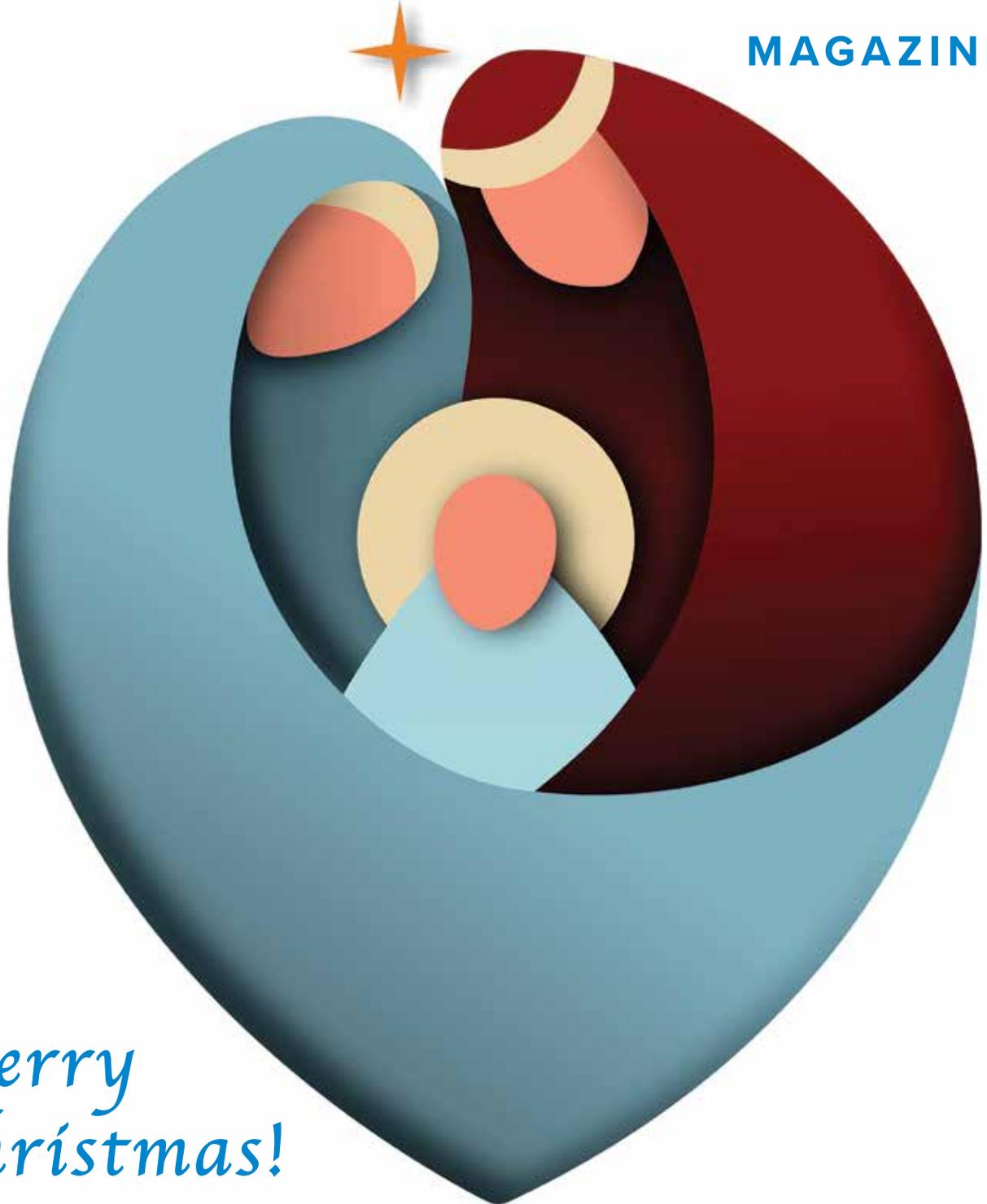


DECEMBER 2022

# GCU

MAGAZINE



*Merry  
Christmas!*

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George N. Juba  
President  
CEO

# Refocusing

**F**or me, the Christmas Holiday Season begins after Thanksgiving. This time of year, provides a special feeling of peace, love, tranquility and the start of Advent, as we prepare our souls for the Nativity of Christ at Christmas. It is also a period for celebration not just for the Birth of Our Lord and Savior but a time to socialize with our families, friends, business associates and fellow co-workers. This time of year brings us together, providing a much needed reprieve from our hectic day-to-day responsibilities. It's a time to reflect about "us as a people" in caring about each other, celebrating our triumphs together and providing support and a "shoulder to lean on" in troubled times that will ultimately make the world a better place to live in. When you reflect upon our work and careers, each and every profession and company support the needs of the human race.

GCU is most proud to be a financial services and community outreach organization (Fraternal Benefit Society) in providing life insurance and annuity products to its members that upholds a portion of our Mission of **"Protecting Families."**

In addition to these financial services products offered, the GCU continues to foster the humanitarian vision of our founders by assisting our Byzantine Catholic Parishes, organizations and individuals in need of financial and volunteer support. Our Mission of **"Promoting Faith and Fellowship and Strengthening Communities"** has been a part of the GCU from its very beginning. This effort has been carried out on a national level and through the GCU's lodge system, which was once a very vibrant structure numbering over two hundred lodges primarily based at Byzantine Catholic Parishes throughout the country.

Unfortunately, this structure is outdated with the majority of lodges having gone inactive due to any number of reasons. The GCU's Board of Directors has recognized this problem for some time now as noted in my past articles, our community and church outreach programs can only be as strong as the GCU is financially. Through the grace of God and our Patron St. Nicholas of Myra, the GCU is currently in the strongest financial position in the history of our Society. Hence, the GCU is in a financial position

to strengthen our fraternal structure and is undergoing a total transformation of its fraternal structure and community outreach programming. Effective January 1, 2023, the lodge structure as we have known for the last one hundred thirty years will no longer exist and will be transformed into "Community Constellations."

The GCU is currently soliciting members for the positions of GCU Constellation Coordinators and Byzantine Parish Coordinators. I invite you to view the video that will provide additional information on this new program along with job descriptions and applications for these positions by visiting the GCU's website – [www.GCUusa.com](http://www.GCUusa.com) (**Scroll down to – We Invest in Our Members – GCU Fraternal Metamorphosis**).

Please contact me or our Fraternal Communication Department Director Basil Wahal–724-495-3400 ext: 3924 or email [bwahal@GCUusa.com](mailto:bwahal@GCUusa.com)–if you should have any questions. We are very excited about this New GCU Fraternal Metamorphosis Program that will not only expand the GCU presence amongst all our GCU Byzantine Catholic Parishes but throughout each community where our GCU members reside.

I traveled extensively in announcing our "New GCU Fraternal Metamorphosis Program" and extend a sincere thank you to the Officers of each of our lodges and districts for taking the time to attend the meetings held to announce this new structure. We thank you for your past involvement and know we can continue to count on you to volunteer in support of this new structure. During the course of my travels I was fortunate also to visit a few

CONTINUED



Chesapeake Financial Solutions: GCU President George Juba with Client Specialist BJ Coberg and President Randy Packett.



Chesapeake Financial Solutions: President George Juba with Director Shelly Estremsky and President Randy Packett.



President George Juba with Randy & Daniel Ronberg of Nations First Financial.



DeSimone Blue Chip Planning LLC: President Joseph DeSimone and GCU President George Juba.

agents that market GCU products: Joe DeSimone of DeSimone Blue Chip Planning LLC, Tucson, AZ; Randy & Daniel Ronberg of Nations First Financial, Mesa AZ and Elliot Crosby of Mesa AZ and Randy Packett of Chesapeake Capital Management, Abingdon MD. Thank you all for your time and hospitality!

Although the transformation to the “New GCU Fraternal Metamorphosis Program” officially “kicks off” January 1<sup>st</sup>, you may have already noticed the impact our new Corporate Community Events Coordinators Molly Kullen and Melissa Cohen have made. They have planned several volunteer and social events since they came on board earlier this year! For those members that are active on social media I am sure you have also noticed the GCU’s increased presence as our new Social Media Analyst Mitch Valvano has made an immediate impact marketing GCU events and providing various tidbits of information. They promise a larger array of activities in 2023 as we anticipate more of our members involvement with the launching of the “New GCU Fraternal Metamorphosis Program”! It is imperative for you to have an email address on file as this program will be administered entirely electronically for the marketing of events, reservations and payments. Please contact our Contact Center via phone 855-306-0607 or email [info@GCUusa.com](mailto:info@GCUusa.com) to add your address to our files. Thank you Molly, Melissa and Mitch!

Presented for your review in this issue are the GCU’s third quarter financial statements presented on page 6. Our Chief Financial Officer Tim Demetres, presents his detailed commentary on the results. Again, our sincere thank you to our members and agents that enable the GCU to continue on a path of financial success. Despite the current challenges within the economy and the financial markets, we are ex-

pecting the GCU to once again attain sound and stable results for the 2022 fiscal year.

As was announced in the October 2022 issue of the *GCU Magazine*, Board Members Barbara Kushner and Dorothy Foran retired effective October 1, 2022. The GCU Board of Directors has the authority to fill Board vacancies per Paragraph 51 of the Bylaws: **Par. 51 The Directors shall have the authority to fill a vacancy of an elected Director for the unexpired term with a member who meets the qualifications of Paragraph 62.**

The GCU Board of Directors are seeking candidates interested in being a member of the Board that meet the criteria and required qualifications presented on page 4. All candidates must submit their Declaration of Candidacy to the Nominating Committee by January 31, 2023.

Charlie Brown seems to come to the forefront during each Christmas Season. I came across this post of a statement Charlie Brown made to Linus: **“Maybe this Christmas we should not ask for everything we want Linus. Maybe we should just be thankful for what we have”!**

In closing, my congratulations and thank you to our Board of Directors, Executive Officers, Department Directors and our entire Support Staff that has allowed GCU to experience another successful year! May the Birth of Our Lord and Savior and the joy of this holiday season provide to you and your family Hope, Faith, Peace, Love, Good Tidings during this Christmas Season! My best wishes for a safe and Happy Holiday Season and all the best for a healthy and prosperous New Year!

**MERRY CHRISTMAS!  
CHRISTOS RAZDAJETSJA!  
CHRIST IS BORN!**

# GCU Presents Annual Byzantine Seminary Educational Grant

On Sunday, December 4, 2022 GCU President/CEO George N. Juba presented Metropolitan William Skurla, Archbishop of the Archeparchy of Pittsburgh with the GCU's educational grant of \$125,000.<sup>00</sup>. The annual grant is for the SS. Cyril & Methodius Byzantine Catholic Seminary. The presentation took place at the Saint Nicholas Charity Celebration held at St. John Cathedral Center. With this year's presentation GCU donations, which began in 1961, now total over \$3.7 million.



GCU President/CEO George N. Juba and Archbishop William Skurla with the GCU educational grant for the Byzantine Catholic Seminary.

## GCU Home Office, Seven Oaks & Lodge Members Invest in Giving Back



**Salvation Army Treasures for Children.** The GCU Home Office and Seven Oaks staff purchased Christmas gifts for the children for the Salvation Army Treasures for Children program. Once again the staff was abundant in their holiday giving. Thanks to all who participated in making kids happy this Christmas. Shown with the gifts are St. Nicholas (our very own Social Media Strategist Mitch Valvano) and his elf helper Member/Agent Service Representative Gina Spickerman. They both spread cheer throughout the Home Office on December 6 to celebrate St. Nicholas Day.



**Project Bundle Up.** GCU employees and members volunteered to assist local children find winter coats, hats, gloves and boots as a part of WTAE and The Salvation Army's Project Bundle Up. Volunteers met the children on Saturday, October 29 at JC Penney's in the Beaver Valley Mall. It was an amazing morning of giving. Warm kids give us warm hearts!



**Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank Volunteer Activity.** GCU members spent their morning on Saturday, November 19 volunteering with the Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank. The food bank held a Walk-In Distribution site at Beaver Falls High School. Members assisted the food bank with passing out food items to local community members in need. The food bank served over 150 people that morning.

## GCU Board of Directors Vacancy Information

### Board of Directors Authority

The GCU's Board of Directors is seeking qualified candidates to fill two Board Member vacancies due to the retirement of GCU Directors Dorothy Foran and Barbara Kushner. The Board of Directors has the authority to fill Board vacancies per Paragraph 51 of the Bylaws:

**Par. 51:** The Directors shall have the authority to fill a vacancy of an elected Director for the unexpired term with a member who meets the qualifications of Paragraph 62.

### Qualifications

#### Bylaw Qualifications

**Par. 62:** All candidates for Director must submit a Declaration for Candidacy & Resume Form for Director and comply with the following qualifications:

- (a) A citizen of the United States of America.
- (b) A member of the GCU for a minimum of five (5) years as of January 1 of the election year.
- (c) A person of Slav origin and a Byzantine Catholic for a minimum of five (5) years as of January 1 of the election year.
- (d) Of good moral character, reputation and good American spirit.
- (e) A candidate must have attained the age of 30 prior to January 1 of the election year and not be older than age 77 prior to January 1 of the election year.
- (f) Any other qualifications set forth by the Directors in the Declaration of Candidacy & Resume Form for Director.

### Qualifications as set forth by the Board of Directors per Par. 62 (f) are as follows:

Must possess a minimum of two of the following:

- ❖ Bachelor's degree or higher.
- ❖ Currently hold or has held a senior level, Executive or C-Suite position for a minimum of five years.
- ❖ Own a successful business for a minimum of five years.
- ❖ Currently employed or has been employed in the financial/insurance industry for minimum of five years or possess a financial/insurance certificate for a minimum of five years.
- ❖ Serve or has served on a professional Board for a minimum of three years.

Qualified candidates must submit their Declaration for Candidacy by January 31, 2023. Declaration of Candidacy forms are available on the GCU website in the Member Events section or can be obtained by calling GCU President/CEO George Juba at 724-495-3400 ext. 3928 or emailing [gjuba@GCUusa.com](mailto:gjuba@GCUusa.com).

