

DECEMBER 2025

# GCU

MAGAZINE

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Jeremy Stephenson  
GCU President/CEO

# Looking Back with Gratitude, Looking Ahead with Hope

**A**s we bring another year to a close at GCU, I find myself deeply grateful—for our members, our staff, our agents and our many partners who make this fraternal family what it is.

In 2025 meaningful progress and quiet but important transformation have occurred at GCU. We continued to honor the mission that has guided the organization for generations: protecting families through our portfolio of life insurance and annuity products, while giving back to the communities we serve. At the same time, we have been laying the groundwork for a stronger, more modern organization—one that can serve you and your loved ones even better in the years ahead.

Across the Home Office, our teams have been focused on improving how we do business with you. We've taken important steps to streamline service, enhance our systems and strengthen the support we provide to our agents and members. We've worked hard to make it easier to open & manage policies, answer questions more quickly & accurately and provide clearer communication about the products you trust to protect your financial future.

Behind the scenes, we have also been investing in technology, processes and people—building the foundation for long-term growth and stability. These efforts don't always make headlines, but they matter a great deal. They are what allow us to keep our promises, remain competitive in a changing marketplace and continue to live out our fraternal purpose in practical, sustainable ways.

All of this positions GCU very well for 2026 and beyond.

I am genuinely excited about what lies ahead. In the coming year, we expect to:

- Continue enhancing our member and agent experience through better tools and more efficient service.
- Expand and refine our product offerings to meet the needs of families in all stages of life.
- Deepen our commitment to faith, community, and charitable outreach—the heart of who we are as a fraternal benefit society.

Most importantly, we will keep listening—to our members, our agents and our communities—so that the decisions we make reflect your needs and values.

As we prepare to celebrate Christmas, I'm reminded that our work at GCU is about more than numbers, policies and systems. It's about people. It's about the peace of mind that comes from knowing your family is protected. It's about the joy of helping others and the strength we find in community.

From my family to yours, and on behalf of our Board of Directors & the entire GCU team, I wish you a blessed and peaceful Christmas season. May your homes be filled with faith, hope and love—and may the New Year bring you good health, happiness and renewed confidence in the future.

Thank you for your trust in GCU and for allowing us to walk alongside you and your family. We look forward to serving you in 2026.

**Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!**



## New GCU President Visits Seminary

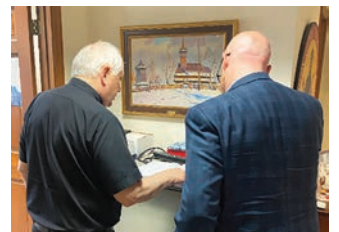
On Wednesday, September 17, GCU's new President/CEO Jeremy Stephenson visited the Byzantine Catholic Seminary of Ss. Cyril and Methodius in Pittsburgh for the first time. After a tour of the Seminary and lunch with the Seminary community, he then met with the members of the Seminary Formation Staff. It was a memorable day for all.



**Very Rev. Ronald Barusefski** | Rector of Byzantine Catholic Seminary of Ss. Cyril and Methodius



Rev. Thomas Bailey, OSB, Director of Human Formation; Ms. Carol Przyborski, Director of Seminary Operations; Dr. Anthony Isacco, Psychological Consultant; Jeremy Stephenson, GCU President/CEO; Very Rev. Ronald Barusefski, Rector; Rev. Christiaan Kappes, Director of Intellectual Formation; Dr. Sandra Collins, Director of Information Services; Sr. Marion Dobos, OSB, Director of Pastoral Formation and Rev. Ivan Chirovsky, Director of Spiritual Formation.



Rector of Byzantine Catholic Seminary Very Rev. Ronald Barusefski, with GCU President/CEO Jeremy Stephenson. GCU Spiritual Advisor Fr. Valerian Michlik, Jeremy, Archbishop William Skurla and Fr. Andrew Deskevich. Archbishop Skurla showing Jeremy some artifacts housed at the Seminary.

## 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 December 24 & 25 in observance of Christmas and December 31 & January 1 in observance of the New Year.**

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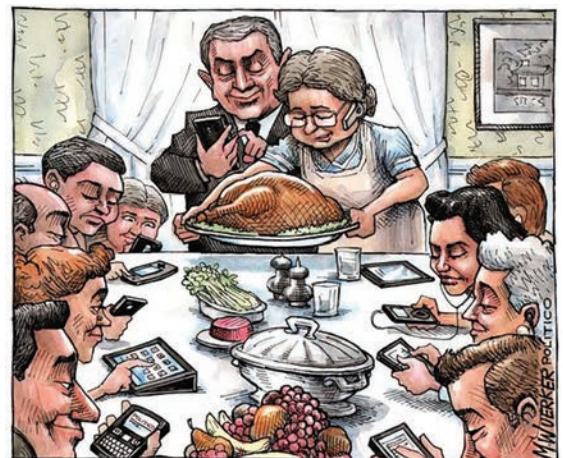


Fr. Valerian M. Michlik

GCU Spiritual Advisor

# Times are Changing

**D**ear Friends,  
Not that long ago I came across a post titled “If Norman Rockwell painted his famous Thanksgiving painting today.” (Thank you, Fr. Mike!) As you can see from the illustration, it shows a family gathered around the Thanksgiving table. Sadly, no one is paying attention to grandma bringing the turkey to the table. Why is that? Everyone is busy with their iPhones or iPads, and even grandma has a Bluetooth device in her ear. I’m sure you agree that this post very much reflects our society today.



As I write this article this year for Christmas 2025, I wish to emphasize the importance of dialogue in our lives, especially during this holiday season as we prepare to celebrate how “God became human so that we can become divine.” We must see that dialogue is a gift from God. It is more than just talking; it’s the sacred exchange of hearts and minds.

In the Old and New Testaments, we see that God often engages with His people through dialogue. Already in the Book of Genesis, we witness Almighty God having a dialogue, or conversation, with Adam. I especially enjoy how God initiates a conversation with Adam and Eve, asking questions like, “Where are you?” (Gen. 3:9); and who can forget the several dialogues God had with Moses in the Book of Exodus 3–4.

In the New Testament, we witness our Lord’s gentle and sometimes tough dialogues with His disciples. During the Pascha–Easter season, I always enjoy when we read about the dialogue Christ had with the Samaritan woman (John 4:1–42). It was through this conversation that Jesus revealed truth, healed wounds and transformed a life.

Friends, having a dialogue with someone is more than just talking. Especially during this time of the year, we will have more opportunities to sit down with relatives, parishioners, and friends to have conversations. Let us remember what a blessing it is to engage in heartfelt and genuine dialogues, not only during Christmas gatherings

with loved ones, but also at work, church events, while visiting our homebound parishioners, or even when joining friends for a New Year’s Eve party. These events are meant to bring us closer to one another, enhance relationships and strengthen all our communities.

St. Mother Teresa of Calcutta would often highlight the power of words to either spread light or darkness. According to this holy nun, words rooted in faith, love and positivity inspire hope, while harsh or negative words deepen despair. After what we have been through lately (the government shutdown), and what we often witness in the media, it is necessary today that we promote and nurture words that are rooted in faith, hope and love. We must remember to apply those words in our daily dialogues and conversations with each other. To achieve that, we must remember the HEART of dialogue. What nourishes the HEART of dialogue?

1. Listening First. How often do we refuse to listen to one another? True listening can only be achieved with humility. The apostle James in his letter (1:19) reminds us to be “quick to listen, slow to speak, and slow to become angry.”

2. Having a conversation with someone? Speak with grace, my friend! St. Paul in his letter to the Colossians (4:6) calls upon us to let our words be “full of grace, seasoned with salt.” Having a healthy dialogue with someone is not about winning arguments, but about building understanding.

3. We live in a very divisive society (I might even say

CONTINUED on page 9



**John Luksa**  
National Sales Director

# The Perfect Gift

**A**s 2025 comes to a close, everyone is searching for the perfect gift for that special someone. Toys, electronics, gadgets, jewelry and clothing are all popular choices—but they can quickly go out of style. Life insurance may not be the first thing on your list, but it just might put you at the top of Santa’s “Nice” list!

Life insurance protection comes in many forms, and it’s a meaningful way to say, “I love you.” If you’re considering purchasing coverage for yourself as a gift for your spouse, now is the perfect time to begin the underwriting process. Approval typically takes 2 to 6 weeks, so starting early ensures peace of mind during the holiday season. There’s no better feeling than knowing your loved ones are protected during one of the busiest times of the year.

If you’re thinking about life insurance for a stay-at-home spouse, you’ll be addressing an important need that many families overlook. While stay-at-home spouses may not bring in a direct income, the support they provide holds tremendous financial value—and losing that support can have a significant impact.

**Examples include:**

- Cost of childcare
- Housework expenses
- Food preparation
- Transportation
- Travel expenses and lodgings for pets
- Counseling costs
- Medical bills
- Burial costs

Considering life insurance for your child or grandchild? It’s a powerful investment in their future. By purchasing a certificate now, you lock in their good health and secure the lowest premiums they will ever have, regardless of how their health may change over time.

Don’t forget that being a GCU Life Insurance holder entitles you to many benefits as a GCU Member.

Whether it’s for you, your spouse, your child, or your grandchild, you have the chance to play Santa and make someone’s holiday truly special. Reach out to your GCU life agent today and give the gift of a lifetime to someone you love this holiday season.

**Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!**



Atty. John J. Urban

# Lessons in the Law

## Where is the Will?

**M**ost of my articles are based on real life situations. The latest death of a client has me wondering what to do next. The decedent left for me and my former law partner instructions on what to do when he dies. He gave us the combination to his safe and the password to his computers. He also preplanned his arrangements.

Seems like a slam dunk and things would go smoothly when he died. The funeral part worked out fine then the problems. The safe combination did not work and the password apparently had been changed. He told us everything that we would need to handle his estate and trust was in the safe or on his computer. Now we can't get access to anything. I had to hire a company to open the safe and we are waiting for the mail to see if we can identify his financial accounts. Everything he did was done electronically so our hands were tied.

After searching his house, we began to find information that helped us establish what he owed.

The point here is that you need to have in place a system that gives your Executor or Trustee the information necessary to handle the estate. If you change safe combinations and passwords you need to update that information with the people you have chosen to handle your estate. This is easier said than done because passwords are usually updated on a regular basis. I regularly ask my children if they know the combination of my safe. In that

safe I keep updates on passwords and estate information they will need to handle my affairs.

Most people do not want to tell their children everything they own, but we all do regularly update our records as to what we do have. Tax season is always a good time to review what you have and make the necessary updates. Keep those tax returns in a safe place—assessable to your family when you die. Those tax returns are a good starting place to figure out what a person may own. It's not all inclusive, but it is a good starting place.

