

JUNE 2025

# GCU

MAGAZINE



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#### **Phone:**

1-724-495-3400

1-800-722-4428

**FAX:** 1-724-495-3421

[info@GCUusa.com](mailto:info@GCUusa.com)

[www.GCUusa.com](http://www.GCUusa.com)

#### **On Our Cover:**

GCU Board of Directors  
2025-2028. Missing  
from photo Gregory N.  
Vladika.

#### **Board of Directors**

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Spiritual Advisor

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**Basil M. Wahal**  
Editor



**George Kofel**  
Chairman, Board of Directors

# Summer is Family Time

**A**s I sit down to write this article, I looked at the date and couldn't believe it is already June. Where is the time going?

June, the sixth month and midpoint of the year marks the beginning of summer in the Northern Hemisphere. The month is significant for the end of the school year, high school graduations, weddings and Father's Day. The summer solstice, the longest day of the year, also occurs in June. (June 20, 2025)

At GCU, it means the start of our summer activities which include the 2025 Spring Golf Classic at Seven Oaks; Helping Hands Days at Mount Saint Macrina and Holy Annunciation Monastery; minor league baseball games in Altoona, PA, Moosic, PA, and Eastlake, OH; Pittsburgh Pirates Kids Day at PNC Park; casino trips and family fun at Fun Fore All Entertainment Center, followed by GCU Byzantine Family Days at Kennywood and Knoebels Park in July. Refer to the GCU website or this Magazine for a listing of dates and events in your area. To all our members who live or are visiting Western Pennsylvania plan to spend a day or two at our Seven Oaks Pool & Racquet Complex. I can assure you that you will not be disappointed. Please contact Chris Chamberlain at the GCU Fraternal Department prior to your visit and she will be happy to assist you.

As I transition my thoughts to the economy and business trends, I am grateful GCU's "member first values" continue to focus on your financial goals in retirement planning and life insurance protection. We all know financial markets can be very volatile and I take comfort that the annuities and life

products you have invested in are supported by the continued financial strength of GCU, an AM Best A- excellent rated organization. Contact the GCU Sales Department for more information regarding our products and rates.

On a sad note, our GCU family mourns the passing of retired director Dorothy Foran. Known to many as "Dot," her unwavering commitment to the GCU started in Hazleton, PA as a lodge officer, volunteer and GCU sales recommender. It continued with her election to the Board of Directors in 2000 at our convention held in Louisville, KY. Dorothy served on the Board until her retirement in November 2022. Her full obituary will appear in the August issue. On behalf of the GCU Board of Directors, Executive Officers and GCU Staff, I extend our condolences and prayers to Dorothy's family and friends. May God grant her eternal memory. *Vicnaja jej pamjat!*

In closing, I wish you a safe and enjoyable summer season. Enjoy the time the Lord has given us to be with our family and friends—lost time is a resource that can never be made up.





Jeremy Stephenson  
GCU COO

# Embracing Technology, Enhancing Your Experience

**A**t GCU, our members are at the heart of everything we do. As Chief Operations Officer, I'm pleased to share recent improvements to our technology and services—all designed to benefit you directly.

## Available to you now:

### New Member and Agent Websites:

- Our updated website portals provide a secure and easy-to-use way to manage your annuity and life insurance policies anytime, from anywhere in the U.S. or Canada. Moving to these new portals is just the beginning. Soon, you'll see additional information about your policies, live chat support, and self-service options like updating your address. Rest assured, the services you currently enjoy—like speaking with us by phone or receiving information by mail—will continue.

## Coming soon:

### New GCUusa.com Website:

Later this year, we'll launch a completely updated public website. We know our current site can be difficult to use, so we're working hard behind the scenes to provide a simpler, friendlier user experience.

### Simpler Application Process:

Also coming soon are new, easy-to-use tools for applying for annuities and life insurance. These improvements will make applications faster and simpler, helping GCU welcome new members across America and to serve you, our current membership, more quickly.

### Better Phone Support:

Starting in mid-July, we will implement our new Ring-Central phone system. This advanced phone system means we can help you immediately when you call—no more waiting for a callback from voicemail. You'll receive quicker assistance with your accounts, whenever you need it.

Our technology updates are guided by our ongoing dedication to excellent service and by listening to you, our members. Your voice matters, and these enhancements reflect your valuable feedback.

Thank you for your continued trust in GCU. We're excited to serve you even better in the months ahead.

## 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 Friday, July 4 in observance of Independence Day.** Regular business hours will resume on Monday, July 7.

5400 Tuscarawas Road, Beaver, PA 15009







**John Luksa**  
National Sales Director

# Planning for Summer vs. Planning for Retirement

**I** have heard it said many times that some people plan more for their summer vacation than their retirement. It makes sense; people are more motivated to plan a holiday that is fun and will happen soon versus planning something necessary and further out.

Whether the stock market is up or down, it is always important to diversify your risk and make sure you have a percentage of your nest egg set aside for safety. GCU annuities are a very safe place to guarantee your retirement dollars will be there when you need them the most: at retirement.

## **Consider this case study as an example of diversifying a family's retirement.**

Dan and Kim are both age 55 and have been married for 30 years. They each have Rollover IRAs, which are invested in the market, totaling \$700,000.<sup>00</sup>

Dan recently changed jobs and is trying to determine what to do with the \$450,000.<sup>00</sup> he has at his previous company's 401(k). Since their goal is to retire in 7 years, they are concerned about putting these monies back into the market and would like to review more conservative options without giving up too much earning potential.

After discussing their retirement needs with their GCU agent, they decide to roll over the \$450,000.<sup>00</sup> into the Aquila X (a 10-year, fixed indexed annuity IRA).

## **Dan and Kim are comfortable with their choice for three reasons:**

- This portion of their retirement assets are now NOT subject to market risk.
- They have upward growth potential, coupled with downside risk protection.
- Dan and Kim have diversified their risk for the next 7 years.

## **Some added benefits included with the Aquila X Indexed Annuity:**

- If he were ever to need in-home nursing care, through the Wellness Benefit Enhancement Rider, he may be eligible to collect enhanced withdrawals.\*
- Surrender charges are waived if he is ever diagnosed with a terminal illness having a life expectancy of 12 months or less.\*\*
- He can receive income as a single payment, as a series of regular payments over a specific period, or as income for life.

Be sure to reach out to your GCU agent today to review your short and long-term plans and gain peace of mind that you're on track with your goals this summer!

*\*In California, this is called the Enhanced Withdrawal Benefit Rider.*

*\*\*Not available in California.*



Fr. Valerian M. Michlik

GCU Spiritual Advisor

# Change

**D**ear Friends:  
Christ is Among Us!  
As I begin writing this article, let me go back to Easter Sunday – Pascha 2025. The entire world was delighted to see Pope Francis on the balcony of St. Peter’s Basilica. He was able to pray with the faithful, offer his “Urbi et Orbi” message to the world, and even drove around greeting the faithful gathered in St. Peter’s Square. On the next day we learned that Pope Francis had died, he returned to the house of the Father. I was in shock.

From that moment on, the eyes of the entire world were on the Vatican. Hundreds of thousands of people, Catholic and non-Catholic, traveled to Rome to bid farewell to the “Pope of the peripheries,” a leader who spoke and acted on behalf of marginalized groups of people worldwide. I have to be honest that I did not always agree with Pope Francis (and he was my boss), but I did admire his ability to connect with people from all walks of life, his humility, concern for the poor, and emphasis on God’s mercy.

Afterwards, we began praying for the conclave. The media was having a heyday, chasing the cardinals around St. Peter’s Square, presenting to us the top “contenders”, and once again they were wrong! I even had someone tell me

that they wanted cardinal Pizzaballa to be the next pope. When I asked why? Because they liked his last name Pizzaballa – Dancing Pizza! Instead, we were all shocked when Pope Leo XIV stepped out onto the balcony of St. Peter’s to bless the world. I could not believe it! The first American Pope! Let us pray for our Holy Father Pope Leo XIV as he begins his pontificate. May he, as successor to the Apostle Peter, build the Church into a sacrament of unity, love, and peace for all the world.

**It is important for ALL of us to entrust God with our changes.**

With this “change” in the life of the Church we often wonder, what will happen next? We don’t like change because sometimes it can be very hard. As we celebrate Pentecost Sunday – the Descent of the Holy Spirit we see how the lives of the apostles, simple men, changed for good. A simple fisherman Peter became the first Pope of Rome. A man who became known as doubting Thomas, becomes the founder of Christian communities in India. I’m sure cardinal Robert Prevost from Chicago was not ready for that major change in his life!

Changes are difficult and learning to cope with change is a large part of our maturing process – the older you get, the more changes there are. And let’s be honest some changes are for the good; others are not so good. The big question is how do you react to change, that is, are you able to successfully cope/deal with change in life?

I remember when our daughters were changing schools. This change was for their good, but with this change our daughters were facing new challenges: new friends, new teachers, new bus drivers, etc. Two of our daughters were okay with this change, one had a harder time coping with this change.

As a parent, priest, spiritual advisor of the GCU, I must say that it is important for ALL of us to entrust God with our changes.

Facing changes in life there will always be fear,



Pope Leo XIV

anxiety and stress. But for us there is always that avenue of prayer that brings us into the presence and protection of almighty God. The phrase “The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear?” from Psalm 27, can be very helpful to us since it emphasizes God’s strength and protection. This verse reassures us that we can trust in God, especially in times of fear, anxiety and stress that comes with changes in life. When you find yourself in the eye of a storm, don’t forget that changes in life don’t confuse God or make any more difficult for Him to care for you. God is with Us – S nami Boh, as we sing in our Churches!

To wrap it up, after the “changes” we have witnessed in the life of the Church, please do not resign to changes. Do not allow that passive/aggressive approach to change.

Accept the fact that changes in life are natural and inevitable. When you get “hit” by an unexpected change, try to keep that proper perspective, and ALWAYS put your trust in God.

A small group of Byzantine Catholics in 1892 gathered in Wilkes-Barre, PA, to bring a change into peoples lives. This legacy continues on in the GCU especially with our programs that emphasize giving back to the places where we live, work and worship. Bringing positive – holy change into people’s lives.

When it happens to you or me, remember to cope with change with faith, trust and hope. This will allow your relationship with God to grow stronger and transform us into the people He wants us to be.



A Pilgrimage was planned last year by the Metropolitan Church of Pittsburgh to visit Rome in May 2025 to celebrate the Jubilee Year of 2025. It just so happened that the Pilgrimage dates coincided with the Conclave and election of Pope Leo XIV. The Pilgrims along with 600 Eastern Catholics were treated to a special audience with the new Pope. At left Archbishop William C. Skurla with Pope Leo XIV and at right Bishop Robert Mark Pipta with Pope Leo XIV.





Atty. John J. Urban

# Lessons in the Law

## RMD-What Is This? Part Three

**T**wo previous articles dealt with defining RMDs, what it is, and how to lower the tax.

It is never too late to strategize a plan for your RMDs for this year and for the years in the future. Remember, there are lots of exceptions, there are different rules for different accounts,

but the bottom line is that the IRS wants your tax money.

What can you do?

- The IRS wants you to take the minimum distribution each year because the IRS is guaranteed more taxes over time.
- RMD is the minimum amount that you must take out yearly. But one should know what tax rate you are in and maybe you can withdraw more than the RMD and still pay taxes in a lower bracket.
- Try not to take two years of RMD in the same year. You could pay substantially more in taxes and you might have to pay higher Medicare premiums.
- If you are the right age, you can withdraw funds from your IRA and pay taxes on the withdrawal which lowers the future RMD amounts.

- Make a qualified charitable distribution (QCD) directly from your IRA account to a charity. If you are Age 70½ or older, you get a qualified charitable deduction. If you are Age 73 or older, the QCD will count toward your RMD. No charitable deduction, but no tax on this money. A donation to the GCU Foundation qualifies.
- Take your RMD or RMD & more and roll that money over into a GCU fixed or deferred annuity. It may not save taxes on the distribution, but this is a great way to make more money not be subject to RMD rules.
- Take your RMD or RMD & more and purchase a GCU single premium life insurance policy. What a great way to use this money to buy insurance that pays out tax free to your beneficiaries.

This is not an all-exclusive list but it shows we need to take an aggressive attitude to these distributions. For more information you can contact the GCU Sales Department at 1-800-722-4428.

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

## Mittens for Memories

**Beaver Falls, PA.** This past year was a block buster year for Mittens for Memories! Each Tuesday a group of 3-7 meet to sew woolen mittens with approximately 500 mittens made in 2024. Other friends and family worked in their own homes tracing, cutting and trimming mittens and sewing liners. We have now introduced this mission to our grandchildren, who assist with the sewing and at craft shows—they love being involved! Starting in September husbands and brothers get to work dragging everything to various craft shows across the area. They built a creative display and help at the shows. After approximately seven craft shows, we profited enough to donate \$10,000.<sup>00</sup> to the Alzheimer's Association, in memory of our brother, Gary; \$1,500.<sup>00</sup> to the American Cancer Society, in memory and in honor of many loved ones and \$1,500.<sup>00</sup> to Pittsburgh's Children's Hospital! We have been thrilled with the support we receive from the community, friends and many others who are happy to support causes near and dear to our hearts. We are especially thankful for the support of the GCU GoGive program—thank you a million times! The funds the program provided helped supply us with the wool sweaters and fleece to make the mittens! Thank you for your generosity.