### Summary of Directors' Responsibilities

As a member of the GCU Board of Directors, a Director is responsible for the effective governance of the GCU. Their main purpose is to advise, govern, set and oversee policy & direction, and assist with the leadership and general promotion of the GCU in support of its mission, strategic vision and core values.

### Expectations of Board Members

As a member of the GCU Board of Directors, a Director is responsible for the effective governance of the GCU. Their main purpose is to advise, govern, set and oversee policy & direction, and assist with the leadership and general promotion of the GCU in support of its mission, strategic vision and core values.

## Key Responsibilities

Members of the Board shall share these responsibilities while acting in the best interest of the GCU. Each member is expected to make recommendations based on their profession, experience, expertise and vantage point in the community.

- Organizational leadership and advisement.
- Formulation, oversight and governance of policies and procedures developed by the Board.
- Establish overall long and short term goals, objectives and priorities for the GCU.
- Recommend policy.
- Prepare for and participate in the discussion and the deliberations of the Board.
- Financial oversight, including approval and oversight of the annual operating budget.
- Oversight of program planning and evaluation.
- Monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of the GCU's annual business plan through a regular review of sales and budget reports as well as a review of products, programs, and services as compared to the market and competitive environment.
- Review of key departmental (finance, membership, sales, marketing, fraternal) plans, budgets and performance reports.
- Promotion, and support thereof, of the GCU's membership and mission through advertising, outreach and community networking.

## Meeting and Time Commitment

- *The Board of Directors meets quarterly with a minimum commitment of 20-30 days on site annually, not including travel time.*
- In addition, Board members are to be available at the call of the Chairperson of the Board for any special meetings. The special meetings may be either in person or via teleconference.
- Board members are expected to attend GCU events and meetings.

## Term

The term of office for these two Board positions will end on September 30, 2024.

# Third Quarter 2022 Financials



**Tim Demetres**  
Chief Financial Officer

I hope you have seen the exciting news in GCU being awarded an A- (excellent) financial strength rating from A.M. Best. It is an honor and privilege to achieve this level of financial recognition from both A.M. Best and KBRA, two well-known industry rating organizations. We are very grateful for the strong member loyalty and trust you have in GCU!

Since the first quarter, interest rates have risen to levels we have not seen in many years. The Federal Reserve continues to raise interest rates to tame high levels of inflation. Although the adverse effects of inflation have a drag on our resources, GCU has responded by increasing crediting rates on annuity products thus providing our members some financial relief. Sales activity remain strong with the growth in fixed indexed and deferred annuities.

Highlights of GCU's nine-month results are as follows:

I am pleased to report the financial results for the nine months ended September 30, 2022. Net income in 2022 was \$18.7 million versus \$21.8 million in 2021. Total assets and surplus increased to \$2.6 billion and \$221.4 million, respectively, as of September 30, 2022.

Income before net capital gains (losses) totaled \$18.4 million, \$3.2 million lower than the \$21.6 million reported in 2021. Net realized capital gains were \$281 thousand in 2022 compared to \$148 thousand in 2021. Net income after net realized gains was \$18.7 million in 2022 compared to \$21.8 million in 2021.

Total Assets increased \$202.6 million to \$2.616 billion at September 30th from \$2.414 billion at December 31, 2021. The increase in assets reflect the growth in invested assets from new business sales and portfolio earnings. We continue

to be successful in purchasing investment grade securities at shorter durations, increased credit quality, and at higher yields. We are also committed to building our strategic asset allocation by investing in alternative assets (investments in LLC's and limited partnerships) on a risk-adjusted basis.

Total liabilities grew commensurate with life and annuity sales and totaled \$2.395 billion as of September 30 compared to \$2.205 billion at year-end 2021. The \$190 million increase in total liabilities is due primarily to a \$193 million increase in life and annuity reserves, a \$7.8 million increase in unsettled security trades, reduced by a \$5.8 decrease in AVR, and a \$5.2 million decrease in the IMR from deferred investment gains/losses.

Total Income increased \$73.6 million in the first three quarters of 2022 to \$392.6 million from \$319 million in 2021. Life sales increased 27% from growth in our whole life single premium product. Annuity sales and exchanges increased \$70.1 million to \$294.2 million in 2022. Net investment income of \$87.0 million increased \$3.4 million from higher assets under management and income earned on bond prepayments.

Operating expenses, before the increase in reserves, totaled \$180.3 million versus \$171.4 million in 2021, an increase of \$8.9 million or 5.2%. The increase in agent commissions from higher sales were largely off-set by lower exchanges of annuity contracts. General insurance expenses were \$119 thousand higher when compared to 2021.

The increase in policyholder reserves totaled \$193.7 million compared to \$125.8 million in 2021. Reserve changes are primarily a function of premiums received, death and annuity benefits paid out, and interest accumulation. Growth in reserves primarily reflect the increase in sales of fixed indexed and flexible premium deferred annuities.

Surplus grew to \$221.4 million as of September 30<sup>th</sup>

## Summary of Financial Statistics

(000's omitted)	9/30/2022	9/30/2021	Change
Total Income	\$ 392,635	\$ 231,300	\$161,335
Total Expenses	373,991	297,162	76,829
Net Income (Loss)	18,701	21,774	(3,073)
	9/30/22	12/31/21	Change
Assets	\$2,616,396	\$2,413,827	\$202,569
Asset Valuation Reserve	18,033	23,831	(5,798)
Interest Maintenance Reserve	17,326	22,558	(5,232)
Surplus (Net Worth)	221,391	209,242	12,149
Total Adjusted Capital (TAC)	239,573	233,223	6,350
Solv. Ratio by Total Adj. Capital	110.1%	110.7%	-0.62%

## Change in Surplus

(000's omitted)	
Beginning Surplus (12/31/2021)	\$209,242
Net Income/(loss)	18,701
Change in Unrealized Gain/(Loss)	(11,444)
GCU Holding Company & Other	(635)
Changes in Non-Admitted Assets	(273)
Changes in Asset Valuation Reserve	5,799
Net Change in Surplus	12,149
<b>Ending Surplus (9/30/2022)</b>	<b>\$221,391</b>

compared to \$209.2 million at year-end 2021. The \$12.2 million increase in surplus is attributable to the additions of \$18.7 million of net income and the \$5.8 million change in AVR reduced by the change in unrealized gains (loss) of (\$11.4 million), (\$0.3 million) increase in non-admitted software development costs; and (\$0.6 million) reduction for GCU Holding Company's net loss.

Total Adjusted Capital (TAC) was \$239.6 million as of September 30, 2022. TAC starts with surplus of \$221.4

million and adds back the asset valuation reserve of \$18.0 million and one-half the dividend liability of \$150,000. TAC is a financial strength measure closely monitored by rating agencies. The solvency ratios based on TAC were 110.1% and 110.7%, as of September 30, 2022 and December 31, 2021, respectively. These ratios reflect the consistency of GCU's excellent financial strength.

Share in the joy of this cheerful holiday season! Please be safe and remain healthy. **Tim**

## GCU INCOME STATEMENTS

### Nine Months 2022 vs. 2021

INCOME (000's omitted)	9/30/2022	9/30/2021	Change
Life Premium	\$ 8,586	\$ 6,786	\$ 1,799
Annuity Premium	281,796	210,821	70,975
Annuity Exchanges	12,370	13,293	(924)
Accident & Health	347	399	(52)
Sub Total	303,099	231,300	71,799
Net Investment Income	87,062	83,629	3,432
Amort. of Int. Maint. Resrv.	1,470	1,628	(159)
Commission-Reinsurance	699	1,138	(439)
Other	306	1,335	(1,030)
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$392,635</b>	<b>\$319,031</b>	<b>\$73,604</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>			
Death Benefits	\$ 3,171	\$ 3,013	\$ 157
Annuity Benefits Paid	139,705	133,882	5,823
Annuity Exchanges	12,370	13,293	(924)
Surrender Benefits	391	378	13
Accident & Health Benefits Pd.	309	369	(60)
Commissions	16,204	11,613	4,591
General Insurance Exp.	7,125	7,006	119
Ins., Taxes, Licenses & Fees	363	381	(19)
Pension Expense	406	1,212	(806)
Int. on Contract & Dep. Accts.	233	204	29
Sub-Total	\$180,277	\$171,352	\$ 8,924
Increase in Reserves	193,714	125,809	67,905
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$373,991</b>	<b>\$297,162</b>	<b>\$76,829</b>
<b>Net Gain/Loss bef. Refunds</b>	<b>18,644</b>	<b>21,869</b>	<b>(3,225)</b>
<b>Refunds to Members</b>	<b>224</b>	<b>243</b>	<b>(19)</b>
<b>Net Gain/Loss after Refunds</b>	<b>18,420</b>	<b>21,626</b>	<b>(3,206)</b>
<b>Net Capital Gains (Losses)</b>	<b>281</b>	<b>148</b>	<b>133</b>
<b>Net Income/Loss</b>	<b>\$ 18,701</b>	<b>\$ 21,774</b>	<b>\$(3,073)</b>

## BALANCE SHEETS

### August 30, 2022 vs. December 31, 2021

ASSETS (000's omitted)	9/30/2022	12/31/2021	Change
Bonds	\$ 2,440,124	\$ 2,213,353	\$ 226,771
Preferred Stocks	20,127	23,125	(2,998)
Common Stocks	24,351	35,384	(11,033)
Alternative Investments	56,532	45,062	11,469
Cash/Short Term Investments	24,014	48,638	(24,624)
Mortgages	3,767	3,674	93
Certificate Loans	572	608	(36)
Derivatives	398	472	(74)
Real Estate	15,160	15,461	(301)
Invest. Income Due & Accrued	30,509	27,575	2,933
Other	844	476	369
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$2,616,396</b>	<b>\$2,413,827</b>	<b>\$202,569</b>
<b>% Total Change Year to Year</b>	<b>8.4%</b>		
<b>LIABILITIES</b>			
Life Reserves	\$ 87,098	\$ 81,792	\$ 5,306
Annuity Reserves	2,251,623	2,063,504	188,119
Accident & Health Reserves	118	131	(13)
Employee Pension Liability	6,744	6,869	(125)
Convention Reserve	127	127	0
Adv. Prem. & Fut. Rfnd. Resrvs.	357	368	(11)
Pending Investment Trades	9,547	1,666	7,881
Accounts Payable	1,210	1,139	71
Refund Accumulations	2,821	2,599	222
Asset Valuation Reserve-AVR	18,033	23,831	(5,799)
Interest Maint. Reserve-IMR	17,326	22,558	(5,232)
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>\$2,395,005</b>	<b>\$2,204,586</b>	<b>\$ 190,419</b>
Surplus Fund	221,391	209,242	12,149
<b>Total Liabilities &amp; Surplus</b>	<b>\$ 2,616,396</b>	<b>\$ 2,413,827</b>	<b>\$202,569</b>
<b>Solvency Ratio*</b>	<b>110.1%</b>	<b>110.7%</b>	

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

Financial information is unaudited and presented on the statutory basis of accounting.

Totals may vary slightly due to rounding.



Mitred Archpriest  
John S. Kachuba  
GCU Spiritual Advisor

# Christmas is Not a Date It Is a State of Mind

**I**n a few weeks we will be celebrating the Nativity of our Lord, God, and Savior Jesus Christ – Christmas. Most of the Christian world will celebrate this great Feast on December 25, or those on the Julian Calendar on January 7. However, many religious historians will quickly tell you the actual birth date of Jesus Christ is unknown. Some biblical scholars believe Jesus’ birth would have occurred during April-October, while some historical documents claim birth dates as precise as March 28. Latin-speaking Christians had come to the view that December 25 was the “historical” date of Christ’s birth before the end of the Third Century.

The Roman Emperor Aurelian (270-275) instituted a new pagan festival, the Birth of the Unconquered Sun, on December 25, which was then the Winter Solstice. Consequently, December 25 was popularized as the date for Christmas, not because Christ was born on that day, but because it was already popular in pagan religious celebrations as the birthday of the Sun. In any event, in A.D. 350 Pope Julius I, bishop of Rome, is recognized by historians as having proclaimed December 25 the official celebration date for the birthday of Jesus.

The East took January 6 as the date to celebrate the “manifestation” of Christ, his birth, his manifestation to the Magi and especially his baptism in the Jordan, hence Epiphany or Theophany. In the Fourth Century the celebration of December 25 as the commemoration of Christ’s birth began to spread in the East.

The actual year of the birth of Jesus is an unknown, with most accounts placing it somewhere around 5 B.C. The “Star of Bethlehem” is cited in scripture as heralding Jesus’ arrival, and is believed by some to be a slow-moving comet documented by Chinese astrologers also in 5 B.C.

**“Christmas is not a date—it is a state of mind.”** What is important is not the exact day of the birth of our Lord, but that Christmas is the experience of the Eternal God, through

Jesus Christ. By the Incarnation of the Son of God, our generosity and joy become standards in Christian living where grief and sadness do not exist. Jesus is coming with a new promise of love, which is in the Christian heart and does not leave, because Christ Himself wipes away all anxieties.

There are times when we think about the Nativity season, that we tend to lose the real meaning behind the spectacular decorations, music, etc. These external trappings are important for our lives as well – for our physical and emotional

**Jesus is coming with a new promise of love, which is in the Christian heart and does not leave, because Christ Himself wipes away all anxieties.**

well-being. But how about our spiritual side?

Our spiritual preparation often takes a back seat to our material preparation. We are all called to live this divine event—this Incarnation—this God with Us! We are called to awaken this reality of “God with Us” in others by our own reality of the “God with Us” experience. Each day as we prepare to celebrate the Nativity of our Lord, we have many opportunities to share in this Holy Season.

Let us show the world the real meaning of the celebration of the Nativity of our Lord, and not the hype. Stress the message of Christmas (Love), not the materialism! The entire Christmas season instills in many a sense of peace and harmony that culminates in the rituals of Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. It is a time of joy and general good cheer. So, as we begin this preparation season for the Nativity of our Savior, let us remember, Christmas [Nativity] is not one single day, but it is a state of mind, it is our attitude to each other, our way of life. It is Incarnation. God becoming one of us so that we can become like God.



