery, Sr. Theresa quickly used her talents and presence to serve the residents of Mount Macrina Manor through pastoral ministry.

Sister Petronilla Puhak, OSBM

Sister Petronilla entered the community from St. John BCC in Hazleton, PA. Like those of her group, she was also engaged in the teaching ministry for almost 50 years. Sister Petronilla was especially gifted in teaching in the

primary grades. This age group was the focus of her ministry for most of her teaching experience.

After retiring from teaching, Sister offered her time and energy to those at the opposite end of the age spectrum, the infirm and elderly at Mt. Macrina Manor. In the pastoral ministry department, her thoughtfulness and gentle spirit brought light and joy to those she served.

Each of the Sisters has brought a diversity of gifts and talents to the Province and enriched it in her own unique way. May God grant each of them many more spiritually fruitful years in His service. Metropolitan Archbishop William Skurla celebrated the Divine Liturgy and joined the community at a festive dinner. Provincial Sister Susan Sisko congratulated and thanked the Sisters for their many years of service and dedication.

Susan McCarthy



Pictured with Sr. Susan Sisko and Metropolitan Archbishop William C. Skurla are Sr. Petronilla, Sr. Theresa and +Sr. Theodosia.



Sisters of St. Basil to Celebrate 90th Annual Pilgrimage



In Honor of Our Lady of Perpetual Help

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Friday, August 30

6:30 PM Compline & Blessing of Water at Lourdes Grotto

Saturday, August 31

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

OPENING OF PILGRIMAGE

9 AM Groundbreaking Ceremony for the new Monastery Building

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

10:15 AM Divine Liturgy—Welcome Sister Susan Sisko, OSBM

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

1 PM Akathist at Shrine Altar

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

3 PM Teen Pilgrimage at Prayer Garden

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

7 PM Procession from House of Prayer to Cemetery Parastas/
Procession to Shrine Altar/Akathist, Teen Social

Sunday, September 1

7 AM Divine Liturgy House of Prayer Chapel

7:30 AM Matins at Shrine Altar

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

9 AM Divine Liturgy (Slavonic) at Shrine Altar

11 AM Divine Liturgy for Vocations Shrine Altar

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

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

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

2 PM Mystery of Anointing at Shrine Altar

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

4 PM Divine Liturgy at Shrine Altar—Words of Gratitude: Sister Susan Sisko, O.S.B.M.

7 PM Candlelight Procession (beginning and ending at the House of Prayer)

CLOSING OF THE PILGRIMAGE

Following the Candlelight Procession: **Teen Social** at Prayer Garden Area, **Young Adult Gathering** at Lourdes Tent

Monday, September 2

9:30 AM Divine Liturgy at Shrine Altar

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

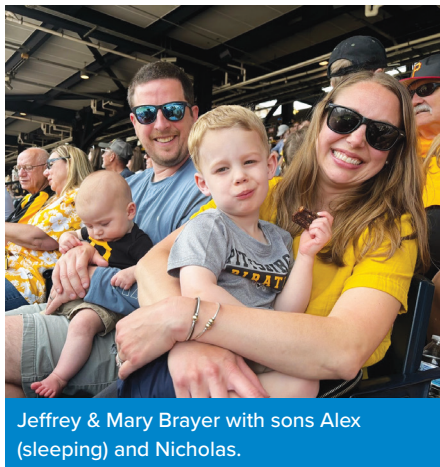
www.sistersofstbasil.org

Follow us on Facebook for updates.

Corporate Community Events Coordinators



Casey Bush
Corporate Community
Events Coordinator
Western PA



Jeffrey & Mary Brayer with sons Alex (sleeping) and Nicholas.



Rita & Larry Spontak enjoying the ball game.

Kids' Day Pirate Game. On Sunday, June 9, GCU members and guests traveled to PNC Park in Pittsburgh, PA to see the Pirates take on the Minnesota Twins. It was kids' day so the kids were able to run the bases after the game like the big league players.

Byzantine Family Day at Kennywood Park. Thursday, July 25, was a beautiful day for the 102nd Annual Byzantine Family Day at Kennywood Park in West Mifflin, PA. We had a wonderful day at the park. The weather was perfect! All of our members had a great day visiting, riding and enjoying the park food! More Kennywood photos appear on page 41.



Volunteers from the Home Office pose for a picture before the days festivities.



Upcoming Events

**Pittsburgh Pirate Game
Firework Extravaganza Night**
Saturday, August 24 6:40 PM
Pirates vs Reds (Section 125)
PNC Park, Pittsburgh, PA

Charity Golf Scramble
Monday, September 23
Seven Oaks Country Club, Beaver, PA

"Daniel" Sight & Sound Theatre Bus Trip
Saturday, November 9
(Lancaster) Ronks, PA
Bus pick up at Home Office, Beaver, PA

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

*Dates and times are subject to change.
Visit GCUusa.com for more information
on these events*

*or contact Casey Bush at
cbush@GCUusa.com or call 724-683-3927.*

Blood Drive. Monday, July 29, GCU Members and Home Office Staff did their part in donating blood to the American Red Cross. We had a great turnout of members all coming together for a wonderful cause. Thank you to everyone who came out to donate!



New GCU COO Jeremy Stephenson did his part at the blood drive.



Melissa Jaggars

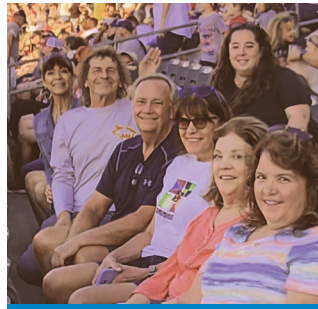
Corporate Community
Events Coordinator

Eastern PA,
NY, NJ, MD, MA, CT, DE, VA, NC, SC, GA, FL



Faith & Family Night Baseball Game.

Friday, June 7 was Faith & Family Night at Coca-Cola Park in Allentown, PA! The weather was perfect for a ballgame with fireworks after the game. The Iron Pigs lost to the Buffalo Bisons, but fans still had a great time enjoying the game and atmosphere.



GCU fans enjoying the game.

Helping Hands Day. On Saturday, June 8 the annual Helping Hands Day was held at Holy Annunciation Monastery in Sugarloaf. You can see a complete story and photos on page 8. Save The Date! Our next Helping Hands Day is **Saturday, September 28, 2024.**



Lunch at Byzantine Family Day at Knoebels.



Byzantine Family Day at Knoebels Park.

On Sunday, June 9, 2024 we celebrated another Byzantine Family Day at Knoebels Park. The weather was fantastic and it was great to gather with GCU friends before everyone went out to enjoy the park.

Thank you Father Paul Varchola West for leading us in the Divine Liturgy at Knoebels to kick off Byzantine Family Day. Father Paul Varchola West, Prof. Joseph Ferencick – director of music and Pan'i Alissa West – cantor, all made the long trip from Our Lady of Perpetual Help in Levittown, PA.

Everyone enjoyed the catered BBQ lunch before we announced Knoebels Park ticket booklet raffle winners. Thank you to all who supported the 50/50 raffle to benefit Holy Annunciation Monastery in Sugarloaf. Over \$180.⁰⁰ was raised! More Knoebels photos appear on page 41.