Rhonda Androlia & the Entire "Mitten" Team



Sewickley Fall Fest in September—a very nice day in the community!



Christmas on the Farm sale in Enon Valley which is always the first weekend in November.



George and Sharon Kofel with grandchildren Benjamin and Lucy Taramelli in front of RMH with Ronald.

## Welcome Bags for Ronald McDonald House

**Dunmore, PA.** Our story began in January 2019 when the unexpected early birth of our grandson happened while Mom, from Pittsburgh, was on a business trip in Chicago. Ronald McDonald House, in Chicago, was our son's and his wife's home for nearly three months. The RMH location provided them with easy access to the hospital where their newborn son was being nurtured to become strong enough to return home to Pittsburgh. Annually my family and friends pick a large project to pay it forward to show our gratitude for the love and support provided by RMH to our son and his wife while in Chicago, during a very scary and stressful time. With the generous assistance of the GCU GoGive program and donations from family and friends, we purchased suggested items by Ronald McDonald House to put together 80 welcome bags. The bags will be given to families on their arrival at RMH. For more information, please visit: Ronald McDonald House of Pittsburgh at <https://rmhcpgh-mgtn.org/>.

Sharon Kofel

# 2025 Scholarships



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

The GCU Board of Directors Fraternal Committee would like to announce the awarding of 18 National Scholarships (17—\$2,000.<sup>00</sup> and 1—\$1,500.<sup>00</sup>) together with 29 Academic Performance Scholarships (27—\$1,500.<sup>00</sup> and 2—\$1,000.<sup>00</sup>). Awardees appear over the next three pages.

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

GCU National Scholarship recipients must maintain a minimum 2.75 GPA and submit a collage showing them volunteering within their community focusing on “Community Service and You.” First place winner of the John Katana Memorial Collage Award was Brent Kolesar who received an additional award of \$500.<sup>00</sup>. Myah Trbovich’s collage finished second and she received an additional 250.<sup>00</sup> award. Five of the national awardees also received an additional \$500.<sup>00</sup> award for maintaining a 4.0 GPA. They were: Karalyn Bailey, Lydia Crefeld, Elizabeth Dowell, Brent Kolesar and Paul Rubish.

Nine APS Scholarship recipients have continued to maintain a cumulative 4.0 GPA and will receive an additional award of \$500.<sup>00</sup>: Julia Bates, Thomas Betterly, Brandon Bonaparte, Lauren Harris, Abigail Kutchma, Gabrielle Kutchma, Leah LaMont, Allison Meko and Emma Suplizio.

Congratulations to all of the scholarship awardees!

## 4.0 GPA Winners



**Karalyn M. Bailey**  
Johnstown, PA—L8344  
St. Vincent College  
Major: Biology



**Lydia R. Crefeld**  
Beaver, PA—L8344  
Duquesne University  
Major: Pharmacy



**Elizabeth A. Dowell**  
Hubbard, OH—L8341  
Youngstown State Univ.  
Major: Primary Educ./  
Intervention Specialist



**Paul A. Rubish**  
Pittsburgh, PA—L8344  
Duquesne University  
Major: Secondary  
Education

## The John Katana Memorial Volunteer Collage Winners



**Brent R. Kolesar - 1<sup>st</sup>**  
**4.0 GPA Winner**  
West Mifflin, PA—L8344  
Seton Hill University  
Major: Computer Science



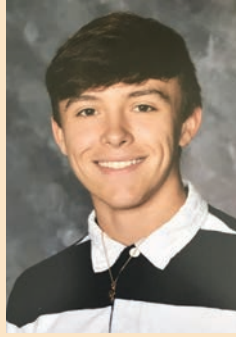
**Myah R. Trbovich - 2<sup>nd</sup>**  
Pittsburgh, PA—L8344  
Carlow University  
Major: Nursing





**Wyatt A. Baca**

Baytown, TX—L8349  
Texas A&M University  
Major: Electrical  
Engineering



**Caleb A. Grossman**

Swoyersville, PA—L8344  
University of Scranton  
Major: International  
Studies/Russian



**Olivia A. Harris**

Pittsburgh, PA—L8344  
Chatham University  
Major: Policy Studies



**Savannah Jacubenta**

North Royalton, OH—L8341  
The Ohio State University  
Major: Chemical  
Engineering



**Luke R. Jordan**

Munhall, PA—L8344  
Slippery Rock University  
Major: Safety  
Management



**Christopher R. Lieber**

Lakeland, FL—L8309  
Liberty University  
Major: Information  
Technology



**Elias T. Olexa**

McDonald, PA—L8344  
University of Pittsburgh  
Major: Finance &  
Accounting



**Kaitlyn Oslick**

Seven Fields, PA—L8344  
Culinary Institute of  
America  
Major: Culinary Science



**Lawrence V. Pegula**

Jessup, PA—L8344  
Penn State University  
Major: Finance



**Zachary Presloid**

Punxsutawney, PA—L8344  
St. Francis University  
Major: Exercise  
Physiology/Physical  
Therapy



**Ava Marie Scally**

Moon Township, PA—  
L8344  
Kent State University  
Major: Nursing



**Skylar M. Smith**

Little Falls, NJ—L8335  
Seton Hall University  
Major: Biology/Dr. Phys.  
Therapy

CONTINUED

# Academic Performance Scholarships

## 4.0 GPA Awardees

### Julia Bates

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

### Thomas Betterly

Hazleton, PA—L8344  
University of Notre Dame  
Major: Master of Education

### Brandon Bonaparte

Prosper, TX—L8349  
Texas Tech University  
Major: Master of Science in  
Personal Financial Planning

### Lauren Harris

Pittsburgh, PA—L8344  
Geneva College  
Major: Clinical Mental  
Health Counseling

### Abigail Kutchma

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

### Gabrielle Kutchma

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

### Leah LaMont

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

### Allison Meko

Punxsutawney, PA—L8344  
Pennsylvania State University  
Major: Marketing

### Emma Suplizio

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

### Casey Allshouse

Clarksburg, PA—L8344  
Indiana University of PA  
Major: History

### Macrina Dolinish

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

### Riley Presloid

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

### Olivia Roberts

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

### Timothy Allshouse

Clarksburg, PA—L8344  
Bucknell  
Major: Biology

### Maura Gallagher

Moscow, PA—L8344  
University of Scranton  
Major: Kinesiology

### Ivan Prodanets

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

### Kylin Rosnick

Pittsburgh, PA—L8344  
Chatham Univeristy  
Major: International Business

### Matthew Bonaparte

Prosper, TX—L8349  
Texas Tech University  
Major: Finance

### Aiden Kutchma

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

### Stepan Prodanets

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

### Justin Scally

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

### Anthony DeProspo

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

### Alyssa LaMont

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

### Maggie Race

North Huntingdon , PA—L8344  
Pennsylvania State University  
Major: Marketing

### Dorothy Sidau

Southfield, MI—L8326  
Lake Superior State University  
Major: Conservation Biology

### Danielle DeProspo

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

### Maria Palasz

Naperville, IL—L8313  
Purdue University  
Major: Genetics

### Angelino Revilak

Munhall, PA—L8344  
Duquesne University  
Major: History

### Austin Simons

Beaver, PA—L8344  
Geneva College  
Major: Environmental Science

# 2025 Athletic Scholarships

The GCU Board of Directors Fraternal Committee, is pleased to announce the winners of the 2025 Athletic Scholarship. The awardees were selected from 12 applicants for this year's awards. Margaret Pegula of Jessup, PA & Michael Carr of McKees Rocks, PA will each receive a \$2,000.<sup>00</sup> scholarship to assist with their first-year expenses of post-secondary education.

Margaret excelled in track, soccer and basketball. Her high school's basketball team finished as District Champions in 2022 & 2024. She was also an avid volunteer for

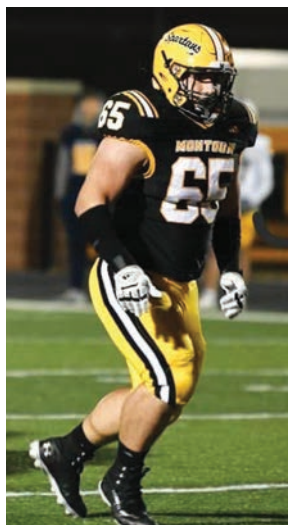
a local nonprofit organization named The Nadine Cenci Marchegiani Foundation.

Michael was also a three sport athlete in football, track and volleyball. The football team finished first in the Parkway Conference in 2024 and the volleyball team was a WPIAL champion. Mike was president of the schools Leo Club, which is the student branch of Lions Club International.

Will you be the 2026 Athletic Scholarship awardee? Online applications for high school senior athletes will be accepted at [www.GCUusa.com](http://www.GCUusa.com) beginning on October 1, 2025.



Margaret Pegula



Michael Carr





## Community Matching Funds

JOHNSTOWN, PA

### Basket Party

On May 18, 2025, the Laurel Highlands Constellation hosted a basket party

to benefit the Johnstown Trojan Rec Youth Cheerleaders at St. Therese



Youth cheerleaders helping at the event.

Hall. Thirty-one girls participated in the event, that was supported by over 200 attendees. There were 107 baskets and 14 large raffle prizes donated by local businesses, family and friends.



Nova Lehman showing off some of her gift card donations.

The event raised over \$5,000.<sup>00</sup> and with the support of GCU Community Matching Funds over \$7,000.<sup>00</sup> 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



Parish Coordinator Nancy Fredrick presenting the GCU Matching Funds check to Men's Club officer Jack Pinchot.

## Community Matching Funds

BRECKSVILLE, OH

### St. Joseph Men's Club REVERSE RAFFLE

On April 25, 2025, the Men's Club of St. Joseph Byzantine Catholic Church held a successful annual "Reverse Raffle" event. Parishioners and friends enjoyed an evening of great food, conviviality, and cash prizes, including a Grand Prize of \$4,000.<sup>00</sup>. that was shared by the "final three" raffle participants. Overall, the event generated a net income of \$11,215.<sup>00</sup> for the parish. St. Joseph Church gratefully thanks the GCU for the Parish Matching Funds.

Nancy Fredrick



## Community Matching Funds

WESTERN SPRINGS, IL

### One for the Kids Curve Ball

On Saturday, March 8, a benefit event was held for the Scott family and their son Sammy. Sammy Scott (9) suffers from a rare genetic condition called Shashi-Pena Syndrome which is caused by a mutation of the ASXL2 gene. Sammy is one of 50 known people in the world with this condition. He is also hyperinsulinemia where his body produces too much insulin, requiring frequent blood sugar checks and he must use his feeding tube continuously at night. Thanks to the GCU Community Match for adding to the success.



Colleen Benedetto

## Community Matching Funds

MINGO JUNCTION, OH

### Food Distribution

This year, Hills School District did not need the donation of coats that had been purchased and distributed in the past. The school received government funding to provide these items to the students. So this year, Hills Poverty Committee requested that our efforts be directed to the purchase of food. The committee asked for peanut butter & jelly, tuna fish, tuna helper, spaghetti sauce and noodles. Pictured is GCU member Carla Gasser presenting the food donation to teacher Ashley Turnbull. Every Friday,



a book bag of food is sent home with the children, so that their nutritional needs are met over the weekend.

Carla Gasser

## Community Matching Funds

PITTSBURGH, PA

### City of Man Spring Musical

From April 4-6, 2025, the CYO teens of the St. Teresa (Our Lady of Mt. Carmel) parish performed City of Man for four shows, including one cabaret dinner show. These teens worked tirelessly all year to learn and master their craft. Their hard work paid off when they performed flawless, wonderful shows to a delighted audience. All profits will be donated to the Chimbote Foundation, a mission of the Diocese of Pittsburgh that serves a maternity hospital in Peru and Appalachia Project H.O.P.E. a home repair mission in eastern Kentucky. Many of the teens and former cast members travel to David, KY each



Check presentation to Elizabeth Wells from Kim Kolesar.

year to help repair and rebuild these homes. This was a GCU Community Match event.

Kim Kolesar





## Community Matching Funds

OLD FORGE, PA

### Big Blue Devil Golf Tournament/Basket Raffle

The 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Big Blue Devil Golf Tournament was held on May 17<sup>th</sup> for the Richard P. Notari Sr. Scholarship Fund. Old Forge High School students who excel in mathematics can receive the award. Thanks to the GCU Community Matching Funds for supporting this event.

Maria Calogero



Joe Sopp, Very Rev. Eduard Shestak, Diane Notari, Gina Dolinish Keil.



From left to right: John Argonish, Kamryn Notari, Nikole Argonish Jeffers, Dr. Rob Notari, Rick Notari and J. Argonish.



Chairwoman Cass Forkin, Mae Krier (Person that the TWF Service Award was named after-original member of Rosie the Riveters) and Honorable Bob Casey (Former PA State Senator).