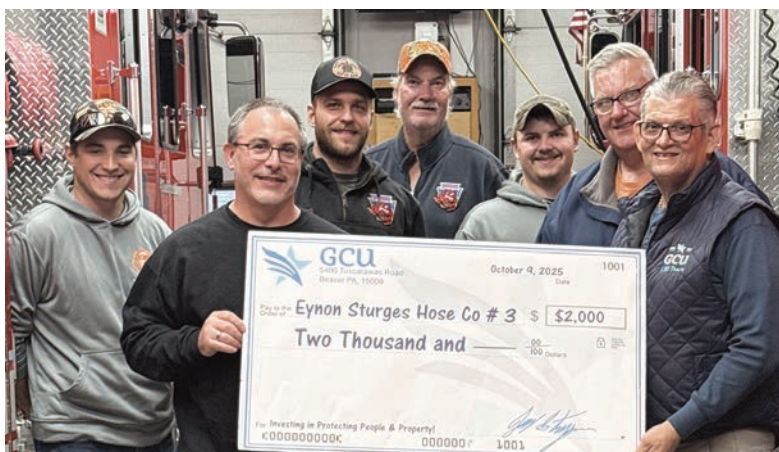
Do you want to give a copy of your Wills, Powers of Attorney, Advanced Directives to your family? Some people do and some people do not. It is necessary and imperative that those documents can be found if you get sick and when you die. If they can't be found, they then can't help you.

Planning is important but updating is also important. Can the person you want to handle your affairs find your stuff?

Questions, comments or ideas about future articles contact me at [jurban.gcu@GCUusa.com](mailto:jurban.gcu@GCUusa.com)



## Community Matching Funds EYNON, PA



GCU National Director Greg Vladika (right) presenting the GCU Matching Funds check to the Eynon Sturges Hose Co.

### Chicken BBQ Benefit

The Eynon Sturges Hose Co. Annual Chicken BBQ was held on Saturday, September 19. The event was to help pay for a new fire truck. Thanks to the GCU Community Matching Funds program for adding to the Hose Company's profits.

Greg Vladika



Marge Pajer presents a GCU Matching Funds check to Reina and the other girls that work at the Adelphi Breast Cancer Support Group.

## Community Matching Funds GARDEN CITY, NY

### Adelphi Breast Cancer Support Group Luncheon

A fundraising luncheon and GCU Community Matching Funds event was held at Fabio's in Merrick Long Island on Tuesday, October 21. The event benefiting the Adelphi Breast cancer Group was a huge success with over 120 people in attendance. Many of them won raffle gifts and all enjoyed the delicious food and wonderful atmosphere. The event raised approximately \$8,000.00 from the



GCU members at the Breast Cancer Support Luncheon with Rosemary Manno holding her birthday cake.

generous people of the Seasons Community and their family & friends. It was a good day for people to gain breast cancer awareness and to celebrate survivors who were in attendance. It was also Rosemary Manno's special birthday! All funds raised from this event go to the Adelphi Breast Cancer Support Group.

Marge Russell







## Community Matching Funds

PITTSBURGH, PA

### WORK's Bright Futures Gala

Bright Futures is WORK's annual gala celebration of community and impact. Bringing together supporters to invest in dignified jobs, education and opportunity for families in Haiti and beyond. On Friday, October 10, guests enjoy an inspiring evening of impact stories, Haitian cuisine, gaming and connection. All with the belief that good, dignified jobs end poverty. Thanks to the GCU for their support through the Community Matching Funds program.

Kylin Rosnick



Basket.

## Community Matching Funds

PITTSBURGH, PA

### Check Presentation

A GCU Community Matching Funds check was presented to Tylar S. Farmer, his home was deemed a total loss after a fire in August. His dog Basket was rescued by

firefighters and spent many days in a vet hospital. Her recovery has been remarkable. Karen Pavlick is shown presenting Tylar the check.

Mark Pavlick



GCU National Sales Director John Luksa.

## Community Matching Funds

SAN ANTONIO, TX

### Dueling Pianos!

A GCU Community Matching Funds Event was hosted by North Metro San Antonio Chamber and Sunshine Cottage to raise money for supporting

deaf children and young professional leadership development. The event raised monies with a silent auction, corporate sponsorships and donations.

John Luksa





## Community Matching Funds

HOOKSTOWN, PA

### Kate Adams Spaghetti Dinner Benefit

The dinner was to help support one of our own GCU employees Kate Adams. We were overwhelmed with the community support of 650 dinners purchased. It was non-stop for five and a half hours on Sunday, October 5! The event was pure profit with all of the supplies donated!



### Raffle Baskets

In addition to the spaghetti dinner there were 16 special raffle items and 128 regular raffle item chances available for purchase! We had an awesome turn out and everyone loved all the baskets! Again, all these baskets were donated allowing for them to provide maximum profits for Kate and her family. Thanks GCU Community Matching Funds for the additional income for these events.

Brenda Powers & Courtney Parish



Just a few of the many baskets that were donated.



A few of the higher end auction items.



Kate Adams.

## Community Matching Funds

HOOKSTOWN, PA

### Kate Adams Benefit

We had an amazing event to help raise money for Kate Adams (one of our own GCU fellow employees). The Spaghetti Dinner was held on Sunday, October 5 at the Hookstown Fire Department. We had over 600 people attend. Over 130 baskets were donated and countless hours of hard work given by people who love Kate. Thanks to the GCU Agent/Agency Matching



Funds we were able to boost the profits even more!

Nicole Gailey | GCU Agent



## Community Matching Funds

PACE, FL

### Swingin' Soiree

A "Swingin' Soiree" - Jazz music evening with New Orleans Food for about 260 guests was held for a good time and to gain awareness of our ministry- Majella House, Inc. A video presentation of the house and some of the mothers was shown to all the guests. President Mary Beth Cyr, gave a talk about all the wonderful volunteers and organizations that assist in their efforts. Ernie Cyr asked the attendees to offer their financial support to the ministries efforts. Although before and during the evening not many donations were

received... however, in the days following the event, folks have



sent in checks and made online donations. By using this event as a means to bring awareness by video and in person presentations about the ministry and the desperate need to provide for the homeless, pregnant mothers, we are confident it will result in pledges and monthly commitments that will be over \$50,000.<sup>00</sup>.

Thanks to the GCU Community Matching Funds program for their support. To learn more about the mission of this ministry, please visit [MajellaHouseInc@gmail.com](mailto:MajellaHouseInc@gmail.com).

Paul Kent

## Times are Changing...

CONTINUED from page 3

world) today. Part of the problem is also the lack of heart and empathy when it comes to our dialogues. When listening to the media, we don't know who to trust anymore. Therefore, seek truth together in a "holy conversation." Remember that a healthy dialogue is not compromised with falsehood but is a shared journey toward God's truth.

Friends, to announce the birth of Christ, an angel en-

gaged in a dialogue with the poor shepherds, saying: "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger." Not only that, but the heavenly host also appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests." (Luke 2:8-14)

From the first Christmas in Bethlehem, we learn that when we engage in dialogue, we are to reflect the heart of Christ, the One who came into this world not only to proclaim truth, but to walk with us in conversation. Our words can be a bridge to healing, reconciliation, and salvation. That, my friends, is what we need in today's world.

This year, when you come to the table to be with your loved ones, when you share a meal at a church event or at a work party, make sure your conversations bring light, peace and truth into the lives of those around you.

As the spiritual advisor and member of the Board of Directors of the GCU, I want to thank you all for your prayers and support. May our Lord Jesus Christ, born in Bethlehem, bless you, your families and loved ones at this blessed time of hope and grace.

Christ is born! Glorify Him!

Christos Raždajetsja! Slavite Jeho!





## Coats for Kids Project

**Leland, NC.** The Knights of Columbus Council 12017 (Wilmington, NC) sponsored a "Coats for Kids" drive in October. The program's goal is to ensure that no child goes without a coat during the winter season. With a GCU GoGive! grant and cash donations from parishioners at St. Mark Catholic Church, 226 new coats were purchased and distributed to families in need at five locations in Southeastern North Carolina as identified by Catholic Charities. Thanks to the GCU

GoGive! program for assisting in the success of this program.

John Danchisko



## Family Fun Day

**Colts Neck, NJ.** Despite a rainy morning, over 25 families living with someone with Rett syndrome, enjoyed a relaxing day with friends and families on Saturday, June 7. With the help of our sponsors we were able to raise over \$15,000.00 to support the research to find a cure for this devastating disorder. Thank you GCU GoGive! grant for your help!

Leslie Greenfield

## Gifting Train Sets for the Holidays

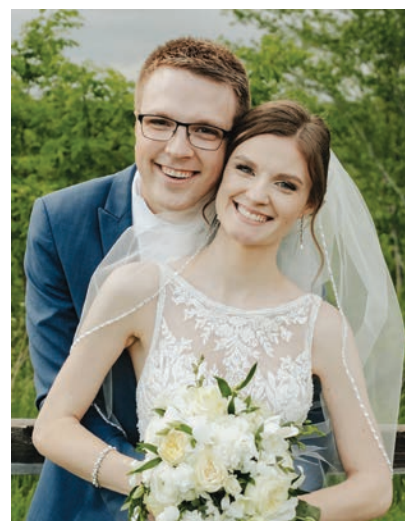
**Valparaiso, IN.** GCU GoGive! funds were used to purchase boxes for train sets that a group of model train enthusiasts refurbish and give to needy kids during the holidays. The boxes were delivered, folded and put together. Once the train sets are refurbished and tested for proper operation & safety they are packaged the boxes. Starting around Thanksgiving and through Christmas, the train sets are provided free to various organizations in NW Indiana to be given out. These organizations are food pantries, Boys and Girls Clubs, Lions Clubs and many other organizations who interact with kids who need gifts at Christmas!

Lance Nolting

## OUR MEMBERS

### Kinney and Mihalow United in Marriage

Paul Bernard Kinney and Taylor Anne Mihalow were united in marriage on May 17, 2025 by Rev. Fr. Roman Andriitso at Saint John the Baptist Byzantine Catholic Church in Northern Cambria, PA. Paul is the son of Michael & Pauline Kinney of Dysart, PA. Taylor is the daughter of Gary and the late Rose Mihalow of Patton, PA. Taylor, a lifelong GCU member and previous recipient of GCU's National Scholarship, is a veterinarian assistant at a small animal hospital. Paul is an industrial engineer for Eaton Corporation. The couple currently resides in Knoxville, TN.



Mr. & Mrs. Paul and Taylor Kinney.



## Doing Good for Kate

Here at the GCU Home Office, the staff participates in a cause each quarter. A charity or cause is chosen and the money raised that quarter is then donated to that cause. This year's third quarter cause was close to all of us as we supported Kate Adams, a GCU Home Office employee, battling Metastatic Breast Cancer. Kate is New Business Supervisor and has been with the GCU for over 4 years.

Along with the usual dress down payments (to be able to wear jeans 2 days a week) that go toward the cause for the quarter, there were a few other fun ways that the employees could give back. We held a hot dog day, 4<sup>th</sup> of July Lottery ticket raffle, Pirate game raffle (donated by Tim Demetres), employee picnic raffle, hat day, hoagie sale and nacho bar day. But the activity that drew the most attention was the chance to throw a pie at either Clay from IT, Brenda from New Business or Casey from Fraternal. Three boxes with their pictures on them were placed near the lunchroom. Money started to go in!