Upcoming Events

Sight & Sound Trips: "Daniel"

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

Bus Pickups

Saturday, August 24
(Lancaster) Ronks, PA

Golf Outing

End of Summer Golf Tournament

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

Overnight Travel Trips

20th 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

GCU Community Volunteer Weekend

Saturday, September 14
Sunday, September 15

Tickets to ALL events must be purchased in advance.

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



Volunteers at the Holupki Open.

Annual Joseph Durkay Memorial Holupki Open Golf Outing.

Golfers came out ready to bring their A game for the 45th Annual Joseph Durkay Memorial Holupki Open Golf Outing on July 13, 2024. A complete story and photos appear on page 42.

Constellations

UPCOMING BEAVER CONSTELLATION EVENT

Annual Golf Outing

Sunday, September 29, 2024

Shotgun Start 12:30 PM

4 Person Scramble Format

\$75 GCU 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.

Beaver Constellation

Seneca Niagara Trip

Our first overnight trip to Seneca Niagara Casino was a huge success! We won't say who won and who went home with lighter wallets, but we will say everyone had a great time. Accommodations were outstanding and the company couldn't have been more congenial. In addition to the casino, several guests took time to visit Niagara Falls State Park. Karen and Sarah Pavlick brought their passports and walked over the Rainbow Bridge and spent a few hours in Canada. We plan a second trip to Seneca Niagara in 2025. Stay tuned for details and sign up early!

Elizabeth Harbist | Beaver Constellation Coordinator



Members and guests who went to Seneca Niagara.

Illinois Constellation

Joliet Slammers Baseball Game

The Illinois Constellation held its summer social event at the Joliet Slammers Baseball Game on Saturday June 6, 2024. The weather was perfect, the Slammers.... not so much, with at 5 to 2 loss against the Lake Erie Crushers of Avon, OH. All attending had a great time as the view was perfect off Home Plate and the mascots came to visit us.

Lawrence Lattuca | Illinois Constellation Coordinator



Group picture: front & center - Guest Dave Kaluf. Back from left: Tom Schuyler, Susan & Paul Kamzic, Cindy Prah, Michael Callahan, Gary, Clara, Kurt & Sharon Dorencz, Paul Kaderabek, Karen, Ken, Kelli & Karly Krown and Luke Peddemos.

At left: The Dorencz Family (from left): Kurt (grandson), Sharon (grandma), Clara (granddaughter) and Gary (grandfather).



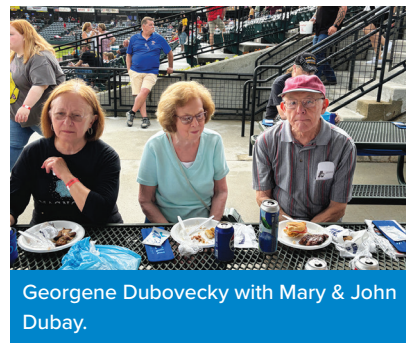
Laurel Highlands Constellation

Altoona Curve Baseball Game

On Saturday, June 29, 2024, 30 GCU members and guests attended the Altoona Curve Baseball Game. The event included admission to the game and a two-hour buffet of various picnic foods. Each guest was given a can koozie and sunscreen that we didn't need to use because of the

cloudy conditions. Even though the clouds looked threatening, we did not have any rain during the event. Thanks to the Home Office for the giveaways.

Georgia Lehman | Laurel Highlands Constellation Coordinator



UPCOMING LAUREL HIGHLANDS CONSTELLATION EVENT

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 9

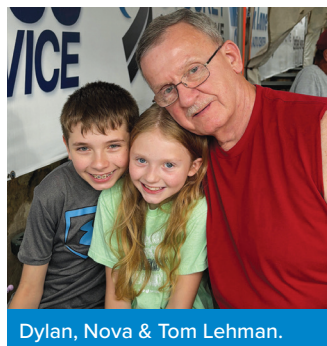
Only 33 seats available

Sight & Sound Theatre, (Lancaster) Ronks, PA

Contact: Georgia Lehman at 814-242-2083 or email her at gjlehman56@gmail.com for additional information for the event listed.



Dylan & Chris Lehman.



Dylan, Nova & Tom Lehman.

Northeast Ohio Constellation

Lake County Captains Baseball Game

A great time was had at GCU Day at the Lake County Captains baseball game on Sunday, July 14! The Captains, a Single-A minor league affiliate of the Cleveland Guardians, played the Lansing Lugnuts at their home field in Eastlake, OH. Children got to have a pre-game catch on the field and run the bases after the game. It was a hot and muggy day, but nothing a little ice cream couldn't fix!

Dean Scouloukas | Northeast Ohio Constellation Coordinator



Charlotte and Teddy Ammon.



William V, William IV, Declynn & Leslie Tierney, mascot Horatio and Shannon Valenti with her sons Gabriel & Dominic.



Dominic & Gabriel Scouloukas with mascot Skipper.



Mascot Skipper and Charlotte Ammon.

UPCOMING PHILADELPHIA CONSTELLATION EVENT

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



Scranton/Wilkes-Barre Constellation

Coffee Social to Thank Our Vets

GCU sponsored a coffee social to honor and thank veterans who live at the VA Hospital in Wilkes-Barre, PA. Residents enjoyed playing chess, chatting and enjoying the treats that GCU sponsored. There was even a new resident who enjoyed attending to meet his new peers. It was a wonderful

breakfast social to recognize some true heroes.

Laure Marcin | Scranton/
Wilkes-Barre Constellation
Coordinator



Parish Matching Funds

St. George Byzantine Catholic Church

ALIQUIPPA, PA

Flea Market

St. George Byzantine Catholic church held their annual flea market, bake sale and haluski sale on Friday & Saturday, June 20 - 21. Joann Hersh led the flea market, Isabelle Maruhnich and Judy Dzumba the bake sale and Kathy Kapaldo the haluski sale. The event was a success thanks to everyone's donations, the community members attending to buy all the treasures & food and the GCU for the Parish Matching Funds.

Kathy Kapaldo | Byzantine Parish Coordinator



Ss. Peter & Paul Byzantine Catholic Church

PATTON, PA

Easter Nut Roll Sale

Parish family members and friends were led by Fr. Roman Andriitso in the making of 425 nut rolls and 88 poppyseed rolls. Baking took place on March 19 and 20, and customer pick up was on March 21. The parish holds sales annually on the Thursdays before Holy Week and Thanksgiving every year. The bi-annual event is the primary fundraiser to support the parish's projects. Thanks to the GCU Parish Matching Funds Grant for the additional funding.

Brian Soyka | Byzantine Parish Coordinator



St. Joseph Byzantine Catholic Church

BRECKSVILLE, OH



GCU Matching Funds check presentation by Parish Coordinator Nancy Fredrick to Men's Club President John Foreman. The \$3,000.00 check was a result of the Men's Club Reverse Raffle that was held in April.

St. Mary Byzantine Catholic Church HERMINIE, PA

Summer Kickoff on Main Street

On Saturday, June 1, the town of Herminie held its Summer Kickoff Fair on Main Street. St. Mary BC Church had a food booth selling pirohi, haluski, gibanica and baked goods. Sale proceeds were eligible for GCU Parish Matching Funds.

Michael Pochan | Byzantine Parish Coordinator



Volunteers at the event.



Shown are some of the goodies for sale.



Shrine of Mariapoch

EUCLID, OH

Miracle of Mariapoch Gala 2024

The annual fundraiser to keep the Shrine of Mariapoch open was held on Saturday, May 25. This year we

had a special Vision 2024 campaign to raise money for a new building. Thanks to the GCU for the additional funds through the Parish Matching Funds program.