## Community Matching Funds

BLUE BELL, PA

### WOW Event-Week of Wishes

On Thursday, April 10, The Twilight Wish Foundation held it's annual event called WOW—Week of Wishes. The event benefits less fortunate Senior Citizens by granting them their wishes throughout the year. To date, Twilight Wish has granted over 7,000 wishes to Seniors.

Jonathan Miller | Longevity  
Income Solutions



Jonathan Miller with Cass Forkin, Chairwoman of Twilight Wish Foundation.



### Dr. George Bahay Graduates from Optometry School



It is with great pleasure that the graduation of Dr. George Bagay is announced from Midwestern University's Chicago College of Optometry in May 2025. Dr. Bagay, also an Eagle Scout, grew up in Pittsburgh, PA, attended Bishop Canevin Catholic High School and earned his Bachelor of Science degree from Kent State University. While studying optometry, Dr. Bagay built a strong foundation in clinical practice through his externships at Chicago Cornea Consultants, Midwest Eye, Captain James A. Lovell Federal Health Care Center and the Midwestern University Eye Institute.

Dr. George Bagay is the son of Joann Bagay and a former parishioner of Holy Ghost Byzantine Catholic Church in McKees, Rocks, PA. Dr. Bagay will begin an optometry practice in Indiana in June.

The GCU World wishes Dr. Bagay great success with his practice.

### Torres Family Visits Dominican Republic

On Bright Monday, April 21, 2025, GCU members and parishioners of St. Mary BC Church in Trenton, NJ., made a humanitarian visit to the Dominican Republic. Juan Torres, Nicholas Torres and Dr. Emily Torres, traveled to the DR and delivered 100 coloring books and crayon boxes to the children in Juan Torres' hometown school in Inoa. The children were very happy to receive the gifts from the GCU.

Greg Embley



# Corporate Community Events Coordinators



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



The Butler/Pittsburgh Constellation group at the Scentercely Yours Candle Studio in Zelienople, PA.



Corporate Community Events Coordinator Casey Bush with Megan Lang at the candle making event for the new Butler/Pittsburgh Constellation.

**Welcome New Constellation Coordinator.** I am happy to introduce Casey Bajack as our new Constellation Coordinator for Butler/Pittsburgh area. Her first event was a candle making event held on March 29. I had the pleasure to join the wonderful group of ladies to make my own jar candle and enjoyed the afternoon of friendship and fraternalism.



## Upcoming Events

### Pittsburgh Pirate Game - Kids Day

Pirates vs New York Mets (Section 117)  
Sunday, June 29 1:35 PM  
PNC Park, Pittsburgh, PA

### American Red Cross Blood Drive

Tuesday, July 15  
Seven Oaks Country Club, Beaver, PA

### GCU & Byzantine Family Day at Kennywood Park

Thursday, July 24 Park opens at 11 AM  
West Mifflin, PA

### Pittsburgh Pirate Game

#### Firework Extravaganza Night

Pirates vs Colorado Rockies (Section 127)  
Friday, August 22 6:40 PM  
PNC Park, Pittsburgh, PA

### Pittsburgh Steelers Game

Steelers vs Cincinnati Bengals  
Sunday, November 16 1 PM  
Section 518

Acrisure Stadium, 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.*

## GIVE BLOOD

*You can make a difference.*



**American  
Red Cross**



**GCU BLOOD  
DRIVE**

When:

**TUESDAY, JULY 15, 2025  
11:30AM - 5:00PM**

Where:

**SEVEN OAKS  
COUNTRY CLUB**

132 Lisbon Road, Beaver, PA 15009





### Melissa Jaggars

Corporate Community  
Events Coordinator

Eastern PA,

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

Hopefully by the time you're all reading this the heat will have kicked on for the tri-state area. I know our GCU friends (and my very lucky brother) who live in the south don't have the worry of needing their jackets!

I am officially back from my maternity leave, and very excited for the upcoming GCU events and activities for you to enjoy. These days every dollar really counts, and we are happy to offer excellent savings to our members. Please take advantage of them!

As always, make sure you stay tuned to the GCU email blasts and events on our website as we plan to announce even more great activities to enjoy.

I am thrilled to introduce Kevin Yurkanin, our new Constellation Coordinator for Hazleton, as well as Cynthia (Cyndi) Visovsky, our new Constellation Coordinator for New Jersey. They both came on board just as I was going on my maternity leave a few months ago and they are full of enthusiasm to help bring new and exciting events to GCU members!

I would like to propose a friendly challenge: September 20, 2025 is National Clean A Park Day and I would love to see our members participate in a park cleanup near you! Whether you live in sunny Florida, the (currently) very chilly North East PA, or any state in-between, I would love to see your group (big or small) cleaning up a park.

Please contact me if you are interested in gathering a few people or a group to help clean a park local to you. We will sponsor your lunch as a thank you for making our communities a better place! **After all—GCU is about Main Street, not Wall Street.**



## Upcoming Events

### Theme Park Picnics:

#### Byzantine Family Day at Knoebels Park

Tickets available at [www.GCUusa.com](http://www.GCUusa.com)

Friday, July 25 11 AM

**NEW** this year-\$35 Ride All Day Ticket!!  
(good only on 7/25/25)  
Elysburg, PA

#### 2025 Sesame Place

Friday, August 8

Langhoren, PA

### National Park Cleanup Day

Saturday, September 20

We would love to see several cleanup efforts over the weekend - GCU will sponsor lunch afterwards!

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

Over night Trip: Early Mother's Day Celebration

Friday, May 8 - Saturday, May 9

Day trips in June will also be available.  
(Lancaster) Ronks, PA

**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.



Sight and Sound Trip to see Noah. Members from the Hazleton and Scranton/Wilkes Barre Constellations enjoyed spending the day together.



## Spring St. Nicholas Celebration



On the Sunday of the Myrrh-bearing Women, May 4<sup>th</sup>, faithful gathered at the St. Nicholas Chapel in Beaver, PA, for this year's Spring St. Nicholas Celebration 2025. At the beginning of the Divine Liturgy Fr. Anthony Costantino,



administrator of St. Nicholas Chapel welcomed all to this year's celebration. Our special guest and homilist was Very Rev. Brian J. Welding, pastor of St. Michael Parish in Pittsburgh-Mt. Lebanon. St. Gregory's Chant Group from Upper St. Clair led the responses for this special event. At the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy,



GCU Spiritual Advisor Fr. Valerian M. Michlik thanked all for participating in our Spring St. Nicholas celebration. Afterwards, our festivity continued at Seven Oaks Country Club with a delicious meal and fellowship.

## Constellations



### Arizona Constellation

#### The Renaissance Festival

The Renaissance Festival is presented every year. It's a big event that people drive many miles to attend. There's lots of amazing food, games and rides. They have jousting, sword fights and a falcon exhibition that's amazing. It provides plenty of fun for the entire family.

Joanie Mahar | Arizona Constellation Coordinator



Pictured are many of the activities that were held at the Renaissance Festival: jousting, games for the kids and rides for all to enjoy.

## Beaver Constellation

### Beaver No-Tap Bowling

The Annual Beaver No-Tap Bowling Tournament was held at Paradise Island Bowl on Saturday, April 5. There were 20 men and 20 women participating in the bowling event with an additional 3 dinner guests. John Niskach, who earned 1<sup>st</sup> place actual with a total score of 757 for 3 games, bowled a 300 game! Michael Stafura was the 1<sup>st</sup> place men's handicap winner. For the women, Katie Frederick held her title of 1<sup>st</sup> place actual winner with a total score of 677 for 3 games. Kathy Kapaldo was the women's handicap 1<sup>st</sup> place winner with a score of 676 for 3 games. Paradise Island Bowl is located on Neville Island near McKees Rocks, PA. The venue was perfect, and offered a buffet meal post bowling. We plan to return to this venue for our 2026 No-Tap Bowling with the intention to expand the event for more family participation. Details will be available next January!

Elizabeth Harbist | Beaver Constellation Coordinator



## Butler/Pittsburgh Constellation

### Candle Making Event

Our first gathering as a new Constellation was held on Saturday, March 29. It was a candle making event at Scentercely Yours Candle Studio in Zelienople, PA. There were 16 people in attendance. Each person had the opportunity to choose their candle jar as well as the scent of candle. Snacks and beverages were served. All enjoyed the afternoon.

Casey Bajack | Butler/Pittsburgh Constellation Coordinator



Kathy Baker and Michele Cicconi.



Millie Jones and Patti Wegener.

## UPCOMING BEAVER CONSTELLATION EVENT

### Annual Golf Outing

Sunday, October 5, 2025

Shotgun Start 12:30 PM

4 Person Scramble Format

\$80 Members

\$95 Non-Members

\$50 Junior Members (age 16 & younger)

\$60 Junior Non-Members (age 16 & younger)

Buffet Dinner Only \$45

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

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

Register at GCUusa.com under Events (October) and pay with a credit or debit card.



## UPCOMING BUTLER/PITTSBURGH CONSTELLATION EVENT

### Family Fun at Iron Mills Farmstead

Sunday, October 5, 2025

10 AM - 7 PM

The GCU will provide a pavilion for lunch

\$25 Members

\$40 Non-Members

Iron Mills Farmstead  
252 Greenfield Road, New Wilmington, PA 16142

Contact: Casey Bajack at 412-445-5473 or  
cbajack@GCUusa.com for questions.

Register at GCUusa.com under Events (October) and pay with a credit or debit card.



## UPCOMING HAZLETON CONSTELLATION EVENT

### Eckley Miners' Village Hooch Wagon Brew Fest

**Saturday, July 12, 2025**

**4 PM-8 PM**

**AGES 21+ ONLY-must have valid ID for entry**

**\$25 Member / all inclusive ticket**

**or \$5 non-drinking pass**

**\$40 Non-Member / all inclusive ticket**

**or \$10 non-drinking pass**

Eckley Miners' Village  
2 Eckley Main Street  
Weatherly, PA 18255

Enjoy unlimited samples from breweries, live music, food trucks, museum admission before the festival begins at no charge.

Contact: Kevin Yurkanin at 570-956-4517 or tyurkanin@GCUusa.com

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

### 46<sup>th</sup> Annual Joseph Durkay Memorial Halupki Open

**Sunday, July 20, 2025**

**8 AM Shotgun / Captain & Crew Format**

**\$50 Member**

**\$70 Non-Member**

Sand Springs Country Club  
10 Clubhouse Drive  
Drums, PA 18222

Contact: Kevin Yurkanin at 570-956-4517 or tyurkanin@GCUusa.com or Melissa Jaggars at 878-207-2327 or mjaggars@GCUusa.com.

Volunteers needed - please contact Melissa

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

### National Park Cleanup Day & Lunch Social

**Saturday, September 20, 2025**

**10:30 AM**

Hazle Township Community Park  
37 Pecora Blvd.  
Hazleton, PA 18202

Help clean up the park & lunch is on us!

Contact: Kevin Yurkanin at 570-956-4517 or tyurkanin@GCUusa.com to RSVP

## Hazleton Constellation

### New Constellation Coordinator



Hello everyone, my name is Kevin Yurkanin and I am glad to be joining you as the new Constellation Coordinator for the Greater Hazleton Area. I was born and raised in Hazleton and I currently reside in Drums with my wife Linda and our dog Jackson. I am looking forward to help plan some events that all of the members of the GCU will enjoy and I look forward to meeting many new people during this journey. I am hoping to provide you all with some interesting adventures here in Northeastern Pennsylvania. If you have anything that you would like to see or do, please feel free to reach out to me by either email at tyurkanin@GCUusa.com or cell phone at 570-956-4517.

### Sight and Sound Theatre Trip

The Hazleton Constellation teamed up with the Scranton/Wilkes-Barre Constellation to take a bus to see Noah at the Sight and Sound Theatre in Ronks, PA. We visited the new Hershey Farm Complex for a buffet before the show. It was a wonderful day.

### With Deep Sadness

Retired GCU Board Member Dorothy Foran passed away into eternity to the house of our Heavenly Father on Friday, May 30. A full obituary will be in the August Magazine.

Kevin Yurkanin | Hazleton Constellation Coordinator



The Hazleton table at the Hershey Farm Complex.



## Illinois Constellation

### Escape Room and Pizza Party

Escapology in Orland Park, IL is where Illinois Constellation members and guests put their heads together to try to get out of either a Batman, Haunted Mansion or Scooby Doo themed escape room on Sunday, April 27. Afterwards we met in the party room for pizza, soda, snacks and sweets. A great time was had by all!

**Karly Krown** | Illinois Constellation Coordinator



Illinois Constellation members enjoying the Escape Room.

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## UPCOMING LAUREL HIGHLANDS CONSTELLATION EVENTS

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### Beach Party Boys at Arcadia Theater

**Saturday, July 26, 2025**

**7:30 PM**

**\$24 GCU Members**

**\$34 Non-Member Guests**

**\$15 Kids**

**Registration Deadline is July 3**

Arcadia Theater

1418 Graham Avenue, Windber, PA 15963

Beach Party boys bring the fun of the California summer sun and the great music of the Beach Boys to life!