Atty. John J. Urban

# Lessons in the Law

## Estate Planning Requires the Correct Attorney

**A** good friend from college who lives in another state called me about his father. His father had taken ill and was going to undergo surgery and the doctors were not sure of the success. My friend's father did not have a Power of Attorney for finances and did not have a Living Will and Health Care Power of Attorney. Without these documents in place, his spouse and his son had no authority to make any kind of financial or medical decisions. My friend said he would be in town the next day and I agreed to meet with the family and try to get the documents in place.

What happened next is what happens when an attorney who does not practice in this field gets involved. My friend's mom was talking with her next-door neighbor and said I was coming the next day to get the information to create the necessary documents. The neighbor said he

would get the documents done that day and she would not have to worry and wait until tomorrow. Sounds good, right? The problem, the documents the attorney prepared were not Ohio specific and the financial Power of Attorney he prepared was not durable which means that if you get ill or if you are ill now, the Power of Attorney is not valid.

My friend's dad had a set back the next day and had to have emergency surgery. When I was given the documents to review, I was very nervous that if the dad did not get better, the documents would be useless. Fortunately, he recovered and immediately I prepared and drafted new documents which he executed and now the family had valid documents.

The lesson learned here is that not all attorneys know the rules in areas they do not practice in. Make sure you are dealing with an experienced attorney in the estate planning area.

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

## GCU Home Office Hours of Operation & Holiday Schedule

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, December 23 & Monday, December 26, 2022 in observance of the Christmas Holiday and Friday, December 30 & Monday, January 2, 2023 in observance of New Year's Day.***

5400 Tuscarawas Road, Beaver, PA 15009



# Giving

## St. Nicholas Orthodox Church Parish Expansion

**Whitestone, NY.** On Sunday, October 23, 2022, members of St. Nicholas Orthodox Church got together following Divine Liturgy for an afternoon of food, fellowship and music. Everyone had a wonderful time at their Oktoberfest luncheon. The menu consisted of Slavic food. Parishioners donated the beer, soft drinks and desserts. Three members of the church formed a band and supplied live music—it was their debut performance. Unfortunately, the soccer game and scavenger hunt planned for the children had to be canceled, due to rain. Instead, the children had fun decorating pumpkins and playing autumn inspired games.

Sincere thanks to the GCU for their continued support of the parish and the generous Matching Funds Grant. Their generosity has allowed the parish to undertake projects to maintain and improve the church property. In these trying financial times, their support has been a Godsend.

**Laura Muhlfeld**



Both the adults & children enjoyed the Oktoberfest luncheon.

## Emmanuel Baptist Church Parish Expansion



**New Brighton, PA.** Isabella D'Alessandro is shown presenting a GCU Parish Expansion Matching Funds check to Missionary Solomon Max Gorvie. Solomon is head pastor for World Evangelistic Outreach. The funds donated to Emmanuel Baptist Church were used to purchase Children's Bibles, which Solomon will deliver to churches in Africa. Thank you to the GCU for the financial assistance.

**Casey Bush**

## Saint Stephen Byzantine Catholic Church Parish Expansion

**North Huntingdon, PA.** After a 3-year hiatus (COVID-19), Turkey Bingo returned to Saint Stephen BC Church. In collaboration with Father Vasyl Yakubych and numerous parishioners, the afternoon was filled with fun and friendship.

In addition to the many bingo games and specials, a Basket Auction, Food Basket Raffle and a 50/50 Raffle were held. The kitchen staff was very busy serving haluski, kielbasa & sauerkraut, hot dogs, chips & snacks and a large selection of delicious homemade baked goods and desserts.

**Julee Lindberg**



The Turkey Bingo was well attended by parishioners and friends.

## Ss. Peter & Paul Church Parish Expansion



**Braddock, PA.** A GCU Parish Expansion Matching Funds check was presented to Andy Novotny (at right) by John Fisher. The GCU Match was in addition to several fund raising activities held throughout the spring and summer. The donation will help Ss. Peter & Paul Church with needed repairs.

**Arleen Jama**

## St. Joseph Byzantine Catholic Church Parish Expansion

**Toronto, OH.** The Protection of the Holy Theotokos Guild of St. Joseph Byzantine Catholic Church held their Fall 2022 Potica sale. Orders were placed and baking began on September 13. Volunteers met once a week to bake, wrap and freeze Potica. Four kinds were offered for sale: plain nut, nut with raisin, poppy-seed and apricot. The proceeds of the sale go to help support the needs of the parish. Since St. Joseph is a small parish, the money received from the sale means a great deal. The sale ended mid-November and proceeds were matched by the GCU Parish Expansion Matching Funds program. The next sale is planned for Lent 2023.

**Nancy Doerr**

## Ss. Peter & Paul Byzantine Catholic Church Parish Expansion

**Duquesne, PA.** The Parish Club of Ss. Peter & Paul Church held its annual Spaghetti Dinner on Sunday, September 25, 2022 in the church social hall. Many GCU members belong to the Club and participated in this project.

In addition to the delicious food, guests were able to “try their luck” with the Chinese Auction and other drawings.

As a result, these projects generated a huge profit that resulted in receiving the \$5,000.<sup>00</sup> GCU Parish Expansion Matching Funds for the benefit of church expenses.

Grateful thanks and appreciation to GCU for its love and concern for the churches and faithful of the Byzantine Rite.

**Ann M. Berezna** |

**Photos by**

**Linda Newmyer**



Barbara Longstreth and Carol Petrisko selling auction tickets to “lucky” customers.



The faithful GCU/Parish Club volunteers: front row: Linda Newmyer, Stephanie Kearns, Stephanie Dojcek, Arlean Pulivka, Claudia Stipetic and Michael Hrico. Back row: Lori Hatala, Mary Ann Pasta, Evelyn Madar, Bob Kacik, Pam Donkin and Darlene Hrico.

## GCU GoGive! AMOS A Mission of Service

Carla Nolting requested a GCU GoGive! to assist volunteers traveling to the mountainous regions outside of Guatemala to provide medical services to the poor. The group calls itself AMOS—A Mission of Service. The money provided by GCU enabled the group to purchase necessary medical supplies to distribute.

**Carla Nolting**



## GCU GoGive! Toy Trains for Kids

**Valparaiso, IN.** The Toy Trains for Kids program has volunteers that rejuvenate HO toy train engines, cars and track which are then assembled and tested to give to needy children at Christmas time. Many charitable organizations receive the sets, which are distributed and given as Christmas gifts for needy kids. The GCU GoGive! provided funds to assist with purchasing supplies to repair the train sets.

**Lance Nolting**



## GCU GoGive! Assists Hazle Township Fall Festival™ & Trail of Treats™

Running a community event “takes a village”, and the Annual Hazle Township Fall Festival™ & Trail of Treats™ at Hazle Township Community Park had plenty of volunteers that made this staple community event possible and successful. The GCU Go Give! program provided funds to help support this event.

The all stars from the Hazle Township Recreation Advisory Committee provided pumpkin decorating and distributed treat bags for the Scavenger Hunt. Volunteers involved were: Tammy Blasko, Ann Gennaro, Sheila Deangelo, Neal Deangelo, Lee Ann Kasha, Elaine Panzarella, Brian Gaspar, Dr. Sherri Homanko, Shawn Yearick, Joe Galada & Margie Galada.

Food vendors involved ranged from Mexican to All-American. Joe Stanavage Jr. of Joe’s Homemade Pierogies and Mini Doughnuts also sponsored magician Tony Baronio. Scott & Alice Elick of Maddy’s Doghouse were food vendors with a unique interactive Halloween display. Other food vendors were Wicked Foods, Butcher Bob’s, Phil’s French Fries,

Ma Taco, Katy’s Desserts and Buzz’s Incredible Eats.

Katie Graham and the Cage-N-Tank family provided a Reptile exhibit. NEPA Exotic Snax had their Last Chip Challenge. Dr. Patricia Rodriguez & Friends from Country Heart



Miss Keystone Teen Mackenzie Youngcourt at the pumpkin decorating station.

Farm showcased their therapy animals and petting zoo. Spidey & Yollie Rivera & of Fun Times Cosplay Crew provided interaction with characters ranging from superheroes to child favorites like unicorn.

Many craft vendors and info booths also participated including Jennifer Wesner from Wes’ Wonderland with their favorite child trinkets and Susan & Cathy of Lilybeans Bowtique. Smiles 4 Keeps distribut-

CONTINUED

## Hazle Township Fall Festival™ .....

ed Tooth Brushes & Draw String Bags. UPMC had first aid kits available and Sheetz- Sugarloaf had cookies and coupons. Some other vendors included LVHN EMS, Drop the Drugs Van, Pathways to Recovery, T-Mobile, Blaise Alexander, Mid Penn Bank, Amerihealth Caritas, Earley-Polli Insurance Agency, Keystone Job Corps, Victoria Huff of Huff Out the Oven, The Holy Family Academy PTO, Champ from the SWB Railriders and other craft & information booth vendors.

Harry C Productions led by Bob Sosar made the event run smoothly along with Jason manning the costume contest at the photo booth.

The impeccable duo of Shannon Marsyada & Jenn Witter from Arts CAN Grow provided instruction at the craft activity table. This new Hazleton craft store has unique gifts and also provides quality craft class opportunities. They also sell crafts for those who are unable to attend craft shows (nursing home residents, foster parents, critically ill patients, etc.) Shannon also organized the Hazle Township Community Park summer concert series.

Scott Kostician and the volunteers of the Hazle Township Fire Dept. provided traffic control and had a successful boot drive while volunteering.

Dr. Lauren Sanzi & Jeremy Thorne of Hazleton Power! assisted with event set up. The hard work they also put into the Children's Festival is appreciated by everyone in the community and something everyone looks forward to.

Radznel's provided portable storage units.

The CARES (Community and Residential Empowerment (CARES) VIPs assisted with preparing the treat bags.

Featured sponsors included: Diamond-Independence Toyota, Discover NEPA, Hershey, Amazon; Platinum- Amerihealth Caritas, Atlantic Carbon Group, Slusser Law Firm; Gold-Smiles 4 Keeps, Pasco L. Schiavo Fund, Amcor, Silver-Hazleton Eye Specialists, Mid-Penn Bank, Service Electric Cablevision, GCU, Community Bank-FNCB, Bronze- Dermatology Centers of NEPA, PFN, Henkel, Covenant Abstract, Blaise Alexander, Hayden Power Group, Visit Luzerne County, The Laurels Senior Living Community; Crystal-Falvello Law, Boyer's, Forrester Environmental, Hazleton Owls Rod and Gun Club, Earley-Polli Agency, State Farm-



Fun Times Cosplay with Champ.



Bearded Dragon at Cage-N-Tank Reptile Exhibit.



Miss Pennsylvania Teen Volunteer Hannah Fox with 2 event attendees.

Pete Keselicka, Pecora Realtor, Zelenack Contracting, Ameriprise Financial-Tim Stasko, Gary McNealis- Allstate Insurance; Special Recognition- Grupo Bimbo, Wise Snacks, The Hershey Company, Wawa, Dunhams Sports, Frankie's Tavern Pizza, SHAWN YEARICK, Joe's Homemade Pierogies & Mini Doughnuts, Hazle Twp Recreation Advisory committee, SSPTV and the Miss Greater Hazleton Scholarship Organization, in memory of Stephen Yearick. Many local businesses also donated item tricky trays that made a difference.

Other staple volunteers included: Bob Gennaro, Jim Darr, Annie Darr, Olivua Martini, Chloe Ziller, Crystal Smithnosky, Dr. Linda Zaneski, Janet Jones, LeAnna Gaughan, Michael Homanko, Mary Homanko, Eve Jones, Hazle Twp Supervisor Dennis Dudeck, Dr. Jill Snyder, Kelly Defuso & Nancy Stasko.

The Miss Greater Hazleton Scholarship Organization Executive Board volunteers and committee included Dr. Sherri Homanko, Dr. Danielle Miller Minzola, Jeannine Lesante, Samantha Fenicchia, Shawn Yearick, Matthew Straub, Gloria Palma and Kate Marhelko.

Participating titleholders from the Miss Greater Hazleton Scholarship Organization & Miss Pennsylvania Volunteer Inc: Miss Pennsylvania Volunteer Abby Traxler, Miss Pennsylvania Teen Volunteer Hannah Fox, Miss Keystone Mackenzie Sherman, Miss Keystone Teen Mackenzie Youngcourt, Miss Commonwealth Teen Olivia DeFuso & Miss Greater Hazleton Julia Snyder.

Proceeds from this event will go towards a new updated Hazle Township Community Park map display and community board to be placed and featured in the park in the future, Stephen Yearick Memorial Fund Scholarships and support for community service and mentoring initiatives.

Mark your calendars for next year's Hazle Township Fall Festival™ & Trail of Treats™ Saturday & Sunday, October 21 & 22, 2023!

The upcoming Miss Greater Hazleton Scholarship Program will take place in Spring 2023 and is open to females ages 13-25 throughout the state of Pennsylvania. Look for upcoming information and announcements at [MissGreaterHazleton.weebly.com](http://MissGreaterHazleton.weebly.com)!

**Sherri Homanko**

## Elsie Urban Celebrated Her 97<sup>th</sup> Birthday on December 17, 2022

Elsie Urban, a long-time parishioner of St. John BC Cathedral in Munhall, PA and GCU SEPRL, recently celebrated her 97<sup>th</sup> birthday. She and her late husband John were very active members of both the parish and the GCU. She enjoyed working the social functions at the Cathedral Center for many years and has so many good memories.

Since Elsie's move to Logan Place in Lower Burrell, PA she occasionally attends Ss. Peter & Paul Byzantine Church in Tarentum, PA. When she cannot attend in person, she is "tuned in" Sunday mornings listening to the Liturgy from Holy Ghost Byzantine Catholic Church in McKees Rocks, PA. She loves to sing along! Elsie is

most proud of her Byzantine Catholic faith which remains an important part of her life. She keeps busy with all the activities at Logan Place and enjoys outings with her children.