Deacon Gregory Loya | Byzantine Parish Coordinator



St. Michael Byzantine Catholic Church

HERMITAGE, PA

Lenten Ethnic Food & Bake Sale

Several different groups of parishioners prepared dozens of pierogies; quarts of halushki and a variety of baked goods for the Annual Lenten Ethnic Food & Bake Sale.

Orders were taken weeks before the sale which was held on Wednesday, March 6, 2024 at the St. Michael Social Center. Hundreds of community members came out to purchase the ethnic items. The sale income was boosted by the GCU Parish Matching Funds program.

William D. Dzurisko | Byzantine Parish Coordinator



GCU Matching Funds check presentation. In addition to the six altar servers, (from left): Alyssa Vasil, Joan Walker, Lucy Mallick, Deacon candidate Randy Tomko, Very Rev. Fr. Kevin Marks and Parish Coordinator Bill Dzurisko.

Photo taken by Michael J. Vasil





Parish Coordinator Janet Kumpon presents check to Very Rev. Steven Galuschik.

Holy Spirit Byzantine Catholic Church

BINGHAMTON, NY

Check Presentation

On Sunday, June 9th, Parish Coordinator Janet Kumpon presented a GCU Parish Matching Funds check to Very Reverend Steven Galuschik of Holy Spirit Byzantine Catholic Church, for the Paska Baking & Sales fundraising event held in March 2024.

We are thankful to all the volunteers who worked very hard to make this event a success and to GCU for their financial support.

Janet Kumpon | Byzantine Parish Coordinator



St. Michael Byzantine Catholic Church

CANONSBURG, PA

Spring, Easter & Mothers' Day Nut Roll Project

The St. Michael Parish Nut Roll Baking Team faithfully baked and sold nut rolls every Monday from January 15 through May 13. Under the supervision of Judy Shuba, the team met the demand for Easter and Mothers' Day as well as the usual flow of sales. The dedicated team of parishioners and friends of the parish baked and sold 1,070 nut rolls to benefit the parish.

With deep gratitude, Very Rev. Joseph Raptosh and members of the baking team thank the GCU for its ongoing support and generous donation through the GCU Matching Funds Program.



Constance Beatty | Byzantine Parish Coordinator



From left baking team members: Derek Hoover, Anna Mae Jennings, Team Supervisor Judy Shuba, Parish Coordinator Constance Beatty, Deacon Lance Weakland, Very Rev. Joseph Raptosh, Kathy & John Weakland.

St. Andrew the Apostle Byzantine Catholic Church

GIBSONIA, PA

Lenten Pirohi Project

The annual Lenten Pirohi fundraiser was held at St. Andrew Church with pirohi available for sale to parishioners during Lent. This project included potato/cheese, sauerkraut, cottage cheese and lekvar. In addition to regular sales through parishioners, pirohi were also sold at St. John the Baptist Church in Lyndora during the

last Lenten Sunday evening Vesper service. Some of the proceeds from the pirohi projects in 2024 and beginning of 2025 will be used for the parish's 50th Anniversary Celebration in August 2025.

Cathy Hruska | Byzantine Parish Coordinator



Check presentation to Fr. Radko Blichar.



The many dedicated volunteers who made the Lenten pirohi project a success.



Ss. Peter and Paul Byzantine Catholic Church

MINERSVILLE, PA

SS. PETER AND PAUL BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH
107 South Fourth Street, Minersville, PA 17954

Roast Beef Dinner

Meal Includes:
Roast Beef, Rosemary Roasted Potatoes, Green Beans, Roll & Butter and Chocolate Mousse

*** Made With Our Original Recipes ***

— SUNDAY, JUNE 9, 2024 —
10:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. (Church Basement Entrance)

TAKE-OUT OR LIMITED EAT-IN
(Church Dining Hall)

— Donation: \$14.00 —

ORDERS/RESERVATIONS REQUESTED BY TUESDAY, JUNE 4:
Dolores • 570-544-5398

Roast Beef Dinner

Parishioners prepared 139 take-out roast beef dinners for fellow parishioners and guests on Sunday, June 9. Volunteers also delivered 15 complimentary meals to the shut-ins of both SSPP and sister parish, St. Mary in St. Clair, PA visiting both area nursing facilities and residents' homes. The sale benefited from GCU Parish Matching Funds.

Dolores Kramer | Byzantine Parish Coordinator

Ss. Peter and Paul Byzantine Catholic Church

TARENTUM, PA

Check Presentation

Thank you very much for your generosity through the GCU Byzantine Parish Coordinator program. It has been of great help to Ss. Peter & Paul Parish. Shown accepting the GCU Matching Funds check from the nut roll sale is Fr. Vasyl Polyak from Parish Coordinator Elaine Ruminski.



Elaine Ruminski | Byzantine Parish Coordinator

St. Nicholas Byzantine Catholic Church

NANTY GLO, PA

Parish Flea Market

St. Nicholas Church held its annual Flea Market on April 26 & 27 and May 3 & 4. A final sale took place on June 8 and was labeled a \$5 bag sale, whatever you could cram into a standard grocery bag was yours for \$5. The remaining items were donated to the St. Vincent de Paul Thrift Store in Johnstown, PA.

Andrea Sheesley | Byzantine Parish Coordinator



A few of the Flea Market items.



Pirohi making.

St. Mary Byzantine Catholic Church

SCRANTON, PA

Fundraising Events

Two fundraising events took place to benefit St. Mary Parish. Pirohi making for upcoming fundraising event and the annual Rib BBQ took place on Sunday, June 6. Both efforts qualified for GCU Parish Matching Funds.

Barbara Shimkus | Byzantine Parish Coordinator



Annual Rib BBQ.



Check presentation to Father Daddona. From left: Marge Russell, Cathy Walsh, Rosemary Manno, Tony Messino and Fr. Daddona.

Fourth of July Celebration

On June 30 Saint Andrew Church celebrated the Fourth of July by having a luncheon at the church. Patriotic decorations were placed

St. Andrew Byzantine Catholic Church

WESTBURY, NY



Celebrating the Fourth of July at Saint Andrew Church.



in the church hall by Cathy Walsh. Beautiful raffle baskets were made by Rosemarie Manno. Tony Messino prepared a delicious lunch. Chairpersons Marge Russell and Cathy Walsh made it a great patriotic day. Fr. Daddona was very happy

and proud that the event raised over \$2,500.00 for the church. Thank you GCU for the additional income through the Parish Matching Funds program.

Margaret Russell | Byzantine Parish Coordinator

Ss. Peter & Paul Byzantine Catholic Church

BRADDOCK, PA

Annual Feast Day Picnic

Ss. Peter and Paul Church held its Annual Feast Day picnic on a sweltering Sunday, June 30. Despite the intense heat, the event was a wonderful gathering



Feast Day picnic.

attended by parishioners, family and friends. A special thank you to Fr. Ron Barusefski for leading a beautiful Liturgy. Though our church isn't air-

conditioned, we all managed to get through it, proving that our faith and fellowship can weather any heatwave! The picnic was a delightful celebration of our community, filled with good food, laughter and cherished moments. We look forward to many more gatherings in the future.



Fr. Vitalii accepts a check from long-time GCU member Rich Trankocy.