Contact Georgia Lehman at 814-242-2083 or [glehman@GCUusa.com](mailto:glehman@GCUusa.com)

### Gateway Clipper Lunch Cruise

**Saturday, August 9, 2025**

**8:30 AM Bus Departs Holy Trinity Parish**

**10:30 AM Arrival into Pittsburgh**

**11 AM Board Gateway Clipper**

**Lunch available upon boarding**

**\$61 GCU Members / \$31 GCU Member child**

**\$66 Non-Member Guests / \$36 Non-Member child**

**Registration Deadline is July 7**

Pittsburgh Gateway Clipper Fleet

350 West Station Square Drive, Pittsburgh, PA 15219

Contact Georgia Lehman at 814-242-2083 or [glehman@GCUusa.com](mailto:glehman@GCUusa.com)

## UPCOMING NEW JERSEY CONSTELLATION EVENTS

### Trenton Thunder Faith & Family Night + Fireworks After the Game

Saturday, July 19, 2025

6 PM

\$7 Member

\$13 Non-Member

Trenton Thunder Ballpark  
1 Thunder Road, Trenton, NJ 08611

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

### Trenton Area Soup Kitchen Volunteer Activity

Thursday, July 24, 2025

2 PM - 5 PM

Contact: Cynthia Visovsky at 609-356-9440 or  
cvisovsky@GCUusa.com

### Somerset Patriots Baseball Game + Fireworks After the Game

Saturday, August 2, 2025

(AA Yankees affiliate) Somerset Patriots vs (AA Giants affiliate) Richmond Flying Squirrels

7:05 PM

\$25 Member

\$41 Non-Member

\$25 meal-deal voucher with each ticket sold.

Section 110 Rows I & J (3rd base line)

TD Bank Ballpark  
1 Patriots Park, Bridgewater, NJ 08807

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

### Laurita Winery VIP Experience Food Truck Festival Social

Saturday, August 23, 2025

\$10 Member

\$20 Non-Member

Laurita Winery  
85 Archertown Road, New Egypt, NJ 08533

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



## New Jersey Constellation

### New Constellation Coordinator

Hi Everyone, my name is Cynthia Visovsky and I recently became the GCU Constellation Coordinator for New Jersey.

I have resided in Princeton Jct. NJ for over 30 years and was employed as a kindergarten teacher for my local school district.

During the past few months, I have been planning volunteer and social events in the area. I am excited to be part of the GCU team and I look forward to meeting many new people through these events in the coming year. I am a parishioner at Assumption of the Virgin Mary in Trenton, NJ—Very Rev. Yurily Oros is the pastor.

Cynthia Visovsky | New Jersey Constellation Coordinator

## UPCOMING NORTHEAST OHIO CONSTELLATION EVENTS

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### Cleveland Guardians Baseball Game

**Saturday, August 2, 2025**

**Guardians vs. Minnesota Twins**

**4 PM**

**\$32 Member**

**\$38 Non-Member**

Progressive Field  
2401 Ontario Street  
Cleveland, OH 44115

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

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

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### Walk to End Lupus

**Saturday, September 6, 2025**

**Start time 10 AM**

**\$20 Member & Non-Member**

1055 Old River Road  
East Bank of the Flats  
Cleveland, OH

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

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

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### Cleveland Browns vs Miami Dolphins Football Game

**Sunday, October 19, 2025**

**1 PM**

**\$115 Member**

**\$131 Non-Member**

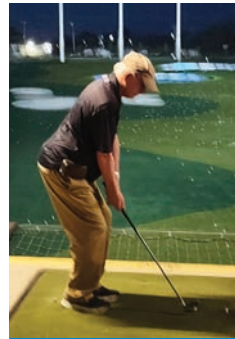
Huntington Bank Field  
100 Alfred Lerner Way  
Cleveland, OH 44114

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

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

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## Philadelphia Constellation



Fr. Joe Loya.

### Top Golf Outing

The Philadelphia Constellation returned to Top Golf for another fun evening. The group enjoyed snacks and game play. Congrats to raffle winners: 1<sup>st</sup> place Jeremery Hanuscin, 2<sup>nd</sup> place Brian Batchlor and 3<sup>rd</sup> place Martha Hanson.

Father Joe Loya was also there and kept everyone honest!

The Philadelphia Constellation is planning a golf tournament in September

CONTINUED

## UPCOMING PHILADELPHIA CONSTELLATION EVENTS

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### American Treasure Tour Museum

**Saturday, July 19, 2025**

**1:30 PM**

**\$9 Member**

**\$18 Non-Member**

American Treasure Museum  
1 American Treasure Way, Oaks, PA 19456

Contact: Stephen Bachovin at 215-370-1757 or  
sbachovin@GCUusa.com

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

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### Dinner & Show (Ages 21+)

**Saturday, August 23, 2025**

**5 PM Buffet Dinner at Golden Corral**

**7 PM Doors Open w/ 8 PM Show**

**\$60 Member**

**\$77 Non-Member**

Xcite Center at Parx Casino  
2999 Street Road, Bensalem, PA 19020

Comedian Joey Diaz will perform

Contact: Stephen Bachovin at 215-370-1757 or  
sbachovin@GCUusa.com

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

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### Philadelphia Golf Tournament

**Friday, September 26, 2025**

Contact: Stephen Bachovin at 215-370-1757 or  
sbachovin@GCUusa.com for more information.



## Philadelphia Constellation CONTINUED

as well as a park cleanup day to celebrate National Park Cleanup Day. Contact Stephen for more information.



Group of golfers at Top Golf event.



Stephen Bachovin speaks at Memorial Day Ceremony.

### Memorial Day Honor

Members of the Philadelphia Constellation placed flags at the Philadelphia National Cemetery in honor of Memorial Day. Stephen Bachovin, Philadelphia's CC and Air Force Veteran, was asked to say a few words at the Naomi DAV Chapter 15 Disabled American Veterans Memorial Day observance. US congressman Dwight Evans and Director of the Philadelphia VA Medical Center Karen Flaherty-Oxler were also in attendance.



Stephen Bachovin | Philadelphia Constellation Coordinator



Food Bank event.

## Pittsburgh Constellation

### Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank South Side Distribution at Market House

Volunteers worked the distribution line at the Greater Pittsburgh Food Bank's monthly South Side-Pittsburgh distribution on Wednesday, March 26. Approximately 200 guests from the community arrived to receive much needed and appreciated food assistance. A variety of meat/fish, milk, dairy, protein and produce was provided.

### Easter Seals "Walk With Me" Annual Event

On Saturday, May 17 at 7 AM, eight energetic volunteers arrived at Kennywood Park for the Easter Seals "Walk With Me" annual event. We were broken down into four groups and held the following assignments: set up, serve and clean up the

refreshment table; attendant to VIP walkers; registration table; and put out signs along walkway and direct walker traffic. Afterward, everyone enjoyed the after party then spent the rest of the day at Kennywood.

Kim Kolesar | Pittsburgh Parish Coordinator



Don Ribarchak, Mike & Sue Lebanik, Mary Dzurichko, Brent, Kim & John Kolesar and Sarah Pavlick.



The Scranton/Wilkes-Barre table at the Hershey Farm Complex.

## UPCOMING SCRANTON/ WILKES-BARRE CONSTELLATION EVENTS

### Scranton / Wilkes-Barre Constellation

#### Sight and Sound Theatre Trip

The Wilkes-Barre/ Scranton Constellation in conjunction with Hazleton held a Bus trip to Sight and Sound Theatre in Ronks, PA. The bus picked up in Scranton, Kingston and Hazleton, PA. Noah was the title of the show and it was a spectacular performance. An amazing amount of well trained live animals, as well as some animatronic animals were present. The special effects were truly that, very special and the actors were outstanding. The bus ride was extremely pleasurable thanks to Martz. A bus wide game of I Spy was played with everyone working together in true fraternal fashion. Gift cards were the prizes. Snacks and waters were provided as well.

An all-you-can-eat buffet was included at the very beautiful, new Hershey Farm Complex. This buffet had so many absolutely delicious options from soup and salad, to home-made entrees, pizza, made to order items, and oh so many desserts. The complex also has a large gift shop and bakery. Thanks to all who attended and helped to make this event a success.



#### Highway Clean-Up

The Scranton / Wilkes-Barre Constellation held a Highway Clean-up near the Mohegan Sun Arena in Wilkes-Barre, PA on Saturday, May 24, 2025 at 9:30 AM. It was quite brisk when the day began but at least the rain held off. A raffle was held after the clean-up was completed and hoagies, waters, chips and cookies were served to the volunteers. Many thanks to those that gave up their Saturday morning in order to help and volunteer. Special thanks to Jonathan Williams and Nina Parma who came all the way from New Jersey to lend a helping hand.



Laure Marcin | Scranton /  
Wilkes-Barre Constellation

#### Pittston to Jim Thorpe Train Ride

**Saturday, July 12, 2025**

**8:45 AM Train Departure**

**\$25 Member**

**\$39 Non-Member**

Explore Jim Thorpe "Switzerland of America" for the Day

Jim Thorpe Railroad Station, Route 209  
Pocono Mountains

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

#### Family Fun Day & Picnic at Lahey Family Fun Park

**Saturday, August 23, 2025**

**12 PM**

**\$15 Member**

**\$30 Non-Member**

Unlimited go-karts, mini golf, batting cages & bumper boats.

Lahey Family Fun Park  
500 Morgan Hwy., Clarks Summit, PA 18411

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

#### End of Summer Golf Tournament

**Sunday, September 14, 2025**

**1:30 PM**

**\$40 Member / \$160 Member Foursome**

**\$65 Non-Member / \$260 Non-Member Foursome**

Blue Ridge Trail Golf Club  
260 Country Club Drive, Mountain Top, PA 18707

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



# Parish Matching Funds

## Patronage Mother of God Byzantine Catholic Church

BALTIMORE, MD

### Slavic Food Festival

On Saturday, April 12, Patronage Church held its annual Easter Slavic Food Festival featuring traditional items such as pascha, holupki, kolachi, kolbasi, halushki, hrudka and potato pancakes. The religious article table sold icons, crosses, books, basket covers, candles, pysanky supplies, lamb molds, wooden Ukrainian eggs and much more. We are thankful for all of the homemade baked goods Patronage parishioners donated for



the bake sale table, and all of those who volunteered to make the festival a success. The parish is grateful for the GCU's continued support of our church through the Parish Matching Funds program. Very Rev. Vasyl Symyon is the parish administrator.



Traditional food.

Dennis Kotula | Byzantine Parish Coordinator



Sharon Kotula selling religious items.



Fr. Vatalii accepts the Parish Matching Funds check from Parish Coordinator Barbara Wahal.

## St. Elias Byzantine Catholic Church

MUNHALL, PA

### St. Elias Lenten Fish Fries

The St. Elias Lenten Fish Fries were a great success. They were held on the six Lenten Fridays leading up to Holy Week. The huge weekly crowds led to a record number in food sales. The parish could not do it without the countless volunteer hours and helpers involved in making it not only delicious but successful. Thanks again GCU for your continued support through the Parish Matching Funds program.

Barbara Wahal | Byzantine Parish Coordinator

## Holy Protection of Mary Byzantine Catholic Church

HOMER CITY, PA

### Easter Roll Sale

Volunteers from St. Mary's congregation made nut, poppy seed and apricot rolls to sell to the congregation and the community prior to Easter. Day 2 of the sale was used for roll pick-up. Thanks to all who volunteered their time & talents and to the GCU for the Parish Matching Funds program.

Larry DeChurch | Byzantine Parish Coordinator



Volunteers busy making an assortment of Easter rolls.



## St. Mary Byzantine Catholic Church

YOUNGSTOWN, OH

### Sisters of St. Basil Lenten Collection

A Lenten collection for the Sisters of St. Basil from St. Mary parishioners was taken during the Lenten season. The GCU matched the funds that were collected. The parish raised \$2,500.<sup>00</sup> during the Lenten season for the Sisters of St. Basil for a total of \$5,000.<sup>00</sup>.

**Dave Muransky** | Byzantine Parish Coordinator



Parish Coordinator Dave Muransky presented a check from the GCU for \$2,500.<sup>00</sup> to Fr. John Welch. The parish sent a total of \$5,000.<sup>00</sup> to the Sisters.

## St. Mary-Holy Protection Byzantine Catholic Church

LATROBE, PA

### Super Bingo

On Sunday, April 4, St Mary-Holy Protection Church held a very successful Super Bingo in the parish hall. The event benefited the church's building and maintenance fund. In addition to bingo games, there were instant, a silent auction, 50/50 raffle, lottery tree and a chance to win a cooler and grill. The parish is most grateful for the additional funds provided by the GCU Parish Matching Funds Program.

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



Seated are Loretta Prescott and Marge Hulyk. Standing are Bozhena Regalla, Kathleen Syphan and Laura Henry.



## Ss. Peter and Paul Byzantine Catholic Church

ENDICOTT, NY

### Ss. Peter and Paul Can & Bottle Drive 2025 #1

April 26, 2025, marked the first fundraiser of the year for Ss. Peter and Paul Church. Parishioners, neighbors, friends and family gathered to smile, chat and drop off their cans and bottles. Thank you to all the volunteers and everyone for making this event a huge success. We are also grateful to GCU for the Matching Funds.

**Daria Shierly** | Byzantine Parish Coordinator



Audrey Karl Kalb and Olga Demoski.