Elsie is the mother of John (Mary Rita) Rocky River, OH, Marilyn (Sam) Manfredi, Fox Chapel, PA and Lori (Joe) Lyons, Louisville, KY.

She is the grandmother of Michael (Camille) & Ryan (Stephanie) Urban and the great-grandmother of Xander, Eliana, Graelyn, Riley, Georgia, Marnie and Brody.

She is a true blessing to all of her family, which is truly grateful for her.

**Marilyn (Urban) Manfredi**



Elsie Urban.

## Jeanne Marie Mentrek & Joseph Scott Cantrell Wed



Mr. & Mrs. Jeanne & Joseph Scott.

The St. Michael parish in Hermitage, PA and Lodge 258 extend most sincere congratulations to Jeanne Marie Mentrek & Joseph Scott Cantrell who were united in the Holy Mystery of Crowning (Marriage) on Saturday, October 22, 2022. May the Lord God grant to His newlywed servants, Jeanne & Joe, peace, health, and happiness for many years, na mnohaja i blahaja l'ita!

**William D. Dzuricsko** |  
Lodge 258 President

# Holy Annunciation Monastery Sugarloaf, PA



Helping Hands donation: District 5 President Gina Keil and Ed Keil present a check to Mother Marija.



Making presentation to Mother Marija—Rick Hoppey, Judy Kringer, Mike Komishock, Mother Marija, Agnes Rohrbach, Judy Betterly, Ann Marie Betterly and Dorothy Foran.

**S**aturday, October 29 started off with a heavy frost on the grounds but lo and behold the sun started to shine and the Sisters were able to have workers do some work outside. Volunteers from District 5 and the Greater Hazleton Regional Lodge lent a helping hand to whatever was necessary to be done. It was great to see a bunch of new volunteers helping out this time.

Fr. Scott Boghossian had Liturgy at 8 AM and at 9 AM Mother Marija and the Sisters came out and designated volunteers to different areas to help out with the chores.

There were some minor roof repairs, the cleaning of the gutters around the buildings and getting the grounds back in shape for the upcoming year. Of course, there are always trees to be trimmed, shrubbery to be taken care of and all of the other chores that the Sisters have specified for all to do. The grass was mowed once the frost lifted.

For those who could not do outside chores, volunteers made 1000 boxes for the baked goods that will be sold over the holidays while others made box inserts, cleaned and separated walnuts, pecans and raisins for the baking needs.

There was fresh coffee and cookies for the workers

during the morning and then it was time to have lunch. Mike Komishock offered a prayer and of course there were more homemade cookies for all to devour. Happy Birthday wishes were extended to two long time helpers, Marge Hoppey and Ted Sherrock.

Presentations were made by District 5, GHRL and individuals to Mother Marija.

Mark your calendar for the summer date for Helping Hands Day, Saturday, June 17, 2023. Hope to see you there—it is always great to lend a Helping Hand and help beautify the area!

**Agnes Rohrbach** | Activities Director



Busy volunteers.



# Corporate Community Events Coordinators



**Molly Kullen**  
Corporate Community  
Events Coordinator  
Western, PA

**Dog Walk at Seven Oaks.** The first ever Dog Walk around Dano Drive took place on Sunday, September 25 at Seven Oaks Country Club! There was a great turnout with 37 dogs and over 70 walkers attending. After the walk, the dogs enjoyed a puppy sundae from Brusters Ice Cream and received a caricature drawing of themselves done by Sam Thong. There was also a gift basket raffle at the walk. All baskets were donated by local community members. Proceeds were donated to the Beaver County Humane Society and the Beaver County Cancer and Heart Association.



Dog Walk.



Golf Scramble.

**Charity Golf Scramble.** The Farewell to Summer Charity Golf Scramble was a success! It was held on Monday, September 26, 2022, it was a beautiful day to golf. The scramble benefited the Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank with a donation of \$1,400.<sup>00</sup>. Thank you to everyone who participated and donated.



Maze Craze.



**Maze Craze Event.** It was a beautiful afternoon on October 8 at the Maze Craze in New Springfield, OH! Members enjoyed navigating through the four mazes, riding on the hayride and many other fun fall activities! GCU rented a pavilion for the afternoon, for members to stop and enjoy snacks & refreshments.

ing on the hayride and many other fun fall activities! GCU rented a pavilion for the afternoon, for members to stop and enjoy snacks & refreshments.

**Project Bundle Up.** See photo & story on page 3.

**Trunk-or-Treat.** GCU sponsored Halloween in the Park on Saturday, October 29 at Shaw Park in Beaver, PA! It was a great afternoon spending time in the community. Corporate Community Events Coordinator Molly Kullen participated in the Trunk-or-Treat and handed out GCU coloring books, yo-yos, pens and candy.

**Beaver County Christmas Extravaganza Tree Sponsorship.** GCU donated a decorated Christmas tree to the Beaver County Christmas Extravaganza! The tree is decorated as a movie night theme, and is filled with various candy boxes, movies,



Tree Sponsorship.

and ornaments. A special shout out to the GCU staff members who decorated the tree!

**Pittsburgh Steelers Game.** GCU had their first ever Pittsburgh Steeler outing on Sunday, November 13 at Acrisure Stadium! The Steelers beat the New Orleans Saints 20 - 10 with over 45 GCU members and guests in attendance.

**Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank Volunteer Activity.** See photo & story on page 3.

**Trans-Siberian Orchestra Concert.** GCU members attended the Trans-Siberian Orchestra concert on Sunday, November 20 at the Covelli Centre in Youngstown, OH! It was truly a must-see holiday event. Members enjoyed not only the music, but the amazing light show and performances that accompanied it.



Sr. Maryann Golonka & guests at the TSO concert.

## Upcoming Events

### Kennywood Holiday Lights Discounted Tickets

Every Friday, Saturday & Sunday in December  
(except December 24 & 25)  
Kennywood Park, West Mifflin, PA

### Shadrack Christmas Wonderland Drive Through Light Show

Now through January 1, 2023  
Discount Promo Code available on GCU Website  
Coopers Lake, Butler, PA

### Holiday Pops with the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra

Saturday, December 17, 2022 8 PM  
Heinz Hall, Pittsburgh, PA

### Topgolf Outing

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

### Ski & Snow Tubing Outing

Saturday, January 28, 2023  
More information coming soon!  
Peek'n Peak Resort, Clymer, NY

### Disney on Ice: Into the Magic

Saturday, March 4, 2023 7 PM  
PPG Paints Arena, Pittsburgh, PA

### Mod! the Musical & Dinner

Saturday, March 18, 2023 Show begins at 7:30 PM  
Lincoln Park Performing Arts Center  
Dinner before at Seven Oaks CC, Beaver, PA

### American Red Cross Blood Drive

Monday, March 27, 2023 Noon-5:30 PM  
Seven Oaks Country Club, Beaver, PA

*Dates and times are subject to change.*

Visit [GCUusa.com](http://GCUusa.com) for more information on all these events  
or contact Molly Kullen at  
[mkullen@GCUusa.com](mailto:mkullen@GCUusa.com) or call 724-683-3927



**Melissa Cohen**  
Corporate Community  
Events Coordinator  
North Eastern, PA

**Upcoming Events.** We have something for everyone: The snow loving skiers, concertgoers, comedy enthusiasts, Topgolf fans, and of course the Sight & Sound bus trip this June. Reserve your place now at the Events tab on the GCU website-[www.GCUusa.com](http://www.GCUusa.com).

It is always a pleasure to represent the GCU at various events and to meet all of our members. I wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy Healthy New Year! Let's make 2023 the best year yet!

**Philanthropy 2022 Civic Engagement Summit.** The Scranton Area Community Foundation and its Women In Philanthropy group hosted the Women in Philanthropy 2022 Civic Engagement Summit at The Century Club of Scranton. We had the pleasure of meeting professionals in NEPA to come together to discuss critical topics in civic engagement and advocacy. I met Julie Sidoni former WNEP newscaster and current WVIA News Director, who was the keynote speaker of the event as well as Laura Ducceschi, President/CEO

of The Scranton Area Foundation. It was also wonderful meeting Vince Stango, Executive Vice President & COO of the National Constitution Center (NCC), a private non-profit organization in Philadelphia that illuminates constitutional ideals and inspires active citizenship.



At left: Julie Sidoni & Melissa. At right: Melissa & Laura Ducceschi.

**Commission on Economic Opportunity- Weinberg Northeast Regional Food Bank.** The Harry & Jeanette Weinberg Northeast Regional Food Bank services charitable organizations by providing food to alleviate hunger and promote proper nutrition, particularly among children and the elderly. The Food Bank provides food assistance to Faith-based and 501(c)3 non-profit community organizations to distribute to needy families throughout Lackawanna, Luzerne, Susquehanna, and Wyoming counties.



Melissa with Debbie Taylor.

I checked out the food bank and joined in with the Red Rock Job Corps Center to help pack boxes of food for senior citizens. Debbie Taylor, volunteer coordinator, explained there is always a need for volunteers. I encourage anyone looking to get involved to join the GCU during our first Team GCU Pack The Box volunteer day on January 20, 2023 from 9 AM- 12 noon. Please register with me by emailing [mcohen@GCUusa.com](mailto:mcohen@GCUusa.com) or call me at 878-207-



Melissa joined the Red Rock Corps students packing boxes for senior citizens.



The Safe Harbor Crew with Melissa.

2327. Can't make it this time? Please reach out to me so I can add you to our list for the next trip to the food bank.

**The GCU Connects With Safe Harbor In Flemington, NJ.**

Safe Harbor is a Hunterdon County community charity and sanctuary for children, families, and individuals. They provide support for individuals who may have experienced trauma, supervised visitation for families going through separation, and material support to families in need through community donations. I met with Carol Dvoor, President/Director of Safe Harbor Child Access Centers—I'm very excited to partner up with them on future community events.



**Upcoming Events**

**Midnight Glo-Bowl**

Friday, January 13, 2023 9:30 PM-12 AM  
Chacko's Family Bowling Center, Wilkes-Barre, PA  
\$5 per bowler, includes bowling, shoes and pizza

**Team GCU Pack the Box**

Friday, January 20, 2023 9 AM-12 PM  
CEO/Weinberg Food Bank  
Serving four counties in Northeast Pennsylvania

**Montage Mountain Ski/Snowboard/Tubing Event**

Saturday, January 28, 2023 All Day  
Montage Mountain Resorts, Scranton, PA

**Jim Breuer Freedom of Laughter Tour**

Friday, February 24, 2023 8 PM  
F.M. Kirby Center for Performing Arts, Wilkes-Barre, PA

**Montage Mountain Winterfest**

Friday, March 3 & Saturday, March 4, 2023 All Day  
Skiing, Snowboarding, Tubing, Live Music & Fireworks  
Check GCU's website for all the discounts available  
Montage Mountain Resorts, Scranton, PA

**MLB Spring Training in Florida Games-Rays at Mets**

Sunday, March 12, 2023 1:10 PM  
Clover Park, St. Lucie, FL  
Limited tickets available

**Topgolf Outing**

Saturday, April 15, 2023 7 PM  
Mount Laurel, NJ

**Sight & Sound Theater Bus Trip to see Moses**

Saturday, June 3, 2023 11 AM  
Includes round-trip bus trans., show ticket, buffet lunch  
Pick-ups in Wilkes-Barre, PA & Hazleton, PA  
Sight & Sound Theatre, Ronks, PA (Lancaster)

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

# District 5

**Helping Hands at Holy Annunciation Monastery** | On Saturday, October 29, 2022, six District 5 members assisted the Carmelite Sisters at Holy Annunciation Monastery in Sugarloaf, PA with their fall cleanup. Grass was mowed and trimmed, day lilies and peonies were cut back, tulip and daffodil bulbs were planted. Indoor work included folding cardboard boxes, which the Sisters use for their dessert sales. Volunteers were treated to pizza and their special cookies, with Klondike Bars on the side.

**St. Nicholas Brunch & Scholarship Awards** | The 53<sup>rd</sup> St. Nicholas Brunch & Scholarship Awards Program returned on Sunday, November 27, 2022. The Greens at

Irem Country Club, in Dallas, PA was the location of the event. This program was canceled the last 2 years due to the pandemic, so applications were open to all who may have qualified during those years, along with any current qualifying college student.

**Looking Forward** | With the upcoming changes in the GCU's fraternal programing, we hope many of the successful District 5 programs will continue. Thank you to all of the officers, volunteers and GCU Home Office staff who assisted with all the district's past events. These events would never have occurred without the help of so many. Best of luck and success to the new Constellation Coordinator in this area.

May you all have a very Blessed Christmas and a Happy & Healthy New Year.

Gina Keil | President

# District 11

**Chaplain Fr. Joseph Repko Honor and Recognition Dinner** | On Sunday June 26, 2022, St. Nicholas BC Church parishioners, District 11 lodge and district officers and members, joined Fr. Joseph Repko as he celebrated his last Liturgy as pastor at St. Nicholas Church in Clinton Township, MI.

Fr. Joseph concelebrated the Liturgy with Bishop Milan Lach who was visiting St. Nicholas to bless the new "Mother of God" Icon in the Sanctuary. Immediately following the Liturgy, everyone was invited to the church social hall for a dinner that would celebrate the visit of Bishop Milan and to honor and recognize Fr. Joseph for serving the parish for 7 1/2 years. Fr. Joseph also served as District 11 and Lodge 860 chaplain. His new assignment is at St. Mary BCC in Marblehead, OH. The day concluded with a Farewell Presentation for Father Joseph.

St. Nicholas Council President George Nagrant offered a very nice summary pastordship, which included the St. Nicholas 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration. President Nagrant then presented Father with a plaque. District 11 President Gary Mozuras offered a very sincere thank you presentation, expressing the gratitude of District Eleven and Lodge 860. President Gary commented on how Father was always available, attending every meeting, and helping the lodge and district with whatever was requested of him. President Gary presented Fr. Joseph with cards of appreciation from District Eleven and Lodge 860. Lodge 860 is directly affiliated with St. Nicholas parish, and District 11 grew to feel that St. Nicholas was its home parish, as many district meetings and events were allowed to be held at St. Nicholas. Lodge 860 and District 11 were very fortunate to have had a pastor that was so accommodating.