President/CEO Jeremy elevated the challenge, for every dollar contributed,

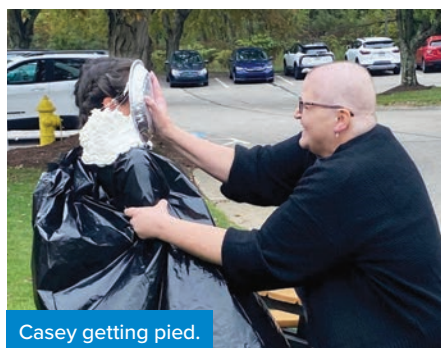


The GCU Home Office staff supports and loves Kate through her challanging journey.

he would match it up to \$1,000.<sup>00</sup> for one week. A few weeks later, another challenge from CFO Tim Demetres, Miranda from Policy Administration and Pam from Human Resources, matched up to \$600.<sup>00</sup>. All the employees stepped UP and the challenge matches maxed out. Monday, October 13 was Metastatic Breast Cancer Awareness Day, we supported that day by having Kate do the honors of throwing the pie, or should we say pies! Clay, Brenda and Casey, all three being good sports, received a pie in the face that day as the rest of the staff enjoyed the show!

A spaghetti dinner benefit was also held on Sunday, October 5 at the

Hookstown Fire Department. Many of Kate's fellow co-workers helped organize and worked at the event selling tickets, cleaning tables and assisting with whatever needed done. The GCU donated a 3-day/2-night drive away package, which included a 5-piece luggage set, Bogg bag, Oakley Aviator sunglasses, beach towels/blanket, Tommy Bahama beach chairs, Starbuck gift card + more. Seven Oaks Country Club Chef Tom Degori & his Culinary Team donated a dinner for four people valued at \$400.<sup>00</sup>. The dinner included 2 bottles of wine, Lobster Bisque soup, Tomato Burrata salad, Grilled Lobster Tail & Filet of Beef duo, Four Cheese Risotto, Roasted Asparagus, Artisan breads and Mascarpone Cheesecake with fresh berries. A t-shirt and sweatshirt sale also took place to benefit Kate with her medical expenses. It was a great day to see everyone come together to support a wonderful woman who we all love and care about. The GCU Home Office staff continues to keep Kate in their thoughts and prayers.



Casey getting pied.



Casey came prepared!



Brenda getting pied.



Brenda getting pied.



Brenda, Casey and Clay with Kate holding the empty can.



# Holy Annunciation Monastery Sugarloaf, PA



Group photo at the Fall Helping Hands Day 2025 Sugarloaf, PA.

**G**CU members and guests gathered at Holy Annunciation Monastery in Sugarloaf, PA, for the Fall **Helping Hands Day** event. Volunteers spent the day contributing both outdoors and indoors—tackling yard work and folding boxes to assist the monastery in preparing for upcoming bake sales. This hands-on event is a cherished tradition for our members, held twice a year, giving back to the community while fostering fellowship. Mark your calendars: our next Helping Hands Day will be in May 2026, so stay tuned for the exact date and join us for another day of service and fun!





# Corporate Community Events Coordinators



**Casey Bush**

Corporate Community  
Events Coordinator  
Western PA  
AZ, OH, IN, IL, MI



**Walk to End Alzheimer's.** On October 11, 2025 GCU sponsored the Beaver Area Walk to End Alzheimer's. What a wonderful event to help with the fight against this disease. GCU enjoys participating in the event every year. All the funds raised through the walk further the care, support and research efforts of the Alzheimer's Association.



**Project Bundle-Up.** GCU Employees and Members volunteered to assist local children find winter coats, hats and boots as part of WTAE-TV and The Salvation Army's Project Bundle Up. Volunteers greeted the children bright and early on Saturday, October 18<sup>th</sup> at Kohl's in Monaca, PA. It was a wonderful morning of giving—but the real gift was the joy on the children's faces as they received their new winter clothing.



## Veterans Day Check Donation.

The Veterans of America hosted the 2025 Veterans Day Parade in Beaver, PA on November 11. To honor all current and former members from all branches of the armed

forces and to support our friends in the American Legion—GCU contributed to this beautiful event. Thank you for your service!



Casey Bush presenting check to Gary L. Gray & Carl Curtis.

## Upcoming Events

### Broadway Musical "Wicked"

Saturday, January 31, 2026 7:30 PM  
Rows M, N & O  
Benedum Center, Pittsburgh, PA

*Dates and times are subject to change.  
Visit [GCUusa.com](http://GCUusa.com) for more information  
on these events  
or contact Casey Bush at  
[cbush@GCUusa.com](mailto:cbush@GCUusa.com) or call 724-683-3927.*



Project Bundle-Up volunteers helped the kids find a coat, hat, gloves and a pair of boots.



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

**Celebrating 2025 & Looking Ahead to 2026.** This was a wonderful year for GCU throughout our Constellations! We shared so many memorable social activities, such as comedy shows, theme parks, baseball and hockey games, and bus trips—just to name a few.

We also focused on giving back: GCU donated \$500.00 to food banks across all Constellations and volunteered at local food pantries, visited veterans in nursing homes, and more, making a real difference in our communities. Thank you to everyone who helped make an impact with GCU!

**Kick Off 2026 with a Night of Laughter!** Start the year with a spectacular GCU event: Dinner & a Show with Jerry Seinfeld live at the Kirby Center in Wilkes-Barre, PA on Friday, January 30, 2026. This is the perfect way to kick off 2026, and the value of the package makes it worth the travel, even if you are coming from another Constellation. Grab your tickets while the early bird rate of \$65.00 (including dinner, show ticket, and convenient bus transportation with MARTZ bus from Scranton, Wyoming Valley Mall, and over to the theater for a worry-free evening and no parking worries) For details and tickets contact me!

### **Sight & Sound Tradition Continues in 2026:**

❖ Scranton/Wilkes-Barre/Hazleton: Saturday, June 6, 2026

❖ NJ/Philadelphia areas: Tuesday, June 9, 2026—contact Cynthia Visovsky, GCU NJ Constellation Coordinator, at 609-356-9440 or [cvisovsky@GCUusa.com](mailto:cvisovsky@GCUusa.com). If you live in NJ or the Philadelphia area: I highly encourage you to contact Cynthia by Thursday, January 15, 2026 if you are interested in attending the Sight & Sound trip in June.

Your response will help determine the bus route, making it very important to reach out if interested. If enough members show interest, we can expand the trip to include more areas, add another show date, or add a second bus.

### **Parishes: Don't Miss the 2026 BPC Program!**

Parishioners—help your Byzantine Catholic Parish by ensuring a GCU Parish Coordinator is assigned to your parish. Check with your pastor to see if your church participates in the program. Parish Coordinators must apply by February 1 for a parish to be eligible for 2026. Participating parishes will receive a \$1,000.00 donation, a \$500.00 debit card for parish socials, and access to \$2,500.00 in Matching Funds for fundraisers.

I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy & Healthy New Year. We can't wait to share another year of connection, service and fun with everyone in 2026!



## **Upcoming Events**

### **Jerry Seinfeld Dinner & Show**

Friday, January 30 9:30 PM  
Kirby Center, Wilkes-Barre, PA  
Bus transportation available

### **Top Golf Outings**

Save the Dates: get placed on the Early Bird List

#### **Edison, NJ**

Thursday, March 26 12 PM

#### **King Of Prussia**

Thursday, April 16 12 PM

#### **Philadelphia, PA**

Sunday, May 3 2 PM

We are gauging interest to host a GCU Top Golf Outing in VA Beach, Durham, NC, Charlotte, NC, Miami & St. Petersburg, FL in 2026! Contact Melissa if interested.

### **2026 Sight & Sound Trips: "Joshua"**

Sight & Sound Theater  
(Lancaster) Ronks, PA

#### **Scranton/Wilkes-Barre/Hazleton**

Saturday, June 6 3 PM

#### **New Jersey/Philadelphia**

Tuesday, June 9

The bus route will be planned based on member interest. Please contact NJ Constellation Coordinator Cynthia Visovsky at 609-356-9440 or email her at [cvisovsky@GCUusa.com](mailto:cvisovsky@GCUusa.com) by Thursday, January 15, 2026 with your location information.

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

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



# Constellations

## Beaver Constellation

### Beaver Constellation Golf Outing

Sunshine, blue skies and temperatures in the low 80s set the stage for a beautiful day of golf at Seven Oaks CC on Sunday October 5. The 88 golfers in attendance enjoyed the challenging, and very well-maintained course for a 4-person scramble. The team of Julie Hornak, Cindy Pierce, Bill Cygan and Nancy Ellis finished 3<sup>rd</sup> with a score of 64. A few other teams scored 64, so the Golf Shop experts matched cards to determine a winner. In 2<sup>nd</sup> place former GCU District 15 Athletic Director Bill Uram, his son Tom, John Musko and Mike Fort finished with an impressive 60. In 1<sup>st</sup> place with a score of 59 was the team of Nathan Galiyas, Bill Stewart, Dave Delgross and Chris Spicer. Skill prize winners were: Julie Hornak, Bill Swart, Tom Manz and Cindy Pierce.

Following golf, the golfers and dinner guests met in the Club's Hickory Suite for a delicious dinner prepared by Chef Tom Degori and his team. The pirohi, halushki and sausage were big hits from the Pittsburgh buffet.

Shout out to Seven Oaks Golf Shop team led by Pro Mikala Reed who helped to make the day very enjoyable for everyone. A special thank you to Keith Hohenshel and John Lord—you are both treasures to the GCU and Seven Oaks members!

Hope to see you at the 2026 Beaver Golf Outing in late September or early October!



1<sup>st</sup> Place team: Chris Spicer, Nate Galiyas, Dave Delgross and Bill Swart.

## UPCOMING BEAVER CONSTELLATION EVENTS

### Adult No-Tap Bowling Tournament

**Saturday, March 21, 2026**

**Bowling begins 2:30 PM - report by 2 PM**

**Sit Down Dinner 4:45 PM Cash Bar**

Bowling & Dinner at the SAME LOCATION

**\$45 Members**

**\$57 Non-Members**

**\$33 Dinner Only**

**Price includes bowling, shoes, prizes & sit down dinner**

**Registration Deadline is March 7, 2026**

Paradise Island Bowl & Beach (Neville Island)  
7601 Grand Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15225

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

### Hairspray Show & Dinner at Seven Oaks

**Sunday, May 3, 2026**

**2 PM Show**

**Dinner to follow at Seven Oaks Country Club**

**\$40 Ticket & Burger Meal - Members**

**\$60 Ticket & Crab Cake Meal - Members**

**\$52 Ticket & Burger Meal - Non-Members**

**\$74 Ticket & Crab Cake Meal - Non-Members**

Enjoy Hairspray at Lincoln Park Performing Arts Center then join us at Seven Oaks for a "Hairspray" themed dinner. Choice of burger, slaw & fries or for an up-charge, crab cake, salad, vegetable & starch. Dessert is included.