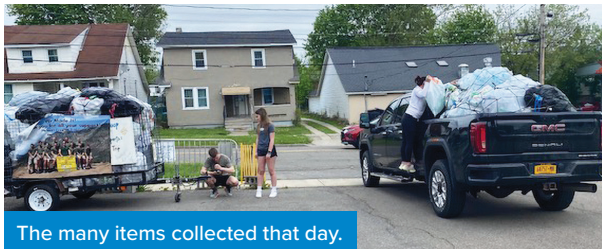
Photo taken by PC Arleen Jama



Red, White & Blue Fundraiser

The Red, White & Blue Money for You Lottery Ticket was drawn on July 4, 2024. The winner received \$3,000.00 and \$2,000.00 benefited Ss. Peter & Paul Church, which will aid in much-needed repairs around the church. Thanks to all who participated in this fundraiser and our heartfelt thanks to the GCU for their continued support, which we greatly appreciate.

Arleen Jama | Byzantine Parish Coordinator



The many items collected that day.

Can & Bottle Drive

Ss. Peter and Paul Byzantine Catholic Church Can & Bottle Drive has grown into a never-wavering commitment to get the job done. May 4, 2024, marked the first fundraiser of the year, and it was a big success!

An opportunity for neighbors and the community to stop, chat and share some laughs when dropping off their returnable cans and bottles. Volunteers worked very hard, at times under their umbrellas, to make the day rewarding.

Thank you to the GCU for the Parish Matching Funds and to everyone who brought cans, bottles and donations. We are very grateful... especially to ALL who helped set up, clean up and coordinate the event and those who volunteer every time we have a fundraiser, no matter what the weather, we are truly appreciative. We cannot do this without you. We are extremely thankful.

A GCU Matching Funds check was

Ss. Peter and Paul Byzantine Catholic Church

ENDICOTT, NY

presented to Very Rev. Steven Galuschik on June 30. Pictured below from left: Joanne Dudinyak, Luann Staniulis, Parish Coordinator Daria Shierly, Very Rev. Steven Galuschik, Audrey Karl Kalb, Anne Marie Zevan, Mary Ann Goida and Vicky & George Dennis.

Daria Shierly | Byzantine Parish Coordinator



Olga Demoski & Mary Ann Smilnak.



Check presentation.

St. Anne Byzantine Catholic Church CLYMER, PA

Meatball Fundraiser

St. Anne's Byzantine Beauties worked hard in the kitchen



Volunteers making meatballs.

preparing 123 dozen meatballs for their fundraising events on May 29th and June 17th. This sale is a favorite with the parishioners and community alike.



Looking for new treasures.

Yard Sale

St. Anne Church participated in the Clymer community yard sale days on July 11th through the 13th. Gently used household items, food, baskets and baked goods were sold. Both of these events were eligible for GCU Parish Matching Funds which the parish is truly grateful for.

Janet Petro | Byzantine Parish Coordinator



Parish Coordinator Dorothy Mayernik presenting Fr. Val Michlik with the GCU Matching Funds check.

St. Gregory Byzantine Catholic Church UPPER ST. CLAIR, PA

ECF BBQ Dinner Fundraiser

On Sunday, June 2, the ECF BBQ Dinner offered 4 plate options, beverages and dessert for dine in or take out. Tickets had to be purchased in advance. All funds raised will be used for ECF summer activities. GCU Parish Matching Funds were added to the profit.

Dorothy Mayernik | Byzantine Parish Coordinator



Customers Dianne DuBrosky and Barbara Stasiuk with kitchen help Makayla Boes, Sophia Bartz, Lindsay Krofcheck, Stephanie Boes.



Customer Dawn Mostowy with kitchen help Sophia Bartz, Fiona (friend of Julia Rusinko), Lindsay Krofcheck, Tom Prokop and Stephanie Boes.



Dishing out the BBQ is Tom Prokop and Ava Cerny.

St. Athanasius Byzantine Catholic Church

INDIANAPOLIS, IN

Carmel Farmers Market and Market Wagon

St. Athanasius fundraising consists of selling ethnic foods year-round at a local farmers market on Saturdays and an online site known as Market Wagon.



Volunteers at the local Farmers Market.

Traditional foods such as pierogi, kolache and potica are among the foods made in

the parish kitchen by volunteers for sale. The monies raised contribute significantly to the operation of the parish. Thanks GCU for the Parish Matching Funds program which adds to the success of these sales.

Olga Vaughn | Byzantine Parish Coordinator



Parish coordinator and baking volunteer Olga Vaughn, head of kitchen and business manager John Danovich, Fr. Mykhaylo Shkyndya and parishioner volunteer Belinda Dorney.

St. Nicholas Byzantine Catholic Church

CLINTON TWP., MI

Lenten Fish Fry

A Fish Fry was prepared and held each Friday during Lent at St. Nicholas Church. Proceeds and Parish Matching Funds from the GCU will go towards future church activities and expenses.

John P. Minarish | Byzantine Parish Coordinator

Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary

FLUSHING, NY

Sviachenne

For the past 65 years, Annunciation church has celebrated the glorious Easter season with an annual Sviachenne, a church family dinner. We also use the event to raise funds for the parish which were once again matched by the GCU Non-Byzantine Parish Matching Funds program. Thank you GCU for your continued support to all churches.

Christine Hulak



Fr. Zbigniew blesses the food and congregation.



Jim Kachelries.

Our Lady of Lourdes Roman Catholic Church

EAST PALESTINE, OH

Eat Out and Give Back Fundraiser

The Original Roadhouse in East Palestine offered the church a day of eating out as a parish fundraiser on Thursday, July 18. The owner Jim Kachelries, gave 20% of each total diners' check back to the church. It was well received and the waitresses at the Roadhouse were happy with the large crowd of customers that day. The church received \$450.00 from the day's proceeds. We thank Jim for his generosity as well as the GCU for their Non-Byzantine Parish Matching Funds program.

Chris Chamberlain



Chris Chamberlain presents check to OLOL Pastor Fr. Chad Johnson.

GCU Supported Parish Events

St. Joseph Byzantine Catholic Church BRECKSVILLE, OH



A Memorial Day celebration was held on Sunday, May 26 at St. Joseph Church—lunch was included. All enjoyed the fellowship. Thanks to the GCU Parish Social Grant for assisting with the event.
Nancy Fredrick | Byzantine Parish Coordinator

Our Lady of Perpetual Help (OLPH) Byzantine Catholic Church VIRGINIA BEACH, VA

Independence Day Picnic

OLPH celebrated Independence Day with a picnic on the church grounds. In addition to 50 parishioners, another dozen neighbors who we had invited to “come and see” joined the celebration. We were both cool indoors and outside under a beautiful sky. Everyone had a wonderful time thanks to the GCU Parish Social Grant program.

Joseph Bernard | Byzantine Parish Coordinator

St. John Chrysostom Byzantine Catholic Church COLUMBUS, OH

Mother's Day Blessing and Social

During Liturgy on Mother's Day, May 12, moms of St. John Chrysostom Church were honored with a special blessing, social and gift from the parish.



Mother's Day Blessing.



Parish Picnic.

Parish Picnic

On May 19, St. John Chrysostom Church celebrated Pentecost with a parish picnic. Delicious food and fun games for children and adults were enjoyed by all. Thanks to the GCU Parish Social Program for supporting these events.