Bishop Milan blessing icon.



Fr. Joe presented with a plaque from George Nagrant.

**ByzanTeen Youth Night at Jimmy John's Field** | On Friday, August 12, 2022, St. Basil BCC of Sterling Heights, MI, hosted a Night at Jimmy John's Baseball Field for the ByzanTeen Youth Club of Michigan. The attraction of this particular night was the United Shore Professional Baseball League 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Catholic Night at the Ballpark. Catholic Churches and Catholic Organizations are recognized and are considered honored guest for the evening. The many groups are all acknowledged and welcomed to the Park with each group's name being announced over the public address system and a rolling display of the many groups in attendance on the score board. A photo is offered to each

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## District 11 CONTINUED



group and taken on the field by a ballpark photographer. The St. Basil Group was seated in a VIP area which included a buffet meal with unlimited soft drinks and umbrella covered tables, to sit and enjoy a good old fashion baseball game. For most of the St. Basil group, it was the first time at the Park. Comments were: very nice family oriented, kid fun and friendly, very social event, will definitely come again. At games end all the kids were invited to come on to the field and run the bases. The finale was a very nice Fireworks Show.

Gary Mozuras | President

# District 15

**Looking Back** | District 15 was founded on October 3, 1982, with Dr. Paul Vochko as the first president of the District. In the past 40 years, District 15 was served by seven more presidents: Mary T. Batyko; George N. Juba; Shirley Carr; Irene Miller; Sarah Lebanik; Andrew P. Zeedick and yours truly. It was the late Sarah Lebanik who gently pulled me into District 15 a little over 20 years ago. It started with being a model for the District 15 fashion show. Then Sarah talked me into being the publicity director and writing the article for the *GCU Magazine*. One thing led to another and well, I am now officially the last president of District 15.

I came to love Sarah Lebanik, and I felt her loss deeply. Committed to the GCU and District 15, Sarah gave tirelessly of herself, setting the bar high for all officers. She made a point of visiting every lodge in the district every year. We shared many conversations over those years. Sarah and her husband Paul came to be like family for me. I think of Sarah often, and still miss her.

Long-time family friend Andy Zeedick assumed the position of District 15 president after Sarah. Andy's dedication to the GCU and District 15 was also impressive. Andy loved a good story and was an excellent storyteller himself. My

**Annual Golf Outing** | District 15 mixed it up this year and held a 4-person SCRAMBLE! This was one of the best turn-outs ever, with 68 golfers and 12 additional dinner guests. After a very rainy Saturday, the day started out cloudy, but by shotgun tee off time the skies were blue and sunny. Although it was cart path only, everyone seemed to have a great time. We even had a middle school golfer join us this year. Special thank you to Jason Hammel, Seven Oaks Golf Pro; Ellen Policastro and her team at Seven Oaks and the Communications Department at the Home Office. The biggest thank you goes to my husband John Harbist who, in the absence of an athletic director, helped me with every aspect of the golf outing to ensure an enjoyable afternoon for everyone!

CONTINUED

memories of Andy range from his encouragement of me on the golf course (yes, I played golf with him and Whitey Harbist—talk about stress!); Andy and Whitey recounting their many experiences on the golf course and in the Army; his love and pride in the accomplishments of his many students; district officers' meetings; and dinners with him and his wife Georgia over the years. What absolutely lovely people they were!

When I assumed the role of District 15 president, I had two wonderful examples to follow. The bar was set very high. Now as we embark on the new fraternal structure, it is important to note that the commitment to our members and our communities at large will remain. The intention to streamline the efforts of lodges and districts reflects the times. People are busy; many meetings are now on ZOOM; and people place great value on their personal time. The support of the current district and lodge leadership, as well as our active members is critical to the success of the new structure.

I am very grateful to have served the GCU; District 15 members and local communities over the past 20 years. Working with a team of committed officers made the job as district president much easier. Laura Seech, Kathy Kapaldo, Bill Uram, Janet Uram, Paul Lebanik, Mike Spanik and the late Irene Miller were all absolutely wonderful team members. We accomplished much and tried to make a difference in the lives of many people. Best of all we had a blast working together. Thank you!



## District 15 CONTINUED



A few golfers from the Golf Outing.



Elizabeth Harbist, Kathy Kapaldo & Laura Seech.



Mary Elizabeth Olack & Martha Seech.



A few of the tables enjoying the afternoon at Black Dog Winery.



**An Afternoon at Black Dog Winery** | Once again, district members and guests enjoyed a lovely sunny day at Black Dog Winery in Oakdale, PA. The Cooked Goose catered a delicious lunch for our 70 guests. The wine bar, located outside this year, offered a wide variety of wines to taste. Thank you to Laura Seech and Kathy Kapaldo for your help with this event.

On behalf of the officers of District 15, I wish you a very Merry Christmas and God's continued blessings in the New Year!

Elizabeth Harbist | President

# Lodge News

## Lodge 15 TRENTON, NJ

### Tri-Church Liturgy & Picnic

Parishioners and guests from the churches of The Assumption of the Virgin Mary, Trenton, NJ and Saint Nicholas, Roebing, NJ and Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Levittown, PA gathered for a Divine Liturgy celebrated by Father Yuriy Oros. Attendees then transitioned right into a tri-parish picnic enjoying fellowship, food, games, prizes and music on Sunday, September 18, 2022.

Over one hundred and eighty-five attendees enjoyed the warm sunshine and the shady trees at the CYO Camp in Hamilton, NJ. Fr. Yuriy Oros welcomed everyone



Attendees dancing and singing at the picnic.



Attendees socializing at the picnic.

and thanked all of the volunteers for organizing a wonderful outing. Everyone enjoyed traditional picnic fare from a local caterer and Fr. Yuriy and Fr. Paul Varchola West were observed serving ice cream! The Roebing church arranged to have one of their parishioners prepare bacon bread for all, an ethnic favorite. The children had lots of fun playing

games and they were rewarded for their energetic, enthusiastic competition with treats and surprises. The music from the band and the gift basket raffle kept all entertained.

Everyone agreed this was a wonderful way to visit with family and friends and are already looking forward to next year!

Marcy Embley | Frat. Activity & Publicity Director

## Lodge 17

OLD FORGE, PA

### Helping Hands Day at Holy Annunciation Monastery

GCU Lodge 17 participated in the fall cleanup at Holy Annunciation Monastery, Sugarloaf, PA on Saturday, October 29, 2022. Some lodge members assisted the Carmelite Sisters with preparing their grounds for winter. They cut down day lilies and peonies, mowed the lawn after the frost cleared and put together boxes for baked goods. Volunteers were treated to pizza, along with ice cream and a variety of the Sisters' special cookies. Please consider helping in the Spring.



Kitchen Crew: Fr. Eduard Shestak, Pat Oliver, Gina Keil and Tom Korpita.



Matching Funds check from St. Nicholas Flea Market: Gina Keil, Madge Lesneski and Fr. Eduard Shestak.

### Recent Activities & Events

St. Mary Byzantine Catholic Church, Taylor, PA held their Turkey Bingo with the assistance of GCU Lodge 17 on Sunday, November 6, 2022. It was a sunny, crisp, fall afternoon. There were over 150 participants, along with 20 workers. Twenty bingo games were held, including specials, with turkey gift certificates given

away to the winners. There were 40 basket raffles and door prizes. A 50/50 raffle was also held. Food sales and a bake sale featuring delicious homemade baked goods generated additional income. This was a GCU Matching Funds project to help with roof repairs at St. Mary. Thanks to all who contributed.

The month of November also included food collections for the poor and used eyeglasses for the Lions Club. In December, the lodge helped with the St. Nicholas Feast Day Party on December 11 and the church cookie sale on December 17.

May you all have a very Merry Christmas and a Healthy & Happy New Year!



Above: Basket Raffle workers—Maria & Kaitlyn Calogero. At right: Bake Sale workers—Carol Granko, Nadine Oliver, Fr. Eduard Shestak, Lori Goosley, Marion Savinelli and Grace Gisolfi.



Macrina Dolinish | Publicity Director

## Lodge 47

BINGHAMTON, NY

### Helping Hands Week

A dedicated team of Lodge 47 members, parishioners, and friends worked several hours and days to clean up the Holy Spirit Parish Center in preparation for the 2022 Holy Spirit & Ss. Peter and Paul Churches joint Rummage Sale.

Volunteers were treated to lunch and other goodies as they worked to support this effort to clean, organize and make the Parish Center usable for the Rummage Sale.

Lodge 47 and the parishioners of Holy Spirit and Ss. Peter and Paul are especially thankful to the GCU for the Helping Hands Grant which also assisted with re-stocking some much-needed kitchen and pantry items.

### Parish Expansion Rummage Sale

We can all relate to having too much stuff. Collecting items often turns into a pastime, because it's too hard to get rid of things. Lodge 47 members, parishioners, family and friends had a chance to clear out their apartments and homes before the annual Holy Spirit & Ss. Peter and Paul Rummage Sale which took place on November 5, 2022.

For those who donated, it's a chance to get rid of clutter for the buyers is a chance to find bargain items for their homes or themselves. It's good for the community to come together for this fun event. For bargain hunters, it's a great time. Included were kitchen items, bedding, books, Christmas items, furniture, blankets, a bake sale and a basket raffle. There were people waiting in line anxiously before the doors even opened!

Ss. Peter and Paul Church in Endicott, NY is grateful to the GCU Home Office for this project, which provided an opportunity for all the volunteers to enjoy friendship and camaraderie while helping to raise necessary funds for the general needs of their parish. A huge THANKS to everyone who offered their time and energy. This would



ALL pitched in to help clean the Holy Spirit Parish Center.

### Basket Raffle & Bake Sale

In addition to the Rummage Sale held on November 5, 2022, Lodge 47 welcomed the community to a Basket Raffle and Bake Sale. More than 25 Fall Fest Baskets were on display during the event. The beautifully wrapped basket themes included cash, bath and body items, lottery tickets, candy, sundae fun, coffee and more!

Numerous homemade baked goods were also available to all rummage sale shoppers. Again, THANK YOU to everyone who volunteered to help with this event, and a very special thanks to GCU and all the sponsors for their help and support. This would not have been an overwhelming success without everyone working together!

### Can & Bottle Drive

Parishioners, friends and other volunteers also participated in a Can & Bottle Drive on November 12, 2022, to raise money for Ss. Peter and Paul Church. They accepted donations of empty, clean, bottles and cans for recycling, the proceeds went to the church's General Fund, for repairs, maintenance and upgrades.

Thank you once again to all the wonderful people who joined in making these events fun and a huge success. We are thankful to everyone who helped.

Thank you also to Fr. Roman and Pani Marianna, for supporting all these activities!

Daria Shierly | Secretary-Treasurer



Rummage Sale items.

not have been a success without the generosity, help, and support of everyone who participated.



Lorenzo picking the winning number for the football.

## Lodge 69

POTTSTOWN, PA

### Chinese Auction

The annual Chinese Auction was held on October 21, 2022 at St. John the Baptist Church Hall. Parishioners donated gifts to be raffled. Members of the GCU helped to collect and set up gifts. Many

parishioners and people from the community helped to support the event. Baked goods, tomato pie and soft pretzels were served during intermission and everyone had a great time.

### Holiday Bake

This year's holiday bake consisted of nut rolls and raspberry rolls. Volunteers pitched in to do the preparation, making, baking and selling. The sale was held over the weekend of November 12 and 13. Everyone enjoys the delicious holiday treats.

Nancy Harding | Secretary



Barbara Silvano with granddaughter Marissa Somich. Fr. Nick deProspero is in the background.



The beautiful view from Sunset Terrace at Lakeview Park.

## Lodge 77

LORAIN, OH

### Annual Summer Picnic

On Sunday, September 18, 2022, Lodge 77 held its annual combined summer picnic with St. Nicholas BC Church at the Sunset Terrace at Lakeview Park, located on the beautiful shores of Lake Erie. It was a beautiful day with a wonderful turn out of lodge members, their family, friends and fellow parishioners. The luncheon menu consisted of familiar picnic foods such as hamburgers, hot dogs, Italian sausage and chicken tenders accompanied by many side dishes provided by all who attended.

A sundae bar and cotton candy were highlights of the day for the children as well as a balloon artist. There were both indoor and outdoor games for the children and face painting as well. A basket raffle for adults was held.

Entertainment was provided by Fr. Andrew Nagrant of St. Nicholas Parish as he played beautiful folk music on the violin.

Lots of laughs, fellowship and fun were had by all who attended.

Kathy Knick | President



Kids games.

## Lodge 81

UNIONTOWN, PA

Lodge 81 and St. John the Baptist Parish in Uniontown, PA, engaged in many activities this Autumn.

### Greater Community

Marcia Harrer arranged a trip for parishioners and friends to attend the “East Meets West” Icon exhibit at St. Vincent College Verotsko Center on Sunday, October 23. The exhibit depicted female Ukrainian icon painters’ works. Donations benefited the Ridni Foundation—a fund for displaced and orphaned children as a result of the war in Ukraine. St. John Parish donated over \$700.00 to the cause.



Mark Jesko, Joan Bridges and Bonnie Balas.

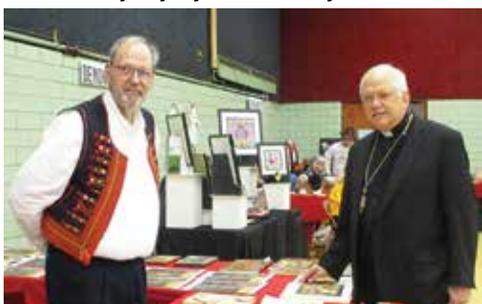
The 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Polish Festival was held at the University of Pittsburgh on Sunday, November 13. Joan Bridges, Mark Jesko, Julie Pillar and Bonnie Balas represented Lemko Rusyns at a booth sponsored by the Carpatho-Rusyn Society. They demonstrated pysanky and embroidery, provided genealogical information, sold cookbooks, embroideries and icon ornaments.