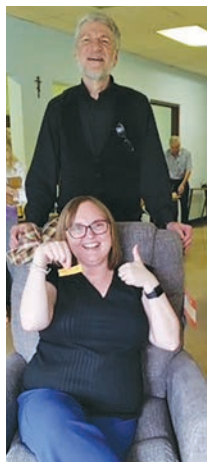


Anne Marie Zevan (red chair) and Audrey Karl Kalb.



Very Rev. Steven Galuschik, Carol Dey (AKA Strawberry Shortcake) and Audrey Karl Kalb (seated). Marilyn Kumpon and Vicky Dennis. Bob & Nathan Bakalar.





Fr. James Ragan and the winner of the recliner, Emily Wojciechowski.

## St. Mary Assumption Byzantine Catholic Church NEW SALEM, PA

### Four Seasons Luncheon/Party

On Sunday, May 4, the first "Four Seasons Luncheon/Party" for ladies was held. Tables were arranged in sections with small seasonal gifts and decorations. A basket auction and other raffles were held, with a recliner chair as the grand prize. Proceeds from this Matching Funds event will go toward furnace repairs. Thank you GCU Parish Matching funds for your generosity!

Bernadette Karoffa | Byzantine Parish Coordinator



Matching Funds check presentation by Parish Coordinator Kim Kolesar, Cindy & Ray McNulty, Geri O'Connor, Tom Kalka, Pat Martin, Bernadette Rusinko, Skip Martin and Fr. Michael accepting the check.

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

### Lenten Pirohi Sale

Each Friday from March 7 to April 11, 2025, many varieties of pirohi were sold at the St. Pius X auditorium. Pirohi could be bought frozen or cooked and in either a dozen or half-dozen package. In addition, volunteers worked diligently every Tuesday to prepare enough pirohi so we would not run out.



Kim Kolesar | Byzantine Parish Coordinator



## St. Mary Holy Protection of the Mother of God Byzantine Catholic Church MORGANTOWN, WV

### Pascha Bake Sale

St. Mary Byzantine Catholic Church held its annual Easter Bake Sale, baking took place on April 14-15 and pick up was April 16. People volunteered their baking skills or helped with

purchasing ingredients. Donations of all purpose flour, sugar and canned milk, were made to help offset expenses.

Robert Johnson | Byzantine Parish Coordinator



## Our Lady of Wisdom Byzantine Catholic Church

LAS VEGAS, NV

### UBI Petrus vs Voice of Reason (Debate)

A 4 hour debate was held on Saturday, May 17 on The Voice of Reason is the Orthodox Church the One True Church. Hosted by Fr. Nathan Symeon. The Debate fundraiser received GCU Parish Matching Funds.

Robert Rosales | Byzantine Parish Coordinator



## Nativity of Our Lord Byzantine Catholic Church

EAST BRUNSWICK, NJ

### Spring Flea Market & Bake Sale

Our annual spring flea market and bake sale was a great success. There was a great turnout on Saturday, May 10 which was a beautiful sunny day.

Maryann Szticza | Byzantine Parish  
Coordinator



## St. John Cathedral

MUNHALL, PA

### Annual Craft Show

St. John's Cathedral held its annual spring craft show on Saturday, April 26, with 43 vendors who had 56 tables filled with fantastic homemade items from knitting, crocheting or baked goods. The Cathedral sold ethnic foods that our customers could take home or eat in. We had a steady crowd during the day and great feedback from our vendors and customers.

Patricia Bovee | Byzantine Parish Coordinator





## St. Michael Byzantine Catholic Church

HERMITAGE, PA

### Parish Rummage Sale

Parishioners donated items, then organized and worked a Rummage Sale held on Friday, March 14 and Saturday, March 15. Old catering supplies and furniture were also sold as part of the sale. Donated items brought in \$2,426.<sup>50</sup> and the sale of some of the old catering supplies brought in \$1,378.<sup>00</sup> for a total fund raiser of \$3,804.<sup>50</sup>! The proceeds will benefit St. Michael Church. Congratulations



GCU members from St. Michael Church present a \$3,000.<sup>00</sup> GCU Parish Matching Funds check to Very Rev. Kevin Marks. The check was made possible by proceeds from the Rummage Sale. Pictured from left to right are: Alyssa Vasil, Joan Walker, Fr. Kevin, Parish Coordinator Bill Dzurisko, Mary Beth Dowell and Michael Vasil.



to Chairpersons Brenda Tomko and Patty Tomko and all of the many volunteers who helped out! The sale was a tremendous success! Thanks to the GCU Parish Matching Funds program for boosting the profits from the sale.

William Dzurisko | Byzantine Parish Coordinator

## St. Mary Byzantine Catholic Church

MARBLEHEAD, OH



GCU Parish Matching Funds check is presented to St. Mary's Pastor Fr. Joseph Repko by Parish Coordinator Joan Washburn.

## Church of the Resurrection Byzantine Catholic Church

MONROEVILLE, PA

### Check Presentation

Byzantine Parish Coordinator Tom Oslick (right) presents GCU Parish Matching Funds check to Fr. Don Bolls from the Lenten Fish Fry.

Tom Oslick | Byzantine Parish Coordinator



## St. Stephen Byzantine Catholic Church

NORTH HUNTINGDON, PA



GCU member Marina Novotnak (left) and her helper Ocean Murrey, were busy selling tickets for the Basket Auction.

### Ham Bingo

St. Stephen Church held its very successful annual Ham Bingo on Sunday, April 6, 2025. In addition to the many bingo games and specials, a basket auction and 50/50 raffle appealed to all of the guests. The kitchen staff was very busy serving haluski, hot dogs, snacks and a large selection of delicious homemade baked goods. We are very blessed and grateful for the support and generosity of the GCU Parish Match!

Connie Kacey-Smith | Byzantine Parish Coordinator



Bingo callers Ray Seech (left) and Mike Andreyko.



The Ham Bingo was well attended.



Lenten Pirohi project GCU Matching Funds check was presented to Fr. Vasyl Kadar of Ss. Peter and Paul Parish. Father is accepting the check from Parish Coordinator Julie Brocious.

## Ss. Peter and Paul Byzantine Catholic Church

PUNXSUTAWNEY, PA

### Annual Lenten Pirohi Sale

Ss. Peter and Paul church held their annual Lenten Pirohi fundraiser. The proceeds and Matching Funds from GCU will help to purchase a new furnace for the church social hall. The parish is very appreciative for the support of the GCU Matching Funds program. Thank you to all who volunteered their time and talents.

Julie Brocious | Byzantine Parish Coordinator





## St. Nicholas Byzantine Catholic Church

OLD FORGE, PA

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

The parishioners of St. Nicholas Church held their annual Ham Bingo on Sunday, April 6, 2025. The event was a great success in part because of the GCU Parish Matching Funds the bingo generated.



**Maria Calogero** | Byzantine Parish Coordinator



Joe Sopp, Very Rev. Eduard Shestak and Gina Keil.

## St. Mary Assumption Byzantine Catholic Church

SHEPPTON, PA

### Victoria's Easter Candy Sale

St. Mary Church enjoyed another successful Easter candy fund raiser. This event was coordinated by GCU Parish Coordinator Andrea Andrews, a trustee at St. Mary; George Andrews, trustee; Paul Esposito, president of Victoria's Candies and David Petrone, production manager at Victoria's Candies. Thanks to the GCU for the Parish Matching Funds.

**Andrea Andrews** | Byzantine Parish Coordinator



## St. John Byzantine Catholic Church

LYNDORA, PA

### Ladies Guild Salad Bingo

The Ladies Guild held their annual Salad Bingo on Saturday, April 26. Guests enjoyed an array of appetizing salads and desserts, in addition to Bingo, a basket auction and a 50/50 raffle.

Thanks to the GCU Parish Matching Funds the Ladies Guild was able to present a check to Fr. Radko to help with parish expenses.

**John Pocchiari** | Byzantine Parish Coordinator



Fr. Radko with Ladies Guild President Stephanie Dano and Drita Stengle.



Salad Bingo attendees.



## St. Therese Byzantine Catholic Church

ST. PETERSBURG, FL

### Easter Bake Sale

The parish's annual fund raising for Easter was held on Sunday, April 13, which included various nut rolls & paska for sale. Thank you to all who either baked or bought items. Thanks also to the GCU for the Parish Matching Funds.

Charles Allan Hunt | Byzantine Parish Coordinator



Lori Magulick.



Beth Weiner.



Volunteers and parishioners of St. Peter and Paul Catholic present the Very Rev. Gregory J. Noga the GCU Matching Funds check following their successful Spaghetti Dinner in April. Parishioners are most appreciative for the financial assistance provided by GCU as we work to support our parishes. Thank you, GCU!

## Ss. Peter and Paul Byzantine Catholic Church

MINERSVILLE, PA

### Spaghetti Dinner

Parish volunteers prepared a delicious spaghetti dinner on Sunday, March 16 for fellow parishioners, neighbors and guests in the parish hall. Volunteers also delivered dinners to shut-ins from the parish and sister parish, St. Mary in St. Clair, PA.

Dolores Kramer | Byzantine Parish Coordinator



Vince Murphy gathers dinners to deliver to shut-ins. Bruce Tokarick and Matt Sinkovich also assisted with deliveries.



## St. John the Baptist Byzantine Catholic Church

MINGO JUNCTION, OH

### Bakeless Bake Sale & Pierogi Sale

St. John the Baptist Church held a bakeless bake sale and a pierogi sale to raise money for a new furnace for the church. Parishioners are very grateful for all who helped make this project a huge success. Thank you also to the GCU for the Parish Matching Funds.

Carla Gasser | Byzantine Parish Coordinator





## St. John Byzantine Catholic Church SCRANTON, PA

### Lenten Pirohi and Haluski Sale

The friends and parishioners of St. John Church came together as a parish family on March 10, 17 and 24 to make 395 dozen of pirohi and 78 quarts of haluski. Thanks to everyone for their hard work and dedication in making this project a huge success. A special thank you to the GCU for the Parish Matching Funds.

**Karen Duricko** | Byzantine Parish Coordinator



Matching Funds check presentation: Sylvia Rusnock, Father Roman Vasylynka and Parish Coordinator Karen Duricko.



Thanks to all the volunteers for making this event a success.



Kitchen guys (clockwise around table) Steven Duch, Tony Laurita, John Peter (JP) Paulich, Nick Hrehovcik and Marco Visnovsky.

## Cathedral of St. Michael PASSAIC, NJ

### Fish Fry

A Fish Fry was held at St. Michael Chapel on Friday, April 11, 2025 with 240 dinners served. Thank you to all that volunteered at the event and to the GCU for their Parish Matching Funds program.

**Mark Hrehovcik** | Byzantine Parish Coordinator



Doug Blazey and Ryan Zlotkowski.



The crowd.



Emil helping at the pastry table.



## St. Mary Byzantine Catholic Church

WINDBER, PA

### Easter Bake Sale

For the upcoming Easter Holiday, St. Mary Church volunteers baked nut, poppyseed and apricot rolls along with paska for their April 5 sale. They started in early March and made over 500 rolls & 350 paska. The sale was a huge success. Thank you to the GCU for the Parish Matching Funds.



**Thresa Valko** | Byzantine Parish Coordinator

## Holy Ghost Byzantine Catholic Church

MCKEES ROCKS, PA



The Matching Funds check from the church's pirohi project was presented to Fr. Frank Firko from Parish Coordinator Donna Heron along with Steve Puluka and Michael Maslaney.



Andre Estevez gives tours of the church and shares about Maria Poč icon.

## St. John the Baptist Byzantine Catholic Church

MINNEAPOLIS, MN

### Potato Pancake Dinners

St. John Parish had two very successful Potato Pancake Dinners on March 14 and March 28. Visitors enjoyed 5-6 delicious soups each night as parishioners acted as chefs and servers to deliver piping hot potato pancakes to guests at their tables. Baked goods and a raffle added to the fun and many visitors attended tours of the church and heard about our beloved icons!

**Sophia Michael** | Byzantine Parish Coordinator



The Lundsten and Lippert families enjoying the evening.



Dominic and Fran serving dessert together.



Young students chatting with Fr. Cyril over pancakes.



Fr. Cyril welcomes local Latin priests.



## Ss. Peter and Paul Byzantine Catholic Church

TARENTUM, PA

### Spring Nut Roll Sale

Our Parish community came together to bake and sell nut, apricot and poppyseed rolls to be enjoyed by the parish family and local community for Easter. About 20 volunteers made approximately 950 rolls during our 3 days of baking. Thank you GCU for your Matching Funds program.

**Elaine Ruminski** | Byzantine Parish Coordinator



Such happy volunteers!

## St. John Chrysostom Byzantine Catholic Church

HOUSTON, TX

### Easter Paska Bake Sale

The great bakers of St. John Church spent three days baking Easter Paska to be sold to parishioners, their families and friends. This Paska baking has been done by volunteers at St. John for many years. We thank the GCU for the Parish Matching Funds program.

**Theresa Dancsak** | Byzantine Parish Coordinator



## St. John the Baptist Byzantine Catholic Church

PATTON, PA

### Spring Basket Auction

On Sunday, April 27, 2025, St. John parish held a basket auction and spaghetti dinner. This fund raising event will help pay for the replacement of our church boiler, that began leaking this past winter. There was a variety of baskets and good food. Everyone enjoyed themselves.