Kathy Krofcheck | Byzantine Parish Coordinator



The youth served the mothers.

Mother's Day Celebration

On Sunday, May 12, a delicious breakfast was enjoyed by all parishioners on Mother's Day. All mothers received a special gift of flower seeds. The event was funded with the GCU Parish Social Grant.

St. Emilian Byzantine Catholic Church

BRUNSWICK, OH

Father's Day Breakfast

Parishioners of St. Emilian enjoyed a delicious breakfast to celebrate Father's Day on June 16 thanks to the GCU Parish Social Grant. The parish guests then relaxed after a hearty meal with a root beer float to celebrate the special day.

Natalie Washlock | Byzantine Parish Coordinator



Servers sporting their Father's Day mustaches.

St. John Byzantine Catholic Church

HAZLETON, PA

After Stations Social

Weekly Stations of the Cross were held at different parishes in the surrounding area during the Lenten Season. St. John parish hosted a social gathering afterwards.



Fr. Eugene Hradil welcomes Bishop Kurt Burnett.

Parish Anniversary Liturgy

The 131st anniversary of the parish's founding and 50th anniversary of church at its current location were celebrated on Sunday, July 7. Liturgy was celebrated by Bishop Kurt Burnett. Cupcakes were passed out to all in attendance at Liturgy, before proceeding to a banquet. Both of these events benefited from the GCU Parish Social Grant.

Judy Betterly | Byzantine Parish Coordinator

Patronage Mother of God Byzantine Catholic Church

BALTIMORE, MD

Mother's Day Celebration

On Sunday, May 12, Patronage Church celebrated Mother's Day with a special commemoration at Divine Liturgy for living and deceased mothers and afterward enjoyed decorated cakes provided by the GCU in the social hall. Mothers also received a gift bag with some treats. Patronage parish truly appreciated the support of the GCU's Parish Social Program for this special day! Fr. Vasyi Symyon is parish administrator.

Dennis Kotula | Byzantine Parish Coordinator



Mother's Day celebration.

Holy Spirit & Ss. Peter & Paul Byzantine Catholic Churches

BINGHAMTON & ENDICOTT, NY

God Bless Father John Cigan

On Sunday, May 12, 2024, parishioners of Ss. Peter and Paul Church and Holy Spirit Church were proud and excited to attend the 50th Anniversary of Ordination to the Priesthood and Retirement of Reverend John J. Cigan.

The event began with a Divine Liturgy of Thanksgiving celebrated by Bishop Kurt Burnette followed by cocktails and dinner.

Throughout his 50 years, Father John led the parishes and communities he served with an example of God's love, respect, dedication and inspiration.

On behalf of our parishes, we extend a heartfelt THANK YOU to Father Cigan for spending more than

twenty years of his ministry with us. He shared many important memories with us – baptisms, marriages, caring for sick family members and funeral services.

We will keep him in our prayers and wish him countless blessings of the Lord through the intercession of the Mother of God and all the Angels and Saints for many healthy and happy years.

Thank you to GCU Social Grant program for helping us with the cost of the bus to Holy Ghost Byzantine



Front: Jackie Cipar and Anne Marie Zevan. Back: Mary Ann Goida, Luanne Staniulis and Audrey Karl-Kalb.



Rev. John J. Cigan's Divine Liturgy.



Front: Dorothy Sedlack and Dorothy Bakalar. Back: Janet Kumpon, Rev. John J. Cigan and Sarah Kumpon.

Catholic Church, Jessup, PA. We are thankful for your dedication and for the level of support, you continue to show all your members.



The group of members and friends at Turning Stone.

Turning Stone One Day Getaway

It's a world of excitement for everyone at Turning Stone Casino in Verona, NY. Providing a variety of activities, delicious food options, shopping, golf and much more. Parishioners, family and friends from both churches enjoyed a fun-filled day on Wednesday, June 19.

The beautiful, hot and sunny day began with a prayer for protection on our journey, offered by Very Rev. Steven Galuschik before the bus left the Holy Spirit parking lot. Father Steven happily greeted passengers and wished everyone safe travels and a joyful trip before departure.

With over 2,000 slot machines, table games, poker, keno and more, casino-goers were eager and ready to claim their reward packages as soon as the bus pulled in. Bingo, food, free play and people-watching were only some of the highlights.

Thank you to everyone who joined the Turning Stone trip. It was a fantastic and unforgettable day from start to finish, complete with sunshine, laughter, smiles and so much more!

Sincere thanks to GCU for assisting NY, the Southern Tier area with this event. We appreciate the support you continue to generously provide.

Happy Feast Day

The parishes of Holy Spirit Church and Ss. Peter and Paul Church united to celebrate their annual Feast Days on June 30. The day began with Liturgy, celebrated by Very Rev. Steven Galuschik, followed by brunch in the Holy Spirit Parish Center.

On this festive day, dessert was provided by Ss. Peter and Paul Church through the generosity of GCU's Social Event Program. May the Holy Spirit continue to guide & strengthen us as we pray for strength, courage and hope in the examples of Ss. Peter and Paul.

We are thankful to everyone in attendance at the Feast Day Brunch, and to GCU for the funds they provide with the Parish Social Grant program.

Daria Shierly | Byzantine Parish Coordinator



Feast day gathering.

St. Mary Holy Protection Byzantine Catholic Church

MORGANTOWN, WV

Summer Picnic

The first parish picnic of Summer 2004 was held on Sunday, June 23. The GCU Parish Social Grant helped pay for grilled items, drinks and picnic ware. Parishioners supplied the side dishes. The weather was not too hot and good fellowship was enjoyed by all.

Robert Johnson | Byzantine Parish Coordinator

St. Pius X Byzantine Catholic Church

PITTSBURGH, PA

Kick-Off to Saturday Liturgy Summer Social

During the summer months, Liturgy is moved to Saturday evenings at St. Pius X Church. On Saturday, June 1, a social was held after



Summer Social honoring Brent Kolesar at left.

Liturgy that recognized graduating high school senior Brent Kolesar. The parish and the GCU wish the best for Brent in the next chapter of his life.

Kim Kolesar | Byzantine Parish Coordinator



Father Tim Kennedy.

Ascension Byzantine Catholic Church

CLAIRTON, PA

Father's Day

Ascension Parish celebrated Father's Day on June 16 with carnations for all of the dads attending Liturgy that day. After Liturgy, Father Ivan Mina recognized the fathers who were present and those deceased with a special blessing. Thanks to the GCU Parish Social Grant for assisting with funding.

Trish Roberts | Byzantine Parish Coordinator



Father's Day Celebration.

Holy Ghost Byzantine Catholic Church

JESSUP, PA

Welcome Fr. Tim Kennedy

Holy Ghost parish welcomed Father Tim Kennedy and Pani Angie to his first Liturgy on Saturday, Father's Day, June 15, 2024. Father Tim was ordained in May and this will be his first assignment.

Michaela Mancak | Byzantine Parish Coordinator

St. Terese Byzantine Catholic Church

ST. PETERSBURG, FL



After Liturgy Coffee Social

Parish members from left: Millie Cole, Judy Sedlak, Father Michael O'Brien at our recent coffee social funded by the GCU Parish Social Grant.