**Registration Deadline is Friday, April 24, 2026**

Lincoln Park Performing Arts Center  
1 Lincoln Park, Midland, PA 15059

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

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



2<sup>nd</sup> Place team: Mike Fort, Bill Uram Jr., Tom Uram and John Musko.



3<sup>rd</sup> Place team: Bill Cygan, Cindy Pierce, Julie Hornak and Nancy Ellis.

### A Fast & Furious Food Drive at Seven Oaks Community

From November 1 through November 8, GCU Beaver Constellation held a Fast & Furious Food Drive to benefit Families Matter Food Pantry in Monaca, PA, which is an agency of the Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank. The food pantry serves over 2,000 families monthly, including 125 veterans weekly. Families Matter Food Pantry distributes 75,000 lbs. of food per week. Families Matter Food Pantry co-director Quinna Price shared that more families are facing food insecurity than ever before.

The Food Drive was concentrated in the Seven Oaks Community and also the GCU Home Office. On Saturday, November 1, brown bags were distributed to every Seven Oaks community residence; the Seven Oaks Golf Shop; and the Front Lobby. A flyer attached to each bag provided simple directions: Fill the Bag with non-perishable foods and place the filled bag on your porch (or in the Club lobby) by noon on November 8.

The response was phenomenal! The 6 volunteers collected 109 bags of food; and \$400.<sup>00</sup> for the Food Pantry. We filled the Families Matter van to capacity! Co-directors Quina Price and Rachel Triscila were overwhelmed with the generosity of the Seven Oaks Community and the additional \$500.<sup>00</sup> donation from the GCU Home Office. During these difficult times for some of our

neighbors, this not-so-small gesture will go a long way. Thank you to the donors & volunteers who made this a successful food drive!

Elizabeth Harbist | Beaver Constellation Coordinator



Check presentation to Family Matter co-director Quinna Price by Beaver Constellation Coordinator Elizabeth Harbist with her grandson Nicholas in the middle. Helpers in back are John F. Harbist, Patty Lebanik, Jeff Brayer and co-director of the food pantry Rachel Triscila.



## Butler/North Pittsburgh Constellation

### Fall Family Day at Iron Mills Farmstead

The Butler/Pittsburgh North Constellation gathered on Sunday, October 5, for a delightful Fall Family Day at Iron Mills Farmstead in New Wilmington, PA. Blessed with beautiful autumn weather, families spent the afternoon enjoying a delicious lunch together and exploring the many attractions the farm had to offer.

From winding their way through corn mazes and taking scenic tractor rides to feeding friendly farm animals and playing classic outdoor games, there was something for everyone to enjoy. The day's festivities even included a colorful and captivating kite show, adding a special touch to an already memorable outing.

It was a perfect day of fellowship, fun and fall celebration for all who attended.



Volunteers are Cindy McDermott, Nancy Jones, Emily Murphy and Kim Hofstetter.

### Food Bank Volunteering

The Butler Constellation team recently spent the day volunteering at the Help Your Neighbor Food Bank—and had a wonderful time doing it! We shared a few laughs and rolled up our sleeves and repacked a lot of onions.

Beyond the fun and teamwork, it was deeply rewarding to support an organization making such a meaningful impact in our community. If you're looking for a welcoming and worthwhile place to volunteer, the Help Your Neighbor Food Bank is the perfect spot to give back and make a difference.

The Constellation also presented the food bank with a \$500.00 donation from the GCU.

Casey Bajack | Butler North Pittsburgh Constellation Coordinator



## Hazleton Constellation

### Volunteer Opportunity

GCU members recently rolled up their sleeves and gave back to the Hazleton community at Catholic Social Services, located at 106 S. Church Street. We helped with the day-to-day operations of the food pantry, helping ensure that families in need received essential supplies.

GCU donated a \$500.00 check to help meet the pantry's ongoing needs. If you are looking for a great way to drop off food, supplies, or even donate your time to a wonderful local cause, we highly recommend getting in touch with the wonderful people at the food pantry by calling 570-455-1521.

### GCU Coordinators Meet

Corporate Community Events Coordinator Melissa Jaggars met recently with Hazleton Constellation Coordinator Kevin Yurkanin and the volunteers at Perkins in Hazleton for a productive planning meeting focused on the upcoming St. Nicholas Day celebration and early ideas for 2026 events.

It was a pleasure to come together in person, and the meeting provided a great opportunity for conversation, collaboration and fellowship. Melissa is looking forward to bringing our Constellation Coordinator team together with the Parish Coordinator teams more in the future, both in the Hazleton Constellation as well as in other GCU Constellations.



GCU Corporate Community Events Coordinator, Melissa Jaggars, Hazleton Catholic Social Services Supervisor of the Material Assistance Program, Lee Ann Lywiski, Hazleton Constellation Coordinator, Kevin Yurkanin and Case-worker for Hazleton Catholic Social Services, Stephanie Cuadros.

### Fall Helping Hands Day at Holy Annunciation Monastery

Members from the Hazleton Constellation as well as members from Scranton/Wilkes-Barre Constellation came together on Saturday, October 18 for the annual Helping Hands Day at Holy Annunciation Monastery. *Photos and story appear on page 13.*

**Kevin Yurkanin** | Hazleton Constellation Coordinator



Hazleton Constellation Coordinator, Kevin Yurkanin; Rick Hoppey, Margie Sheeto, Mike Komishock, GCU Corporate Community Events Coordinator, Melissa Jaggars and Judy Kringer.



## Illinois Constellation

### Together We Cope Volunteer Outing

On the afternoon of October 16, a group of GCU volunteers met at Together We Cope. The prevention agency has been bridging the gap for south suburban Illinois residents in 27 communities since 1982. They supply food, shelter, clothing, referrals and empower residents to return to self-sufficiently. The group met a lot of wonderful people there as they stocked & organized shelves and prepared & bagged produce to be distributed to the community. They were very grateful for the \$500.00 donation that we were able to provide for them from the GCU. Afterwards we met down the street for dinner, feeling grateful for the opportunity we had to make a positive impact in the lives of others.



Constellation Coordinator Karly Krown presents a GCU check to the representatives of Together We Cope prevention agency.



### Sister Act Play

On the evening of November 15<sup>th</sup>, 20 of us met at Drury Lane theatre to see the play "The Sister Act." It was a wonderful show as we all laughed and danced in our seats to the uplifting music. Several of our members who attended commented on how it brought them back to their school days when they were taught by the "sisters." A lot of great stories were shared and a great time was had by all! Thanks to the GCU for making this all possible.

**Karly Krown** | Illinois Constellation Coordinator



## UPCOMING LAUREL HIGHLANDS CONSTELLATION EVENTS

### Sight & Sound Theatre - Joshua

Saturday, September 19, 2026

8 AM Bus Pickup at Trinity Parish

Lunch at Hershey Farms (included in ticket price)

3 PM Show

\$160 GCU Members / \$110 Child Members

\$190 Non-Member Guests / \$140 Child Non-Member

Registration Deadline is August 2

Sight & Sound Theatre

300 Hartman Bridge Road, Ronks, PA 17572

Contact Georgia Lehman at 814-242-2083 or  
glehman@GCUusa.com

## Laurel Highlands Constellation



Constellation Coordinator Georgia Lehman presents a GCU check to Food Bank Administrative Assistant Lori Maurer.

### Holiday Food Bank Donation

On October 10, 2025, several Laurel Highlands GCU members helped pack 400 senior food boxes at the St. Vincent de Paul Food for Families Distribution Center. A GCU donation of \$500.00 was presented to Lori Maurer, Administrative Assistant. This donation helps support the work of the distribution center in providing food items to the network of food pantries in the Cambria County area.

Georgia Lehman | Laurel Highlands Constellation Coordinator



Laurel Highlands Constellation members volunteered boxing, sealing and stacking senior meals.







RISE volunteers; Ron Perry, Rick Visovsky, RISE Coordinator Valerie Benites, Cynthia Visovsky and John Kashner.

## New Jersey Constellation

### RISE Pantry Volunteer Event

GCU proudly continued its mission of faith, friendship, and service by volunteering at the RISE Pantry, located at 133 Broad Street in Hightstown, NJ in October and November. Our members came together to support the pantry's vital work in serving the local community. GCU members helped organize and distribute food and essential supplies to families in need, ensuring that everyone who came to the pantry received assistance with care and respect.

### Honoring Our Veterans

NJ Constellation members and friends gathered on November 11, to celebrate Veterans Day, honoring the veterans at Bear Creek Assisted Living, in West Windsor, NJ. We had the chance to socialize and tour the facility after a ceremony to honor the veterans as we heard what each of them did for our country. The NJ Constellation was honored to be part of this event.



Members of St. Mary's parish in Trenton, NJ were Cynthia Visovsky, Maryann Biko and John Kashner with the Veterans who attended the event.



Gift bags that were given to the Veterans who were in attendance.



### Winterfest 2025

GCU members enjoyed a festive day at Holland Ridge Farm in Cream Ridge, NJ, complete with holiday fun and member savings. Jean Marie Podolak got to experience opening day and even snapped a solo pic in the magical Christmas light tunnel—a truly memorable moment!

Cynthia Visovsky | NJ Constellation Coordinator

## UPCOMING NORTHEAST OHIO CONSTELLATION EVENT

### Cleveland Guardians Baseball Game

Saturday, July 18, 2026

Guardians vs. Pittsburgh Pirates

4 PM

\$28 Member

\$34 Non-Member

Section 311

Deadline to Register is July 13

Progressive Field  
2401 Ontario Street  
Cleveland, OH 44115

Contact: Dean Scouloukas at 216-421-6207 or  
dscouloukas@GCUusa.com

Register at GCUusa.com Events (July) and pay with a credit or debit card. Available SOON

## Northeast Ohio Constellation

### GCU Day at Cleveland Browns Game

Northeast Ohio members attended the GCU Day at Cleveland Browns vs Miami Dolphins game on October 19, 2025. It was a rainy day, but the Browns victory of 31-6 helped to brighten everyone's day.

### Greater Cleveland Food Bank Volunteer Event

On Thursday, October 23, a team of volunteers, led by Constellation Coordinator Dean Scouloukas, volunteered for a few hours at the Greater Cleveland Food Bank. They assembled and boxed up food items to be dispersed to needy people in the Greater



Cleveland area. Dean also presented a donation of \$500.00 from GCU to the Greater Cleveland Food Bank.

Dean J. Scouloukas | Northeast Ohio Constellation Coordinator





## Pittsburgh Constellation

### Greater Pittsburgh Food Bank Volunteer Event

On the morning of October 20, GCU members volunteered at the Greater Pittsburgh Food Bank - The



Market (on-site food pantry). Duties included being a shopping buddy, bagging



Pittsburgh Constellation members volunteering at the Pittsburgh Food Bank.