**Sandra Ferrance** | Byzantine Parish Coordinator



## Holy Trinity Byzantine Catholic Church

CONEMAUGH, PA

### Annual Cash Bash

Our 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Cash Bash was held on April 12, 2025, over 400 tickets were sold and over 120 people attended the event and more than



Donna Romanko and Kathy Russin greeting all at the event.

125 take-outs were also prepared. We would like to thank everyone who made this event such a success, especially the GCU Home Office who printed our tickets and provided Parish Matching Funds. Proceeds totaled over \$3,900.<sup>00</sup> and with Matching Funds we were able to present Father Robert Oravetz with almost \$7,000.<sup>00</sup>.

On Sunday, April 27, 2025, GCU



Parish Coordinator Georgia Lehman presented the \$3,000.<sup>00</sup> Matching Funds check for the Cash Bash event to Father Robert Oravetz and Deacon Michael Yewcic.

Georgia Lehman | Byzantine Parish Coordinator



The crowd at the Cash Bash event.



## Holy Spirit Byzantine Catholic Church

PITTSBURGH (OAKLAND), PA

### Palm Crosses Sale Fundraiser

On Sunday, April 13, the Holy Spirit Church held its Great Fast palm cross fundraiser, made by the Singing Revilak Family. Julia Revilak presents the proceeds to Fr. Michael Kunitz, administrator of the parish. Thank you to GCU for the Matching Funds.

Mary Dzurichko | Byzantine Parish Coordinator



## St. Joseph Byzantine Catholic Church

TORONTO, OH

### 2025 Lenten Paska/Potica Sale

St Joseph Byzantine Catholic Parish held their annual Lenten Potica/Paska Sale. We started baking and taking orders March 1 and ended April 12, 2025. This event also received GCU Parish Matching Funds.

Nancy Doerr | Byzantine Parish Coordinator





Diane & Michael Kolesar showing off the finished rolls.

## St. Michael Byzantine Catholic Church MONT CLARE, PA

### Easter Baking

On 3 consecutive Saturdays beginning March 22, 2025, St. Michael parish baked kolache and paska for the Easter season. Thank you GCU for the Matching Funds program for our parish to benefit from.

Patricia Dietz | Byzantine  
Parish Coordinator



Diane Kolesar, Mariya Kovach and Michael Kolesar.

## Our Lady of Lourdes & St. Jude Roman Catholic Churches EAST PALESTINE & COLUMBIANA, OH

### Eat Out & Give Back Fundraiser

The Original Roadhouse in East Palestine offered OLOL & St. Jude parishes a day of eating out as a fundraiser on February 18, 2025. The owner Jim Kachelries gave 10% of each diner's check back to the church. The church received \$180.00 from the day's proceeds.

### Sarris Candy Fundraiser

The parishes combined in a joint Sarris Candy fundraiser over the Easter season. Sarris Candy gave the church 25% from all sales. A profit of \$431.<sup>31</sup> in sales were



Parish Council members Tom Leetch, Jim Scullion, Fr. Chad Johnson, Chris Chamberlain, Seminarian Arthur Bodenschatz, Marina Davis and Arron Garcia.

matched by the GCU. The monies from both fundraisers will be used for upkeep and improvements to St. Mary Cemetery. We thank Jim for his generosity as well as the GCU for their Non-Byzantine Parish Matching Funds program.

Chris Chamberlain



# GCU Supported Parish Events

## St. Nicholas Byzantine Catholic Church ROEBLING, NJ

### Parish Sunday Social

St. Nicholas parishioners enjoyed fellowship following the Palm Sunday Liturgy on April 13. Thanks GCU Parish Social grant for funding this parish gathering.

Carol Reichmann | Byzantine Parish Coordinator

## St. Michael Byzantine Catholic Church MONT CLARE, PA

### Theosis

A Lenten retreat was given by Fr. Joseph Loya on Friday, March 14 and hosted by St. Michael Parish for the young adults. The GCU Parish Social Grant assisted with the event.

Patricia Dietz | Byzantine Parish Coordinator

## St. John Byzantine Catholic Church LYNDORA, PA

### Palm Sunday Easter Egg Hunt

An Easter Egg hunt was held on Palm Sunday, April 13 after the morning Liturgy. ECF students enjoyed finding over 500 eggs scattered around the parish grounds. Thanks to the GCU Social Grant for providing chocolate crosses to all the kids.

John Pocchiari | Byzantine Parish Coordinator



Robert Weiner.

## St. Therese Byzantine Catholic Church ST. PETERSBURG, FL

### Coffee Social

The weekly coffee social after Divine Liturgy has been a great way to socialize with fellow parishioners. Thanks GCU for the Parish Social Grant funding for these get togethers.

Charles Allan | Byzantine Parish Coordinator



Hannah & Ivan Zigarevich, Drew Green and Justine Noth.

## St. Nicholas Byzantine Catholic Church

PERTH AMBOY, NJ



Rev. Vasyl Remitskyi blessing Easter baskets.

### Lenten Movie Night

During the Lenten Season, St. Nicholas Byzantine Church celebrated the Presanctified Liturgy Service on Friday evenings. On two of the Fridays a Movie Night followed. Parishioners came together to view the movies *Full of Grace* and *Karol: The Pope, The Man*. On April 4<sup>th</sup>, a documentary about Purgatory was presented.



### Easter Luncheon

St. Nicholas Church celebrated a joyous Easter Sunday Liturgy and luncheon on Sunday, April 20. Thanks to the GCU Parish Social Grant for assisting with all of these events.

Lisa Rebovich | Byzantine Parish Coordinator

## Ss. Peter and Paul Byzantine Catholic Church

PUNXSUTAWNEY, PA

### Sunday Donut Social

The Ss. Peter & Paul parish family enjoyed donuts and conversation after Liturgy on Sunday, May 4 in the social hall. Thank you to the GCU Parish Social grant for providing the refreshments for this event.

Julie Brocious | Byzantine Parish Coordinator



## St. Michael Byzantine Catholic Church

PITTSTON, PA

### Children's Paska Bread Class and Easter Egg Hunt

St. Michael Church held its second annual Children's Paska Bread Class and Easter Egg Hunt Friday, April 11. The children each made their own Paska bread to take home, arranged bouquets for Palm Sunday and participated in an indoor Easter egg hunt. Thank you GCU for the Parish Social program.

Nancy Stout | Byzantine Parish Coordinator



## St. John Byzantine Catholic Church

WILKES-BARRE, PA

### Lunch For Volunteers

On March 30 & 31, 2025, lunch was provided for volunteers at the baking project that benefited St. John parish. Everyone enjoyed subs and pizza from Wegmans. The gathering was sponsored by the GCU Parish Social Grant program.

Ivanna Prodanets | Byzantine Parish Coordinator



## Ascension Byzantine Catholic Church

CLAIRTON, PA

### Easter Egg Hunt and Welcome Luncheon for Fr. Burke

An Easter Egg hunt was held at Ascension Church on Palm Sunday. The Easter Bunny hid eggs in the courtyard on a beautiful sunny day and assisted children as they collected the surprises. After the hunt, a luncheon to welcome Father Christopher Burke was held. Everyone had an opportunity to meet and socialize with Fr. Chris and enjoy a delicious buffet luncheon.

Trish Roberts | Byzantine Parish Coordinator



## St. Gregory Byzantine Catholic Church

UPPER ST. CLAIR, PA

### Lenten Social

During Lent, the Library Ministry of St. Gregory Church once again sponsored the "LLLL" program: "Lent, Liturgy, Lunch, Library." Since 2020, on Fridays following the 11 AM Presanctified Liturgy, parishioners were invited to enjoy fellowship and lunch provided by the Library Ministry in the church hall. Afterward attendees are given time to browse the shelves of books in the parish library. On the last Friday of Lent, April 11, GCU Parish Social Grant funds were used to order a delicious lunch from the catering menu of Vocelli Pizza. The Library Ministry appreciates the support of our spiritual lives and fellowship socials by the GCU!

Dorothy Mayernik | Byzantine Parish Coordinator





## St. John Chrysostom Byzantine Catholic Church PITTSBURGH, PA

### Palm Sunday Easter Egg Hunt

Palm Sunday was a beautiful celebration of our Lord's triumphant entrance into Jerusalem. Fr. Tyler Wisniewski of St. John Chrysostom in Pittsburgh blessed palms and willow branches for the faithful to hold during Divine Liturgy. To extend the celebration, the parish held a coffee social and an Easter egg hunt for the parish children after Liturgy. The weather was perfect for a little outdoor fun! Thank you to Lori Schultz, Matt Rodrigues and GCU Parish Coordinator John Niskach, for planning the egg hunt. Thank you to the GCU Social Grant for sponsoring the event.



### Used Shoe Drive

Men's, Women's, Children's, Babies'. Dress shoes, athletic shoes, including golf cleats, slippers & flip flops. Contact Elizabeth Harbist at 412-913-1446 or eharbist@gmail.com for drop off or pick up information.

Elizabeth Harbist

## St. Mary Byzantine Catholic Church

HAZLETON, PA

### Stations of Cross & Social

Stations of the Cross were held at each of the area Byzantine Catholic churches during Lent. On Palm Sunday, April 13, they were held at St. Mary Church. Everyone in attendance were invited to the parish hall for refreshments and fellowship.

### Parish Easter Social

Liturgy was held at St. Mary Church on Mercy Sunday, April 27, 2025. Everyone attending the Liturgy was invited to the parish hall for an Easter social and fellowship. Thanks to the GCU for the social grant to purchase refreshments for both events.

Rick Hoppey | Byzantine Parish Coordinator



## St. John Byzantine Catholic Church POTTSTOWN, PA

### School of Religion Easter Egg Hunt

Students of the ECF/School of Religion program at St. John Church held their annual Easter Egg Hunt during class on Palm Sunday, April 13, 2025. Older students filled eggs with candy donated by parents the prior Sunday and segregated eggs by class in preparation of the Easter Egg Hunt. The GCU provided additional Easter goodies for the students. 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



## Ss. Cyril & Methodius Byzantine Catholic Church

CARY, NC

### Parish Feast Day Picnic & Mother's Day

On Sunday, May 11, the GCU Parish Social Grant supported our joyful parish picnic, Mother's Day celebration, and the 34<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our church. We shared fellowship, good food,



and a bounce house for the kids. In spite of the rain, everyone had a wonderful celebration.

Michael Sapsara |  
Byzantine Parish  
Coordinator

## St. Michael Byzantine Catholic Church

FLUSHING, MI

### Sundae Bar

End of ECF year with a sundae bar celebration. Enjoyed by all the children of the parish with GCU providing the goodies.

Pat Chartier | Byzantine Parish Coordinator



## St. Andrew Byzantine Catholic Church

WESTBURY, NY

### Celebrating Memorial Day at St. Andrew Church

A great coffee hour was held at Saint Andrew Church on Sunday, May 25 to celebrate Memorial Day. People attending received flags and pens to emphasize the special day to honor the men and women who died to protect our country. A new parishioner Isabel Palazzolo was so pleased at being welcomed by the people of the church. It was a great day with food sponsored by GCU Parish Social Grant funds

Margaret Russell |  
Byzantine Parish  
Coordinator



## Our Lady of Wisdom Byzantine Catholic Church

LAS VEGAS, NV

### Coffee Social

A coffee social for all parishioners after Sunday Liturgy was held on Sunday, May 4. It was nice to gather and enjoy some treats. Thank you GCU for the Parish Social Grant Program.

Robert Rosales | Byzantine Parish Coordinator

## St. John Chrysostom Byzantine Catholic Church

HOUSTON, TX



### Easter Lunch Social

St. John Chrysostom Church always has the Blessing of Easter baskets after the Easter Liturgy. Many families stay at the parish to enjoy their lunch at church. The church also provides food for individuals who may not know how to make the traditional Easter basket. This year the GCU Parish Social Grant program funds were used to purchase hams for the luncheon.



### Eastern Christian Formation, End of Year Party

An end of year pizza party was held for ECF students, parents and the parishioners of St. John Chrysostom on Sunday, May 18. Pizza and cookies were enjoyed by all to celebrate another end of school year.



Theresa Dancsak | Byzantine Parish Coordinator



## St. Nicholas Byzantine Catholic Church

LORAIN, OH



### Thomas Sunday Egg Hunt

On Thomas Sunday, following the Divine Liturgy, St. Nicholas Parish celebrated with a Sunday Brunch. The children participated in an Egg Hunt with candy purchased from the GCU Parish Social Event Fund. Even the adults in attendance were able to enjoy a piece of candy or individual size bag of GCU jellybeans. Thank you, GCU!

Anne Dillon | Byzantine Parish Coordinator

## St. Nicholas of Myra Byzantine Catholic Church

WHITE PLAINS, NY

### Mother's Day Luncheon

A Mother's Day Luncheon was hosted by Deacon Mike Sivulich and Family and was sponsored by the GCU Parish Social program. It was a beautiful day to share together.