### Parish

The 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Car Show was held at St. John Church on Sunday, October 26. Although the day started out rainy, the skies later cleared and fifty plus cars registered. GCU members Stephen Petruska, Marcia & Richard Harrer, Cathy Phillips, Bryan Ponzurick, Gloria & Dennis Schifko, James Mihalko and Bonnie Balas along with many parishioners helped to make the event a profitable success. Thanks to GCU for the Fraternal Grant.

The Seminarians’ visit on Sunday, October 9 was special for St. John parishioners. Seminarians Luke, Mark, and Nate took part in serving the Divine Liturgy with Fr. Vasyl Symyon, then attended the coffee social which followed. This gave the parishioners the opportunity to socialize with them. The parish provided each one with a monetary gift to help with their future studies.

The 40<sup>th</sup> Annual Carpatho-Rusyn Celebration made a remarkable comeback on Sunday, October 30. A special start to the day was a Divine Liturgy with Metropolitan Archbishop William Skurla concelebrating with Fr. Vasyl Symyon. The day included musical entertainment



Mark Jesko and Archbishop William Skurla.

by “Rusynsky Betjare,” children’s activities, folk art demonstrations & displays, a church tour, a speaker on Rusyn culture, a large variety of ethnic foods & baked goods, raffles and more.



Rosary Rally participants.

### Community

A Rosary Rally was held at the U.S. Flag park near Uniontown Mall on Saturday, October 15, which commemorated Visions of the Blessed Mother in Fatima. Genevieve Marszal, Veronica Dirda, Julie Pillar, Paulette Mehalik and Bonne Balas attended the event.



Anna Gray, Cathy Phillips and Bonnie Balas serving birthday cake.

GCU members who helped were Richard & Marcia Harrer, Janet Gaydos, Joan Bridges, Stephen Petruska, James Mihalko, Paul Rubish, Bonnie Balas, Dennis & Gloria Schifko, Gerry Dorobish and Cathy Phillips, as well as many hard-working parishioners who worked in areas where needed. Many thanks to GCU for providing Parish Matching Funds to make this event a great success.

A special Divine Liturgy was celebrated on Tuesday, November 1, to honor the Blessed Bishop Theodore Romzha, his feast day. After the Liturgy light refreshments were served by St. John Social Ministry members. A documentary on Bishop Theodore’s life was shown which was very enlightening to those who attended the “First St. John’s Movie Night.”

Sunday, November 20, marked the November Birthday Social. Lodge 81 member Cathy Phillips was among those recognized.

The quarterly meeting was held on Sunday, November 6. Discussion included upcoming events-Christmas Craft/Bake sale (December 3-4), Angel Tree & City Mission Toy Collection and Parish Children’s St. Nicholas Party. Donations were made to the Sisters of St. Basil, St. Nicholas Celebration Charity Fund, Sparkle (Local Salvation Army Holiday Fund) and Uniontown City Mission.

Bonnie Balas | VP & Publicity Director



Workers at the event (standing): Mark Pegula, Marlena Pegula, Donna Pegula, Norieta Lewczuk, Nicole Tanana, Margaret Esagro, Tim Keller, Georgette Duchak, Mike Safko, Melanie Roman, Billy Muschal, Jeff Hughes, Gregory Vladika, Steve Wizda, Joyce Wizda and Michaela Mancak. Kneeling: Richard Maybock, Gregory Dick, Ronald Mancak, Melissa Hughes, Debbie Pezak and Max (therapy dog in training).

## Lodge 92

JESSUP, PA

### Annual Stuffed Chicken Breast Dinner

GCU Lodge 92 held its 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Stuffed Chicken Breast Dinner on Sunday, November 6, 2022 to benefit Holy Ghost Byzantine Catholic Church in Jessup, PA.

Thanks to all the help and donations from GCU members, parishioners, and local businesses, 470 dinners were served by takeout and drive thru. In addition, 30 dinners were donated to the senior high rise center and needy families in the community.

Thank you ALL!

Michaela Mancak | Secretary-Treasurer

## Lodge 93

NORTHERN CAMBRIA, PA

### Parish Expansion

Lodge 93 sponsored parish expansion fundraisers with St. Anne BCC in Clymer, PA. Since the parish has a great meatball recipe in its repertoire the surrounding community is happy to purchase them. There's just so much to love about their meatballs. The meatballs

are a little crispy on the outside, juicy, tender and meaty on the inside and weigh in at 2 ounces. This versatile comforting fundraiser for years. The final fundraiser called for more delicious Marianna's hoagies. The success of this event is the variety



Preparing the meatballs.

of hoagie and pizza choices. Father Wesley Mash and the parishioners of St. Anne extend their gratitude for the monetary assistance provided by the GCU.



Basket raffle workers pictured with Father Andriitso.

### Parish Fundraiser

Lodge 93 and St. John BCC hosted its second basket raffle of the year. The social hall was filled with a large collection of items that included kitchen gadgets, tools, toys & games, gift cards, lottery, holiday themed items and cash. Special high value items contributed to extra sales. In addition to all the wonderful prizes, shoppers were able to purchase homemade baked goods. Winners did not need to be present for the drawing. Curbside pickup was arranged, as well as home delivery. The parishioners are most appreciative to the GCU for the Matching Funds program.

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## Lodge 93 CONTINUED

### Helping Hands

The true spirit of generosity shines with the GCU Helping Hands program. The choir loft at St. John BCC was in need of repair. Plastering was redone and the paint job added to the sparkle. The biggest task was the replacement of the loft's stained-glass window. The parishioners chose to substitute the glass with bronze panels that gleam from afar.

Connie Strittmatter | Secretary-Treasurer



Front stained-glass window—before (at left) and Bronze replacement panel—after (at right).

## Lodge 109

LYNDORA, PA

### Halloween Party

Lodge 109 held a Halloween party after Liturgy on October 30 for the parish children of St. John the Baptist BC in Lyndora. Deacon Paul and Sandy Simko planned a number of games and crafts for them and distributed treat bags upon completion. Costumes were also judged for prizes. The kids had a great time.

Janet Uram | Secretary-Treasurer



Kids at the Halloween party.



Adults at the Halloween party.

## Lodge 151

NEW YORK, NY

### Thank You GCU

Lodge 151 officers and members would like to thank the GCU for all it has done. Thank you for your acknowledgments, encouragement and financial support to help the churches, community and family & friends. Lodge 151 has a limited amount of active members, but we had a very productive year. It was a busy year supporting the local churches and community and providing community service. We supported St. Andrew BC Church with Matching Funds and a Helping Hands Grant. Fr. Nicholas Daddona, the lodge's spiritual advisor, conducted a special Liturgy for the health of all parishioners and their families. Lodge 151 also supported several Parish Expansion Matching Funds events. Assisting Resurrection BC Church in Smithtown, NY; Annunciation Church of BVM in Fresh Meadows, NY; St. Nicholas in Whitestone, NY and Transfiguration in Queens, NY. St. Mary BC Church held their event on St. Nicholas Day. One of the lodge's favorite community service recipients is St. Raphael outreach programs. Lodge members also did two GCU GoGive! fundraising events. One to benefit St. Vincent dePaul and the other for St. Raphael Pantry. In addition, with Matching Funds the lodge donated \$8,000.00 for the Adelphi Breast Cancer Program. Lodge 151 celebrated Flag Day at the Seasons and held three lodge meetings. The annual and final lodge meeting took place on November 28.

### Annual Ethnic Luncheon

Resurrection BC Church in Smithtown held its annual Ethnic Luncheon on October 23, 2022. The Ethnic Luncheon, eat in or take out was very successful. The parishioners worked very hard in

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Ethnic Luncheon.

## Lodge 151 CONTINUED

preparing pierogies, stuffed cabbage, noodle dishes, etc. They raised over \$5,000.00. Father Budash and Deacon Knapp are very grateful for GCU Matching Funds.



Welcome to St. Andrew Church.

### New Family Welcomed

St. Andrew BC Church had a busy November. It was a special day when a new parish family, Amira, Salib, Fady, Bekhit and Gabrielle, attended the church and Father Daddona baptized baby, Raphael. There was a lovely celebration afterwards.

### New Fraternal Structure

At the end of this year the concept of lodges and districts will change. The changes were presented to members at the lodge's last meeting on November 28. Lodge 151 officers understand the reasons for the changes and are looking forward to implementation of the GCU Fraternal Metamorphosis.

Extending best wishes for a Blessed Christmas and a Happy, Healthy New Year. *Christos Razdajetsja! Christ is Born! Slavite Jeho! Glorify Him!*

Marge Pajer | President

### Seminarians Welcomed

On November 13, seminarians from the seminary in Douglaston, NY along with Brother Owen and Father Holcomb attended Liturgy at St. Andrew BC Church. They were excited about participating in a Byzantine Church. It was great seeing the packed church. A reception was held after Liturgy that allowed time to speak and socialize with the young men.



Benefit event for Adelphi Breast Cancer Support Group.

### Annual Breast Cancer Event

On October 27 the lodge held its annual Breast Cancer event. The generosity of people at the Seasons, in the lodge, churches, friends and families \$4,000.00 was raised. The money together with GCU Community Matching Funds went to Adelphi Breast Cancer Support Group.



Seminarians meet.

## Lodge 164

YOUNGSTOWN, OH

### 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter Meeting

On November 6, 2022, Lodge 164 held its 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter and final lodge meeting. The members discussed the new GCU Fraternal Metamorphosis and the future of the Youngstown Constellation. Next item discussed was the lodge budget and required expenditures before December 31, 2022.



Treasurer Sharon MacDonald presenting Fr. Lambert a \$300.00 check from Lodge 164.



Front: Secretary Diana Danko, Treasurer Sharon MacDonald, President Dr. Tom Sopkovich and George Lutza - oldest member. Middle: Auditor Karen Muransky, Francine Kovachik, Fraternal Director Jackie Leson, Cathy Lutza and Pat Sopkovich. Back: David Muransky, Dan Kovachik, Paul Bach, Bill Campy and Auditor Don Danko.

### St. Nicholas Party

Our St. Nicholas Party was held at Rachel's Catering on Sunday, December 4, 2022. Twenty attendees enjoyed a hot buffet luncheon of chicken & pork loin with vegetables, salad, rolls, beverages and assorted desserts

Dr. Tom Sopkovich | President



St. Nicholas Party.

## Lodge 254

HILLSBOROUGH, NJ

### Tricky Tray Event

St. Mary Byzantine Catholic Church had a super successful Tricky Tray event on Friday, October 7, 2022. It was spear-headed by long standing parishioner and GCU member Marge Pavol.

GCU Lodge 254 donated to the event. Many of the GCU members, as well as many other parishioners, donated items and volunteered to make this church fund raising event a success.



Tricky Tray baskets.



Deacon Nicholas, Pani Elaine, President Elias Zareva and Fr. James Badeaux, pastor of St. Mary Church.

### A Farewell Reception

On Sunday, November 20, 2022 at St. Mary Church, a farewell reception was held in the Fellowship Hall thanking Deacon Nicholas and Pani Elaine Sotack for all they had done for the parish. Deacon Nick,

a valuable and faithful servant to the church for the past 6 years, was presented with a going away gift from the members of Lodge 254.

Elizabeth Pentz | Publicity Director



Teacher Ginny Pawelczyk, GCU members Carla Gasser, Diane Sogan and Mark Gasser.

## Lodge 268

MINGO JUNCTION, OH

### School Donation

Lodge 268 made a donation to Hills Elementary School. A thank you note was received from Ginny Pawelczyk which read, "On behalf of Hills Elementary Care staff members we would like to thank the GCU for their more than generous donation of 27 coats and over 100 pairs of socks and underwear. The children's faces truly said it all when they placed a warm coat on. We are very blessed to have your support, thank you again." Lodge 268 would like to thank their generous members and the GCU for the Matching Funds that helped so many children this year.

Carla Gasser | President

## Lodge 302

BRECKSVILLE, OH

### Trunk or Treat

A Trunk or Treat event was held on Sunday, October 30, 2022 after the Divine Liturgy. Numerous children had fun filling their treat bags with candy for the holiday.

### Thanksgiving Food Drive

In the spirit of Thanksgiving and to help those in need within the local community, Lodge 302 sponsors a food drive each year. The 2022 Thanksgiving Food Drive collected non-perishable food items, paper products and \$200.00 for a local food bank.



Above: children at the Trunk or Treat event. Pictured at left is Karen Atwell from the South Hills Lend a Hand organization located in Broadview Hts., OH receiving the collected food items and money.

### Meeting

On Sunday, November 6, 2022, Lodge 302 held their final meeting. Judy Weitzel, long-term president, praised and thanked all the members of the lodge who over the years provided many services to their community/church and fellowship to its members. A presentation was given by the Kidney Donor Conversations organization about their goals at promoting and educating people about/being a living kidney donor. Kidney Donor Conversations will be Lodge 302's final fundraiser donation recipient for 2022. Tickets are still being sold for this fundraiser.

### St. Nicholas Celebration for Children

A St. Nicholas gathering for the kids was held on Sunday, December 4, 2022 at St. Joseph Church after the 10:30 Liturgy. All in attendance had a wonderful time.

Christine Bratnick | Publicity Director

## UPCOMING LODGE 302 EVENT

### Holiday Cash Giveaway Fundraiser

Sunday, December 18, 2022

Following the 10:30 AM Liturgy

Prizes: 1<sup>st</sup>-\$500, 2<sup>nd</sup>-\$100, 3<sup>rd</sup>-\$75

St. Joseph Byzantine Catholic Church Hall  
8111 Brecksville Road, Brecksville, OH

Benefits Kidney Donor Conversations

Contact: Lodge members or cbratnick@sbcglobal.net for tickets and/or more information

## Lodge 321

BRADENVILLE, PA

### Thanksgiving Social

On Saturday & Sunday, November 19-20 after the Divine Liturgies, Lodge 321 sponsored Matching Funds Socials for the church maintenance fund for St. Mary's. The events provided a time for parishioners to visit and enjoy one another's company. Forty people attended. The Maintenance Fund benefited from the event as over \$3,000.<sup>00</sup> was donated. Drawings were held for door prizes. Three attendees went home with gift cards to local businesses.