Allan Hunt | Byzantine Parish Coordinator

Ss. Peter and Paul Byzantine Catholic Church PUNXSUTAWNEY, PA

June Social Donut Sunday

On Sunday, June 2, parish members enjoy donuts after the Divine Liturgy. A donut social takes place the first Sunday of every month. Great conversation and lots of laughs are always enjoyed. Thank you GCU Parish Social Grant for making the events possible.

Julie Brocious | Byzantine Parish Coordinator



Parishioners enjoy donuts and socializing.



Honoring Our Flag.



Give-a-way table.

St. Michael Byzantine Catholic Church CAMPBELL, OH

Flag Day

On Sunday, June 23, St. Michael Church held a short ceremony to install the church's new flags, then those in attendance enjoyed an "American" picnic of fried chicken, hot dogs, potato salad and apple pie! Thanks to the GCU Parish Social Grant for the funding for the event.

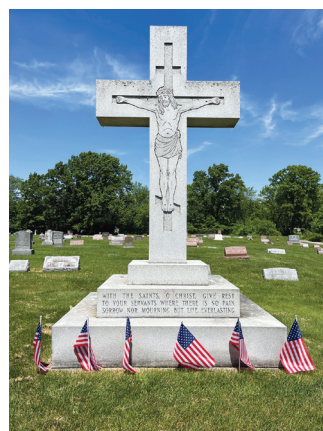
Ed Stanko | Byzantine Parish Coordinator



Patriotic dessert table.



The Flag Day ceremony & picnic were enjoyed by all.



St. Michael Byzantine Catholic Church FLUSHING, MI

Cemetery Decoration

On Thursday, May 23 flags were placed at the cemetery for Memorial Day and Flag Day.

Bishop Robert Pipta Visit

On Saturday, May 18, the parish celebrated Pentecost Liturgy with Bishop Robert Pipta and a parish dinner followed. A beautiful day with our parish family. The GCU Parish Social Grant provided the flags for the cemetery and linens and cake for the dinner.

Pat Chartier | Byzantine Parish Coordinator



Bishop Robert Pipta reading the Gospel.

Holy Trinity Byzantine Catholic Church

CONEMAUGH, PA

July Birthday Coffee Social

On Sunday, July 21, Holy Trinity Parish hosted a coffee social hour for family and friends following Divine Liturgy for individuals who were celebrating a birthday in the Month of July. Attendees were treated to coffee and cupcakes sponsored by the GCU Parish Social Grant program.

Georgia Lehman | Byzantine Parish Coordinator



Father's Day Brunch.

St. Nicholas Byzantine Catholic Church

WHITE PLAINS, NY

Mother's Day Brunch

Mother's Day brunch was co-hosted by the GCU at St. Nicholas of Myra Church in May. Below: (seated from left): Father Ihor's family mother Magdalena, father Ginadi, brother Michael (here from Ukraine), Fr. Ihor, Marija and daughters Margaretta and Anastasia.

Father's Day Luncheon

On Sunday, June 16, St. Nicholas of Myra Church held a Father's Day luncheon sponsored by the GCU Parish Social Grant. Pastor Fr. Ihor extreme left in the top picture with parishioners. Thank you GCU.



Mother's Day Luncheon.

Ann Kachmar | Byzantine Parish Coordinator

St. Gregory Byzantine Catholic Church

UPPER ST. CLAIR, PA

Flag Day Ceremony and Ice Cream Social

At the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy on Sunday, June 9, St. Gregory's faithful offered prayerful supplications for our nation under God as we celebrated Flag Day. Afterwards, the celebration continued with an ice cream social hosted by the parish's

GCU members with funds from the GCU Parish Social Grant. "Make-your-own-sundaes" were enjoyed by all. Thank you GCU!

Dorothy Mayernik | Byzantine Parish Coordinator



Far Left: The ice cream sundae bar-Gretchen Bartz, Amy Sclight, Pat Weber, deRicci Horwatt and Darlene & Greg Fejka. Center: Cecilia Sclight with her ice cream sundae. Above: Ellyse, Cole and Lee Britich give a thumbs up for the sundaes.

Resurrection Byzantine Catholic Church

SMITHTOWN, NY

Commitment Celebration

Resurrection Church held a celebration lunch after Liturgy for religious classes and their teachers to close out the school year.

Thanks to the GCU Parish Social Grant for assisting with funding.

Joanne Marcus |
Byzantine Parish
Coordinator



All enjoyed the pizza.

Ss. Peter & Paul Byzantine Catholic Church

TARENTUM, PA

Donut & Coffee Sundays

Every Sunday from January to May, the parishioners gather after Divine Liturgy in the church hall to have donuts, coffee and enjoy fellowship. The GCU Parish Social Grant has funded this ongoing event and we thank you.

Elaine Ruminski | Byzantine Parish Coordinator



Flag Day participants.

St. John Byzantine Catholic Church

LYNDORA, PA

Flag Day Celebration

St. John BCC annual Flag Day Celebration was held on Sunday, June 9 after the morning Divine Liturgy. Thanks to the GCU Parish Social Grant for helping to fund the post Flag Raising Social.

John Pocchiari | Byzantine Parish Coordinator

St. Nicholas Byzantine Catholic Church

LORAIN, OH

Mother's Day Celebration

On Mother's Day following the Sunday Divine Liturgy, the women of St. Nicholas Parish were honored. Assorted teas, sandwiches, appetizers, scones with jam and pastries were served.

The tables were beautifully decorated and one lucky lady at each table won a potted plant. We are so thankful to our GCU members, Kathy, Kaitlyn, and Megan Knick for organizing the tea and the GCU Home Office for their support through the Parish Social Grant program.

Anne Dillon | Byzantine Parish Coordinator



The ladies enjoying their Mother's Day celebration.



Holy Trinity Byzantine Catholic Church

WALL, PA

Pentecost Dinner

On Saturday, May 18, Holy Trinity Church celebrated Pentecost with a dinner for all members of the parish. Fr. Don Bolls gave the blessing and everyone had time to revisit old memories and blessings that they received this past year. Thanks to the GCU Parish Social Grant for the funding.

Thomas Oslick, Sr. | Byzantine Parish Coordinator



St. Nicholas Byzantine Catholic Church

ROEBLING, NJ

Parish Father's Day Social

A social honoring parish fathers followed the Divine Liturgy on Sunday, June 16. Thanks to the GCU Parish Social Grant for assisting with the event.

Carol Reichmann | Byzantine Parish Coordinator



St. John the Baptist Byzantine Catholic Church UNIONTOWN, PA

Flag Day Ceremony

St. John the Baptist Church held a Flag Day ceremony on Saturday, June 8 after the Divine Liturgy. A special program to honor veterans was also held. All in attendance enjoyed some light refreshments after the program thanks to the GCU Parish Social Grant.

Stephen Petruska Jr. | Byzantine Parish Coordinator



Resurrection Byzantine Catholic Church MONROEVILLE, PA

Father's Day Cook Out

On Sunday, June 16 Resurrection Church held a cookout to honor all the fathers of the parish. Father Don Bolls blessed all fathers at Liturgy and blessed all the food that was prepared for the cookout. A great time was had by all. Thanks to the GCU Parish Social Grant program for funding the event.

Thomas E. Oslick, Sr. | Byzantine Parish Coordinator





St. John Byzantine Catholic Church TRUMBULL, CT

Annual Parish Picnic

St. John Church recently held their annual parish picnic. The weather was great as well as the fellowship. There was plenty of food and games to play.