Ann Kachmar | Byzantine Parish Coordinator





## St. Nicholas Byzantine Catholic Church

GREENSBURG, PA

### St. Thomas Sunday

A breakfast for the parish members to celebrate St. Thomas Sunday was held on April 27. Mass was followed by breakfast sponsored by the GCU Parish Social Grant. All enjoyed being together.

Vasyl Banyk | Byzantine Parish Coordinator

## Holy Ghost Byzantine Catholic Church

JESSUP, PA

### 1st Corporate Communion

Carl Steven Lutkowski, Jr., and Rosalina Athena Walter were formally welcomed by the GCU and Holy Ghost Church on May 4, 2025 after receiving their 1<sup>st</sup> Corporate Communion. All parishioners were invited to welcome them following the 9 AM Liturgy. Gifts and good wishes were distributed to the two communicants.

Michaela Mancak | Byzantine Parish Coordinator



Carl Steven Lutkowski Jr. and Rosalina Athena Walter.

## Annunciation Byzantine Catholic Church

HOMER GLEN, IL

### Myrrh-Bearers Adventure Hunt

On Sunday May 4, the parish held the Myrrh-Bearers Adventure Hunt at Annunciation Church following Divine Liturgy. The children of the parish scattered on the church property to collect eggs that were filled with goodies. After that they lined up to receive a treat bag and a toy.

Ken Krown | Byzantine Parish Coordinator



## Ss. Peter & Paul Byzantine Catholic Church

BRADDOCK, PA

### Coffee Donuts Social

The parish had its first coffee and donut social after the Great Fast, Thank you, GCU, for your continued support! The cream-filled donuts were a hit as always - Fr. Vitalii (at left) swears he only had one (he had two)!

Arleen Jama | Byzantine Parish Coordinator





## Saint Michael Byzantine Catholic Church

DUNMORE, PA

### Annual Saint Thomas Sunday Social

Our second annual Saint Thomas Sunday breakfast social was held after Liturgy on April 27. Attendees enjoyed coffee, tea, hot chocolate, fruit and an



assortment of pastries. This was an opportunity for the parishioners to sit and talk with the children of the parish.

Jennifer Dunda | Byzantine Parish Coordinator

## Holy Trinity Byzantine Catholic Church

CONEMAUGH, PA

### Mother's Day Social

On May 11, 2025, Holy Trinity hosted it's annual Mother's Day social hour following Divine Liturgy. We once again supported Birthright of Johnstown through their carnation sale. Thank you to the GCU Parish Social program.

Georgia Lehman | Byzantine Parish Coordinator



Some of the women in attendance gather around the beautiful cake.



Left to right, Row 1: Vinci & Dorianna Latona. Row 2: Keri, Catarina, Olivia & Guilianna Saltimacchia, John Kurilla, Antonina and Ivanna & Michael Prodanets. Row 3: Marlene Williams, Laure Marcin, Joe Saltimacchia, Nicole, Amelia & Sophia Nesgoda, Andrew Kurilla and Lora Seasock. Row 4: Richard Nesgoda, Father Mykayhlo Prodanets and Steven Kurilla. Missing from photo: Colleen & John Evans and Mary Ann & Jack Wright.

## St. Mary Byzantine Catholic Church

KINGSTON, PA

### Annual Easter Egg Hunt

St. Mary Church held its annual Easter Egg Hunt on Palm Sunday, April 13, 2025. The Hunt was held on the parish grounds and concluded in the church hall. The day began a little chilly, but the sun eventually warmed us for a bit—a great time was had by all. After the hunt, the prizes were distributed and refreshments were served to the children and their families. Special thanks to the GCU, the ECF teachers and GCU members, Lora Seasock, Marlene Williams, Laure Marcin, Mary Ann & Jack Wright, Colleen & John G. Evans and Meghan Borzell for their help in making this event a huge success.

Laure Marcin | Byzantine Parish Coordinator





## St. John Byzantine Catholic Church

HAZLETON, PA

### Parish Anniversary Liturgy

St. John Parish hosted the weekly Stations of the Cross in the Greater Hazleton Area. Benediction was concelebrated by Fr. Eugen Hradi and Fr. Andrii Dumnych of Pittston, PA. After Stations all enjoyed a concert by the Pittston/Swoyersville Byzantine Catholic churches Choir. Following the concert all enjoyed refreshments provided by parishioners and the GCU Parish Social Grant.



Judy Betterly, Monica Washko, Judy Yurchio and Dave Patrick.

**Judy Betterly** | Byzantine Parish Coordinator



## St. Mary Byzantine Catholic Church

NESQUEHONING, PA

### Easter Treat

The faithful of St. Mary Byzantine Church received a special treat after Easter Liturgy. Rev. Vasyl Chepelskyy is shown presenting the oldest parishioner, Mary Lesisko, 97, pictured with her son Tom, an Easter treat. Ted & Mai Ling Dacey greet former parishioner, Joe Kovatch, visiting for Easter.



**Mary McKee** | Byzantine Parish Coordinator

# For Your Information

## Events

## Available

### Byzantine Family Day at Kennywood Park

Thursday, July 24, 2025

**\$28 Ride All Day Ticket (Good 7/24 only)**

**FREE ages 3 & under**

West Mifflin, PA

Order & pay on the GCU Website under Events Section or contact Casey at 724-683-3927

### Byzantine Day at Knoebels Park

Friday, July 25, 2025

**11:45 AM Prayer Service**

**12 PM Catered Lunch**

**NEW this year....**

**\$35 Ride All Day Ticket (Good 7/25 only)**

**\$16 each Ticket Booklet**

**\$10 Members Lunch Ticket**

**\$16.50 Non-Member Lunch Ticket**

**FREE for kids age 2 and under**

Elysburg, PA

Contact Melissa Jaggars at 878-207-2327 or visit the Events Section of the GCU Website

### Pittsburgh Pirate Game + Fireworks Extravaganza

Friday, August 22, 2025

**6:40 PM Game Time**

**Pirates vs. Colorado Rockies  
(section 127)**

PNC Park at the North Shore

115 Federal Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15212

Order & pay on the GCU Website under Events Section or contact Casey at 724-683-3927

### 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).



### Discount Amusement Park Tickets for 2025



Discounted Amusement Park tickets for the 2025 season are available to GCU members for online purchase. Parks include: Kennywood Park, West Mifflin, PA; Knoebels Park, Elysburg, PA and Hershey Park, Hershey, PA. Visit the GCU website at [GCUusa.com](http://GCUusa.com).





**GCU Pittsburgh**

**PIRATE**

**ROUTING**

**VS. ROCKIES**

**FRIDAY, AUGUST 22, 2025**

**FIREWORKS EXTRAVAGANZA**

**6:40 PM - SEC. 127**

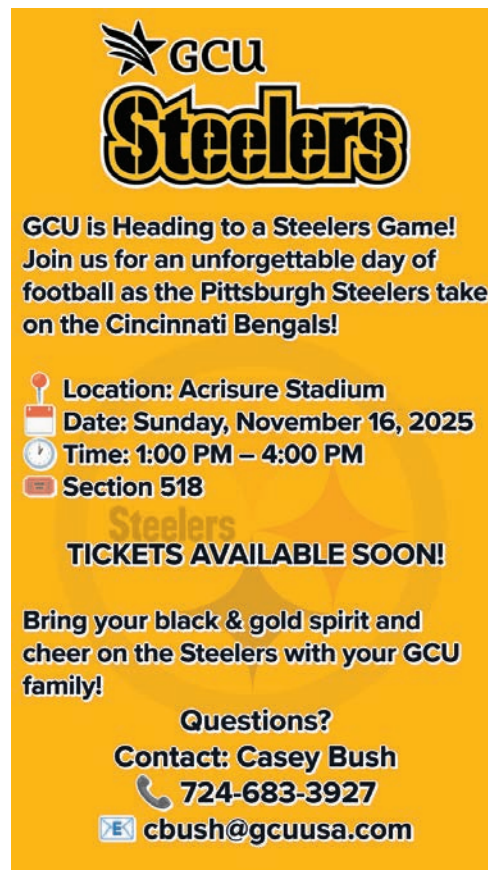
**ADMIT ONE**

**P**

**COLORADO ROCKIES**

22 22  
SEAT ROW BOX SEAT

**Order Tickets** **GCUusa.com** **More Info**



**GCU Steelers**

**GCU is Heading to a Steelers Game!**  
Join us for an unforgettable day of football as the Pittsburgh Steelers take on the Cincinnati Bengals!

**Location: Acrisure Stadium**  
**Date: Sunday, November 16, 2025**  
**Time: 1:00 PM – 4:00 PM**  
**Section 518**

**TICKETS AVAILABLE SOON!**

**Bring your black & gold spirit and cheer on the Steelers with your GCU family!**

**Questions?**  
**Contact: Casey Bush**  
**724-683-3927**  
**cbush@gcuusa.com**

## The 87<sup>th</sup> Annual GCU National Bowling Tournament

(A joint tournament with GCU, NSS & Slovak Catholic Sokol)

Meadows Lanes Bowling, Washington, PA  
held Friday, May 16-17, 2025

**Results can be found at [GCUusa.com](http://GCUusa.com)**

## GCU Spring Golf Classic

Seven Oaks Country Club, Beaver, PA  
held Monday, June 2, 2025

**Results can be found at [GCUusa.com](http://GCUusa.com)**





## GCU & Kennywood...

a partnership of family fun over a century in the making!

**THURSDAY  
JULY 24**

### RIDE ALL DAY!

\$28 (ages 4 and up)  
FREE (ages 3 and under)



ORDER TICKETS

**GCUusa.com**

or

**800-722-4428**

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

## 13<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL GCU Byzantine Family Day

**FRIDAY,  
JULY 25, 2025**

**NEW THIS YEAR - \$35 RIDE ALL DAY TICKETS  
(MUST BE USED ON 7/25)**

**Ticket Booklets - \$16 each (\$4 Value)**

**KIDS LUNCH (ages 2 & under)—FREE**

**LUNCH (ages 3 & up) - \$10 GCU Members**

**LUNCH (ages 3 & up) - \$16.50 Non-GCU Members**

Information and order forms available  
on the GCU Website



Each \$16 ticket booklet is valid for \$20 worth  
of rides, pool, food, & games inside park!

**11:45 Prayer Service**

**"Joining together as one before the fun!"**



# Remembrances

## Irene Elizabeth (Bobovski) Durisin

After a stay in the hospital, Irene was unexpectedly called to her Heavenly Home on March 31, 2025.

She felt behind her loving husband of almost 70 years, George, and her eight children: Anna Marie (Mike Pero), Jane (Bob Semak), Mike (Karen), Dan (Lynn), Sue (Jeff Kreft), Gloria (Rob Kennedy), Patty (Kolby Barbera) and Nancy (Ken Czarny). She was blessed with 19 grandkids and 10 great grandkids. Irene left behind her brothers Joe Bobovski and Bill Bobovski (Elaine), sisters Helen Kremposky and Anna Roll (Gene), and sister-in-law Sandy Luckham. Her parents Peter and Mary, her brother George, and sister Mary Novak and great grandson Noah pre-deceased her.

Irene was a wonderful and loving wife, mother, grandmother and great grandmother (baba). She was very involved throughout her life with her church activities, such as teaching catechism, belonging to the JOY guild, and running the local GCU chapter for her church. She was the President of the former lodge 384 and also was the recording Secretary of the former District 11 in Michigan. She was active in many of the GCU events that were sponsored at St. Stephen's Church in Allen Park, MI such as Easter egg hunts, bowling tournaments and visits from St. Nicholas. She was a true cheerleader for the GCU! She participated in many local Slovak events, including those at Hart Plaza in Detroit. Her biggest love was doing things with her family.

Irene loved to drive, travel and tried to visit as many of the 50 states as she could. Many times, it was just her and some of her kids and/or her good friend, Nancy McCrellias. George and Irene also spent many winters traveling to Mexico Beach, Florida and to Medjugorje, where many other close friends were also made as a result. The family also enjoyed summer vacations at Colchester Beach, Ontario.

Irene was an avid reader, loved to sew, crochet and craft, and her flower garden. She was a football fan and a Tigers fan. She was on a bowling team for many years and had good friends there, also. She loved babies-anyone's babies-and always encouraged and supported the young mothers. She collected coffee mugs from all over the world and had quite a big collection. Irene also took pictures constantly and loved to look at them with family and reminisce about people and places.

Irene made friends wherever she went. She had a wonderful sense of humor and was still laughing, joking and making friends with hospital staff until the end. George and Irene won an award at their home in American House as the "most loving couple."

She had a special place in her heart for all her family and friends. Irene will be missed, but her love and memory will live on. As Irene always used to say, "Because I said so!"

Blessed repose and eternal memory.

## Bernard S. Shinko

Bernard (Bernie) Stanley Shinko, 96, passed away Monday, April 14, 2025, at the VA Hospital in Wilkes-Barre, PA. Born in Wilkes-Barre, Bernie was the son of John Shinko and Stella (Paduch) Shinko and attended Meyers High School.

Bernie dedicated many years to his career as an iron worker, specializing in steel fabrication before retiring at age 62. He was a skilled welder, known for his meticulous work on custom staircases. Not one to remain idle, he returned to work part-time at Cee Kay Auto, finally retiring again at age 90. Bernie honorably served in the U.S. Army from 1948 to 1951. He was a Private First Class (PFC) in the Military Police, serving first in Germany then later serving in Okinawa during the Korean War.