Pittsburgh Constellation Coordinator Kim Kolesar presents the GCU check to Director of Corporate and Community Giving Maria Montaro.

items, stocking shelves, filling “Order Ahead” orders, retrieving carts and anything else that was needed. A steady stream of customers passed through the doors for the entire shift, which made the time fly by. Afterward, we were able to relax and socialize in the community room and enjoy a pizza lunch. Maria Montaro, Corporate and Community Giving Manager at the Food Bank, joined us for lunch. She also thanked us for coming and said this work could not be done without the support of volunteers. Every volunteer hour accounts for about 100 meals. It would take 34 full-time staff to do the work the volunteers do. The Market needs about 40 volunteers every day to run and function. Close to 200 families come out to receive food. We then presented her with a GCU check in the amount of \$500.00 to be used for the upcoming holiday season. The day was both a fun and rewarding experience.

Kim Kolesar | Pittsburgh Constellation Coordinator

Invested in  
Education



### 2025-2026 GCU Scholarship Programs

Applications for scholarships **MUST** be completed and submitted online in one session by 11:59 PM EST on December 31, 2025

[GCUusa.com](https://www.gcuusa.com)

## UPCOMING SCRANTON/ WILKES-BARRE CONSTELLATION EVENTS

### Saint Nicholas Celebration

Sunday, December 28, 2025 at 1 PM

\$5 Member / \$10 Non-Member

Register by Tuesday, December 23

Grotto Pizza

337 Wyoming Valley Mall Rd., Wilkes-Barre Twp., PA 18702

Contact: Laure Marcin at 570-466-5941 or  
lmarcin@GCUusa.com

### Jerry Seinfeld Dinner & Show

Friday, January 30, 2026

Dinner at 6:30 PM / Show at 9:30 PM

\$65 Early Bird Member / \$108 Non-Member

F.M. Kirby Center for the Performing Arts  
71 Public Square, Wilkes-Barre, PA 18701

Includes bus (Scranton & Wyoming Valley Mall bus  
pickups), show ticket & dinner

Contact: Laure Marcin at 570-466-5941 or  
lmarcin@GCUusa.com

### Scranton/Wilkes-Barre Penguins vs Lehigh Valley Phantoms-St. Patty's Day Game Celebration

Saturday, March 14, 2026 at 6:05 PM

\$13 Member (includes meal deal voucher)

\$28.<sup>50</sup> Non-Member

All tickets include a meal deal-hot dog, chips & soda!

Mohegan Sun Arena

255 Highland Park Blvd., Wilkes-Barre Twp., PA 18702

Contact: Laure Marcin at 570-466-5941 or  
lmarcin@GCUusa.com

### Sight & Sound Bus Trip - "Joshua"

Saturday, June 6, 2026 at 3 PM

\$105 Adult Member / \$65 Child (up to age 12) Member

\$145 Non-Member / \$100 Child (up to age 12) Non-  
Member

Includes: MARTZ bus transportation, buffet lunch at  
Hershey Farms followed by the show.

Sight & Sound Theater

300 Hartman Bridge Road, Ronks, PA 17572

Contact: Laure Marcin at 570-466-5941 or  
lmarcin@GCUusa.com



Ed & Gina Keil; Ivanna Prodanets, PC for St John BCC - Wilkes-Barre Twp.; Kelly Dougherty, PC for Saint Mary BCC Taylor, PA; John Barilla, PC for Saint Nicholas BCC Swoyersville, PA; Carmen & Kim Trubia, Scranton/WB Constellation Coordinator Laure & Jeff Marcin and Corporate Community Events Coordinator Melissa & Jeromy Jaggars.

## Scranton/Wilkes-Barre Constellation

### GCU Coordinators Meet

The Scranton/WB Constellation recently hosted a delicious breakfast buffet at the Scranton Hilton, providing a wonderful opportunity for members to connect and engage. A few area parish coordinators were able to attend as well and enjoyed discussion with Corporate Community Events Coordinator Melissa Jaggars and I about upcoming events and exciting ideas for 2026. We appreciate the parish coordinators submitting upcoming GCU events in their parish bulletins as it helps us get the word out about fun social and community events coming up.

It's always a pleasure to come together, share insights, and strengthen the bonds of our community. Plans are already underway for another breakfast social in 2026, so stay tuned for the date and join us for good food and great company!

Laure Marcin | Scranton/Wilkes-Barre Constellation Coordinator



# Parish Matching Funds

## St. Mary Magdalene Byzantine Catholic Church FAIRVIEW PARK, OH



### Annual European Festival

On September 27, St. Mary Magdalene Byzantine Catholic Church in Fairview Park, welcomed guests from across Northeast Ohio to its 15<sup>th</sup> Annual European Festival. The day was filled with the rich traditions and the vibrant culture of Eastern Europe. Visitors enjoyed homemade dishes, lively performances and folk

music that honored the parishioners' heritage. The event concluded with raffles and dancing to the Tom Ketrenich Orchestra.

St. Mary Magdalene extends heartfelt thanks to all who made this year's festival possible, including our performers, sponsors, volunteers, guests and the GCU Parish Matching Funds program.

We look forward to welcoming everyone back to the 16<sup>th</sup> Annual European Festival in 2026. Come hungry-Come curious-Come celebrate!

Website:

[StMaryMagdaleneByzantine.org](http://StMaryMagdaleneByzantine.org)

Tom Kolba | Byzantine Parish Coordinator



## St. John the Baptist Byzantine Catholic Church

SOUTHSIDE-PITTSBURGH, PA

### Night at the Races

This parish's annual Night at the Races was held on Saturday, September 13. A fun night out with friends and family to support ongoing repairs at the church. The main focus this year is new carpeting in the entrance and nave areas. Thanks to all who attended and to the GCU for the Parish Matching Funds.

Beverley Rebovich | Byzantine Parish  
Coordinator

## St. Nicholas Byzantine Catholic Church WHITE PLAINS, NY

### Tag Sale

The parish's annual Tag Sale was held outdoors on Friday, October 10 and Saturday, October 11. Unfortunately, Saturday it rained all day, as it did for our spring sale. Hope we have better luck next year with the weather. Thanks to the GCU Parish Matching Funds program for the additional income.

Ann Kachmar | Byzantine Parish Coordinator



Parish Coordinator Ann Kachmar (right) presents GCU Matching Funds check to Fr. Ihor Vorontsov and Deacon Mike Sivulich.



## Holy Ghost Byzantine Catholic Church

JESSUP, PA

### Annual Chicken Dinner

The 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Stuffed Chicken Breast dinner was held on Sunday, November 2 to benefit Holy Ghost Church. The parish sold 461 dinners with take-out & drive-thru service available. This event received additional support from the GCU Parish Matching Funds program.

Gregory Barkowski | Byzantine Parish Coordinator



## Holy Trinity Byzantine Catholic Church & Resurrection Byzantine Catholic Church

WALL, PA & MONROEVILLE, PA

### Pirohi and Nut Roll Making

Members and friends of Holy Trinity and Resurrection churches gathered to make pirohi and nut rolls for the upcoming holidays.

The sale from these items also receives GCU Parish Matching Funds.

Tom Oslick | Byzantine Parish Coordinator



Charles Betz.



Marylyn Barone.



Byzantine Parish Coordinator Tom Oalick (right) presents a GCU Matching Funds check to Fr. Don Bolls.



## Annunciation Byzantine Catholic Church

ANAHEIM, CA



Annunciation parish offering a big "thank you" to GCU at the check presentation from our Craft & Vintage Fair. The Parish Matching Funds made this parish fundraiser an even greater success. Deacon Greg Gath | Byzantine Parish Coordinator

## Dormition of Mary Byzantine Catholic Church

CLEVELAND, OH



Parish Coordinator Rosemary Trompak presented a GCU Matching Funds check to the church's new Rector/Administrator Fr. Michael Lee. The funds were raised with the 250 Club event held in August.



## St. John the Baptist Byzantine Catholic Church

TRUMBULL, CT

### GCU Check Presentation

On Sunday, October 5 the Ladies Guild of St. John Church held a luncheon for the parishioners in celebration of the Guild's 80 years of existence and dedication to the church. At the luncheon Guild President Eileen Murray presented to Rev. Hryhoriy Lozinskyy a check from the GCU for \$805.00 that was generously donated through the Parish Matching Funds program. The Guild raised the funds through a

basket raffle held in September. Pictured are Ladies Guild President Eileen Murray and Rev. Hryhoriy Lozinskyy.

Alice Shingola | Byzantine Parish Coordinator





## Ascension Byzantine Catholic Church

CLAIRTON, PA

### Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser

A spaghetti dinner fundraiser was held on October 19 at Ascension Church Hall to raise money for the church's maintenance needs. Over 200 people stopped to eat in or take out spaghetti dinners and meatball hoagies. The bake sale sold out of items and the basket raffles were very popular. In addition, parish cookbooks were sold and CD's of Rusyn music recorded by Father Ivan Mina were also sold. A last-minute request from the Neighborhood Resilience Project to set up an area for free Covid/Flu shots and health screenings became busy as many guests took advantage of the opportunity. Tours of the church

were available and guests from out of town appreciated the chance to view the icons and learn their history. Many thanks to our donors and volunteers for their hard work and the GCU Parish Matching Funds for making it a very successful day!

Trish Roberts | Byzantine Parish Coordinator



Parish Coordinator Trish Roberts presents Fr. Christopher Burke with the GCU Matching Funds check.



## Sisters of St. Basil

UNIONTOWN PA

### Pilgrimage to Our Lady of Perpetual Help

The annual Labor Day Weekend Pilgrimage is held each year at Mt. St. Macrina for all the Byzantine and Roman Catholics throughout the U.S. It provides a peaceful, spiritual, and enriching event for those who attend. An added feature is the renewal of friendships among people every year. We thank the GCU for the added income from their Parish Matching Funds Grant.

Sister Susan Sisko





## St. Nicholas Byzantine Catholic Church

BARBERTON, OH



Parish Coordinator Bethany Saunders presents Father Miron with the GCU Matching Funds check.

### Reverse Raffle

The parish's annual reverse raffle is the main fundraiser of the year. Proceeds from the event go to help with a down payment on the resurfacing of the church's dome. This year's event was held on Saturday, October 11 and it contained 21 raffle baskets and a nearly sold-out main raffle. No expenses were incurred; everything was truly donated!

**Bethany Saunders** | Byzantine Parish Coordinator

## St. Mary Byzantine Catholic Church

WEIRTON, WV

### Community Bread Basket Donation

St. Mary parish collected a total of \$650.<sup>00</sup> for the Community Bread Basket in Weirton. Exceeding the \$500.<sup>00</sup> maximum requirement for the Holiday Food Bank Matching Funds Donation from the GCU.

Fr. Brian Norrell who was celebrating his final Mass as pastor at St. Mary Church also happens to be the treasurer for the food pantry. He is presenting the checks from his parishioners to Jeanie Montgomery, the administrator of the Community Bread Basket.

Fr. Brian Norrell has been reassigned to a parish in Pennsylvania.

The Community Bread Basket would like to thank the parishioners of St. Mary Byzantine Catholic Church and the GCU for their generous donations in helping us with their mission to feed the people of Brooke and Hancock Counties.

**Marilyn Charnie** | Byzantine Parish Coordinator



Presenting the GCU Matching Funds check is the parish bookkeeper Sherry Whah and the Very Rev. Fr. Vasyl Mutka.