Laurene Kristof | President



Thanksgiving Social.

## Lodge 401

NANTY GLO, PA

### Annual Flea Market

Members of Lodge 401 sponsored a flea market at St. Nicholas Church Hall on Friday & Saturday, September 9-10 with a final 4 hour clearance sale on Saturday, September 17. Members of the Ladies Guild also participated.

There was haluski and hot dogs available for those looking for a light lunch plus a variety of beverages. On behalf of the lodge officers, appreciation is extended to all the volunteers, especially Veronica Melcotti who spearheaded the event and all the patrons and the GCU

Home Office for their Matching Funds program. Proceeds will be donated towards heating costs for the church.



Flea Market workers Bev Chekan, Millie Fenchak and Shirley Oblinsky.

Gene Ostinowsky | Vice President



Flea Market items.

## Greater Hazleton Regional Lodge (GHRL)

HAZLETON, PA

Once again the fall season was more like an Indian Summer and the following weeks turned into winter like conditions. Temperatures fell below freezing, there was a little snow and a few snow squalls—but then again this is Northeast PA.

### New Fraternal Structure

On Saturday, October 8, GCU President/CEO George Juba, Chairman of the Board Gregory Vladika and Corporate Community Events Coordinator Melissa Cohen and the officers of GHRL had a meeting at Top of the 80's Restaurant to be introduced to the GCU Fraternal Metamorphosis Program. A video was presented and then discussions were held regarding the new fraternal direction that GCU will be moving to in January of 2023.

### Fall Helping Hands Day

The Fall Helping Hands Day was held on Saturday, October 29 at Holy Annunciation Monastery and was attended by over 30 people. (See *article on page 15*.)

### GCU Parish Matching Funds

A few of the parishes have had parish fundraisers and are very grateful for GCU Parish Matching Funds. St. Mary BCC in St. Clair, PA had a soup sale and a cookie walk and St. Mary BCC in Sheppton, PA had a candy sale to help to defray some of the parish expenses. GHRL was happy to assist both parishes with receiving the GCU Match for their events.

The GHRL calendar fundraiser for the month of November benefited St. John BC Church in Hazleton. Thanks to all the volunteers who sold tickets and helped to make this fundraiser a huge success.



Janice, Ann Marie, Lorraine, Clara, Rick, Joanne and Nancy getting ready to board the bus back home.

### Wind Creek Casino Trip

After a long hiatus of not having any bus trips due to the pandemic, a trip finally took place on Sunday, October 23 to Wind Creek Casino. There were 43 people that boarded the bus at St. John BC Church in Hazleton. Thanks to the Home Office for the gifts and also for the Fraternal Grant that assisted in making the trip more affordable for all. Everyone was asking when the next trip was going to be held.

### St. Nicholas Dinner

GHRL St. Nicholas Dinner was held at Capriotti's on Sunday, December 4. Presentations were made to the pastors of the GHRL parishes and the lodge also honored Thomas Betterly who was the GHRL Scholarship winner. Over 125 people attended the event. There were tricky trays, a 50/50 raffle and a visit from St. Nicholas. Thanks to the Home Office for the giveaways.

### Notes

The GHRL would like to congratulate Dorothy Ann Foran on her retirement from the GCU Board. She has been a great asset to GHRL and everyone wishes her the very best as she ventures into retirement. She was always there to lend a helping hand at all events. May God Bless and watch over you and grant you many more blessed years!

It has been my pleasure to be the secretary, athletic and activities director for the former District 6 and Lodge 89 and now GHRL for the past 24 years. All of you will be remembered—you were always there to help in any way that you could and May God Bless each and everyone of you!

Thanks to Basil and Chris at the Home Office for all of your help in taking care of printing of forms, tickets and also for sending out all of the items we requested. You are both a joy to work with!

### Looking Ahead

There are some activities planned for next year: Sight and Sound Bus Trip to see Moses is one of them, the Helping Hands Day at Holy Annunciation Monastery on Saturday, June 17 and the Holupki Open is planned for Saturday, July 15.

Remember most of the new events will be presented on the GCU website, so be computer savvy and check out what is going on in your area.

Here is wishing the entire GCU world a very Blessed and Merry Christmas and hopefully a Joyous, Healthy and Happy New Year. Remember to keep Christ in Christmas.

Until next time, take care and May God Bless.

**Agnes Rohrbach** | Secretary & Activities Director

## Central Pittsburgh Regional Lodge (CPRL)

GREENFIELD, CARRICK & SOUTHSIDE-PITTSBURGH, PA

### A Different Kind of Hayride Event

Saturday, October 1, 2022, was the date set for the annual hayride at Duda's Farm in Brownsville, PA. Unfortunately, the remnants of Hurricane Ian had other ideas. Duda's Farm canceled all hayrides and activities for that day. Everyone was sad to hear the news.



The pumpkins laying in lots of water.

My sister, Karen, my son, Brent and I took the drive to Duda's Farm anyway. We heard the market was open. Although one road was closed and there was a detour, the market was bustling. The phone was ringing off the hook with inquiries about the status of the hayrides.

While at the farm, a pumpkin was purchased for everyone who would have been attending the hayride. All the candy and vegetables/fruits purchased for the event were divided into treat bags. Within the next few days, I drove to meet the individuals, so that treat bags, pumpkins and prizes could be awarded.

Everyone's names were put in a basket and winners of the day's prizes were drawn. Jamie Niskach won the Captain Crunch Halloween cereal and Brent Kolesar won the Utz cheese balls in a pumpkin container. Four adult



Halloween basket.

winners won \$5 Giant Eagle gift cards: Melanie Basl, Trish Roberts, Sarah Pavlick and Kim Kolesar.

A photo was taken of the "guess the price"

Halloween basket. The photo was sent via email to all adults. They could respond with a guess by midnight in order to win. Patty Niskach guessed the closest and won the prize—a basket full of Halloween items: a cat basket filled with various candy, paper plates and napkins, socks, cookie & cake mix and frosting.

Although it wasn't what was originally planned, it was great to bring a little bit of Halloween early to everyone. Hopefully in 2023 under the new metamorphosis, this annual tradition will continue.

**Kim Kolesar** | Trustee

**Melanie Basl** | Publicity Director



19<sup>th</sup> Annual Steeler Tailgate Party held on October 30, 2022.



Annual Meeting, November 6 celebrating athletic awardees.

# Southeast Pittsburgh Regional Lodge (SEPRL)

CLAIRTON & MUNHALL, PA

## Fall Clothing Drive

This year SEPRL along with St. John the Baptist Cathedral held a clothing drive in the months of August and September.

The first carload of clothes were donated to the Kentucky flood victims in the Appalachians. The second

carload of clothes were donated to the Tree of Life Open Bible Church on Brookline Blvd. in Pittsburgh.

Thanks to ALL of you who helped donate, sort, count and deliver all the clothes.



Fr. Ivan Mina accepting a Matching Funds check from Trish Roberts.



Kids enjoying bowling.

## Lets Go Bowling

SEPRL sponsored a bowling event on Sunday afternoon, November 6 for families. Everyone met at the Glassport Duck Pin Lanes, many for their first experience bowling duck pins! Teams were divided by families with bowlers as young as 3 years old to adults. We had a few first time “experts” who caught on very quickly to a new sport. Pizza and snacks were provided and prize drawings held at the end of the day. Everyone enjoyed the activity and said they would sign up again!

## Annual Church Picnic

Ascension Church held their annual church picnic on Sunday, October 2. Everyone contributed a cover dish to go along with hot dogs, hamburgers and kolbassi donated by Dean Maksin. A basket raffle and bingo were held and children’s games included a dime toss, bean bag game and cup building. Trish Roberts presented Fr. Ivan Mina with a GCU Matching Funds check to be used for much needed roofing repairs on the church and rectory.

## Veterans Honored

Veterans Julie Cochran, Michael Sowko, Michael Cherepko, Donald Buchina, John Glegyak and William M. Kerr were honored at Liturgy on Sunday, November 13. Fr. Ivan Mina gave a special blessing and the children provided a ceremony saluting the flag and singing “America the Beautiful.” Each of the veterans were presented with a personal card thanking them for their service and a gift card for Eat-n-Park Restaurant. Afterwards, donuts and coffee were served at the hall. Donuts were also provided to the local American Legion.

Patty Bovee | Treasurer & Publicity Director

Trish Roberts | President



Honoring veterans.

## Northwest Pittsburgh Regional Lodge NWPRL

MCKEES ROCKS & GIBSONIA, PA

### Church Picnic at St. Andrew

Father Radko Blichar celebrated an outdoor Liturgy at St. Andrew BCC in Gibsonis followed by a cover dish church picnic. Games were set up for adults and the children. The ECF teacher picked up bags for all her students that couldn't make it. The GCU provided the bags made for the children and a bounce house was set up. The sound system was provided by Robert Clifford. It was beautiful day and event.



Outdoor Liturgy.

### Pirohi Project at St. Andrew Parish

Last year new coordinators Tasia (Bobish) Tisa and Karen Powers resumed the pirohi project last Christmas. Since then, the fundraiser has continued. The proceeds went to purchase new doors and windows at St. Andrew. Sales are completed for this year—thank you to everyone who help.



Pirohi workers.

### Fundraising Projects

Holy Ghost Church, Northside-Pittsburgh held a combination of fund raisers this fall, a gift card raffle, 50/50 drawing and bakeless bake sale. Over the course of September and October tickets were sold and collections made. Congratulations to all winners and extend a heart-felt thank you to HGC-MR for assisting in these projects. The proceeds of \$3,779.00 was matched by the GCU Parish Matching Funds program and will be applied to the Bell Tower repair project!

### Agent Randy Baden Holds Information Meeting

GCU agent Randy Baden was the featured speaker at the lodge meeting on Sunday, November 6 in McKees Rocks. There were 62 people in attendance. The new fraternal concept was also a point of discussion.

The winners of the door prizes were: Bea Stempkewski-\$25 Target card; Marge Dzuro-\$25 Giant Eagle card; Beverly Thurmon-\$25 Target card; George Mosko-\$25 Kohls card; Norma Kacsur-\$25 Target card; Tom Kaylor-\$25 Kohls card; Mary Ann Kaylor-\$25 Target card; Nick Musta-\$25 Giant Eagle card; Theresa Hrishenke-10 inch tablet and Dolores Babin- 50 inch TV.

### St. Nicholas Day Celebration

On Sunday, December 4 GCU NWPRL sponsored the annual Holy Ghost McKees Rocks St. Nicholas Day celebration. This annual event features a short performance by the students in Holy Ghost's ECF program and a party with gifts for the students and a visit from St. Nicholas. The celebration highlights the role of St. Nicholas as the patron of the Byzantine Catholic Church and provides the opportunity to remind each generation that there is a real saint behind the tradition of Santa Claus.

The youth group presented a

program of stories from the life of St. Nicholas. Gifts were provided for all the children present.

Steve Puluka | Secretary-Treasurer  
Randy Baden | GCU Sales Agent  
RoxAnn Savka | Vice President



Students from the ECF program.



Norma Kacsur, Tina Burns and Peter Kacsur.



Mary Frances Spontak preparing for the raffle drawing.

## Pittsburgh South Regional Lodge (PSRL)

UPPER ST. CLAIR, PA

### SHIM Donation

A Matching Funds check was given to SHIM (South Hills Innerfaith Movement) to purchase school supplies for children. Rachel White, SHIM's Development Assistant, was very surprised and grateful! PSRL Secretary Dorothy Mayernik made the donation.



Rachel White accepting donation from Dorothy Mayernik.

### Taste of Heaven Cookie Sale

It was another very successful event at St. Gregory's Church on December 3rd. The 12th annual Taste of Heaven Cookie Sale was a crowd pleaser. Patrons enjoyed filling up their treat boxes as they walked along 120 feet of tables laden with over 7,000 homemade cookies. Many thanks to the GCU for the Grant toward expenses.



Volunteers at the cookie sale.

**Dorothy Mayernik** | Secretary & Publicity Director

## Lodge 697

WEIRTON, WV



GCU Halloween bags given to the children of St. Mary BCC in Weirton, WV.

## Lodge 860

CLINTON TOWNSHIP, MI

### Annual Fall Reunion Dinner Resumed Post-Pandemic

A tradition for many years, this annual opportunity for all lodge members to reunite over a catered buffet was finally held once again for the first time since 2019. As with its regular meetings and activities, the lodge was forced to temporarily postpone this popular event due to the need for social isolation during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Finally, on Sunday, October 23, lodge members, their families and guests (over 50 adults and children) gathered once again at St. Nicholas Church Hall. Regular participants of lodge activities and meetings reminisced about previous projects and events. Those members not always active in the lodge for various reasons were reminded of all the wonderful benefits of GCU membership.

The affair took place following the 11 AM Divine Liturgy in St. Nicholas Church which included a Panachida for deceased members of the lodge.

As in previous years, any lodge member having celebrated their 75<sup>th</sup> birthday since the previous Reunion Dinner, was treated to a complimentary dinner. This year, John L. Minarish, President of Lodge 250, was in attendance and received his dinner at no charge in honor of this milestone birthday.

Several gift cards from the Home Office were given away by drawing.



Fr. Mykhailo Solianyuk and his wife Zita, Paul Pawluszka, guest, Sharon & Gerald May.

**Val Marszalec** | Fraternal Activities & Publicity Director



Some of the Comedy Night audience.

## Lodge 999

PHOENIX, AZ

### Laugh4Hope Comedy Night

The annual comedy night was held on Friday, September 2, 2022 at the Virginia G. Piper Performing Arts Center at Xavier Preparatory College in Phoenix. This was an evening of stand-up comedy that was super funny and squeaky clean. Proceeds benefited Life Choices Women's Clinics and its mobile unit, the HOPE Mobile. Serving women and children in need across the Greater Phoenix area with low-cost healthcare. This event is always memorable and all look forward to attending the next year.