Bernie was actively involved in the community serving as a Boy Scout Troop Leader for many years. He was a life member of the Kingston VFW Post 283 where he served as Post Commander from 1970 to 1972. He was a life member of the American Legion Post 395. Bernie also coordinated the West Side Memorial Day Parade for over 50 years. According to those who knew Bernie, the parade will never be the same without him. He was an inspiration to many. Bernie was a devout member of Saint Hedwig's Catholic Church where he served as an usher and past president of the Holy Name Society. He was also a member of the Knights of Columbus, 4th degree and Saint Mary Byzantine Catholic Church. Bernie also served as an officer in the GCU-Sargeant at Arms for District 5 and as President and Vice President for lodge 182.

In addition to his parents and his wife of 59 years, Betty Shinko, he was preceded in death by his siblings

CONTINUED ON PAGE 53

# Deceased Members

(State Lodge-Member-City-State)

- |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|
| 8344 Frances Aldan—New Castle, PA               | 8344 Corinne Desterdick—<br>Stroudsburg, PA   | 8344 Jean M. Johnson—Reading, PA                |
| 8344 Margaret Ali—Corapolis, PA                 |   | 8358 Robert I. Johnson—LaCrosse, WI             |
| 8344 Janice M. Andras—Lititz, PA                | 8313 Jerry Devaris—Westchester, IL            | 8309 William Johnson—McDonough, GA              |
| 8359 David E. Anthony—Valdese, NC               | 8344 Kathleen A. Dowling—<br>Port Carbon, PA  | 8344 Helen Kalanik—Dallas, PA                   |
| 8306 Paul A. Armond—Hadlyme, CT                 | 8326 Irene Durisin—Riverview, MI              | 8358 Dorothy L. Kapellen—Pewaukee, WI           |
| 8358 Robert E. Aschenbrenner—<br>Stratford, WI  | 8344 June T. Eger—Duncansville, PA            | 8309 Susanna Karlik—Largo, FL                   |
| 8344 Paul D. Ashbaugh—<br>St. Petersburg, PA    | 8344 Edyth E. Elwood—Saltsburg, PA            | 8344 Edwin D. Kelly—Apollo, PA                  |
|   | 8344 Maria Estrada—Wilkes Barre, PA           | 8360 Shirley J. Kneece—Aiken, SC                |
| 8313 Barbara M. Atanaskovic—Aurora, IL          | 8335 Jerome P. Fejko—Cedar Grove, NJ          | 8344 Janine M. Kocur—West Mifflin, PA           |
| 8341 Joan E. Balas—Boardman, OH                 | 8341 Elizabeth Fife—Wooster, OH               | 8341 William W. Kozel—Rotonda West, FL          |
| 8341 Lucille A. Benya—Marblehead, OH            | 8344 Lois Finnegan—Easton, PA                 | 8360 Phyllis Krajnik—Erie, PA                   |
| 8344 James R. Bergandy—Coraopolis, PA           | 8313 Mary Foley—Fountain Hills, AZ            | 8344 Dolores Krissick—Shenandoah, PA            |
| 8309 Sonya Berzinec—Winter Park, FL             | 8344 Suhad L. Fredekind—Verona, PA            | 8358 Opal Krueger—Tomahawk, WI                  |
| 8326 Frances O. Bluhm—East Jordan, MI           | 8344 Charles S. Frederick—Souderton, PA       | 8337 Robert LaDuca—Lewistown, NY                |
| 8326 Kenneth R. Bluhm—East Jordan, MI           | 8344 Eugene J. Fulton—Hazleton, PA            | 8304 Robert J. Lammers—<br>Huntington Beach, CA |
| 8341 Kathleen M. Bober—<br>Maple Heights, OH    | 8344 Irene Gartley—Hopewell, PA               | 8344 Theodore Langa—Butler, PA                  |
| 8344 Anthony Bolcavage—Eynon, PA                | 8344 Margaret Gegick—Monroeville, PA          | 8344 Charles Lazar—Allenport, PA                |
| 8344 Mary M. Bolcavage—Eynon, PA                | 8335 Margita Geles—Colonia, NJ                | 8341 Evelyn Lecorchick—Strongsville, OH         |
| 8335 Victor Bukovecky—<br>Hillsborough Twp., NJ | 8344 Georgianna Gentile—Monaca, PA            | 8344 Jean L. Leymeister—Pottsville, PA          |
| 8341 Aldo Cedrone—Struthers, OH                 | 8344 Betty Glentzer—Dayton, PA                | 8344 David J. Lipchak—Pittsburgh, PA            |
| 8344 Marie Cennane—McKeesport, PA               | 8316 Peggy L. Goetz—Fontanelle, IA            | 8341 Robert Macala—Boardman, OH                 |
| 8344 Mary P. Chalmers—Butler, PA                | 8360 Yvonne Grau—Fort Mill, SC                | 8344 Dolores V. MacMaster—Mission, TX           |
| 8344 Theresa M. Cizauskas—Etters, PA            | 8344 Dolores Grgurich—Pittsburgh, PA          | 8341 John Maczko—Wadsworth, OH                  |
| 8344 Henry Clauser—Butler, PA                   | 8344 Marilyn H. Grogg—Reading, PA             | 8344 Fred Maljan—Derry, PA                      |
| 8344 Doris L. Cluelow—Elverson, PA              | 8340 Joanne E. Groth—Fargo, ND                | 8344 Carol A. Manfredi—Washington, PA           |
| 8333 Donald Cologne—Las Vegas, NV               | 8344 Kurvin H. Grove—York, PA                 | 8313 Dorothy T. Manning—Lockport, IL            |
| 8358 George E. Constantine—<br>Wauwatosa, WI    | 8344 Pauline D. Guliano—Donora, PA            | 8326 Donald E. Mannor—Interlochen, MI           |
| 8315 Peter D. Cozza—Schereville, IN             | 8360 Imogene R. Haas—Clover, SC               | 8341 Doris M. Maple—Cuyahoga Falls, OH          |
| 8357 Ronald H. Culler—Weirton, WV               | 8302 Dale Hallberg—Sun Lakes, AZ              | 8335 Geraldine C. Marini—Carlstadt, NJ          |
| 8344 Janet D. Davidson-Oltman—<br>Telford, PA   | 8341 Elizabeth Heffelfinger—<br>Barberton, OH | 8315 Jeanne F. Martin—Valparaiso, IN            |
| 8326 Richard DeKam—Kalamazoo, MI                | 8326 David H. Holmes—Gaylord, MI              | 8344 Josephine Maruska—Duryea, PA               |
| 8358 Karen S. Deranick—<br>Wisconsin Rapids, WI | 8304 Coral Ide—Sylmar, CA                     | 8326 John S. Mazur—Macomb, MI                   |
|   | 8344 Anna Agnes Ivory—Pittsburgh, PA          | 8344 Lillian M. McBreen—Barnesville, PA         |
|   | 8344 Nancy Jardina—Johnstown, PA              | 8305 Vivian B. Mega—Longmont, CO                |
|   | 8344 Darrell E. Johnson—<br>New Brighton, PA  | 8344 Michael Andrew Mesko—<br>Scranton, PA      |
|   |   | 8344 Ray A. Metzker—Punxsutawney, PA            |



# Remembrances

Bernard S. Shinko

Stanley, Walter, Thomas, Joseph, John, Florence Skobodzinski, Mary Bellia, Genevieve Shinko and Elizabeth Turpin.

Bernie is survived by his son Bernard R. Shinko, daughters Diane Nardone, Saylorsburg; Rosemarie Capelletti, and her husband George, Birdsboro; Elizabeth Huibregtse and her husband Ric, Las Vegas; grandchildren Kendra Yatsko and Nicole Nardone; siblings Lucille Petrosky, Chester Shinko and Leona Delmore, his beloved dog Duchess; and many nieces and nephews.

The family wishes to extend heartfelt thanks to the compassionate staff

at the VA Hospital for their exceptional care; as well as his nephew Ray Shinko and neighbor Nancy Bellas for their unwavering support.

The funeral was held from Maher-Collins Funeral Home, Kingston, PA with a Divine Liturgy at St. Mary's Protection Byzantine Catholic Church, Kingston, PA. Interment will be in the parish cemetery, Pringle.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations can be made to Blue Chip Animal Rescue, 974 Lockville Road, Dallas, PA 18612.

Blessed repose and eternal memory.

8344 Larry James Midock—Homer City, PA  
8315 Mary Mihalik—Crown Point, IN  
8344 Betty I. Moore—Aliquippa, PA  
8309 Margaret C. Moorman—Melbourne, FL  
8326 Jeffrey Morris—Tekonsha, MI  
8302 David N. Neal—Tempe, AZ  
8344 Nina J. Neel—Warren, PA  
8309 Barbara Nemery—Oviedo, FL  
8344 Susan Oravec—Wilkes Barre Twp., PA  
8335 Alexander D. Oslar—Green Creek, NJ  
8344 Biagio Pagani—Beaver, PA  
8344 W Jean Pahach—Bolivar, PA  
8344 William C. Perlik—Gibsonia, PA  
8304 Douglas Pitzler—Camarillo, CA  
8344 Irene Plaxa—Frackville, PA  
8344 Justine Popovich—Pittsburgh, PA  
8344 Nicholas I. Puhak—Drums, PA  
8344 Irene Purdy—Saylorsburg, PA  
8344 Andrea Raymer—Canonsburg, PA  
8360 Wayne E. Reader—Bluffton, SC  
8335 Patricia A. Remson—Brick, NJ  
8344 Samuel Resconich—Portage, PA  
8344 Betty Richards—Dilliner, PA  
8304 Marian Ritchie—San Francisco, CA  
8344 David Rittelmann—Beaver Falls, PA  
8344 Linda L. Robinson—Sugarloaf, PA  
8344 Inez Rose—Beaver, PA  
8302 Joseph J. Rudigier—Tucson, AZ  
8344 Helen Sabol—N. Huntington, PA  
8302 Joyce Saka—Phoenix, AZ  
8302 Judith A. Sattelmeier—Peoria, AZ  
8344 Clarice Schweppenheiser—Cresco, PA  
8344 Nancy A. Seachrist—Sellersville, PA  
8344 Michael J. Semes—Broomall, PA  
8315 Salome A. Senics—Whiting, IN

8344 Albina Senko—Pittsburgh, PA  
8344 Michael Jay Serecin—Pittsburgh, PA  
8344 Robert Shankovich—Lower Burrell, PA  
8302 Jackie Sharp—Gilbert, AZ  
8341 BJ Showman—Euclid, OH  
8344 John J. Shutty—Champion, PA  
8344 Raymond G. Shutt—Apollo, PA  
8341 Bruce A. Sibenik—Warren, OH  
8344 John Siko—Bradenville, PA  
8335 Lorraine Simoldoni—Wood Ridge, NJ  
8302 Mary Singleton—Queen Creek, AZ  
8344 Nancy Sivi—Pittsburgh, PA  
8344 Robert Sombronski—Armagh, PA  
8313 Kenneth M. Stanker—Crete, IL  
8341 Maria Stefancic—Willoughby Hills, OH  
8344 Kathleen M. Steranko—Port Carbon, PA  
8335 Helen Stofega—Perth Amboy, NJ  
8344 Patricia Stouffer—Latrobe, PA  
8358 Gerald J. Stuessy—Medford, WI  
8344 Clarence Suchonic—Butler, PA  
8313 Robert Elik Surin—Orland Park, IL  
8344 Ethel Swartz—Pottsville, PA

8344 Mary E. Thomas—Coraopolis, PA  
8341 Maria A. Tirpack—Campbell, OH  
8341 Helen F. Torok—Blacklick, OH  
8344 Dianna Trimbur—Butler, PA  
8344 Wayne G. Turner—Sharon, PA  
8341 Elsie H. Urban—Rocky River, OH  
8344 Patricia A. Vargo—Connellsville, PA  
8344 Donna Marie Voag—Bethlehem, PA  
8304 Robert E. Vock—San Clemente, CA  
8344 Dolores Wagner—Coatesville, PA  
8309 Curtis G. Walls—Fort Myers, FL  
8315 Lucille Warfield—Indianapolis, IN  
8344 Gloria Warner—East Stroudsburg, PA  
8359 Larry L. Watson—Sanford, NC  
8344 Marie E. Welsh—Bala Cynwyd, PA  
8324 Kathryn A. Willats—Parkville, MD  
8309 Eric Wilson—Maitland, FL  
8344 Steve Winsler—Uniontown, PA  
8344 Janet Woods—Holidaysburg, PA  
8315 Phyllis Woodworth—Schererville, IN  
8309 Shirley A. Yasick—The Villages, FL  
8344 James Young—Pittsburgh, PA  
8344 Beverly Zavacky—Butler, PA



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*\*Dependent upon payment option elected at time of annuity settlement.*

*\*\* GCU does not provide tax advice. Always consult your tax advisor regarding your personal situation.*

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or the GCU Call Center at 855.306.0607**

**[GCUusa.com](http://GCUusa.com)**

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