## St. Nicholas of Myra Byzantine Catholic Church

ANCHORAGE, AK

### Annual Fundraiser

During the month of April, the parishioners of St. Nicholas Church came together and spent several days preparing pirohi,

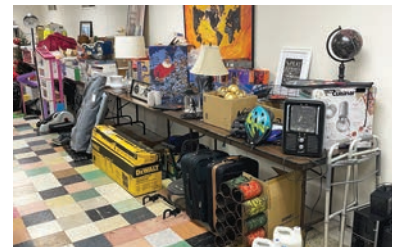


holupki (stuffed cabbage), and poppyseed & nut rolls for their annual fundraiser. Thanks to GCU for the Parish Matching Funds.

### Yard and Bake Sale

On Friday, May 30 and Saturday, May 31, St. Nicholas of Myra Church held it's Annual Yard Sale.

Visitors could also enjoy baked goods and coffee. The weather was great, and we had a good turnout of shoppers. Thank you GCU for your support.



**Oresta Mutka** | Byzantine Parish Coordinator

## St. John Byzantine Catholic Church

LYNDORA, PA

### Ladies Guild Rummage Sale

The Ladies Guild held their annual rummage sale on Friday, October 10 and Saturday, October 11. On the second day ethnic foods were available for purchase.

Thanks to the GCU Parish Matching Funds, St John's Ladies Guild made an extra \$578.<sup>50</sup> to help with parish expenses.

**John Pocchiari** | Byzantine Parish Coordinator



Check presentation to Fr. Radko by Ladies Guild President Stephanie Dano and Secretary Liz Pocchiari.

## St. Nicholas Byzantine Catholic Church

SWOYERSVILLE, PA



### Check Presentation

Saint Nicholas Church recently held a Piggie (Holupki) sale. The result of all their hard work earned them a check for \$2,537.<sup>00</sup> from the GCU Matching Fund program. Pictured are pastor Father Andri Dumnych and Parish Coordinator John Barilla.

**John Barilla** | Byzantine Parish Coordinator

## All Saints Byzantine Church

NORTH FORT MYERS, FL

### Pirohi-Slavic Food Sale

All Saints Church held a Pirohi/Slavic Food Sale on Saturday, September 27. The sale was a great success and sold over 100 dozen pirohi to the local community. Thanks to all the volunteers for their time and effort to make this a great day and to the GCU for the Parish Matching Funds.

**Gary Cepko** | Byzantine Parish Coordinator

## St. Mary Byzantine Catholic Church

WINDBER, PA

### Check Presentation

GCU Parish Coordinator Thresa Valko presented a GCU Parish Matching Funds check to Father Ivan Rusyn of St. Mary Church for \$3,000.<sup>00</sup>. The match was for St. Mary's very successful Easter Bake Sale.



**Thresa Valko** | Byzantine Parish Coordinator



## St. Nicholas Byzantine Catholic Church

LORAIN, OH

### Parish Garage Sale

The weekend of September 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> St. Nicholas Parish held a Clean Out Garage Sale. This was a great way for the parish to raise funds and work towards getting rid of things at the church and parishioner's homes that were no longer used, but potential treasures to someone else. There was furniture, decorations, a library of books, school & office items, household items, clothes and toys—too many things to mention. The kitchen was also selling St. Nicholas' famous pirohi and nut rolls. The event was a huge success. Thank you to the GCU for the Parish Matching Funds program that made this event even more profitable.

Anne Dillon | Byzantine Parish Coordinator



Linda & Bruce Skibo, BPC Anne Dillon giving Fr. Vasyl Kupa the GCU Matching Funds check, Diane Charlton, Sue Druga, Rosemary Moroni, Rita Deliman and Michelle Moran.



Decorations.



Books.



Clothes & furniture.



Parish members presenting the GCU Matching Funds check funds for the Oktoberfest & Easter 2025 baking. From left: Mark Zigarevich, Parish Coordinator Allan Hunt, Pastor Rev. Robert Evancho, Lori Magulick & Laura Zigarevich.

### Oktoberfest 2025

The annual parish Oktoberfest/Fall Festival was held on Sunday, October 12, with food, games, & costumes. All had a great time. Thanks for the additional funding through the GCU Parish Matching Funds program.

(Charles) Allan Hunt | Byzantine Parish Coordinator

## St. Therese Byzantine Catholic Church

ST. PETERSBURG, FL



Cheers to Oktoberfest!



Kids in costume.



## Ss. Peter and Paul Byzantine Catholic Church

PORTAGE, PA

### Annual Ethnic Festival

The parish's annual Ethnic Festival was held on Sunday, July 13. It was open to the public and featured all day music and food attracting hundreds of people from the Greater Johnstown area. Thanks to our volunteers and to the GCU Parish Matching Funds program.

Deacon Daniel Perich | Byzantine Parish Coordinator



Fr. Roman Andritsko with his wife and family at the festival.



## St. Mary Byzantine Catholic Church

HERMINIE, PA

### Herminie Car Show

On Saturday, September 13, the local businesses in Herminie held a car show and St. Mary parish sponsored a food booth which also benefited from GCU Parish Matching Funds.

Michael Pochan | Byzantine Parish Coordinator



GCU Matching Funds check presented to Father Jim Batcha from the ethnic dinner. Bob Willyerd, Fr. Jim Batcha, Pat Chartier and John Matus.

## St. Michael Byzantine Catholic Church

FLUSHING, MI

### Ethnic Dinner

The church's 4<sup>th</sup> annual ethnic dinner was a success serving over 300 people on Saturday, September 27. There were many compliments on the food. Volunteers prepped and served stuff cabbage,

pirohi and sausage & sauerkraut with nut roll for dessert.

Pat Chartier | Byzantine Parish Coordinator







## St. Mary Byzantine Catholic Church

JOHNSTOWN, PA

### Cambria City Ethnic Festival

St. Mary's Byzantine Catholic Church has been hosting the Ethnic Festival for over 30 years. Over 3 days, we hosted 7 bands on two stages, sold pierogies, halupki, halushki, kielbasa, cheregi and other ethnic items. Thanks to the GCU Parish Matching Funds the event was even more successful.



The Cheregi Crew.

Fr. Timothy Fariss & Veronica Varga | Byzantine Parish Coordinator



Parish Coordinator Stephen Petruska presents the GCU Matching Funds check to Rev. Vasyl Symon.

## St. John the Baptist Byzantine Catholic Church

UNIONTOWN, PA

### 43<sup>rd</sup> Annual Carpatho Rusyn Festival

St. John the Baptist held their 43<sup>rd</sup> annual Carpatho Rusyn Festival on October 26. Attendees enjoyed great food, great music, baked goods and crafts. The festival was used as a Parish Matching Funds event. Thank you GCU.



Stephen Petruska Jr. | Byzantine Parish Coordinator





## The Transfiguration of Our Lord Russian Orthodox Church

BROOKLYN, NY



### Check Donation

Father Wiaczeslaw Krawczuk and Treasurer Eugenia Bartyzel of the Sisterhood of the Myrrhbearing Women of the Russian Orthodox Church of the Transfiguration of Our Lord gratefully received the GCU's Non-Byzantine Parish Matching Funds donation from the Sisterhood's Septemberfest. The event raised funds for the repair of the church's bell—our "singing icon," a striking part of the Orthodox services. May the church bell soon ring out its thanks for GCU's generous donation!

Ann Kandrato

## Christ the Bridegroom Monastery

BURTON, OH

### Bridegroom's Banquet

This year's Gala Fundraiser for the nuns of Christ the Bridegroom Monastery was held on Saturday, November 1. Funds were raised for general operations at the Monastery and towards the first phase of planning to build a new Monastery. Thanks to the GCU Parish Matching Funds for adding to the event's success.



Mother Gabriella Houck



## St. Paul Roman Catholic Church

WEIRTON, WV

### Annual Card Party

St. Paul Roman Catholic Church Christian Mothers held their annual card party on Sunday, September 28. Card party, basket raffle & raffle 50/25/25 was held. The event also benefited from GCU Non-Byzantine Parish Matching Funds—thank you!

Marilyn E. Charnie



Marilyn E. Charnie from St. Mary Byzantine Catholic Church presenting a GCU Matching Funds check to St. Paul's Christian Mothers.



# GCU Supported Parish Events

## St. John the Baptist Byzantine Catholic Church UNIONTOWN, PA



### Pirohi Workers' Luncheon

On Thursday, November 6, St. John the Baptist Church held a luncheon for the hard working pirohi volunteers, GCU provided the food through the Parish Social program. Everyone enjoyed some great food and friendship.

Stephen Petruska Jr. | Byzantine Parish Coordinator

## Resurrection Byzantine Catholic Church Holy Trinity Byzantine Catholic Church MONROEVILLE & WALL, PA



### Fr. Don Bolls Anniversary Celebration

With members of Resurrection and Holy Trinity parishes the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration of Fr. Don Bolls was held on October 5, at Resurrection church hall. A luncheon and well wishes were given to Fr. Don for many blessed years. Thanks to the GCU Parish Social Grant program for funding the celebration.

Thomas Oslick Sr. | Byzantine Parish Coordinator

## Dormition of Mary Byzantine Catholic Church CLEVELAND, OH

### Ice Cream Social

Dormition Parish celebrated its name day on Sunday, August 17, 2025. This annual event in the summer allows parishioners to enjoy each other's company while preparing their own ice cream sundae. This year we also said God's blessings to Deacon Joseph Hnat, who was leaving to pursue his studies for the priesthood in Pittsburgh.

Rosemary Trompak | Byzantine Parish Coordinator



## Ascension Byzantine Catholic Church CLAIRTON, PA

### Church Picnic

The Ascension of Our Lord Church held their annual parish picnic on Sunday, September 28. The menu included hot dogs and hamburgers fresh off the grill. Guests provided a variety of covered dishes including homemade salads, vegetables and desserts. Father Christopher Burke gave the blessing before the meal. GCU Parish Coordinator Trish Roberts planned and sponsored the children's games. Kids had fun searching for candy in the hay, a parachute game, bean bag toss and baseball darts. Alex Lassige and Sara Pavlick set up and supervised the games joining in with the kids. A photo opportunity of an old fashion picnic was set up for guests to take pictures. Everyone enjoyed the day and opportunity for joining friends and socializing.



Barb Berchok and Yvonne Opalenik.



Buffet line.



Parachute Game.



Candy straw game.



Fr. Christopher Burke blessing Veterans William Kerr, John Glegyak, Donald Buchina, Michael Cherepko and Michael Sowko.

### Veterans Recognition

Father Christopher Burke recognized all of the parish's service men and women at Liturgy on November 9. He requested that veterans who were present come forward for a personal blessing. Everyone was invited to a cake and coffee social following Liturgy. Each veteran received an Eat-n-Park gift card and a flag pin. The ECF class made cards with poppies for each veteran. The children shared poetry that they wrote to thank them for their service and led the Pledge of Allegiance and God Bless America.

Trish Roberts | Byzantine Parish Coordinator



Alex Lassige and Mason Luketich.



Pledge of Allegiance.



The group of Vets and attendees.