Children's Summer Camp

A four-day children's summer camp (week of June 24), was also held on St. John's beautiful property. The children enjoyed having fun together and learning about their faith. Both events received funding from the GCU Parish Social Grant Program.

Fr. Gregory Lozinskyy is pastor at St. John Byzantine Catholic Church

Lillian Baron | Byzantine
Parish Coordinator



For Your Information

Events

90th Annual Pilgrimage at Mt. St. Macrina

**Friday, August 30, 2024
through Monday, September 2, 2024**

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

More info & schedule of events appear on page 15.

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 are available on the Events Section of the GCU Website.

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

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

**Saturday, September 28, 2024
8:30 AM Liturgy
9 AM Work Begins**

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

67th Annual St. Nicholas Charity Dinner

Sunday, December 8, 2024

St. John the Baptist Cathedral Center
Munhall, PA

Benefits the Byzantine Catholic Seminary

Available

Carpathian Cookery Cookbook

Having sold nearly 20,500 copies, the cookbook has entered its 22nd printing and was requested by the Library of Congress to be in their ethnic cooking collection. The 330-page cookbook has a new look and features a protective plastic cover. The book includes sections on Christmas and Easter customs and recipes, traditional Rusyn and Slavic foods, other ethnic dishes, and many other tried-and-true recipes of St. John's parishioners. There is a variety of paska bread and kolachi (filled roll) recipes, as well as meatless dishes and Lenten recipes, suitable for the Great Fast, as well as the Pre-Christmas Fast. The cost of the cookbook is \$14.⁰⁰ plus \$6.⁰⁰ postage and handling (\$20.⁰⁰). If ordering from Canada, please send a \$38.⁰⁰ (\$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 Byzantine Catholic Church, 201 E. Main Street, Uniontown, PA 15401, call 724-438-1382 (M–F 9 AM–3 PM please leave a message) or email carpathiancookery@gmail.com.



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.

Byzantine Family Day at Knoebels - Sunday, June 9, 2024



Byzantine Family Day at Kennywood - Thursday, July 25, 2024



Annual Joseph Durkay Memorial Holupki Open Golf Outing



Golfers came out ready with their "A" game for the 45th Annual Joseph Durkay Memorial Holupki Open Golf Outing on Saturday, July 13, 2024. The heat was on! Not only was the day hot, so was the competition—winners were separated by only 1 point for both 1st and 2nd flights.



The volunteers once again did an excellent job. Thank you to Judy Kringer, Ann Marie & Judy Betterly, Roy Paisley and Rick Hoppey for volunteering. We are excited to bring next year's tournament to a new venue, so keep your eyes peeled in future *GCU Magazines* and email blasts for details on the 46th Annual Joseph Durkay Memorial Holupki Open Golf Outing!

Congratulations to all golfers for doing a great job and navigating the heat!

Winners are: Men's Longest Drive: Hole #1 and Hole #9 Andrew Schukraft. Women's Longest Drive: Hole #1 and Hole #9 Ali Stahr. Men's

Closest to the Pin Hole #2 Andrew Schukraft and Hole #5 Ron Navarre. Women's Closest to the Pin Hole #2 Vicky Stahr and Hole #5 Joann Shimanski. Longest Putt Hole #9 Stephen Betterly. Overall: First Flight: Ed Kiel's Team (54) (26 on back), 2nd Thomas Sabol's Team 2 (54) (27 on back). 2nd Flight: Thomas Sabol's Team 1 (65), 2nd Vicky Stahr's Team (66) (32 on back).

Melissa Jaggars | Corporate Events Coordinator





Charity Golf Scramble

Monday, September 23, 2024

9:30 AM Shotgun Start

4-Person Scramble

No handicap required

\$125 per golfer or \$460 per foursome

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

Benefits the Greater Pittsburgh
Community Food Bank

Applications are available at
www.GCUusa.com—pay with a debit or
credit card.

Contact Chris Chamberlain at
724-495-3400 ext. 3810 or
cchamberlain@GCUusa.com.

Steelers Outing
November 17, 2024
1^{PM} Kickoff

Acrisure Stadium
Section 518
Members: \$105 per ticket
Non-Members: \$135 per ticket

More Info-Order Tix

GCU Home Office Hours of Operation

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

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

**The Home Office will be closed Monday, Sep-
tember 2 in observance of Labor Day.**

5400 Tuscarawas Road, Beaver, PA 15009



Deceased Members

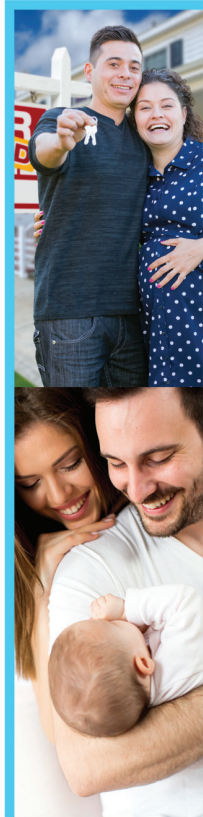
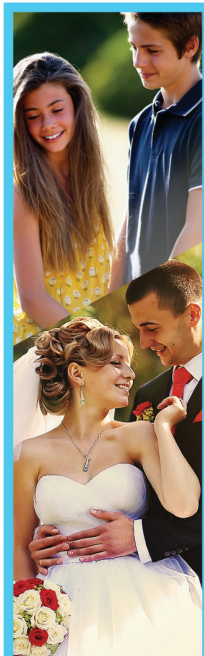
(State Lodge-Member-City-State)