Joanie Mahar | President



Event Sponsors.

## UPCOMING LODGE 999 EVENT

### Cookie Exchange

Sunday, December 18, 2022

12-3 PM

\$5 Admission - light lunch

Home of Joanie Mahar

1529 W. Frier Drive, Phoenix, AZ 85021

Benefits Sisters of St. Basil, Mt. St. Macrina  
500 West Mail Street, Uniontown, PA 15401

Contact Joanie at 602-920-0607 or  
joaniesellshomes@aol.com



### 2022-2023 GCU Scholarship Programs

Applications for scholarships **MUST** be completed and submitted online in one session by 11:59 PM EST on December 31, 2022

[GCUusa.com](https://www.gcu.edu)



# 2023 ART & PHOTO CONTEST!



This year's theme:  
**"Invested in...  
Things that make  
us smile!"**

**Deadline:  
April 3, 2023**



**If you're 12 or younger, enter your artwork!**

Submission must be original on paper or art board  
maximum size 12"x18"

Include short description of your art, name, age, address,  
phone number and email on the back of your submission.

**If you're age 13-UP enter your photo!**

Include short description, name, age, address,  
phone number and email with your submission.  
Photos that include identifiable people require  
a model release.

The model release form is available for download at  
[GCUusa.com/events](http://GCUusa.com/events).

# For Your Information

## Available

### Carpathian Cookery Cookbook

Having sold nearly 20,000 copies, the cookbook has entered its 20<sup>th</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 \$5.<sup>00</sup> postage and handling (\$19.<sup>00</sup>). If ordering from Canada, please send a \$30.<sup>00</sup> 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).



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- Liturgy
- Sacred Scripture



## Come and See 2022 a Strong Sign of Hope



Come and See retreat participants with their hosts, the seminarians and staff of B.C.S.

For many years I have been discerning the Holy Priesthood. But only recently, in my senior year of high school in 2020, did I take my faith and discernment seriously. Last year (2021), my spiritual father, V. Rev Jim Koury, informed me about a three-day weekend retreat for discerning Byzantine Catholic men. It's held once-a-year in November at the Byzantine Catholic Seminary of Saints Cyril and Methodius in Pittsburgh, and I was eligible. I applied and was accepted to participate. I attended it with the closed mindset of "I don't think the Seminary is for me." By the end of the retreat, I had many questions for myself. These questions arose because I felt it had refueled the small fire urging me to take discernment to the Holy Priesthood more seriously. The two biggest questions that arose were "am I in the right major in college?" and "When am I ready to join?". I had talked to my spiritual father about my experience going, and I was advised to "Pray about it. There is no rush." I took his advice, and prayer became my journey friend.

I had planned on not attending another "Come and See," thinking I was all set and had the discernment I needed to consider joining the Seminary after college, but Fr. Jim had insisted I go again, saying, "It won't hurt you going again! And you will always learn more!". So, I applied for the 2022 "Come and See" and was accepted again. It took place from the 4<sup>th</sup> through the 6<sup>th</sup> of November at the Byzantine Catholic Seminary in Pittsburgh. I was one of 21 young men in attendance. Together we represented the Melkite, Ukrainian, and Ruthenian jurisdictions.

This time I could take in more information than before since I was more familiar with what would happen during the retreat. The first day of the retreat (Friday) focused on learning about the four dimensions of formation (spiritual, intellectual, pastoral, and human). The Seminary's Director of Human Formation explained each dimension's meaning and its key in our lives. At the end of that night I reflected on each dimension and how I could improve myself more in each.

The following day during brunch after Divine Liturgy, I talked with my mentor about the four dimensions of formation. He told me, "A big part of Seminary is that not only will your professors/mentors help you grow, but also your peers." Following brunch that day were talks on a week in the life of a seminarian, the challenges of discernment, the Theology of Priesthood, and discerning marriage and priesthood. Each talk helped me understand how to prepare myself if I am accepted as a seminarian and what to look for during my discernment journey.

My favorite part of Saturday was the panel discussion. This allows time for the retreatants to ask the seminarians any question they want ranging from their pre-Seminary studies to their favorite books and saints.

On the last day of the retreat (Sunday), we began the day with early-morning Matins in the Seminary Chapel followed by Divine Liturgy at a nearby parish. For the conclusion of the retreat, the rector explained the discernment journey, and from what he said, I learned it is not me who chooses whether to become a Priest or not, but God.

As my time began to end at the retreat, I had set three goals for myself by the time I graduate from college: First, take elective classes to help me think like a philosopher/theologian. Second, increase the time dedicated to God each day, like in Seminary. Lastly, work on approaching new things with an open mind.

My thoughts on the "Come and See" retreat are that it gave me hope and a plan about my future, and that I encourage young men who take their Eastern Catholic faith seriously to take advantage of this opportunity in the future.

**Subdeacon Abraham Barahmeh**

Saint Basil Melkite Church; Utica, New York

# Deceased Members

(Lodge-Member-City-State)

- 8309 Donna J. Ackley, Milton, FL  
336 Brenda S. Alvino, Wyomissing, PA  
8344 Bertha M. Arnold, Warrington, PA  
8344 John L. Ash, New Bethlehem, PA  
994 Miriam Auth, Beaver Falls, PA  
8344 Patricia Babcock, White Oak, PA  
8344 Robert Babcock, White Oak, PA  
8359 John T. Baker, Bethlehem, PA  
8315 Rose M. Baranko, Whiting, IN  
8305 Milton Bardovi, Northridge, CA  
8344 Christine A. Beck, Brownsville, PA  
8344 Ronald L. Beck, Brownsville, PA  
8344 Thomas G. Bellock, Ernest, PA  
182 Dolores Berda, Forty Fort, PA  
8344 Nich J. Bereschak, Hershey, PA  
8344 Eleanor M. Bergan, Hagerstown, MD  
8344 Judith A. Borosky, Jermyn, PA  
8344 Robert Brechbiel, King of Prussia, PA  
8344 Alma Brennan, Pottsville, PA  
8344 Michael G. Brula, Chicora, PA  
66 Elaine Burbich, Munster, IN  
PSRL Michael Chromulak,  
Meadow Lands, PA  
8344 James L. Cieszynski, Pittsburgh, PA  
8344 David F. Clark, Carnegie, PA  
8304 Wayne H. Compton, Temecula, CA  
10 Anthony David, Aliquippa, PA  
8344 Edith Delozier, East Freedom, PA  
47 George D. Dranichak, Pavilion, NY  
8344 Norene Y. Elliott, Cheswick, PA  
8358 Cherryl Erlandsson, Brookfield, WI  
10 Wallace Ermi, Conway, PA  
8304 Joyce C. Farr, Glendora, CA  
8304 Anna-Marie Fedorko, San Diego, CA  
53 Patricia Flannery, Morris Plains, NJ  
8327 Kathleen A. Franta,  
White Bear Lake, MN  
8327 Darrell Fuhr, Redwood Falls, MN  
109 C. Crawford Garvin, Pittsburgh, PA  
625 Elizabeth Gelles, Bethel Park, PA  
NPRL George Geregach, Coraopolis, PA  
8341 Gregory Scott Gibson,  
Cambridge, OH  
8354 Dorothy Gioia, Charlottesville, VA  
250 Ronald G. Gonscak, Royal Oak, MI  
8344 Audrey E. Hays, Pittsburgh, PA  
8358 William Hein, Portage, WI  
8313 Jayme J. Hibbs, Lake Village, IN  
999 Randall R. Higgins, Lancaster, OH  
8344 Alena Holik, Stroudsburg, PA  
8335 Michael Holliday, Westfield, NJ  
8344 John Homcha, West Lawn, PA  
69 Carol Lee Horosky, Pottstown, PA  
8344 Clyde S. Houser, Sellersville, PA  
994 Georgianna Hramika, Aliquippa, PA  
340 Helen Hudak, Westfield, NJ  
8344 C. Harold Hutcheson, Pittsburgh, PA  
8344 Roberta Imhoff, Pittsburgh, PA  
8327 Ada M. Iverson, Winona, MN  
8344 Margaret J. Jarabak, Johnstown, PA  
340 Irene Jaworski, Garfield, NJ  
8359 Robert Kachmarik, Harrisburg, NC  
8358 Elroy Kalies, Fremont, WI  
401 Nora Kauruter, Portage, PA  
271 Kenneth W. Kelch, Crest Hill, IL  
77 Michael Kerekanich, Vermilion, OH  
8358 Mary H. Ketzler, Mondovi, WI  
8344 Solomon Kirschen,  
Plymouth Meeting, PA  
8344 Francis X. Klevence, Wallingford, PA  
8335 Helen Kmeck, Lyndhurst, NJ  
8327 Helen L. Kohl, Andover, MN  
999 Mary Kokayko, Temple City, CA  
8309 Ruth Komara, Palm Harbor, FL  
8344 Wayne Kostelnik, West Mifflin, PA  
8344 Alice Krell, Pittsburgh, PA  
8344 Anne D. Krupa, Warren, PA  
8315 Steve A. Langston, Evansville, IN  
8327 Ralph M. LeBlanc, Fertile, MN  
8358 Rosalyn Legler, Brooklyn, WI  
8344 James Lesczynski, N. Versailles, PA  
8358 Bonnie Lind, Janesville, WI  
15 Nancy MacIntire, Deptford, NJ  
321 Ronald Magyor, Mt. Pleasant, PA  
8344 James Malloy, Langhorne, PA  
8309 David Mankey,  
Fernandina Beach, FL  
302 Elsie Marchak, Broadview Hts., OH  
8344 Charles J. Mazur, Pittsburgh, PA  
8344 Lester McConnell, Indiana, PA  
271 June McFarland, Cahokia, IL  
8358 Elaine McLaren, Racine, WI  
336 Valerie A. Metzger, Willowich, OH  
8304 George H. Middle, Canyon Lake, CA  
CPRL Elizabeth Milcheck,  
Peachtree City, GA  
8344 Geraldine Miltenberger,  
Johnstown, PA  
665 Dolores Ondish, Cranford, NJ  
8344 Jane M. O'Reilly, Pottsville, PA  
8327 Cheryl K. Ostrom,  
Brooklyn Park, MN  
CPRL James D. Packard, Baden, PA  
8344 James Packe, Penn Run, PA  
GHRL Robert H. Page, Mifflinberg, PA  
8344 Charles H. Palmer, New Florence, PA  
8324 Esther M. Peck, Solomons, MD  
8341 Doris J. Peterson, Sheffield Lake, OH  
994 Barbara Petey, Beaver, PA  
8344 Catherine Petz, Stroudsburg, PA  
8344 Michael J. Pierce, E Stroudsburg, PA  
8354 Martha Plymale, Madison Hts, VA  
8344 David L. Popson, Creekside, PA  
999 Russell L. Poynter, Mesa, AZ  
442 Richard Prest, Brookfield, OH  
8344 John Ratkovitch, Burgettstown, PA  
994 Helen L. Reader, Rochester, PA  
8344 James R. Reid, Pittsburgh, PA  
8344 Nancy A. Rife, Chambersburg, PA  
8344 Brenda Mae Rodgers, Russell, PA

8344	Leo Rodgers, Butler, PA	8344	Ned Wagner, Bloomsburg, PA
8344	Marjorie A. Ross, New Castle, PA	8344	Alice Weaver, Altoona, PA
8358	Cris Schneider, Plymouth, WI	8344	William E. Weiss, Shelocta, PA
92	Susan Sestili, Peckville, PA	8358	Carol M. Wetter, Greenfield, WI
8344	Thelma Shoop, Verona, PA	8344	Mary Ann Williams, Sewickley, PA
17	Anita Sirko, Madison Twp., PA	8304	Xenia Williams, Las Vegas, NV
8344	David Skalka, Level Green, PA	66	Winston Williamson, Merrillville, IN
302	Julia Skladany, Parma Hts., OH	8344	Floyd C. Wilson, Pittsburgh, PA
8360	Walter Spears, Union, SC	8344	Wayne Wilson, Elizabeth, PA
8344	Andrew Speciale, Stroudsburg, PA	8313	Frank Witmer, Aurora, IL
8344	Gladys Y. Spence, McKeesport, PA	GHRL	Ann Yalch, Hazel Township, PA
8344	Anna Stasny, Harleysville, PA	8344	Margaret Yurkovich, Butler, PA
8344	Joseph F. Stierheim, Ligonier, PA	8344	Judith A. Zacherl, Indiana, PA
8344	Dolores F. Stombaugh, Portage, PA	GHRL	Julia Zenuch, Ranshaw, PA
8358	Jane Stone, West Salem, WI	8344	Edward P. Zikeli, Beaver Falls, PA
8344	Karen Switzer, East Brady, PA	8344	Helen Zilka, Aliquippa, PA
8344	Joyce Tarr, Pittsburgh, PA	8344	Susan Zilke, Johnstown, PA
8344	Charles B. Titel, Latrobe, PA		
8344	Viola K. Trent, Pittsburgh, PA		
10	Julia Trombulak, Aliquippa, PA		
8358	Gary Turzinski, Wausau, WI		
665	Mary Anne Uglow, Stockertown, PA		
8344	Patricia L. VanCise, Warren, PA		
945	Dolores Vavrick, Dunmore, PA		

*GHRL—Greater Hazleton Regional Lodge*

*CPRL—Central Pittsburgh Regional Lodge*

*SPRL—Southeast Pittsburgh Regional Lodge*

*NPRL—Northwest Pittsburgh Regional Lodge*

*PSRL—Pittsburgh South Regional Lodge*



A JOINT TOURNAMENT OF GCU, FCSU, NSS & SCS

# 20 National Bowling 23 Tournament 8

Friday, May 19, 2023  
Saturday, May 20, 2023



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Applications will be available by  
February 1, 2023

Deadline for applications will be  
April 17, 2023

### New This Year!

Mixed Doubles & Team Divisions

*Minimum Participants*

*Doubles (20)*

*& Teams (24)*