## Our Lady of Perpetual Help Byzantine Catholic Church

LEVITTOWN, PA



### Fall Children's Craft

On Sunday, October 12, 2025 after the Divine Liturgy, a Fall Children's Craft was held. Parish children enjoyed creating colorful autumn tree magnets, each one making it their own from blue skies to pumpkins in the grass and so much more. All the children had a good time. Thank you to GCU for your generous support through the Parish Social Grant Program.

### Halloween Social

After the Divine Liturgy on Sunday, October 26, 2025 everyone in attendance was invited to a Halloween Social. We appreciate the generosity of the GCU through the Parish Social Grant which provided the soft pretzels and donuts. Everyone had a good time and the children received a small bag filled with Halloween treats.

Anna Maria Macinsky | Byzantine Parish

## St. John Byzantine Catholic Church

LYNDORA, PA

### Halloween Party

Thanks to the GCU Parish Social Grant chocolates and candy were purchased for the ECF Halloween party. The kids enjoyed games and a costume parade.

John Pocchiari | Byzantine Parish Coordinator



## Ss. Peter and Paul Byzantine Catholic Church

PUNXSUTAWNEY, PA

### Social Potluck Sunday

Parishioners gathered after Liturgy for a potluck get together on Sunday, September 14. As always, a great time of fellowship and good food was had by all. Many thanks to GCU for helping fund our social gatherings.

### Social Sunday

Thanks to the GCU Parish Social Grant parishioners enjoyed donuts and coffee after Divine Liturgy on Sunday, October 5. Wonderful fellowship was enjoyed by all.



### Holiday Food Bank Donation

Terry Orange was in charge of the parish's food bank collection/donations. The Trinity Food Pantry doesn't have a website and it's a very small food pantry, but they sure do serve a lot of families. The donation was given to Joe Sutton from the Trinity Food Pantry.

Julie Brocious | Byzantine Parish Coordinator



## St. Andrew Byzantine Catholic Church WESTBURY, NY

### Celebrating Fr. Stephen Russo

On Sunday, October 12, we celebrated Fr. Stephen Russo's ordination to the Priesthood on September 23, 2025. He celebrated Liturgy at St. Andrew with Fr. Deacon Knapp who assisted at this special Liturgy. A luncheon using the GCU card was held in his honor.

### Miraculous Icon of Mary

The Bishop gave the Miraculous Icon of Mary, Help of Mothers, to Fr. Nick to be at the church for a week and was open to the public. This Icon has been

used to help mothers through their pregnancy to have safe and healthy deliveries. It was an honor to house this beautiful Icon.

Margaret Pajer |  
Byzantine Parish  
Coordinator



## Our Lady of Wisdom Byzantine Catholic Church LAS VEGAS, NV

### Coffee Socials

A coffee social was held on Sunday, October 12 and Sunday, November 9 after the Liturgies. All enjoyed the fellowship.

Robert Rosales | Byzantine Parish Coordinator





## St. Pius X Byzantine Catholic Church CARRICK, PA

### Halloween Social

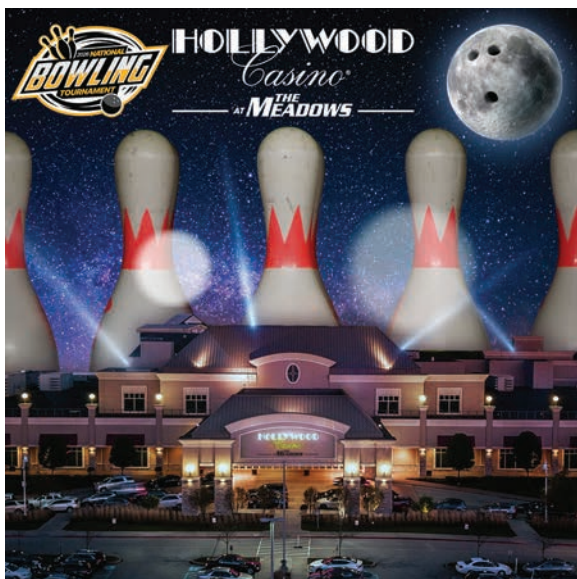
On October 19 after Sunday Liturgy, everyone gathered in the church auditorium for a Halloween-themed social. The party started with a fried chicken buffet lunch. Then, the Right-Left game and Halloween trivia were played. Prizes were also given to the person with the birthday closest to 10/31 and to the lucky winners who had a pumpkin decal under their lunch plate. An additional celebration was the unveiling of the new NexTrex bench. For several months this past spring, a challenge was made to the congregation: collect 1,000 lbs. of plastic in one year and receive a free bench for the church. With a huge amount of assistance

collecting plastic from Charles at the Food Bank, we met our goal. There is now a beautiful bench in the church auditorium for all to use.

Kim Kolesar |  
Byzantine Parish Coordinator



NexTrex bench. Charles (front-right) and Randy at Food Bank (Charles provided a huge amount of assistance in gathering the plastic).



### 2026 National Bowling Tournament - May 15 & 16, 2026

Meadows Lanes is a state-of-the-art bowling center located within Hollywood Casino at the Meadows. It features 24 synthetic AMF lanes which will once again add excitement to the 2026 National Bowling Tournament.

Meadows Lanes will dazzle your senses with the very best in audio and visual technology. Complete with 42" flat monitors and large video screens on each lane, your favorite music, videos and sporting events will come alive as you enjoy the finest bowling experience available.

A full bar, complete with friendly wait service, is available to conveniently serve your needs. We will once again offer food functions at the lanes for your convenience.

### Accommodations

#### Hyatt Place Hollywood Casino & Racetrack Pittsburgh South

\$180/Night+11% tax Includes Hot Breakfast Buffet

(Hotel is attached to the Meadows Complex)

Phone: 1-888-257-9658 - Mention Group Code G-FSBW

Online: [www.hyattplacepittsburghsouth.com](http://www.hyattplacepittsburghsouth.com)

Click Book at top right / Select Dates / Select # of Guests in Room / Click Drop Down where Special Rates appear / Select Corporate or Group Rate / Type G-FSBW in block that appears / Then click check availability.

#### Doubletree by Hilton - Meadowlands

\$121/Night+Tax

Offers shuttle to and from Hollywood Casino until Midnight every day.

Phone: (724) 222-6200 - Room Block Code is: Fraternal Bowling Tournament

Applications and complete details available on the GCU Website.





First place team: Marianne Nagrant, Maryellen Gross, Janet Yntema and Mary Marquis.

## Sacred Heart Byzantine Catholic Church LIVONIA, MI



Anne Nagrant the Trivia Master for the evening.

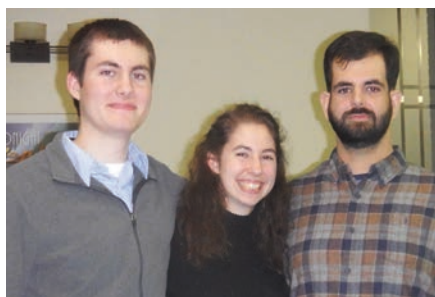
### Trivia Night

Sacred Heart Church held its third Trivia Night with GCU member Anne Nagrant as the Trivia Master on Saturday, October 25. After having food and beverages supplied by the GCU Social Grant, the contest began. The top three teams received cash prizes. Only a few points separated the teams.

Marianne Nagrant | Byzantine Parish Coordinator



Second place team: Joanne Orlyk, Paula Sugars, Jane Watters, Lance Remisoski and Nicholas J. Nagrant.



Third place team: Anthony, Olivia & John Carzon.

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

### Hot Dog Bar

On Sunday, September 28, our Hot Dog Bar was a sizzling success! Good food and good company made it a day to remember. A heartfelt thank you to GCU for their continued support—your generosity is always appreciated!

Arleen Jama | Byzantine Parish Coordinator







Grill Master Slavomir Hornak.

## St. Michael Byzantine Catholic Church

PERTH AMBOY, NJ

### 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Community Picnic

St. Michael Parish held its 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Community Picnic with local parishes on Sunday, October 5. Fun was had by all and great food.

**Ann Marie Toscano** | Byzantine Parish Coordinator



Fr. Vasyl Remitskyi, DJ Rusty Strisovsky and Demetra Wagner.

## St. Michael the Archangel Byzantine Catholic Church

CANONSBURG, PA

### Michael the Archangel Feast Day Dinner

With gratitude for the GCU Parish Social Grant providing the main entree of fried chicken, the St. Michael Parish Community celebrated the Feast Day of their Patron Archangel Michael with a covered dish dinner after Sunday Divine Liturgy on November 9. The food was extraordinary and the fellowship was a blessing to all who attended.

**Constance Beatty** | Byzantine Parish Coordinator



## St. Mary Byzantine Catholic Church

BRADENVILLE, PA

### Pokrov Dinner

The Annual Parish Patronal Feast Dinner was held on Sunday, October 12 with a traditional goulash meal. Thanks to the GCU Parish Social Grant for providing funding.

**Sue Snyder** | Byzantine Parish Coordinator

## St. Nicholas Byzantine Catholic Church

GREENSBURG, PA

### All Souls Day Breakfast

On Sunday, October 26, parish members and guests gathered to celebrate All Saints Day. After mass, breakfast was served in the social hall. Thank you GCU for the Parish Social Grant.

**Fr. Vasyl Banyk** | Byzantine Parish Coordinator

## St. John Byzantine Catholic Church

POTTSTOWN, PA



### Chinese Auction & Halloween Treats for ECF Students

St. John Church utilized the GCU Parish Social Grant Program for two events this fall. First, GCU and parish families participated in providing key gifts for the annual Chinese Auction that was held on Friday, October 17. The Chinese Auction has been a great church community event. Many thanks to all parishioners who donated to the auction and those who worked the event.

Second, the School of Religion/ECF students were provided by the GCU with some Halloween treats at the end of class on Sunday. Rev. Nicholas de Prospero is pastor at St. John. Fran Petro and Alex Riebe are ECF/SOR co-coordinators and GCU members.

Alex Riebe | Byzantine Parish Coordinator



The Barna and Bridgman Families: Marybeth, Grace, James, Ava, Patrick and Mary. At right is Donald & Nicholas Mindiak.



## St. Nicholas Byzantine Catholic Church

PERTH AMBOY, NJ

### Oktoberfest

St. Nicholas Byzantine Catholic Church celebrated their Oktoberfest with their sister parish St. Michael at St. Michael's Hall. Everyone had a wonderful time

dancing, games, puppet show and delicious food. Also St. Nicholas celebrated Ann Rockefeller's 100<sup>th</sup> birthday at the Oktoberfest.



Diane Kerekes and the birthday girl Ann Rockefeller.

Lisa Rebovich | Byzantine Parish Coordinator





# For Your Information

## Available

### GCU Culinary Chronicle Cookbook

The GCU Culinary Chronicle Cookbook was first published in 1985 as a fund raising tool for the proposed construction of a wooden church on the GCU property in Beaver, PA. The dream was realized with the completion of the GCU St. Nicholas Chapel in 1992. The cookbook, over 270 pages of favorite family and ethnic recipes, has continued to be very popular. The



proceeds from sales now benefit the GCU Foundation with \$1 from each book sold going directly to the GCU Cause of the Quarter. The cookbook is available in its original printed version for a cost of \$20 (\$10 plus \$10 for shipping) or in a downloadable version (PDF) for the cost of \$8. Order and pay with a credit card at [GCUusa.com/Giving\\_Back/Cookbook](http://GCUusa.com/Giving_Back/Cookbook).