- | | | |
|--|---|--|
| 8304 Dorothy Aitken—Altadena, CA | 8302 David C. DeCelles—Peoria, AZ | 8315 Charles U. Jared—Valparaiso, IN |
| 8344 Ivery L. Anderson—
Burgettstown, PA | 8344 Lawrence Dennis—Smock, PA | 8344 Susan L. Johnsen—Warren, PA |
| 8344 Patrick A. Bachtell—
Hollidaysburg, PA | 8344 Freda Derr—Monroeville, PA | 8344 Della Kamer—Natrona Heights, PA |
| 8349 Jack Bassett Sr.—Hurst, TX | 8358 Susan E. DeVinney—Sun Prairie, WI | 8344 Janice F. Kisak—Pittsburgh, PA |
| 8354 Joseph J. Baysura—Mineral, VA | 8344 Donna M. Dillon—Bethel Park, PA | 8344 Bella J. Klenik—Midway, PA |
| 8344 Thomas Belczyk—Beaver, PA | 8358 John Dudley—Onalaska, WI | 8344 Catherine Kluck—Hazle Twp., PA |
| 8344 Frances J. Berdis—Oakdale, PA | 8315 John Dunda—Chesterton, IN | 8344 Peggy A. Kluge—Oreland, PA |
| 8327 Joseph Berg—Fertile, MN | 8344 Malcolm Dunkel—
Punxsutawney, PA | 8344 Mary Ann Koett—Allentown, PA |
| 8358 Judith Blum-Fortney—Dodgeville, WI | 8344 John W. Egnot—Cresson, PA | 8344 William J. Komorowski—
Pittsburgh, PA |
| 8313 Mary Bodnar—Chicago, IL | 8304 Glenda G. Epperson—
Apple Valley, CA | 8309 Melissa Ann Korba—
Deerfield Beach, FL |
| 8334 Gerald L. Boothby—Dover, NH | 8344 George Evans—Indiana, PA | 8344 Madeline Kosela—Pittsburgh, PA |
| 8327 Kenneth L. Brazil—Faribault, MN | 8359 Janice Evans—Monroe, NC | 8341 Ethel Kostik—East Palestine, OH |
| 8344 Bernard Brendle—Indiana, PA | 8344 Edward R. Eyer—Lock Haven, PA | 8344 Karen Marie Krall—Moon Twp., PA |
| 8344 Marlene G. Brenneman—
Allison Park, PA | 8344 Richard Fedoush—
New Kensington, PA | 8349 John Kuchera—Tyler, TX |
| 8344 Sara Brock—Greensburg, PA | 8315 Esther C. Ferraro—S. Lake Tahoe, CA | 8344 Dorothea A. Landis—Harleysville, PA |
| 8344 Catherine Brosky—Allentown, PA | 8344 Edna Fisher—Indiana, PA | 8327 James E. Larson—Sleepy Eye, MN |
| 8344 Jane F. Bross—Johnstown, PA | 8344 Virginia Fosnaught—New Castle, PA | 8344 Elizabeth L. Lavenberg—
Pottsville, PA |
| 8358 Joann C. Brown—Marshfield, WI | 8358 Ernie F. Furrer—Janesville, WI | 8302 Angela E. Leen—Sun City West, AZ |
| 8337 Lawrence Burda—Sandy Creek, NY | 8304 John Garthner—Salinas, CA | 8344 Michael Maguire—Philadelphia, PA |
| 8344 John Burns—New Salem, PA | 8344 June E. Geary—Pittsburgh, PA | 8344 David S. Magyar—Ebensburg, PA |
| 8313 Lauren S. Caruso—Lansing, IL | 8344 Guy Geschwindt—Port Carbon, PA | 8344 Elizabeth Maher—Warminster, PA |
| 8326 Randall D. Cary—Harrison, MI | 8309 William G. Graham—Montverde, FL | 8358 Harry W. Makoutz—Oostburg, WI |
| 8302 Ralph C. Cassidy—Gilbert, AZ | 8316 Joan M. Halbur—Carroll, IA | 8304 Rudolph Mari—Chino Hills, CA |
| 8344 Ronald Castello—Glenshaw, PA | 8315 George G. Hand—Hammond, IN | 8313 Eliz June Martinkus—Orland Park, IL |
| 8344 Joan Cerula—Hazle Township, PA | 8344 Edward Harbist—Pittsburgh, PA | 8344 Steve Maslek—Freedom, PA |
| 8344 Paul John Chervenak—
West Mifflin, PA | 8344 Ann Havrilcsak—
West Homestead, PA | 8360 Charles R. McClure—Clover, SC |
| 8344 Darien Clark—Beaver Falls, PA | 8344 Robert K. Henry—Slatington, PA | 8304 Russell McCune—
Ranch Cugamonga, CA |
| 8344 Carol A. Clunk—Green Lane, PA | 8304 Amelia Hernandez—
Laguna Woods, CA | 8344 Dorothy Medic—White Oak, PA |
| 8326 John A. Coates—East Jordan, MI | 8358 Roger Hoesly—Monroe, WI | 8344 Joseph E. Michele—
Punxsutawney, PA |
| 8344 Mary Lou Cortese—Sewickley, PA | 8358 Richard Hotchkiss—Stratford, WI | 8344 Rose Mihalow—Patton, PA |
| 8327 Dorene L. Cote—Crookston, MN | 8344 Marian E. Huber—Lansdale, PA | 8324 Robert Miller—Beltsville, MD |
| 8344 Eva Lyn B. Cribbs—Dravosburg, PA | 8359 Sidney E. Hutchins—
Winston Salem, NC | 8344 Loran Moore—Port Townsend, WA |
| 8344 Barry L. Cronauer—Somerset, PA | 8320 Paulette F. Irvan—Almo, KY | 8324 Sandra M. Napier—Catonsville, MD |
| 8341 Donald Danko—Youngstown, OH | 8344 Theresa Iskra—Levittown, PA | 8344 Margaret J. Naughton—
Flourtown, PA |
| 8344 Abraham Davies—Mahanoy City, PA | 8358 Frank Jakel—Sheboygan Falls, WI | 8309 Janet O'Hara—Spring Hill, FL |
| 8344 Marjorie A. Davis—Clairton, PA | | |
| 8344 Maxine A. Davis—Apollo, PA | | |

8344 John A. Orison—Imperial, PA	8309 Margaret Swinick—Weston, FL
8344 Betty Palmer—Derry, PA	8309 William Szymkowiak— Port Orange, FL
8344 James Scott Panchura— W. Elizabeth, PA	8344 Leah Toth—Zelienople, PA
8344 Salvatore Pappalardo— Harrisburg, PA	8337 Donald Turock—Fort Mill, SC
8341 Marie Pavlicko—Struthers, OH	8301 Edward Updegraff—Opp, AL
8344 Dorothy Pelescak— McKees Rocks, PA	8344 Norman L. VanArsdale—Hatfield, PA
8344 John P. Petrizzi—Henryville, PA	8358 Norma F. Viegut—Mosinee, WI
8344 Helen Piggford—Elizabeth, PA	8344 Jacqueline Ward— Lower Gwynedd, PA
8344 Richard L. Pittman—Tarentum, PA	8337 George M. Washington— Olean, NY
8344 Elizabeth A. Pohorilak—Plains, PA	8344 Shirley Wasiakowski—Yardley, PA
8309 Theodore C. Pokabla—Jupiter, FL	8344 Martha L. Wehman— West Pittsburg, PA
8344 Boris L. Popoff—Ringtown, PA	8341 Dolores M. Welch—Salineville, OH
8344 Erma Potchak—Portage, PA	8344 Marcee Winterhalter—Export, PA
8335 Stephen J. Powanda—Colonia, NJ	8344 Frank Wudkwych—Hickory, PA
8344 Sandra C. Prindible—Millvale, PA	8344 Robert A. Yeremsky—Pittston, PA
8344 Gail E. Pugh—Leechburg, PA	8344 Arthur R. York—Souderton, PA
8344 David Raymond—Warren, PA	
8359 Deborah Romines—Wallace, NC	
8344 Margaret Rotunno—Hermitage, PA	
8358 Mark S. Ryser—Eau Claire, WI	
8344 Priscilla H. Rzeplinski— Mahanoy City, PA	
8344 Maria R. Santos—Stroudsburg, PA	
8344 Beverly A. Schatzel—Pittsburgh, PA	
8344 Eileen M. Shomo—Seward, PA	
8344 Nancy Jane Shymoniak— Ambridge, PA	
8302 Sandra Slater—Scottsdale, AZ	
8320 A L. Smith—Owenton, KY	
8344 Clarence Steele—Coraopolis, PA	
8344 Douglas Stefanko—Pittsburgh, PA	
8344 Phyllis L. Steffan—Bethel Park, PA	
8344 Janice Z. Stets—Blairsville, PA	
8344 Stuart Stevens—Sewickley, PA	
8344 James B. Stine— Schuylkill Haven, PA	
8354 Richard M. Svadeba— Williamsburg, VA	



Life changes
in a heartbeat.



You meet your soul mate... start a family... plan your legacy...

GCU Life Insurance will be there to protect them all every heartbeat of their lives.



GCUusa.com

Call for a free quote
1.855.306.0607