### Carpathian Cookery Cookbook

Having sold nearly 20,500 copies, the cookbook has entered its 22<sup>nd</sup> printing and was requested by the Library of Congress to be in their ethnic cooking collection. The 330-page cookbook has a new look and features a protective plastic cover. The book includes sections on Christmas and Easter customs and recipes, traditional Rusyn and Slavic foods, other ethnic dishes, and many other tried-and-true recipes of St. John's parishioners. There is a variety of paska bread and kolachi (filled roll) recipes, as well as meatless dishes and Lenten recipes, suitable for the Great Fast, as well as the Pre-Christmas Fast. The cost of the cookbook is \$14.<sup>00</sup> plus \$6.<sup>00</sup> postage and handling (\$20.<sup>00</sup>). If ordering from Canada, please send a \$38.<sup>00</sup> (\$14 + \$24 postage) U.S. Postal money order payable in U.S. dollars to reflect the difference in the exchange rate and postage cost. To order please send a check or money order to: Ethnic Craft Club, St. John 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](mailto:carpathiancookery@gmail.com).



**GCU PENGUIN GAME**

**THURSDAY, JANUARY 29, 2026**

**7PM FACEOFF**

**SECTION 119**

**PIT vs CHI**

**\$65 Members**

**\$82 Non-Members**

**Makes the Perfect Christmas Gift!!**

# Deceased Members

(State Lodge-Member-City-State)

8344 Anna Adamski—Verona, PA	8344 Janet Gerber—Clymer, PA	8344 M. Avaneil Lezanic—Indiana, PA
8310 Patricia L. Avans—Rossville, GA	8344 Monica Gleason—Hazleton, PA	8344 Stephen Liptak—Braddock, PA
8335 Anne Basile—Edison, NJ	8344 Marian Gottschark—Prosperity, PA	8344 Sara Lynn Long—Rochester, PA
8344 Veronica D. Bellis—Philadelphia, PA	8344 Rose A. Graham—Portage, PA	8344 Margaret Longenette— New Eagle, PA
8306 Chris A. Biesadecki—Stratford, CT	8344 Joseph P. Gresko—Masontown, PA	8359 Yvonne P. Lordman—Asheville, NC
8344 Victoria C. Book—Franklin, PA	8344 Florence Grinnik—Butler, PA	8344 Clara F. Lucas—Windber, PA
8359 Frances M. Bostian— Kannapolis, NC	8344 Mary F. Gutilla—Pittsburgh, PA	8344 Regis D. Luty—Coraopolis, PA
8326 Rita M. Boyer—Gaylord, MI	8337 Olga Guzowski—Staten Island, NY	8344 Helen M. Maley—Chicora, PA
8358 Roger P. Brandt—Elkhart Lake, WI	8344 Lawrence J. Haffey—Pottsville, PA	8344 Ruth Z. Mancing—Sewickley, PA
8344 David Brunner—Gibsonia, PA	8344 Evelyn M. Hall—West Pittsburgh, PA	8344 Katherine Manzo—Pottsville, PA
8344 William A. Burnett—Lansdale, PA	8344 Leonard Hamera—Maricopa, AZ	8360 John T. Mateka—Simpsonville, SC
8344 Kenneth Butterfield—Washington, PA	8326 Elizabeth A. Harbin—Flint, MI	8344 Helen Mazanetz—Charleroi, PA
8344 Kris D. Calkins—Port Carbon, PA	8327 Leon J. Hartman—Shakopee, MN	8344 Madeline McCormick— Pittsburgh, PA
8344 Margaret D. Callahan—Scranton, PA	8344 Pamela Hartshorn— Rostraver Twp., PA	8335 Robert M. McDonough—Clark, NJ
8344 Jean Canton—Coraopolis, PA	8358 Catharine Hoppe—De Pere, WI	8344 Sara L. McLean—Shelock, PA
8344 John Edward Carley—Hanover, PA	8344 Grant Hunter—Indiana, PA	8344 Robert E. Mitchell—Oakdale, PA
8344 Nadeane Choynacki— Wilkes Barre, PA	8344 Ann W. Ibach—Downingtown, PA	8344 Helen J. Morgan—Lebanon, PA
8344 Clementine A. Cichy—Old Forge, PA	8313 Paul Isabella—Bloomington, IL	8344 Joseph S. Moritz—Beaver, PA
8344 Dorothy S. Coman—Stroudsburg, PA	8341 Theresa Jarem—Bentleyville, OH	8344 Judith Moschetta—Washington, PA
8344 Patrick Conley—Bethlehem, PA	8344 Ronald A. Johnson—Newberry, FL	8315 Barbara Myers—Roanoke, IN
8309 Lauren Ann Cooper— Boynton Beach, FL	8306 Christine M. Joyner— Glastonbury, CT	8313 Mary Najdich—Worth, IL
8307 Karen A. Crehan—Wilmington, DE	8344 Shirley Kaetzel— East Stroudsburg, PA	8344 Nathan E. Neeb—Lehigh, PA
8315 Barbara J. DalSanto—St. John, IN	8344 Edward P. Kanai—Pittsburgh, PA	8358 Cynthia L. Nehlsen—Big Bend, WI
8344 Jane Dancik—Chicora, PA	8341 Larry L. K'Meyer—Akron, OH	8344 Phillip Nuhfer—Warren, PA
8344 Allen Charles Danjou—Bulger, PA	8344 Gerald R. Kovell—Bethel Park, PA	8344 Mary Elizabeth Olack—Aliquippa, PA
8344 Antonietta DeSantis—Aliquippa, PA	8344 James N. Krenicky— Cranberry Twp., PA	8344 Anthony Palmieri—Pittsburgh, PA
8344 Robert J. Doyle—Pottsville, PA	8341 David R. Kuhn—Orwell, OH	8344 Joanne F. Perlik—Gibsonia, PA
8344 Robin M. Eiche—Holidaysburg, PA	8335 Joan Cecilia Kurtes—Avenel, NJ	8344 Paul E. Pottiger—Carrolltown, PA
8344 Dennis M. Evancho— Greensburg, PA	8313 William Kuzma—O'Fallon, IL	8344 Anna L. Potts—Birdsboro, PA
8344 Gregory Flick—Grindstone, PA	8302 Gudrun E. Lamkin Worrick— Prescott Valley, AZ	8344 Charles R. Potts—Union City, PA
8344 Martha Lee Fowler—Brownsville, PA	8344 Concetta Landis—Springdale, PA	8344 Orlando A. Prete—Dilliner, PA
8344 Albert E. Frie—Port Carbon, PA	8344 Dolores L. Leo—Harmony, PA	8358 Wayne W. Propst—Beaver Dam, WI
8344 Joanne Futato—Aliquippa, PA	8344 Frank Lesosky—Johnstown, PA	8309 Anna Przybyszewski— Winter Springs, FL
8326 Cathy J. Ganoe—Blanchard, MI	8344 Irene Lewandowski—Gilberton, PA	8344 David L. Renwick—Leechburg, PA
8344 Larry Gardner—Altoona, PA		8344 Mary Roccki—Cabot, PA
		8344 Emil Sellong—Ligonier, PA



# Remembrances

## Mary Elizabeth (Seech) Olack

Mary Elizabeth (Seech) Olack, 94, of Aliquippa, PA passed away Thursday, October 9, 2025, at Concordia Villa St. Josep in Baden, PA.

Born January 24, 1931, in West Aliquippa, she was the daughter of the late Andrew & Mary (Mokranin) Seech. She was a 1949 graduate of Aliquippa High School and retired from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Bureau of Employment Security.

Mary Elizabeth was a lifelong and active member of both St. George Byzantine Catholic Church in Aliquippa, PA and the GCU.

She was an excellent cook and baker. Her homemade specialties were city chicken, holupki and nut rolls.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her beloved husband, Joseph Olack, whom she married, May 8, 1951, and three brothers, Thomas, Jack and George Seech.

She will be deeply missed by her devoted children: Timothy (Carol) Olack, Kathy (Danny) Kapaldo, David (Lisa) Olack and Michael (Kathy) Olack; her grandchildren: Blake (Sarah) Olack, Lauren Olack & her fiancé Andrew Ciccolella, Michael Kapaldo & his girlfriend, Jessica Sevcik, Pamela Kapaldo, Asthon (Jeremy) Olack, Kristina Olack, Abigail (A.J.) Jacoby, Emily (Andrew) Hopkins and Jennifer Stipkala (Ed Robbins); her great grandchildren: Sloane, Reese,

Dominic, Emma, Landon and Anderson; two sisters-in-laws, Martha Seech and Dorothy Peterson and many nieces and nephews.

The Divine Liturgy of Christian Burial was held on Monday, October 13, 2025 with Fr. Anthony Constantino, officiating. Entombment followed at Mt. Olivet Catholic Cemetery, Hopewell Township, PA.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the B.F. Jones Library, Aliquippa, PA.

Blessed repose and eternal memory.

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 8344 George J. Shaffer—<br>Chambersburg, PA    | 8358 Linda Van Boxel—Little Suamico, WI |
| 8344 Rosemary J. Shaw—Weirton, WV              | 8344 Lena VanDyke—Punxsutawney, PA      |
| 8344 Ronald J. Shea—Schwenksville, PA          | 8344 John G. Varkonda—Sewickley, PA     |
| 8309 Joseph Sichko—<br>Highland Heights, OH    | 8333 Michael Vasko—Henderson, NV        |
| 8341 Shake I. Simonoff—Youngstown, OH          | 8344 Ralph Vecchio—Stroudsburg, PA      |
| 8344 Patricia A. Skinner—Warren, PA            | 8344 Mary Walker—Sarver, PA             |
| 8341 Odessa Smith—Youngstown, OH               | 8344 James P. Walko—Hazleton, PA        |
| 8344 John Sterrett—New Alexandria, PA          | 8344 Emma Welsh—Export, PA              |
| 8313 Andrew M. Strelec—Schaumburg, IL          | 8344 Geraldine Wilson—Pittsburgh, PA    |
| 8344 Richard Thomas—Pittsburgh, PA             | 8344 Cema M. Witmer—Elverson, PA        |
| 8344 Mary J. Timmerman—<br>Ellwood City, PA    | 8344 Sheila Yakatan—Blue Bell, PA       |
| 8313 Athena Tremulis—<br>Arlington Heights, IL | 8344 Earl Yarnell—Mingoville, PA        |
| 8341 Jeffrey M. Ulrich—Youngstown, OH          | 8341 Margaret Zeigler—Canton, OH        |
|  | 8344 Thomas Zelesnik—Aliquippa, PA      |
|  | 8335 Cynthia M. Zeman—Stewartville, NJ  |



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